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## Letters to the editor...

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### Forest work

SIR, — Yet again the writer of your excellent New Forest Notes, Anthony Pasmore, warns of the damage being done to the New Forest. This month he highlights the determination of Natural England to turn lawns back to "what they perceive to be primeval wilderness".

The Natural England verderer has even previously warned commoners not to complain about loss of lawns "the commoners may find it an unpalatable fact, but they are being subsidised by conservation interests and should reflect that in their attitude to restoration works". (verderers' minutes 15/09/10).

Unfortunately the "conservation interests" are destroying much of the highly protected and precious flora and fauna with these engineering works and the destruction of Forest streams and lawns continues unabated.

Anthony Pasmore issued a dire warning in his notes 'Stream filling, restoration or destruction' (New Forest Notes September 2014), which makes very interesting reading. He has been warning about the effects of these engineering projects for years in his capacity as a verderer (before his retirement) and continues to do so through his column as a lifelong expert on many aspects of the Forest.

What is absolutely clear is that the three partners in the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme — the verderers, The Forestry Commission and the national park, who are responsible for the decision-making process, have a vested interest in these engineering works going ahead. It is vital to know what financial reward in the form of subsidy and grants is received by those involved in this process. This is public money being used and we should know exactly to whom it is going and the amounts received. The general public could be forgiven for thinking this is not a level playing field.

**Name and address supplied**