

25_02583_FUL - Parish Council - Objection

Application Reference: 25_02583_FUL

Proposal: Wetland enhancement works upstream of Sherborne Broadwater to reconnect river with floodplain, manage silt, preserve open water, improve biodiversity, and mitigate flood risk.

Objector: Sherborne Parish Council

Address: c/o Brook Cottage, Sherborne, GL54 3DU

Date: 21 November 2025

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Appendix 1 - Community Questionnaire

This document should be read in conjunction with all documents submitted by Sherborne Parish Council.

During October 2025, Sherborne residents were invited to complete a questionnaire on the proposed wetland scheme. The questionnaire was concise and accessible, available as a paper copy returnable to the Village Shop or as an online version.

Response Rate and Reporting

The consultation received 41 responses from approximately 145 households, representing a 28% response rate. Each question includes a graphical summary and anonymised written comments where provided.

The consultation produced 41 written responses - representing approximately 28% of Sherborne households - and reflecting strong local interest in the proposed wetland habitat scheme.

In several cases, respondents indicated that their answers reflected the shared views of their spouse, household, or family members, suggesting that the total number of individuals represented is somewhat higher than the number of formal submissions received.

Overall sentiment:

Approximately 75% of respondents opposed or expressed significant reservations about the proposal; 15% indicated conditional support; and around 10% were broadly supportive.

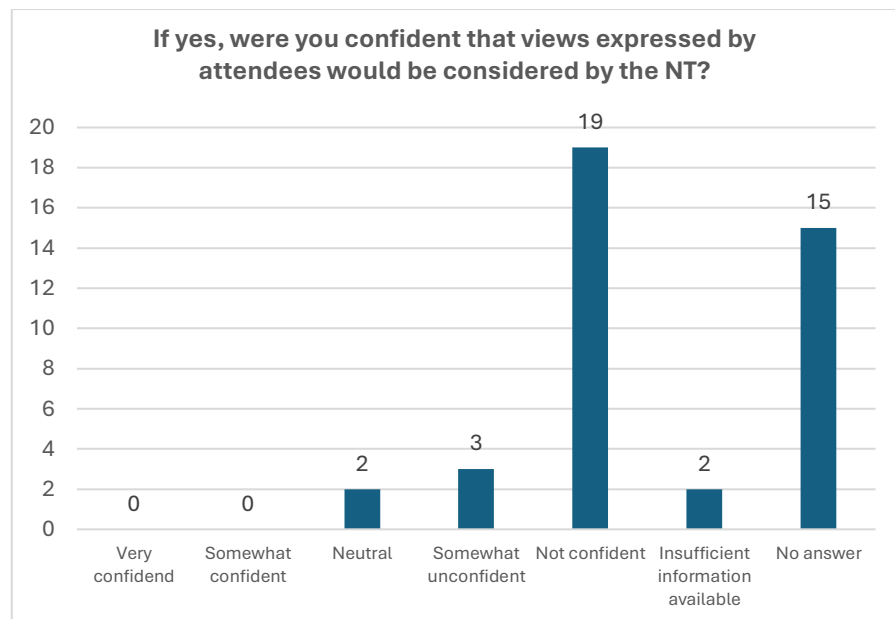
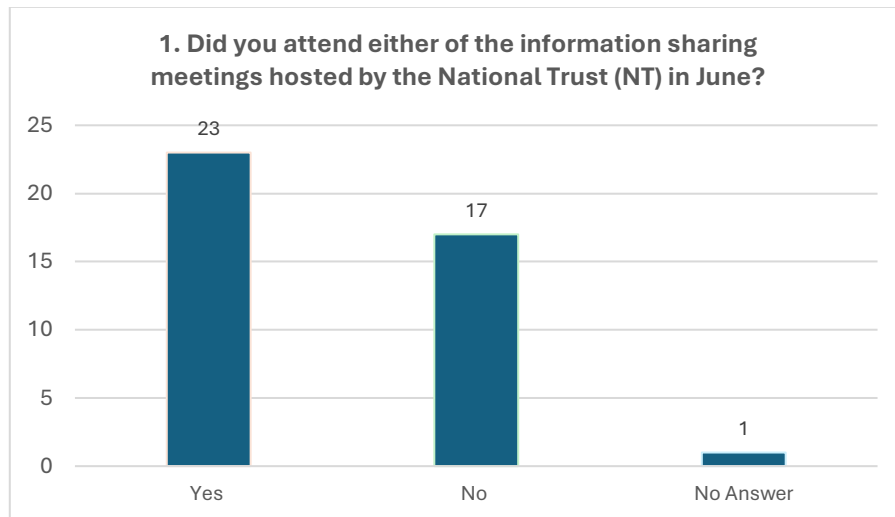
Key Concerns Identified:

- Heritage and landscape impact (70%) – Widespread concern that the scheme would harm the Grade II Registered Park and Garden's historic and visual character.
- Effectiveness and design (65%) – Many questioned whether the scheme would effectively reduce siltation without complementary dredging or upstream interventions.
- Flood risk and maintenance (55%) – Over half feared the project could increase local flood risk or require ongoing maintenance without clear funding.
- Ecological evidence (40%) – Several respondents doubted the adequacy and currency of ecological surveys, especially regarding protected species.
- Consultation and transparency (60%) – Numerous comments criticised the National Trust's engagement process as late, limited, and insufficiently transparent.

Despite these concerns, most residents supported the principle of improving water quality and biodiversity, provided that any revised proposal:

1. Protects Sherborne's historic landscape and open water views;
2. Includes independent, up-to-date evidence;
3. Offers a clear and funded maintenance plan; and
4. Involves genuine collaboration with the community.

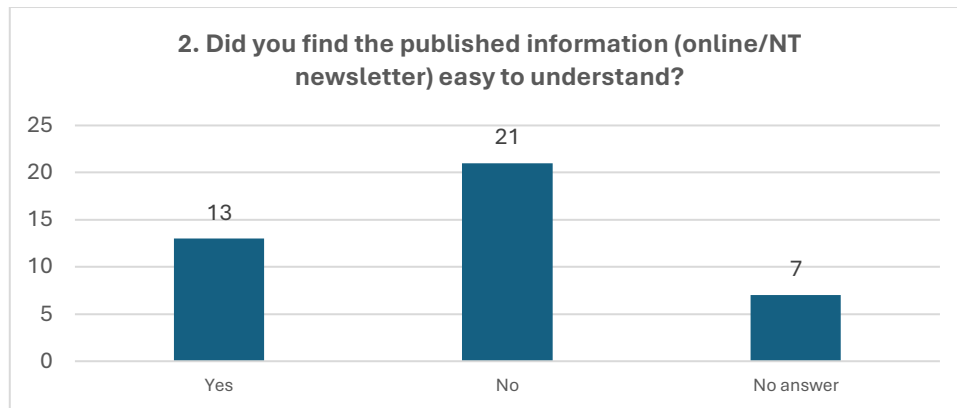
The Questions



Summary of Comments:

Residents were overwhelmingly critical of how the National Trust (NT) managed the community meetings. The main points raised include:

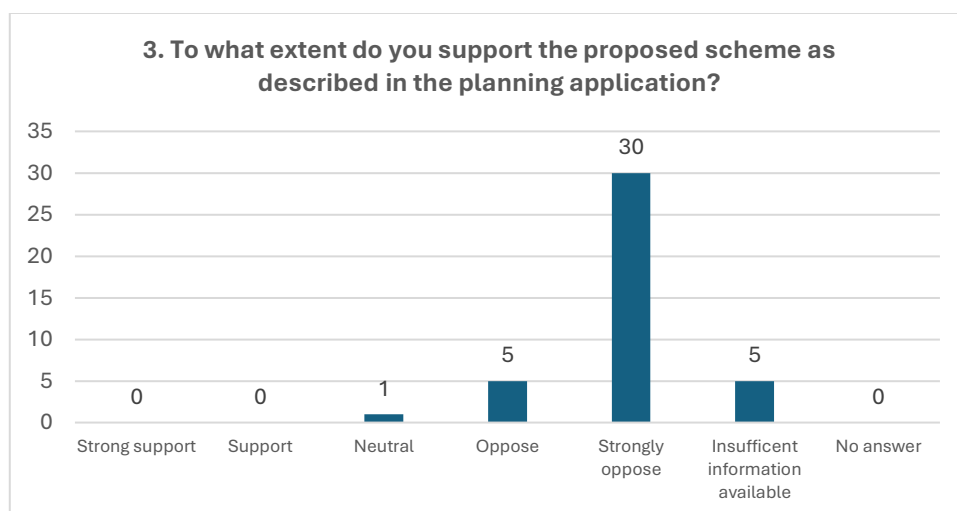
- Meetings were poorly organized, unclear, and perceived as tokenistic rather than genuine consultation.
- Many felt the NT had already made decisions before meeting residents — presenting a “fait accompli.”
- Residents reported frustration at unanswered questions and inaccurate or confusing presentation materials.
- Long-standing distrust exists due to perceived neglect of the estate and broken past promises.
- A sense of anger and alienation pervades the feedback — residents felt disrespected and excluded from decisions affecting their community and heritage landscape.



Summary of Comments:

Feedback highlighted that the information provided by NT was too technical, confusing, and misleading.

- Plans and cross-sections were hard for laypeople to understand.
- The Heritage Statement was described as poorly structured, omitting crucial details about the Broadwaters.
- Ecological surveys were considered outdated and inadequate, with missing data on protected species.
- Documents were overly long and inaccessible, with several respondents calling for simplified, clearer summaries.
- Overall tone: frustration with lack of clarity, excessive jargon, and selective or biased information.

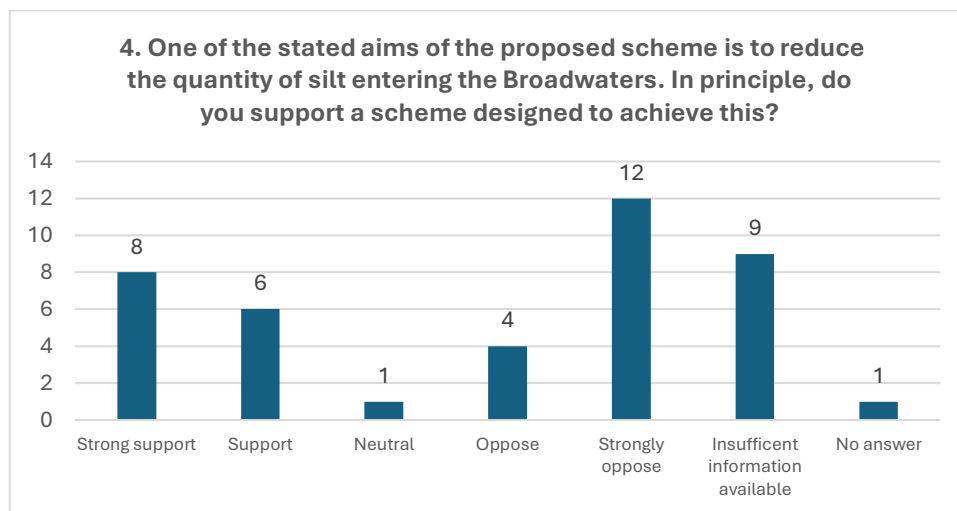


Summary of Comments:

Strong opposition to the proposed location and design dominated.

- Many objected that the scheme would damage the Grade II listed historic parkland and destroy the Broadwaters' open water aesthetic.
- There were repeated calls for dredging and maintenance instead of creating a new wetland.
- Respondents argued the proposal is environmentally and culturally inappropriate, describing it as a continuation of neglect.
- Several questioned the scientific credibility and practical effectiveness of the scheme.

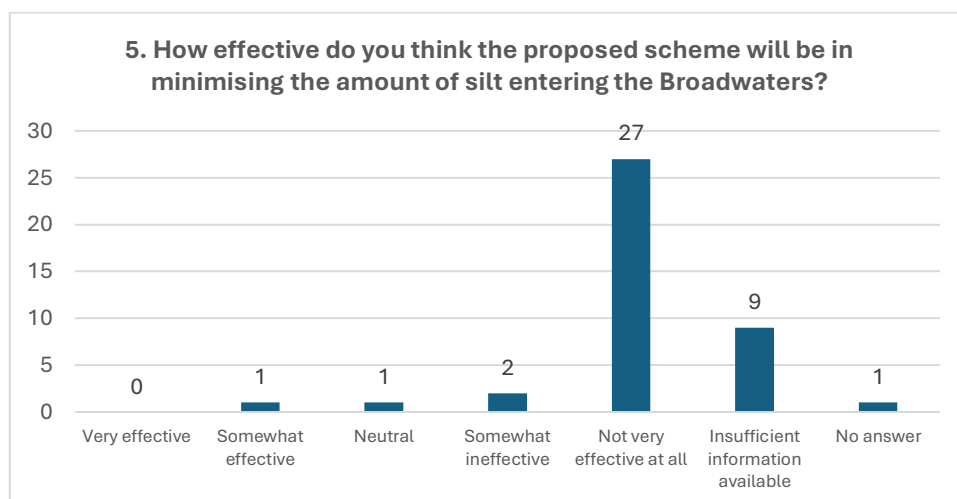
- While some support wetland creation in principle, nearly all felt this specific site and design are wrong.



Summary of Comments:

Residents were deeply sceptical about the scheme's ability to reduce silt.

- Many argued that silt originates from road run-off, which could be better managed by improving drainage rather than altering the Broadwaters.
- The proposal was viewed as unproven, unnecessary, and poorly evidenced.
- Frequent suggestions: dredging the Broadwaters, maintaining road drains, and managing upstream fields instead.
- Some felt money was being wasted on an ineffective, over-engineered solution.
- A few expressed conditional support for silt reduction but not via this scheme.

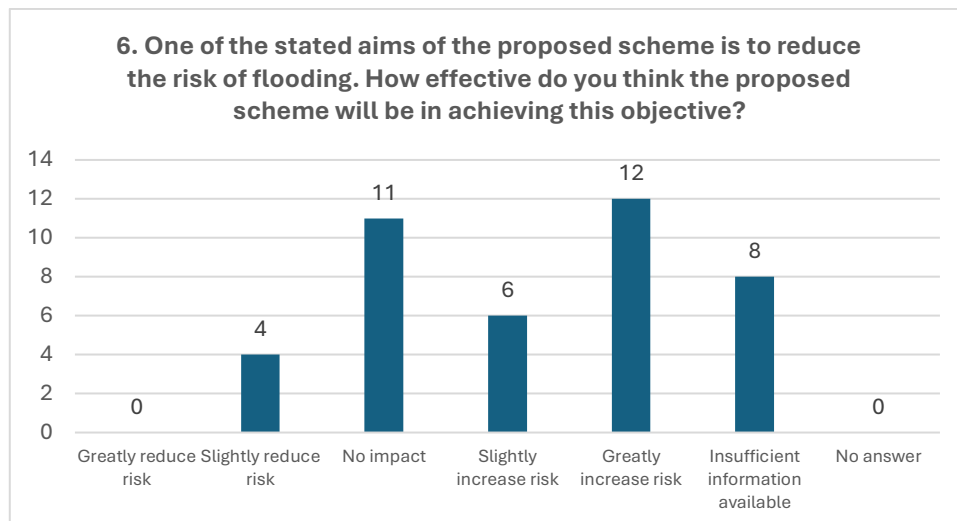


Summary of Comments:

Feedback here focused on the lack of credible, evidence-based design.

- Residents described the project as speculative, theoretical, and unsupported by robust studies.
- Many doubted the NT's technical competence given years of neglect.
- Several comments questioned why no independent hydrological or ecological assessments were shared.

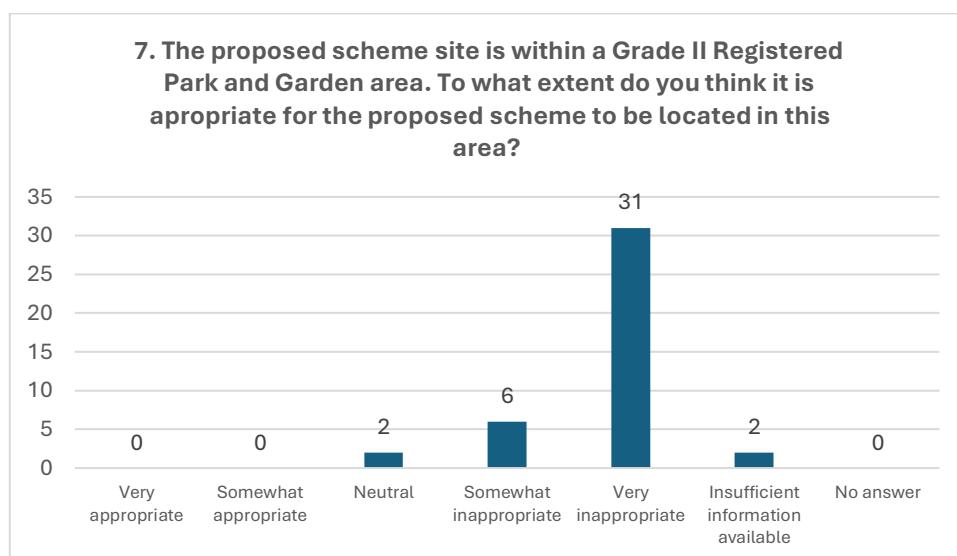
- Others asked for examples of similar successful projects.
- Overall tone: mistrust and scepticism toward NT's claims, with calls for independent expert review.



Summary of Comments:

Flooding was a major area of concern.

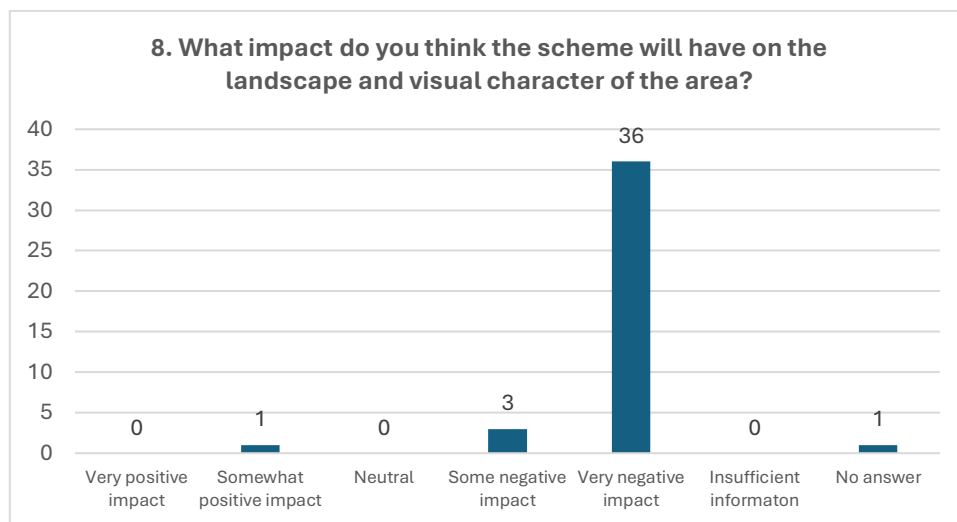
- Most respondents believe the scheme will increase flood risk, not reduce it.
- There was strong criticism of the absence of a long-term maintenance plan, particularly for features like “leaky dams.”
- Some noted the area had not historically flooded, suggesting the proposal could introduce new risk.
- Concerns also included dumping spoil, blocking river flow, and flawed flood-level data.
- Residents asked for clear, evidence-based modelling and regular maintenance commitments.



Summary of Comments:

This was one of the most emotionally charged themes.

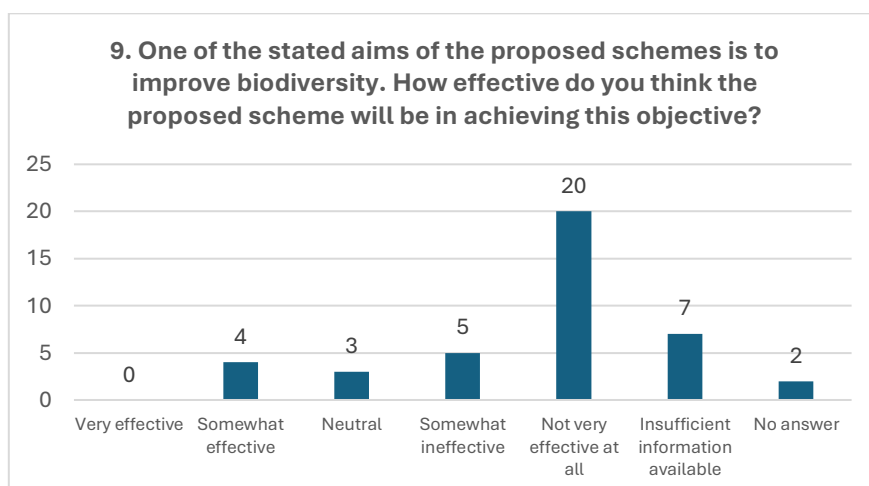
- Residents view the proposal as destructive to Sherborne’s iconic landscape, replacing an 18th-century parkland lake with a swamp.
- Many accused the NT of long-term neglect and “rewilding by neglect.”
- Repeated calls for restoration of open water and heritage character, not transformation into a wetland.
- Several cited statutory protections (Grade II listing, Conservation Area) and alleged the plan breaches planning policies.
- A minority said the project would be worthwhile only if it visibly restored beauty, not degraded it further.



Summary of Comments:

Respondents living near the site expressed strong distress about visual intrusion.

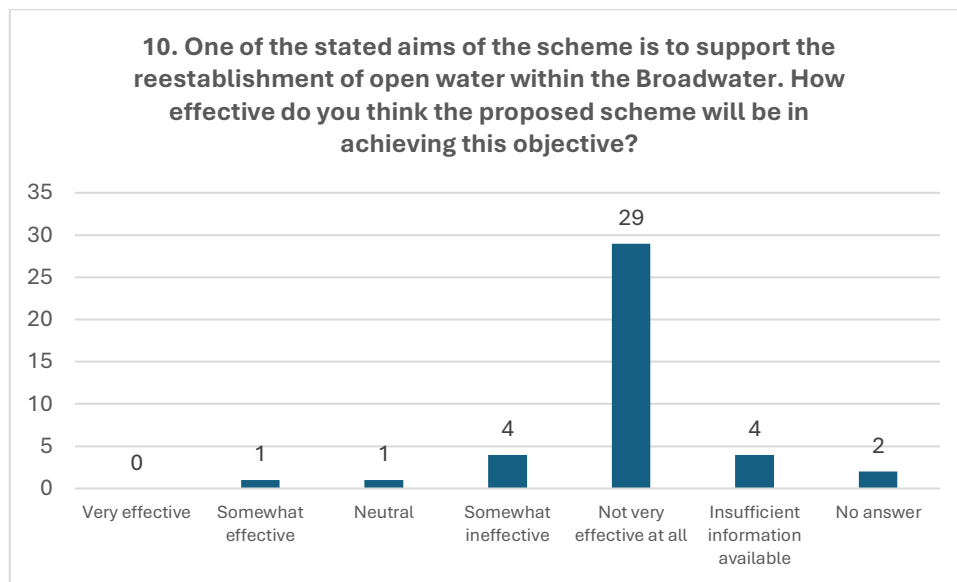
- Many feared being left with views of a “muddy swamp” or “rotting vegetation.”
- There were calls for a proper Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).
- Comments described the existing area as already “trashed” from tree felling and neglect.
- The scheme was viewed as ugly, poorly visualised, and harmful to property values.
- Several pleaded for restoration of the former “breathtaking” Broadwaters view, not further degradation.



Summary of Comments:

Most residents disputed NT's biodiversity claims.

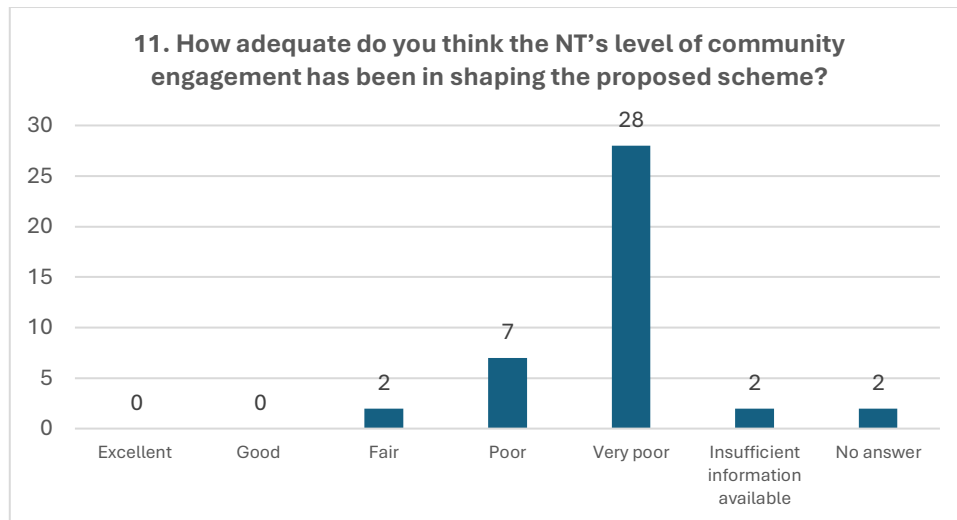
- They argued that wildlife has declined sharply since the Broadwaters became silted and overgrown.
- The wetland proposal was seen as worsening habitat loss for waterfowl and other species.
- Some accepted wetlands can aid biodiversity but insisted this should occur elsewhere on the estate, not in a historic ornamental waterbody.
- Many doubted NT's monitoring capacity and motives, viewing "biodiversity" as a buzzword for tourism.
- Strong sentiment that open water supports richer biodiversity than a marsh.



Summary of Comments:

This question revealed near-unanimous frustration that the scheme would not restore open water.

- The NT's definition of "a ribbon of water" was ridiculed — residents want the original Broadwater lake restored.
- The consensus: only dredging and maintenance will bring back open water.
- The plan was seen as vague, inconsistent, and self-contradictory.
- Many accused the NT of moving goalposts and avoiding clear commitments.
- The emotional tone was strong — residents feel their cherished landscape is being "stolen" through neglect and inaction.



Summary of Comments:

Residents expressed deep resentment and breakdown of trust.

- Engagement was described as late, superficial, and dismissive.
- The community felt talked down to and “managed,” not involved.
- Multiple comments accused the NT of withholding information and failing to collaborate meaningfully.
- There were calls for early, transparent dialogue and involvement of farmers, residents, and local experts.
- Overall tone: the NT–community relationship is in crisis, marked by anger, disillusionment, and calls for accountability.

Optional written comments included by respondents.

Did you attend either of the information sharing meetings hosted by the National Trust (NT) in June?

If yes, were you confident that views expressed by attendees would be considered by the NT?

The meeting was poorly managed and often went off topic, it did not feel very clear at any point what the exact plans were or why they would be of benefit. (1)

I think the NT was surprised by the depth of feeling against the scheme especially from some of their rentees.

(2)

The National Trust appears determined to destroy the ornamental waters also known as the "Broad Waters" which have reflected the beauty of nature at Sherborne for over 300 years. For more than a decade, the Trust has ignored widespread and unwavering community outrage. The sense of fury, disgust, and resentment among residents is universal. In all my conversations, I have not encountered a single community member who supports the NT's actions. Some remain silent out of fear, as the Trust is their landlord.

Crucially, NT employees have an office here, but do not live in the village or interact with the community. With the exception of one individual, they are neither trusted nor respected by the community and are seen as adversaries" not stewards" of our natural and cultural heritage.

The Sherborne Brook has flowed here since before Roman times, attracting settlers to this very place. Lord Sherborne and the monks of Winchcombe Abbey once admired the serene views across these waters. Now, what was once a breathtaking landscape has been reduced to marshland. The swans are gone. Much of the wildlife and birdlife that defined Sherborne's character has disappeared.

If I could, I would attach photographs spanning from the earliest days of photography to just ten years ago. They would reveal the extraordinary beauty of this landscape " beauty so compelling that BBC's Springwatch dedicated two entire seasons to it shortly before COVID.

I have not renewed my National Trust membership since the organization chose to let this idyllic landscape fall into ruin through what appears to be deliberate neglect. Unless the NT changes course, I will never rejoin.

The so-called 'community meetings' were nothing more than announcements. We were told our views would not influence the outcome; the decisions had already been made. The NT representatives could not answer basic questions, and their presentation maps were riddled with embarrassing errors. To make matters worse, the head of the Sherborne office was not even present. The anger and frustration among community members during that meeting were palpable.

The Broad Waters are part of our shared history and natural heritage. They deserve restoration and respect not abandonment. (3)

Unfortunately we were unable to attend meetings as we were overseas (5)

the NT have exhibited appalling neglect in allowing the Broadwater to become an unsightly bog. (6)

The National Trust in Sherborne has consistently demonstrated a poor track record when it comes to consulting with the local community on matters relating to land management and development that impact both the village and the wider estate. Although there have been occasions where consultation has taken place, these processes have not involved genuine efforts to engage the community in shaping proposals. Instead, the approach appears to be one where the views and aspirations of local residents are seldom taken into consideration. The overall impression is that the National Trust operates with a narrow agenda, showing little willingness to consider alternative perspectives or incorporate local feedback into their decision-making process. (10)

They stated the proposal/project would be happening regardless of if anybody's opinion. How can you deal with people like that. (12)

Holding a meeting just before submitting the planning application to the District Council means the NT had already made up its mind. The meeting could not be described as part of a consultation process; residents were being presented with a fait accompli not an opportunity to influence the process or contribute in any way. (16)

The comments I received from people who attended the meeting were certainly not confident. (19)

I was of the opinion that they had already made up their minds and that the meetings were really a formality and they would try to do all they had decided to do anyway regardless. (26)

The NT made it clear that this proposed scheme is a fait accompli as it was presented just days away from submitting planning permission. (29)

I note that there have been no changes in their plans between the briefing and the plans submitted. Thus this demonstrates that the community has been unable to influence the project. (32)

The event was clearly intended to inform the village of the already determined proposal and not to consult with the village or examine options together. (33)

The NT have over the past 15 years promised or agreed to undertake a number of projects/repairs and rebuilds. However, the NT has regularly failed to meet their commitments. I very much doubt this will change, in particular the continued maintenance. The NT lacks the staff or manpower. (34)

We had a separate briefing and my wife, and I were deeply troubled by the plans, and we fear the village views are not being thoroughly heard. (35)

During the meeting, communication in the presentation was poor. Banging on the table telling people that as long as he is here the Broadwater will not be dredged, set the tone as combative. It was not consultation, it was informing of plans already decided. (36)

2. Did you find the published information (online/NT newsletter) easy to understand?

I have felt much of the information shared has been very unclear and should be simplified into exact actions and impacts to be expected as opposed to answers like 'well we don't really know how the wetland will turn out due to outside factors etc (1)

There is a culture of high handedness and neglect. Within the last two weeks, Lodge Park was open and many of the original paintings from the 17th century had BIRD POOP on the paintings. I will be glad to send you photos. Bird poop on historical paintings from this historical estate is the same kind of culture that is causing the neglect of the most beautiful water feature known in the historical documents of Sherborne as the 'Ornamental Waters'. If you have never seen the Broadwater a.k.a. the 'Ornamental Waters' before the silting was deliberate you should not vote for this proposal because you don't know what they have destroyed. Please respond to my email and I will send you some video and photos of the gorgeous landscape that they have turned into a disgusting swamp. The National Trust have utterly destroyed, the ornamental waters. I urge you to vote against this scheme. (3)

Very technical with very challenging schematics to understand. (4)

The information given is generally easy to understand, but it is misleading and somewhat ambiguous in places. Some of the plans and cross sections are difficult to interpret. The Heritage Statement contains a lot of irrelevant information regarding a number of Listed heritage assets that will not be affected by the scheme. Ironically, there is very limited, and indeed ambiguous information about the heritage value and provenance of the Broadwaters and the Old Park (Grade II Listed Park & Garden). Also, the Ecological Assessment is very inadequate. The ecological survey was undertaken at a suboptimal time of year (March 2023) and is now two and a half years out of date. There are no Protected Species Assessments within the application documents, yet we know there are Otters, Waters Voles, and other protected species within the vicinity of the brook and application site. (10)

Not clear enough. (12)

A lot of information, much not easily accessible to a lay person. (13)

The cultural heritage document is absurdly long and buried what needs to be understood. (14)

Very confusing. (18)

Unfortunately not been around due to family illness. (19)

My wife and I are citizens of the US but have spent 1-3 months each year for the past 40 years residing in Sherborne House. This is an area of tremendous natural beauty and its focal point for residents as well as tourists has been the Ornamental Water of Sherborne Brook. We can certify this from our perspective of 40 years. (27)

Too complex and in places contradictory. (32)

Though it took a lot of reading. A clear resume would be helpful. (33)

I am afraid over the years most of the NT commitments or projects have failed due to lack of funds, willingness or sufficient expertise. (34)

There were key elements which were unclear or not fully explained or justified. (35)
However very slanted, no acknowledgement of various views and areas of contention. Honest, open communication required. (36)
Unaware of online information. (38)
It is 12 vegetation 12 lengthy and complicated. (41)

3. To what extent do you support the proposed scheme as described in the planning application?

My house backs directly onto this area of land, part of the reason we purchased this property was due to the beautiful views, I feel that work already done by the NT has impacted and lessened the beauty of this view (the awful tree feeling and remaining stumps, failure to deal with fallen trees and zero maintenance of anything). Our concern is that we will end up looking out at a messy/muddy swamp. (1)
They are destroying the beauty of this village, intentionally and methodically. There is universal contempt for this plan. (3)
The application does nothing to deal with the degraded open waters of the Broadwaters, and does not deal with the cultural heritage, historic and beauty impacts. (4)
We have witnessed 2 decades plus of NT mismanaged and the proposal submitted contains insufficient evidence and facts that could be relied upon. (5)
there has been significant loss of waterbirds in the brook, it is also an unsightly mess. (6)
While I am in favour of the overall principle of establishing new wetlands and enhancing biodiversity, I have significant reservations about the proposed location for this project. The scheme is situated within a Grade II Listed parkland and a designated Conservation Area, which make the site wholly unsuitable for such development. My concerns extend beyond its proposed location, as I also question the effectiveness of the scheme in achieving its stated aims. Specifically, I am not convinced that it will result in a meaningful reduction in the continued accumulation of silt within the Broadwater, nor am I confident that it will succeed in safeguarding the existing areas of open water. (10)
This whole scenario has come about through neglect and mismanagement. This once 18th Century/19th Century landscape was factually part of the picturesque movement, to which I am sure they have absolutely no clue about because they haven't consulted any historians, just so-called scientists. (12)
It will look unsightly and will further degrade a historic parkland. (13)
The scheme destroys a historic and Grade Two listed landscape. (14)
Damage to historical landscape vague management of how the site will be managed. (15)
I am in favour of a scheme that restores open water to the Broadwaters. While the Trust states that the proposals are designed to ensure there is a "ribbon" of water running through the Broadwaters its representative at the meeting could not say what width this 'ribbon' would be, so I am very unsure about the benefit of the scheme. (16)
Scheme does not deal with current level of silt in Broadwater. Scheme does not address cause of silt entering Broadwater. Very likely to cause flooding. (18)
It will increase flood levels and build up more silt and roots of weeds. I am Dutch – we were and still are, including my sister, who has lots of water ways around her, dredge the river every year – obligatory and very sensible. (19)
Although the scheme may reduce the silt entering the Brook in future. There is no commitment to dredging the Brook of silt withing the Old Park. (21)
It is a mess at the moment, and the NT track record suggests it will always be a mess. (26)
The Brook itself has slowly become indescribable due to the accumulation silt and mature 12 vegetation. We are not in favour of anything which would worsen this process. (27)
Return to Open Water – save the water birds, bats, swallows, swans and egrets. (28)
I cannot support this scheme as I do not believe it will work in achieving its objectives. It will actually make things worse – eventually choking up the whole of the Broadwater and field – adding further to the look of neglect and eventually over the years there will be no historical views or open water landscape. This proposal will also cost hundreds of thousands of pounds, and a much simpler scheme should be tried first without spending so much money on a proposal even the NT are unsure will work themselves. The run-off water from the road is a major cause of silt entering the Broadwater and should be properly diverted into grass fields owned by the NT, the Broadwater desilted and then reviewed before spending all this money. (29)
The change to the Grade 2 listed parkland is unacceptable from a heritage perspective. (32)

It might do what it sets out to do, i.e. reduce silt deposition in the future (i.e. it is preventative). To achieve stated result of clear water it needs to be combined with silt removal. (33)

My property directly overlooks this proposed scheme and 15 years ago it was a maintained Broadwater with the trees cutback, weeds removed and silt lowered. Since 2010 the NT have made zero effort to maintain this. In summary, the NT has done "swidly dit" for 15 years. How can they be trusted? (34)

I am a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and find the principle of creating a wetland where was not one before problematic. (35)

There are so many unanswered questions, re: flood risks, maintenance etc. (36)

Lit the three tea shops, 35 miles of paths and Bourton overflow scheme another white elephant. (38)

I am not sure the scheme has been properly thought through. (41)

4. One of the stated aims of the proposed scheme is to reduce the quantity of silt entering the Broadwaters. In principle, do you support a scheme designed to achieve this?

To my understanding measures have already been put in place to reduce the silt such as the run off correction at the bridge and the NT could not give any indication at all that this course of action would lead to a flowing brook so in which case what they have planned would seem pointless and disruptive. (1)

Tell me a river scheme where baffles have been effective! (2)

It has not been proven that silt amounts entering the Broadwaters has changed in the past 15 years. I think the cause of the overgrowth and weeds which have now almost totally obscured the Broadwaters is due to the lack of frequent dredging and proper maintenance. (4)

The reduction of silt entering the Broadwaters is necessary, but can the proposed scheme be effective and managed well given the several years of neglect. (5)

I fully endorse the objective of reducing the quantity of silt entering the Broadwater. Nonetheless, I remain unconvinced that the proposed scheme will achieve this aim effectively. The scheme does not address the root causes of silt entering the Brook. In my view, a more successful strategy would involve preventing silt-laden water from local roads reaching the Brook. This could be accomplished by regularly maintaining roadside drainage grips and establishing a series of swales and retention ponds / basins within fields and woodlands adjacent to the roads. Collectively, these measures would offer a more targeted and effective solution for protecting the Brook and Broadwater from further siltation but would have little or no impact upon the integrity of the listed parkland and Conservation Area. (10)

No, As it goes against Lord Sherborne's wishes. They should have dredged it as he did and wanted them to do. (12)

I do not see how this scheme will stop silt entering the river from the run off from the road and entering the broad waters. (13)

Silt is already in the Brook. (15)

Yes with the caveat that I am not sure that this particular scheme is going to achieve its aims and anyway the problem lies with the silt already in the broadwaters. (16)

But not by this scheme. Dredge Upper Lake and clean drains instead. (17)

As above (18)

See comment on previous question. (21)

Would it not be simpler or considerably cheaper to fix the road drains in some other way? (26)

We support any process which will allow reclamation of the Brook and the restoration of the Ornamental Water as a mature habitat. (27)

Clear the silt and maintain the water - stop trying to cut corners. (28)

Yes, I support a workable scheme. However, this current proposed scheme will not work in achieving objectives. The NT say this proposed scheme will remove silt through the fields with water finding its way back into the river. One of the many problems with this proposed scheme is that the field will eventually silt up too. Silt in the field cannot be removed without major intervention. Silt will always make it into the river or the field so, surely it's better and easier to remove silt from the river as it has been done historically and this worked extremely well. (29)

The silt has already been stopped. Why spend so much to do an unnecessary task? (32)

Support the idea. Unsure whether the scheme can be managed well enough to achieve the result. (33)

Yes! But not this scheme. The road grips etc. need to be maintained. Why after all this time (15 years) does the NT believe they can reduce the silt. The silt needs to be lowered ASAP. (34)

How can the NT be certain of this? What studies have been made? What examples exist in a similar topography? (35)

I do not believe the scheme/project will achieve this. Since the work on grips and gullies there needs to be investigation as to the actual amount of silt entering the brook. (36)

Silt traps already installed at bridge. (38)

The river was ALWAYS dredged, and the Trust have CHOSEN not to!! (39)

5. How effective do you think the proposed scheme will be in minimising the amount of silt entering the Broadwaters?

See prior comments (1)

They don't know what they're talking about. (3)

We are not experts, but the proposal seems very speculative and non-evidence based. (5)

After the neglect exhibited by the NT, I have no confidence that they will achieve anything. (6)

The proposed scheme may have some impact in removing suspended solids from the Brook, but this will only occur during very occasional high-water conditions.

A significant proportion of the material commonly referred to as 'silt' within the Brook actually consists of grit and larger solids. These materials are primarily washed from adjacent roads and form a heavy 'bed load' within the watercourse. Such 'bed load' will not be readily removed by simply lowering the bank of the Brook, but instead it will continue to move downstream over time, ultimately accumulating in the Broadwater. (10)

I don't trust they're judgement or the yes men they employ. (12)

The river rarely floods, so any silt from the road will continue to flow into the Broadwaters. Even if this scheme does absorb some silt, the area would require maintenance to have any effect which the National Trust has historically not undertaken. (13)

This is a question that I feel only experts can answer. (16)

Baffles already tried to no effect. A waste of money for no result I think. (17)

See original transcript. (19)

We await an independent report. (21)

What did they used to do to keep the Broadwater clear back in the day when it looked magnificent? (26)

Wildlife and a focus of natural beauty and public enjoyment. (27)

Needs continual maintenance. (28)

We don't know. Useful to have information from other projects. (33)

Noone knows for sure if this theoretical project will succeed. (34)

I am deeply sceptical! Changing this historic fabric of a geographic zone is hazardous, especially where a river is involved. (35)

See above. (36)

As the grips alongside the road have been cleared thus allowing the silt and rainwater to run off the road, there is now no problem with it effecting the brook. (40)

I am unconvinced this scheme will achieve its stated aim. More information is required. (41)

6. One of the stated aims of the proposed scheme is to reduce the risk of flooding. How effective do you think the proposed scheme will be in achieving this objective?

There are only two properties that are close to the river (mine is not) I don't see any potential flood risk to my property but don't have enough information and would be concerned if I lived in either property near the bridge. (1)

I urge you to vote against this plan. (3)

While the proposal to lower the right bank of the Brook does have the potential to reduce flood risk for nearby residential properties, it is important to acknowledge a significant limitation. The absence of a long-term management plan associated with the scheme raises concerns regarding the sustainability of its flood mitigation benefits. If substantial amounts of silt are deposited across the adjacent land and are not periodically removed,

the effectiveness of the flood mitigation scheme could be compromised. Moreover, the introduction of dams and baffles within the Brook will cause upstream water levels to rise and could promote the additional accumulation of debris and silt within the stream channel, thus resulting in increased flood risk. (10)

Again don't believe them. (12)

Flossing isn't the problem. If the park was properly maintained there wouldn't be any. (14)

Again I don't feel qualified to answer this. What is concerning is that the scheme seems to increase the likelihood of flooding nearby waterfront gardens. Also the land beside the Broadwaters is designed to take floodwater when the river is high without damaging the local community so, it therefore seems counterintuitive to create a flood plain further upstream directly beside residents gardens. (16)

The scheme will cause flooding - not reduce risk. (18)

Take a leaf out of the Dutch water ways - how very clever and effective it is. (19)

Unaware of any risk of flooding in the Old Park - possibly above Waterloo Bridge? (21)

We are strongly in favour of the objections and recommendations as presented by Mr Bruce Fletcher, Chairman of the Sherborne House Corporation. (27)

This is disingenuous - it's designed to cut costs. Return the water to its Historic clear state. (28)

If a so-called 'leaky dam' is installed - leaves and detritus will quickly gather in front of this slowing and blocking the river flow further and potentially causing flooding to local properties the application does not detail any ongoing maintenance plans. Eg: how often does the NT propose to clear the leaky dam to prevent flooding? (29)

The dumping of spoil near the boathouse will increase the risk of flooding. (32)

Not obvious how it will affect flooding. (33)

Having observed the Broadwaters for 15 years first hand, I have NEVER seen flooding along this water way. High flows yes, but no serious flooding. The current proposal with the baffles will create more chance of flooding. (34)

On what grounds is this assertion made? What are the impacts to wildlife especially the settled species/breeds?

What are the medium/long term risks? (35)

After JBA mentioned the historic flood level and it was pointed out that the level had been surpassed three times in the last six months I believe the data is flawed. (36)

After initial flooding no reduction in future flooding will be obtained - reinstating water meadows much more effective. Cancel this scheme and use the money to improve all the empty properties (13) in Sherborne - it's a disgrace. (38)

The most effective way to stop flooding is to dredge the river thus enabling the water to flow freely and clear. (40)

Flooding has already taken place here in recent times - this project could exacerbate this. (41)

7. The proposed scheme site is within a Grade II Registered Park and Garden area. To what extent do you think it is appropriate for the proposed scheme to be located in this area?

Sadly since living here it seems the park has been neglected more and more each year. The excuse of 'wildling' in my mind is utter nonsense and simply a justification to do nothing at all and let what was beautiful parkland become an overgrown mess. (1)

I disagree that the visual impact will be limited as the application contends. In fact, the scheme will enshrine the current degraded condition of the Broadwaters permanently. (4)

Dredge Dredge Dredge the Broadwater and then keep it maintained. (5)

The landscape was designed, and this is a quick cheap option to be seen to do something after years of neglecting it and ignoring all ideas coming from the community itself. (9)

This development within a Grade II Registered Park and Garden is wholly inappropriate. The statutory protected parkland is at risk of further degradation due to the proposed works. Rather than sustaining and enhancing the character, appearance and significance of this designated landscape, the proposals are likely to result in substantial harm. As such the proposals are contrary to Policy EN10 of Cotswold District Council's existing Local Plan. (10)

Again this is a picturesque landscape not a swamp, bog or wetland. We believe this has come about so they can use the word Wetland on their website to attract visitors. This project will go hand in glove with their next planning proposal of the opening of Lady Sherborne's Walk. Funnelling tourists past the Turbine House, up Lady Sherborne's Walk, across the field behind our cottages and out through a gate in the Club car park. (12)

It will further degrade the historic landscape, which has already been neglected by the National Trust over many years. (13)

The National Trust was given the estate with an endowment in order to preserve it - not to destroy it. (14)
However if it were to result in a huge improvement in the view of the broadwaters then it would seem worthwhile. (16)

It is contra to the history which is an open park/lake landscape of some historical significance. (17)

The Broadwater has been badly neglected and poorly managed for years. It is a disgrace. (18)

It is already slowly destroying the area and environment. It was a most beautiful river - bird life and swans - they have nearly all gone. (19)

Subject to the Independent report. (21)

Surely if it is listed it cannot be changed so dramatically or negatively - there must be other areas. (26)

Return to clear water and save the water birds and wildlife. (28)

This is an 18th century parkland. There is enough wetland immediately adjacent already. (32)

Determined by where the scheme would be carried out presumably no other option. (33)

After a few years with lack of continued maintenance will result in a bog! (34)

I am quite certain this would never happen were the Duttons still owners! They understood the ecology and behaviour of their land. (35)

This should be non-negotiable. You cannot "re-imagine" a historically significant landscape. This goes against every tenant of the National Trust mission. This is not safeguarding our history for future generations. (36)

Water meadows are for this purpose. (38)

This is an historic feature of the valley very beautiful it once was and has become an overgrown sight of vegetation due to total neglect. (40)

Is this the sort of scheme that other authorities (such as Historic England etc.) would approve of? (41)

8. What impact do you think the scheme will have on the landscape and visual character of the area?

As stated before I am concerned they are building a muddy ugly swamp. (1)

See comments above in section one. We should have the ability to give you a presentation to show you how the beauty has been ruined. Let me show you a slide presentation of what we have lost. (3)

The application fails to recognise that the Broadwaters and valley is a 250-year-old manmade feature which has cultural, historic and aesthetic significance. (4)

There are number of sensitive visual receptors in the locality, including listed buildings and residential properties which directly overlook the site, and there is the iconic view across the parkland and Broadwaters from the village road and Sherborne Stables to the south. We have already seen significant negative visual impact upon these receptors caused by the silting up and degradation of the Broadwaters over the past 15-20 years, in addition to the adverse landscape impact this has caused upon the special character of Sherborne village and its Conservation Area. The project to create further areas of unmanaged and unsightly marshland will only serve to further degrade the inherent beauty of this historic landscape and will have further significant adverse impact upon nearby residents and other visual receptors. I was very surprised that the application was not accompanied by a comprehensive Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). (10)

Again, it will have a negative effect as we do not want our village being turned into a Bibury or Bourton on the Water. (12)

It will appear unsightly in an area which historically would have been maintained by the grazing of livestock. (13)

The photograph (no. 1) at the end of the cultural heritage assessment is wildly out of date and misleading. (14)

The broadwaters used to be one of the most beautiful views in the whole of the Cotswolds. This is now very far from being the case. The area should be a priority for the NT, and this has been very far from the case. The land is now earmarked for the current scheme was essentially trashed when the Trust recently carried out some tree felling. No logs were removed but still lie where they had fallen except for some trees which had their branches removed and stand like giant bare electricity poles. If I had been left with that view from my house, which quite a number of people have, I would be incandescent with rage. So instead of tidying up the site as should have been done, The Trust will leave as it is to rot down into the wetland bog thus avoiding finishing the original tree felling job. Very convenient for the NT but sad for those who live nearby and have to look at the land. (16)

Return to valley view. (17)

The scheme should be to enhance the landscape. As it stands it will do the opposite. (18)

A very destructive effect with the running of the Brook gone - (19)

As above. (21)

please see following pages (25)

The drive into Sherborne used to be breathtaking when the Broadwater was the Broadwater. (26)

I believe it will have a further negative affect and destroy the open parkland, open views and open water it's so very sad and upsetting to walk past every day what was a beautifully open water lake and is now choked with weeds and unsightly. It currently sits as a permanent reminder to residents and visitors alike of the National Trust's unwillingness to act on villagers pleas/wishes for them to maintain our historically important landscape. It feels to me like theft - it was once 'our' world class view that we all so enjoyed and treasured - that has been taken away by current management. (29)

Would be useful to see photos of a similar scheme. Could be ok, could be dreadful - a) needs silt removed from Broadwaters. b) what will the wetland area look like? (33)

I bought my house mainly because of the outstanding view of the Broadwater. See photos taken 15 years ago and compare with today's utter mess of overgrown weeds, trees, lack of wildlife. (34)

I have little confidence in this plan. It is far too poorly visualised. (35)

This will have a significant impact on the homes bordering the wetland. This is causing worry and unnecessary concern. It should not happen in a Grade II listed landscape! (36)

Sames as the rewilding of the fields Now a sea of weeds! (38)

9. One of the stated aims of the proposed schemes is to improve biodiversity. How effective do you think the proposed scheme will be in achieving this objective?

Very little information has been provided about facts around how this will be better for the wildlife. (1)

We used to have flocks of migrating birds and swans no more. (2)

The opposite is happening – the Broadwater has inherent beauty and had created biodiversity. Villagers speak every day about the lack of wildlife since the silting started. The Broadwater, also known as the ornamental waters, have been an inherent part of Sherborne for hundreds and hundreds of years. (3)

Take a walk around Sherborne Park, The Water Meadows and the Broadwater swamp and there is no evidence of biodiversity. The plan will not change this. (5)

currently the bog has lost egrets, swans, swallows and bats, this will only become worse under these plans. (6)

The scheme may provide some scope for enhanced biodiversity, and I welcome this, however this should not be at the expense of the harm that will be caused to the cultural and heritage value of the Parkland and the Broadwaters. In my view the scheme will only provide an extension of existing habitats, whereas a more diverse succession of habitats could be created by re-establishing areas of open water within the Broadwaters. The NT also has the ability to easily (and cheaply) create tens of hectares of diverse wetland habitats within the floodplain of the River Windrush and the lower reaches of Sherborne Brook, if it were of a mind to do so. This area adjacent to the Windrush would also provide significant scope for flood storage, thus mitigating flood risk further downstream within the Windrush Valley. (10)

As soon as the words Wetland and Biodiversity are being bandied about then comes the tourism which will drive nature away. This is something they haven't even thought about. (12)

Plenty of scope for improving biodiversity in the rest of the estate. (14)

The area to be developed is the main site for Teal and Wigeon that will be destroyed. (15)

There used to be, not many years ago, a huge number of waterfowl on the river and broadwaters, both passing through and settled. There are now no swans, rarely a duck or other kinds of water birds. I am sure the new bog will create a habitat for insects, but we have lost so much more with the disappearance of open water. (16)

This is just 'Ticking the Box'. How can biodiversity be measured and by whom? (18)

Totally the opposite – a swamp. Water creates life – birds. (19)

If the new plan means more of the same as it is now. Bog and more bog I am not sure how or what it will help. (26)

It was never an overgrown bog. (28)

This intervention would change the biodiversity and favour some species and not others. I do not feel it would have any benefit just different to the one to that which exists now. (29)

Plenty of wetland in immediate adjacent areas already. (32)

So much could be destroyed by the process – would need to recover significantly for there to be significant benefit. (33)

A lot of rubbish. It has come far too late. (34)

On what grounds?! (35)

Again what about the flora and fauna already residing here. What about the impact on the birds both migrating and otherwise! (36)

Silted up lake has no ducks, moorhens, geese, snipe etc. (38)

There was no problem with biodiversity when the river flowed, and wildlife thrived there. (40)

10. One of the stated aims of the scheme is to support the reestablishment of open water within the Broadwater. How effective do you think the proposed scheme will be in achieving this objective?

NTs definition is a ribbon of water not an open lake! (2)

Bullhockey!! The birds are significantly down in number. The swans are completely gone. The anger of the village is palpable. How dare you do this to our village! I've been in this community for 20 years. I urge you to vote against this proposal in its entirety. (3)

The application is silent on the extent of the open water to be created. The goal should be to open the Broadwaters to its original manmade extent. (4)

Dredge Dredge Dredge and then maintain on a frequent time scale. (5)

Smoke and mirrors. (9)

The scheme alone, in isolation from other interventions, will not be effective in re-establishing open water within the Broadwater. It is very likely that silt will continue to accumulate within the Broadwater which will result in further colonisation of aquatic plant material and the loss of any remaining areas of open water. The only effective way to reinstate areas of open water will be by undertaking dredging operations to remove silt and plant material. (10)

As it will be a little streak. Have they forgotten Broadwater means Broadwater. (12)

As this scheme is unlikely to tackle this issue of silt entering the Broadwaters and the consequential build-up of silt it is unlikely to support the reestablishment of open water within the Broadwater. (13)

On the contrary. (14)

I don't know and the worrying element is that the Trust doesn't seem to have a clue either. If this scheme was definitely going to lead to large acres of open water on the broadwaters, I would support it but there is insufficient knowledge. I doubt that open water can be achieved with removing silt from the broadwaters itself rather than merely stopping more silt entering the area. (16)

Depends on definition of 'open water'. NT thinks open water is a narrow stream. I think it is a Lake! (17)

The scheme does not demonstrate how this can be achieved. (18)

Where is the open water? If the Brook gets diverted breaching the bank of the river at huge cost and the flow of the river is no longer. (19)

Without dredging this cannot be effective. (21)

Just more bog. (26)

The once beautiful open Broadwater is now choked with weeds due to years of inaction and neglect. The only way to create any meaningful 'open water' once again is to strategically remove silt from the Broadwater as this scheme alone, unless coupled with an ongoing programme of de-silting, will not achieve this. I am not confident the NT will actually carry out any desilting as at the meetings no plan, budget, timeline or indeed accurate vision of what this plan would deliver in terms of 'open water' was communicated. The only indication of what this scheme would achieve was a 'ribbon of water'. A 'ribbon of water' is what will and is happening naturally and if the NT do not desilt the Broadwater we shall lose our beautiful Broadwater views forever. PLEASE SHERBORNE NATIONAL TRUST listen to your villagers as our beautiful village needs your support and action. (29)

The plan does not address the issue of open water. That is a vague suggestion they might try to do something about in the future. (32)

The scheme in so far as it works is intended to prevent further silt from being deposited in the Broadwater - it MUST be combined with significant silt removal to re-establish open water. In itself it won't reverse the present build-up of silt. (33)

This what all the village always wanted when visitors to the village would stop to view the then beautiful Broadwaters surrounds. Today it is overgrown untended and is frankly an unattractive site to all except the NT staff! (34)

I fear the opposite may be true - The water can be restored by clearing the accumulated silt which should have been done by the NT - way back! (35)

The goal posts keep changing without detail. First a ribbon of water, then a spine of water, now up to 3ft? (36)

The only thing that will work is what Lord Sherborne did - dredge the lake. (38)

The truly effective way to establish the open water in its fullness & beauty is to dredge the two parts of the Broadwater. (40)

11. How adequate do you think the NT's level of community engagement has been in shaping the proposed scheme?

We are directly impacted as our home backs right onto these works and we found out about it by accident and from another resident which indicates how poor communication has been. (1)

Tardy in even accepting it has to communicate with the community. (2)

On a scale of one to 10 I would give it a -45.

They talk down to us. They say it's already decided and we're just answering your questions. (3)

All suggestions and spokespeople just get batted aside, as if they don't count. The message seems to be that the villagers don't have any say in, nor can we suggest anything. Even those that have done research and those who may know a thing or two. Or even might belong to relevant groups like WASP or the farming community. Something very special (the Broadwater landscape) has been neglected and ruined on their watch (the NT). (9)

The level of community engagement undertaken by the NT has been very inadequate. There has been no meaningful pre-application consultation with the local community, nor have residents had the opportunity to actively participate in, or influence, the project's design. While the NT held an initial meeting with a small group of riparian landowners in September 2023 to discuss preliminary ideas for a silt capture plan, no detailed plans were shared at that time.

During the period of 21 months since that initial meeting, there was no subsequent consultation until a final plan was presented as a *fait accompli* to the community in June 2025. The Parish Council requested a follow-up meeting with the NT and riparian landowners, at which concerns were expressed regarding flood risk, inaccuracies in the presented documents, and doubts about the scheme's effectiveness. Despite these concerns, the application was subsequently submitted to the Planning Authority with no amendments to the scheme or accompanying documents. (10)

Have been very underhand in communication from the very start from when we met the CDC in the Corinium Museum, Cirencester, to which they were shocked at the lack information the villagers of Sherborne had been given by the NT. (12)

The two community engagement meetings were held too late, and The National Trust presented the proposed plan just before the submission of the planning application. This gave the residents of Sherborne no opportunity to be involved or to put forward their comments and ideas in any meaningful way. (13)

1. They haven't taken advice from those in the community about who understand how the waters were maintained.

2. They didn't consult before making the plan. (14)

What can one say - if a planning application is about to be submitted at the stage when residents are informed of its contents. Local people have been asking for the information and a chance to engage with the process for years, but they have been deliberately shut out by the NT. The meeting held in June was simply an attempt by the Trust to make it look as though the community has been involved when it was not. (16)

Late in the day, they tried hard but were not supported by their senior management at first local meeting. I don't believe the local NT's management believe in the scheme either! (17)

I was unable to attend the two meetings. I did study the proposal, but it came as a "*Fait Accompli*" There was no involvement of the community in its development. (18)

None at all. It was a beautiful Estate. I lived at Gr Rissington in 1986 and it is slowly falling in disrepair. Lord Sherborne gave it to the NT to keep up the landscape - they are sadly destroying it. Why? (19)

I think they think they have tried but intend to do it their way anyway regardless of villagers' opinions etc. The whole village is in a terrible state of neglect. (26)

Required involvement with the village at an earlier stage. NT must respond to questions of amount of silt removal for village to be happy with the scheme. (33)

Two village meetings were far too little and questions unanswered. (34)

This whole project needs to be examined in far more detail, particularly with farmers and the local community. (35)

There has been no community engagement/consultation. Just informing. Very high handed, and almost arrogant in delivery - please see section 1. We should be working together for the betterment of ALL. Honest, frank communication. (36)

My family worked for Lord Sherborne, and I am the third generation of my family to live here. I cannot believe what the National Trust have done to this beautiful and special village and how they continue to try and ruin it even more! Thank you. (39)

Much has been neglected or overlooked. (40)

The relationship between the village and the NT is in a state of severe disrepair. There is little genuine engagement, as the village (and reportedly the PC) are kept at arms length by the NT constantly. Quite why, is not clear? I am not sure the village has unrealistic expectations, but even so these could be managed much more effectively through open, honest, and timely dialogue. (41)