

Friends of Latchmore judicial review

THE Friends of Latchmore have started the process for a Judicial Review of the Forestry Commission's £250,000 restoration work at Latchmore Brook.

The friends say the project is being carried out without any environmental assessments and claim the work, due to resume in July, will be extremely damaging and is unlikely to have any benefits.

Friends member Fiona MacDonald said: "We are aware of the potential costs of a judicial review, but we are prepared to do whatever it takes.

"The Forestry Commission has totally underestimated how many people visit, know and love Latchmore."

The project involves importing 10,000 tonnes of gravel to fill in much of the existing stream, and relocating the stream to an alternative course just a few yards away.

The Forestry Commission and its partners have until June 15 to respond to the friends' concerns.

Friends chairman Professor John Shepherd said: "If the partners in the HLS scheme are prepared to suspend the work planned for this summer on the Latchmore Brook, so that the issues that we have raised can be properly investigated, the Friends will be happy to take part in discussions with independent experts to resolve these issues.

"Otherwise we now have no alternative to taking legal action."