

The battle of Latchmore Brook

SIR, — I write in praise of 'New Forest Notes' awaited eagerly by me every month, always full of good commonsense with the genuine concerns for the long term conservation and well being of the New Forest. If only Mr Pasmore was listened to by his fellow verderers who represent Natural England and the Forestry Commission maybe the situation that has arisen at Latchmore near Ogdens in the North West part of the Forest could have been averted.

A disastrous project to fill in part of a beautiful brook which at the moment abounds with wonderful (and some protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act) dragonflies, rare birds etc which will also cause a loss of grazing and recreate a bog which in the past many animals were lost — has enormous local opposition.

The project is being undertaken without, it appears after a year of asking for one — an Environmental Impact Assessment. If any other member of the public or organisation tried to do such a development without one, they would quite correctly be stopped. It doesn't seem unreasonable to expect a full survey of flora and fauna before 10,000 tonnes of alien gravel, clay etc. is poured on top of delicate dragonfly larvae in the stream bed and inevitably foreign predators are imported, to name just one of the very reasons this should be halted.

Hopefully the large numbers of 'Friends of Latchmore', whose number are being added to daily, combined with finally listening to Mr Pasmore will stop this very damaging development.

Name and address supplied