

National Trust monthly brief: February (Andrew Danson – 27/02/2026)

Subject (add as appropriate)	Comment & update	Milestone dates (e.g. start work / completion)	Main NT contact
Big Nature, Better Access	<p>The Spring edition of the Community newsletter will be published in early March – Residents can sign to receive this and other updates electronically by emailing <a href="mailto:Sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk">Sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk</a></p> <p>Planting of the Serpentine avenues continues 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. We hosted a group from Bourton Scouts in February to help us deliver the work. Planting will be complete by the end of the month.</p> <p>Petra Dark from Reading University carrying out further surveys carried out as part of the Defra funded Water Restoration project although the amount of rain we have had has made things difficult.</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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>	Ongoing	Andrew Danson
Conservation Management Plan	We are continuing to work on finalising the CMP prior to publishing.	February	Andrew Danson

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Sherborne Brook	We are working with colleagues to consider our next steps and whether we should look to resubmit a planning application in later this year.	Planning Application 2026	Simon Nicholas
Tree Planting	Tree Planting: Replenishment planting taking place across Sherborne Farm Scheme to replace losses caused by the drought and natural wastage.	Winter 2026	Andrew Danson
Estate Infrastructure	We are looking at repairing the partial collapse on the culvert on Sabrina Way. This work will take place when the water levels in the area have dropped.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson
Walling and Fencing	Wall repairs on Langott Hill have now started. Dave Roper has completed his repairs on the park wall on the Clapton Road.	Ongoing	Tim Green
Wildlife	Serena sent through a sighting of a flock of 8 small egrets on the opposite bank of the Brook and a sighting of a magnificent dog fox hunting in the parkland.  Andrew and Tim enjoyed watching the cormorant eating their lunch last week.  We counted 10 buzzards above Lodge Park on a Bridgeman planting day and two kites building a nest.	Ongoing	Ollie Pitts
Woodland work and Tree Safety	Quercus Tree Specialists have been working across the estate removing dangerous and diseased trees from near footpaths.	Ongoing	Tim Green
Volunteering	Volunteers have been very busy assisting with the tree planting up at Lodge Park as part of the Bridgeman restoration project. They have also carried out some coppicing work within Ragged Copse.	Ongoing	Ollie Pitts

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	<p>As we get ready to open Lodge Park for several long weekends across the Spring and Summer, we are looking for volunteers to join our indoors and outdoors teams.</p> <p>Volunteers make a huge difference at Lodge Park – from bringing the history of this unique building to life, to leading tours of the Bridgeman Landscape, to helping visitors enjoy costumes, games and trails</p> <p>If anyone is interested in joining our volunteer team, visit: <a href="#">myvolunteering - National Trust</a> and search for 'Sherborne, Cheltenham' to find out more.</p>		
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