

SIR, — Those of us who are opposed to the "restoration" of Latchmore Brook by the Forestry Commission are grateful to Anthony Pasmore for the way he has reported the ongoing battle in his New Forest Notes for March.

We are determined that this well-adjusted area of the Forest must be left alone. It hosts a variety of birds and wildlife including a nationally scarce Southern Damselfly, which, incidentally, is a species fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Latchmore Brook is enjoyed by very many people as an area that is still unspoilt. Will this be still the case after vast amounts of gravel, clay and heather bales have been used to infill this "unfavourable" stream and its course altered?

We agree with Mr Pasmore that the objective of all this disruption is so that a box can be ticked to indicate in Natural England's records that the Latchmore Brook is no longer in an unfavourable state, although to whom or for what it is not favourable at present but will be afterwards, remains unclear. So far, nobody has identified to the satisfaction of those of us who know Latchmore, what the benefits from the scheme will be.

**Beryl and Tony Bull**  
(Address supplied)