

National Trust monthly brief: January (Andrew Danson – 16/01/2026)

Subject (add as appropriate)	Comment & update	Milestone dates (e.g. start work / completion)	Main NT contact
Big Nature, Better Access	<p>Winter Community newsletter was published in early December– Residents can sign to receive this and other updates electronically by emailing Sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk</p> <p>Planting of the Serpentine avenues has begun as part of Bridgeman Restoration project within the parkland up at Lodge Park. This winter we are hoping to plant 164 elm and lime trees. Elsbeth and Tim have been very busy and have already managed to get over 70 in the ground.</p> <p>Further paleo archaeological surveys carried out as part of the Defra funded Water Restoration project.</p> <p>Seeding will take place in March for the Sherborne Farm arable reversion project in far north of the estate. Hedgerow planting will take place in March and April.</p> <p>David Molloy has finished onsite laying the 2nd hedgerow in the same style as last year.</p> <p>Next community drop-in session to be held on Tuesday 3rd March between 17.00 and 18.30 at the National Trust estate office.</p> <p>Eve Tanner and George Kirkham have joined the Ranger team at Sherborne and will be settling in over the first few weeks of 2026 and getting to know the estate.</p>	Ongoing	Andrew Danson
Conservation Management Plan	We are continuing to work on finalising the CMP prior to publishing.	January	Andrew Danson

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<p>Sherborne Brook</p>	<p>Planning application for Wetland creation works has been withdrawn following advice from the Cotswold District Council planning officer. Flood Risk Activity Permit applied for with Environment Agency for works has also been withdrawn. Successful site visit held with a potential contractor for silt and aquatic vegetation removal from the Broadwaters with the aim to start work next summer.</p>	<p>Planning Application Autumn 2025</p>	<p>Simon Nicholas</p>
<p>Tree Planting</p>	<p>Tree Planting: Replenishment planting taking place across Sherborne Farm Scheme to replace losses caused by the drought and natural wastage.</p>	<p>Winter 2026</p>	<p>Andrew Danson</p>
<p>Estate Infrastructure</p>	<p>We are looking at repairing the partial collapse on the culvert on Sabrina Way.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Andrew Danson</p>
<p>Walling and Fencing</p>	<p>Contractor onsite repairing the dry-stone wall breaches on Old Park boundary wall. We have had several breaches along the Clapton Road and with limited contractor availability we have prioritised these over the breach along the footpath to the North. This will be repaired once the contractor is available again. Hopefully in the Summer/Autumn.</p> <p>Removal of 4 trees on Langott Hill will take place on January 19th/20th with earth works following up after the trees have been removed to take some pressure off the wall. The wall will then be taken down to footings and rebuilt along a roughly 30m stretch.</p> <p>Fencing contractors have worked across Sherborne Farm throughout November replacing damaged fences. They have also replaced the fence along the park wall in the village. There are also new fences between the tree planting fields and Windrush footpath.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Tim Green</p>

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Wildlife	<p>A proliferation of fuligo septica or dog vomit slime mould up at Lodge Park was pointed out by Elsbeth.</p> <p>Large group of Teal and Widgeon observed on the Broadwater and Narrows. Also noted in December Old Park surveys: Kingfisher, Water Rail, Snipe, Moorhen, Mallard and Mute Swan, Stonechat, Cettis Warbler, Treecreeper and Long-tailed Tits amongst others.</p>	Ongoing	Ollie Pitts
Woodland work and Tree Safety	Ash Die back work continues across the estate.	Ongoing	Tim Green
Volunteering	<p>Volunteers have been very busy assisting with the tree planting up at Lodge Park as part of the Bridgeman restoration project.</p> <p>They have also carried out some coppicing work within Ragged Copse.</p>	Ongoing	Ollie Pitts