

Journal postbag

No benefit to works

I LIVE locally to Latchmore Brook and am one of many people opposed to the planned "restoration" by the Forestry Commission as there appears to be no benefit to be gained in this expensive project.

This includes filling in the existing stream with gravel and digging a shallow one a few feet away. The Forestry Commission says it is starting this work in July so as not to disturb nesting birds.

As you drive into Ogdens car park there is a notice put there by the FC about the fragility of nesting birds and reminding the public not to disturb them.

On May 17 I saw a team of people, presumably with the Commission's approval, surveying for Second World War bombs in preparation for the "restoration" along the stream near to the Alderhill Enclosure. Apparently, after some digging around, a bomb was found (later it was identified as a training device).

Then even more bodies were tramping all around the mire, waiting until a controlled explosion took place, causing significant disturbance to wildlife.

Many birds are nesting in the valley and will be raising young until August. For example, this is where the lapwings are nesting. A redstart nest was also an unnecessary victim that day.

Being very keen on the birds and wildlife along this beautiful corridor, I am very upset because this disturbance could so easily have been avoided by carrying out this survey earlier during the year, bad weather being no excuse as it was the driest winter for a very long time.

To protect these creatures there are UK laws – the Wildlife & Countryside Act, for example – which the FC must know about, ignoring them, it seems in the name of "restoration".

Laws surely must be adhered to. There are no exceptions, even for the Forestry Commission.

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