

National Trust monthly brief: Summer (Andrew Danson –17/07/2026)

Subject (add as appropriate)	Comment & update	Milestone dates (e.g. start work / completion)	Main NT contact
Big Nature, Better Access	A series of ponds have been dug as part of the Sherborne Farm project. These ponds are around 0.3 Hectares in area and seems to be holding water well, even in the current dry and hot weather conditions. Lodge Park will be open each weekend in August for visitors. The Summer edition of the Community newsletter was published in early June – Residents can sign to receive this and other updates electronically by emailing Sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk Successful community drop-in session held on Monday 15th June between 17.00 and 18.30 at the National Trust estate office. Project Manager will be away from the Trust for a period of 2 to 3 months recovering from surgery. Any correspondence for project should be directed to sherborneestate@nationaltrust.org.uk	Ongoing	Andrew Danson
Conservation Management Plan	We are continuing to work on finalising the CMP prior to publishing.	July	Andrew Danson
Sherborne Brook	We are looking at options for some aquatic vegetation removal to take place this autumn/winter.	Ongoing	Simon Nicholas
Tree Planting	Tree Planting: Preparations beginning for tree planting to take place this upcoming season. Work planned includes recreation of Theatre of Trees up at Lodge Park and further 1.5km of hedgerow planting on Sherborne Farm.	Winter 2026	Andrew Danson

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Estate Infrastructure	We have repaired the partial collapse on the culvert on Sabrina Way and are monitoring its success. We are exploring funding options for improving the footpath between Ewepens Car Park and Ragged Copse.	Ongoing	Andrew Danson
Walling and Fencing	Contractor has restarted on the estate and is working on the breach near the A40 junction. He will then move on to the breaches along the length of the A40 in East Belt and West Belt. We are planning to do repairs to the old park wall near the gate to the upper weir over the winter. Dave Roper will be repairing the breach to the North of Old Park when he has availability (looking like October/November). Our other contractor continues to make excellent progress on the North wall of Lodge Park.	Ongoing	Tim Green
Wildlife	Across the estate we are observing an increased number of butterflies than in previous years which is great to see. Anecdotally, we are observing more insect species in general.	Ongoing	Ranger Team
Woodland work and Tree Safety	We have completed Ash Dieback inspections for the summer, Tree Safety Management inspections will continue in October, and any remedial safety work will be done in accordance with these. We are continuing to remove variegated yellow archangel from several woodlands by pulling and matting with cardboard and mulch. We have also done some targeted pulling of Sicilian honey garlic where it has spread to new woodlands.	Ongoing	Eve Tanner
Volunteering	The regular Ranger Volunteers and the Cotswold Wardens have been working hard to maintain the estate. Recent tasks include supporting the control of invasive plant species within some of the woodlands and weeding and grounds maintenance at Lodge Park to prepare it for visitors in August. Our path checking volunteers, wildlife surveying volunteers, cattle checkers, and more, have been supporting our continual monitoring of the estate.	Ongoing	Ollie Pitts

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	During late autumn and winter there will be open volunteering sessions to carry out the next phase of tree planting within the Bridgeman Landscape at Lodge Park. More details will follow in the coming months. We have a number of volunteering opportunities available across the Cotswolds portfolio, including at Lodge Park. Further details can be found by visiting: https://myvolunteering.nationaltrust.org.uk/opportunity-search# page=0 and searching for your preferred location.	Ongoing	Laura Nicholls
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