

| Reference/date | Community Question | Date | National Trust Answer |
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| 25/1 – 21/1/25 | "When will the Trust undertake pathway work, they said would be done in the winter, for the path between ice house and through the wood past the quarry, and the gateway up from ewe pens, both of which have become quagmires again recently. They have also still not replaced the information board on woodland, that was demolished by the wood contractors, near the eastern gate house on A40." | 04/02/2025 | Track repairs will begin shortly and will be completed before the Sherborne Fun Run in Mid-May. |
| 25/2 – 21/1/25 | "Can they please advise volunteer days for 2025, which it was their intention to do." | 04/02/2025 | A full calendar of Sherborne events for 2025 will be released by Mid-February. Volunteering days are currently planned for April, July and October. Walks are planned for March, June and September. |
| 25/3 – 21/1/25 | "Any progress on further Newsletters, as minutes on website are not the same, and I am sure a lot more people would read it". Note: last National Trust news letter was published Winter 2023 | 04/02/2025 | We are working with colleagues in our communications team on distribution channels and methods for our newsletter. There are challenges surrounding GDPR on emailing or posting out communications. |
| 25/4 – 21/1/25 | "What is the situation with the wooded area below Turbine House, as the work that they did at the other end of the Brook, is a real eyesore, and would hope they would not make the same mistake here. Whoever has cut the hedges around the car park at Northfield Barn, has absolutely flailed some of the branches on the mature trees inside the wall – how can we stop this happening in the future?" | 04/02/2025 | Mareslaid Copse is in the Woodland Management Plan for the estate but there are no current plans to remove any timber from this area of woodland. The track along the North Park wall is an agricultural access track and needs to be kept clear to allow access. We will speak to our contractor to keep any impact on the mature trees to a minimum in the future. |
| 25/5 – 26/1/25 | "What actions are the Trust taking to stop sheep escaping onto public highways? It has become a weekly occurrence." | 04/02/2025 | We have a rolling program of fence replacements taking place across Sherborne Farm and working with our grazier. The new Delivery Manager will be working on this issue as a priority. |
| 25/6 – 21/03/25 | Wood chip path (Ewe Pens to Ragged Copse): Given the high cost (believe £5K per replacement) of sourcing the correct wood chip, are there plans to create a more permanent path to protect the wild plant margin? If not, could NT use or borrow a woodchipper to produce the required chip from fallen wood on the estate? | 21/03/2025 | It is an aim of the NT to replace the woodchip section of path with a surface similar to that of the paths through Ragged Copse. This will involve negotiations with our Tenant at Home Farm and will likely require planning permission following consultation with the Gardens Trust. |
| 25/7 – 21/03/2025 | Ragged Copse clearance: When will the runoff into Ragged Copse be cleared? Roadside grips can't be repaired until that's done | 21/03/2025 | The grips are planned to be cleared within the next month. |
| 25/8 – 21/03/25 | Tree planting volunteering: NT mention tree planting taking place, with members of the public? How do they publicise this sort of event, so we can keep our eye out for the future? | 21/03/2025 | Public events are advertised via our social media channels, but also on our webpage in the events section: Events at Lodge Park and Sherborne Park Estate. |
| 25/9 – 21/03/25 | NT have appointed two new positions, with no mention of names- how will they be introduced? | 21/03/2025 | Tim Green is our new Delivery Manager and Caroline Senior is our new Senior Project Co-ordinator. They will introduce themselves fully in an upcoming newsletter. |
| 25/10 – 21/03/2025 | NT contact – Would it be possible to have a monthly drop in at the office, or the club, to discuss issues of concern with Andrew? | 21/03/2025 | Would a quarterly drop-in session at the NT offices with Andrew be sufficient as a pilot? The session would be held on a weekday evening. We would also encourage members of the community to get in touch with us via our office email address Sherborne.estate@nationaltrust.org.uk or ring us on 01451 844257. |
| 25/11 – 16/04/2025 | Advised track repairs would start shortly , but so far nothing has started. When will they be completed? Also the woodland management board that was knocked over by contractor, has still yet to be replaced? | 24/04/2025 | Machinery being delivered to site on 24th and 25th April. Work will be completed the following week in time for the Sherborne Fun Run. |
| 25/12 – 16/04/2025 | Fence Replacement for Sheep – Priority for Tim Green. There is a hole in fence in the field just over the bridge on Clapton road, that has been temporarily filled with a large plastic road barrier and ties, which is ugly and unsightly. Can this be replaced soon? Sheep and cattle continue to get out of all fields. | 24/04/2025 | The temporary plastic barrier will be removed and replaced shortly. |
| 25/13 – 16/04/2025 | As it is an aim to replace wood chip, with more permanent path, how long could that take? In the interim, I am sure they will have to replace with wood chip again, so are they able to utilise wood chip from Sherborne, rather than buying it in? | 24/04/2025 | No current timescales on long term replacement with a more permanent surface. This year approximately 1/3 of the woodchip used to resurface the path was produced on the Sherborne Estate using storm damaged trees. |

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| 25/14 – 16/04/2025 | Can we confirm that grips have been cleared in next month, by end of April. If not why not? | 24/04/2025 | Grips will be cleared by the team before the end of April. |
| 25/15 – 16/04/2025 | For those members of the village, who do not follow social media, and website, are they able to post on village noticeboards, to try and get maximum involvement. Looked on NT Sherborne Website and cannot find the events section? Can we ask where this is specifically please? | 24/04/2025 | Events will be advertised using posters on the village notice board. Events are advertised here Search National Trust Upcoming events may be found at the hyperlink to the right of this column. Events at Lodge Park and Sherborne Park Estate or https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/gloucestershire-cotswolds/lodge-park-and-sherborne-park-estate/events " |
| 25/16 – 16/04/2025 | When is this upcoming newsletter likely to be circulated – village is happy to help with delivery, if this helps to speed up process. | 24/04/2025 | A spring newsletter will be published in May. |
| 25/17 – 16/04/2025 | Quarterly drop in session with Andrew is very welcome. How and when will this be publicised? Is it possible to do one in April or May? | 24/04/2025 | Andrew will host a drop in session in the third week of May – The event will advertised on the village noticeboards and details will be shared with Parish council. |
| 25/18 – 23/04/2025 | Following new gates on path from Northfield Barn down to Water Meadows, there are currently 1 old metal gate (Skip with metal in has been removed from outside the cottages, and there is a metal skip in NT storage area beside Water Meadows Car park, 3 old Wooden Gates with metal on them and a lot of old fence posts, that are just lying around, several weeks after the work has been completed. Can these be removed, so the area looks a little more natural? | 24/04/2025 | The old fencing material will be removed by the Ranger team by the end of April. |
| 25/19 – 16/04/2025 | Where are we with the design concepts for access to the Boathouse/Turbine area. Are we allowed to see their work, and understand the options they have considered for access, with pros and cons, and comment on this, before being presented with their decision? | 24/04/2025 | We are waiting for the first draft of the concept designs to come back from the designer. These will be shared for information when we receive them. |
| 25/20 – 16/04/2025 | Can we ask why the milestone dates column have been removed from their monthly brief in February? Can it be reintroduced? | 24/04/2025 | These will be shown again on the May Parish council update. |
| 25/21 – 16/04/2025 | Are there plans to create lakes or dew ponds on Sherborne Common? Remember it being mentioned on a walk last year. | 24/04/2025 | These ponds were going to be funded by National Highways Designated Funds. Unfortunately this funding was withdrawn. We still want to create ponds in this field and are working on alternative funding sources. |
| 25/22 – 16/04/2025 | What are the plans for all these new trees, if dry weather continues for an extended period? The new orchard planting could be a worry, for example. | 24/04/2025 | We have already started watering our pot grown trees at the Sherborne Farm orchard and Lodge Park avenues – if you see the team towing a bowser and engines whirring in either of these locations, that is what we're up to; planting trees is the easy bit, keeping them alive is much harder |
| 25/22 – 16/04/2025 | What is the plan with the Poplar trees in Broad Close ? Very disappointing if this is the finished job. | 24/04/2025 | <p>The poplars were removed as part of our woodland management plan. These trees were planted up across the estate – and all over this part of Gloucestershire – as a timber crop for the old Bryant & May match factory. Poplars were planted wherever there was space.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the income from the timber did not make extraction economically viable. When this is the case, or when habitat value dictates, we leave the trees as standing 'hulks' to provide an extremely valuable decaying wood habitat. Admittedly, we don't always leave the stems as tall as here but there will be more work to follow, and they will be reduced further.</p> <p>We appreciate it looks a bit of a mess at present.</p> <p>Brash has been stacked but full clear up not carried out as there is more work to be done in Sherbrook Copse and future work will utilise some of this material.</p> <p>Information about future work will be shared soon but this whole area will look even more 'messy' in the short term whilst we enhance the wet woodland and establish an area of wetland. We manage the land for nature and the land will recover in time. Replanting with appropriate species will take place within a couple of years (following wetland work) and will provide a more aesthetically pleasing area of wet woodland."</p> |

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| 25/24 - 14/05/2025 | Perhaps for Luke, who we know has great ornithological knowledge. Can Luke comment about the habitat for Lapwings? Sherborne had just about the only Cotswold habitat for lapwings, but they were seen in the areas where there has been recent considerable tree planting. Does Luke expect them to remain, or will this habitat be lost? If so, what consideration was given when balancing this last remaining Lapwing habitat, against the tree planting? | 23/05/2025 | While designing this planting scheme we consulted widely on the plans, including with Cotswold National Landscape, and made several amendments as a result. Discussion also included Internal consultants, Ranger team and senior colleagues who provided management advice for the water meadows whilst working with the RSPB. Our decisions are taken at a landscape scale and looking at what Sherborne can deliver that is missing elsewhere in the landscape, in this case the extension/restoration of the historic wood-pasture habitat and the multiple benefits of this. We're also looking to create or enhance more open grassland/wetland habitat further south along the Windrush and the Sherborne Brook which may be better suited than the northern water meadows for waders in general where the valley is narrower, and there are already a lot of Poplars off our land, especially compared to the more open floodplains further south on the estate and north around Bourton, which seem much better for waders. whenever we make a decision to change land use, there are species that win and species that lose. We try as far as possible to manage for the maximum possible benefit. The density of planting in the 100 acre common field varies from low to very low across the site and includes many shrub species and large expanses of open ground. |
| 25/25 - 14/05/2025 | When will the signage for the Ice House be reinstated, as well as other signage in the park? | 23/05/2025 | No definitive date for this currently. We are currently working through it internally. |
| 25/26 - 14/05/2025 | Is there an update on the mirror for vehicle safety opposite the Water Meadows car park? | 23/05/2025 | We have liaised with Highways Gloucestershire and been informed that the installation of a mirror is not permitted. Their experience is that rather than improving safety a mirror could increase safety risks. They have provided the information below regarding the Safety risks of mirrors•reflect light and interfere with a driver's vision•reduce the ability to judge an oncoming vehicle's speed•create an unreasonable dependence on the mirror•if dirty, distort or restrict the view•be an easy target for vandalsWe will explore other ways of improving visibility for vehicles exiting the car park. |
| 25/27 - 14/05/2025 | New stone on the track in West Belt is a big improvement. What about the track in Quarry Wood, which becomes a quagmire in the winter? NT said initially they would do this with left over stone from doing East Belt, which never happened, and again before Winter last year. Will it be done before this coming Winter? | 23/05/2025 | These track repairs are due to be carried out by contractors week commencing 19/05/25. |
| 25/28 - 14/05/2025 | Do we have a date for the first quarterly drop-in session? | 23/05/2025 | First Drop in session will be held between 17.00 and 18.30 on Tuesday June 2025 at the Sherborne Estate Offices. A poster will be placed on the village notice board to advertise the event. |
| 25/29 - 14/05/2025 | Do we have a new date for the Woodland Walk, originally planned for 18th May? | 23/05/2025 | Events program for Summer and Autumn at Sherborne will be confirmed in early June. Events will be advertised via the newsletter, village notice boards and social media channels. |
| 25/30 - 14/05/2025 | Do we have a date for the walk planned at Stones Farm? | 23/05/2025 | Events program for Summer and Autumn at Sherborne will be confirmed in early June. Events will be advertised via the newsletter, village notice boards and social media channels. |
| 25/31 | How do we think the work we did on the grips on either side of Waterloo Bridge is performing? Has the Highways Agency done their bit yet, as it was anytime after beginning of October? Is there anything we can do with regard to ongoing maintenance over the winter? | 10/12/2025 | Tim Green has been tasked will keep an eye on them to see how they hold up. If required we will look to organise another working party, however thanks to the work carried out earlier this year we imagine Tim and a spade should be all that's required going forward. |
| 25/32 | There are two large craters on the entry to Water Meadows Car Park, and two in the car park. Are these going to be filled? | 10/12/2025 | We are to engaging with contractors get quotes to repair the carpark. We will try to ensure that this work can be done alongside any additional remedial works to Sabrina Way. |
| 25/33 | Great to see the hedge laying on the other side of the track down to Water Meadows by the Woodsman. What are the plans for the brash that is left behind. There was excess brash from the other side, which has been dropped in other fields, so what will happen this time? | 10/12/2025 | The brash will be used later in the year to protect trees from livestock by replacing tree guards that are no longer needed. They are used to reduce soil compaction around trees as this can damage roots. We will also use it for deadhedging. Potentially, carrying on the dead hedging work towards the bottom of Sabrina way. The infill planting along the hedgerow will take place in December by our contractor. |

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| 25/34 | There are 5 fields up by and around Northfield Barn, and the plan is to turn them into Limestone Grassland, I think. They are supposed to be cutting them, but after two years, is it possible to leave at least one of them uncut, to see how that progresses - we have seen far more Sky Larks this year, as a result? | 10/12/2025 | As we have now signed a contract to create habitat banks which must be limestone grassland these will have to be cut. We are not planning on putting livestock on the fields until they are fully established so this would involve 1 or 2 hay cuts a year for the first 3 years or so. This will be done outside of the nesting season. |
| 25/35 | Is there a plan for walks and volunteer days for 2026? The walk on Stones Farm has still to be arranged, as an example. Even if it is something every 2 or 3 months, and they are well publicised and in advance, it would all help? | 10/12/2025 | We are currently finalising our event and volunteering plans for 2026. When completed it will be shared through the newsletter and events will be shared on social media and village notice boards. |
| 25/36 | Will we seem CMP Plan shared this year, as it is long overdue? What is the reason for the delays? | 10/12/2025 | We are continuing to work on finalising the CMP prior to publishing. |