

9th September 2026

Sherborne Parish Council

c/o Andrew Woolley
Yew Tree Cottage
12 Sherborne
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL54 3DS

The Conservation Officer
Cotswold District Council
Trinity Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire GL7 1PX

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Sheafhouse, Sherborne Park (List Entry 1090429: Sheafhouse): request for Urgent Works Notice and Heritage at Risk nomination

Sherborne Parish Council is writing to report extensive structural collapse at the Sheafhouse, a Grade II listed farm building within Sherborne Park (a Grade II Registered Park & Garden). The property is owned by the National Trust.

The collapse was reported to the Parish Council on 7 September 2026, and we have subsequently informed the National Trust.

The Sheafhouse is unoccupied, and its deterioration has been visible to residents for a number of years. The Sheafhouse forms part of a significant heritage view from the village across the Old Park, to the north of the Sherborne Broadwaters. This collapse confirms that decay has now reached a critical point. Other parts of the building are also in a state serious decline and in imminent danger of collapse.

The Parish Council raises this as a constructive step, not a complaint. We recognise the National Trust's commitment to the wider Sherborne Park Estate, and we want to help build the case for the resources the Sheafhouse now require to maintain its integrity as an important heritage asset.

At a National Trust briefing and guided walk around three years ago, attended by a number of Parish Councillors, the Trust stated its intention to maintain and conserve the Sheafhouse, while noting uncertainty over a precise plan and timescale to undertake the conservation works. We see today's request as helping the Trust deliver on that earlier commitment.

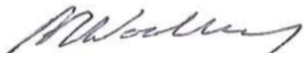
We ask the Council to consider two actions. First, serving an Urgent Works Notice under section 54 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, given that the building is unoccupied and works are urgently required to keep it safe from further collapse. Second, nominating the Sheafhouse for Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register.

Both steps would create a clear, documented record of need. We understand this is often exactly what conservation organisations require to justify prioritising central funds for repair. We hope this can support the National Trust's efforts to secure the resources the Sheafhouse deserves.

Photographic evidence of the building's condition and its recent collapse are attached to this letter.

Given the safety risk and pace of deterioration, the Parish Council would be grateful for an urgent site visit by one of your team. Please confirm receipt of this letter and advise on next steps. Please reply to Andrew Woolley andrew@sherborneparish.org.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A Woolley', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Woolley
On behalf of Sherborne Parish Council