

National Trust monthly brief: August 2025 (Andrew Danson – 15/08/2025)

Subject (add as appropriate)	Comment & update	Milestone dates (e.g. start work / completion)	Main NT contact
Big Nature, Better Access	Recruitment ongoing for a Lodge Park Ranger. Interviews due to take place on Monday 18th August. Planning permission being prepared for pond creation up behind Northfield Barns complex. Lodge Park open days reopens Friday 1st August and is then open for all the August weekends. Autumn Community newsletter will be published in early September– Residents can sign to receive this and other updates electronically by emailing Sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk Luke Hunter, Area Ranger, leaves us at the end of August to join the Severn Rivers Trust. We are very grateful for all his efforts over the last 3 years and wish him great success in his new role.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson
Conservation Management Plan	We expect the CMP to be published in September	September	Andrew Danson
Sherborne Brook	Grip clearance session carried out in Ragged Copse on Saturday July 26th. Session to clear grips in Moor's Copse taking place on Sunday 7th September. Planning application for Wetland creation works submitted to Cotswold District Council in late July. Expected to go live on portal in late August.	Planning Application Summer 2025	Simon Nicholas

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	Flood Risk Activity Permit applied for with Environment Agency for works. Positive meeting held with Historic England to discuss potential funding of silt and aquatic vegetation removal from Broadwaters.		
Tree Planting	Tree Planting: Summer – no more tree planting scheduled until the autumn.	Autumn/Winter 2025	Andrew Danson
Estate Infrastructure	Significant works scheduled for the Sherborne to Windrush footpath and the Laughcroft right of way in September. Remedial works on Sabrina Way Bridleway gates to take place in September. Further down Sabrina Way, Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way Team are in the process of commissioning works around the badger diversion to try and make this area safe for pedestrians and vehicles alike – they have an ecologist visiting the site shortly and will be looking to engineer a solution to prevent the badgers undermining the hardstanding any further; Ranger Ben and his Cotswolds Wardens have continued their work to reinforce the River Windrush bank where a collapsed fence was unsightly and dangerous – with Environment Agency permission we are using dead hedges to construct a new fence to reduce erosion and protect visitors.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson Luke Hunter
Walling and Fencing	Plans to pre-emptively repair wall along Langott Hill continue to progress. Walling repairs continue throughout the estate.	Ongoing	Tim Green

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	Fencing around Laughclose field on Clapton Road has been completed.		
Wildlife	July and August highlights include – Juvenile red kite successfully fledged from Lodge Park woodland (02/07). Purple emperor butterfly (!) at Sandy Hill (07/07) Small heath and common blue butterflies on Sherborne Farm grazing and brown argus and common blue at Stones Farm (14/08) six kestrels at Lodge Park (14/08) Abundance of otter spraint, footprints and signal crayfish remains throughout the catchment throughout both months. A slower month for moths though our trapping did not land at the perfect time; however, six poplar hawk moths in one trap. Abundance of sedge warblers on the broadwaters plus kingfisher (13/07). Hundreds of swallows and martins gathering in Sherborne village ahead of migration (12/08) – swifts doing the same at Northfield Copse (13/08).	Ongoing	Luke Hunter
Woodland work and Tree Safety	Tree Safety: As the birds finish nesting we will begin to start tentatively working our way through tree works through the end of August and into the winter – next week we have a very specialist job on the A40 to reduce a mature beech to a hulk, unfortunately during our tree safety works we identified a large crack in one of the main branches – after commissioning an aerial inspection we uncovered it extended 2.5m down into the stem and warranted action given the proximity to the road – to conduct this work safely, the A40 will be under traffic light control at Scotch Strip on Wednesday 20th. We also have some more proactive works happening next week including a beech reduction at Lodge Park, the coppicing of two out-of-cycle sycamores and another sycamore that is posing a threat to the Windrush Camp Barns through brown rot.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter

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Volunteering	Ollie picked ivy and cleared vegetation from the drystone walls. Ollie and Tim have also delivered sessions on the Eastington Road/Lodge Park perimeter continuing to battle the ever-breaching drystone wall at the back of the parkland. Preparing Lodge Park for opening took a further two sessions with work in the parkland, car park and grounds – this included installing a stone channel around the fountain. Ollie has so far spent two sessions in our grimmest woodlands – Windrush Camp West and East – grim because of the proximity to the A40 and the abundance of nettle!! Working with the volunteers he has pulled out bags and bags of old rubbish and tubex, it is a popular spot for dumping rubbish from the A40. Ollie has some sessions booked to tidy tubex at Lodge Park and make a start on ash dieback reductions where we have the capacity to manage it in house.	Ongoing	Luke Hunter
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