

July 15th 2015

Official Verderer and Verderers good morning.

I'm Beryl Bull, commoner and live NW of the Forest. My Presentment is about my concern of the so-called restoration work at Amberslade and Broomy Inclosure which was done during the **peak bird nesting season**.

May and June are busy months for birds, with the breeding season in full swing for most species, yet, this was the time when the FORESTRY COMMISSION started restoration work for the second time on Amberslade and Broomy Inclosure. This was contrary to the **required undertaking** within their NPA Planning Application that **it would not start until summer/early autumn**.

It was not only peak nesting time for the birds when the work began, but it was raining at the time. The Planning Application also **clearly stated** that work should be suspended when the ground was wet or it was raining.

The huge diggers were carting the enormous amounts of materials along the **once small** forest tracks to where great mounds of clay, heather bales and large stones were being stored, this turning the tracks into a deep wide muddy mess. Causing unnecessary disturbance to the birds, wildlife and their habitat.

It's extraordinary how the Forestry Commission **ignore the fact** that there is **Conservation legislation to protect the bird breeding season**. The New Forest is an SPA - Special Protected Area for birds and The New Forest Wildlife is of International importance. They just went ahead with this work regardless of the time of year and the damage it would do.

A FC notice on the gate into Broomy Inclosure read - Over the last 200yrs streams have been straightened and deepened creating a network of artificial drains.

The notice **also said** it was restoring this stream to its natural course through Broomy Inclosure and that natural vegetation would be replaced so that the habitat could recover as quickly as possible. **Whatever that means**, I can't imagine that in former days, the small **meandering** stream that has actually been filled right to ground level, topped with tennis ball size stones, was in anything like the dreadful condition it has been now left in.

It resembles a hideous gravel track through the woods where it once flowed down into Dockens Water, and the dried up pieces of grass now lying around on the grazing area outside the Inclosure, presumably represent the carefully replaced vegetation.

The woods are usually beautiful around this time of year. Full of bird song, bluebells and other wild flowers,. The stream hosted grey wagtail - seen on numerous occasions - Kingfisher were also seen along this stretch of water. and a large variety of other birds could always be seen foraging in and around the stream, This has all been destroyed by these works

HLS money is paid out for these schemes and so many people and organizations have a vested interest in the money that it seems no one dare complain about or oppose these works.

The **losers** are the birds, wildlife, flora and fauna, and the local people who have to now live with this devastation. The **winners** of course are those who are being paid to do the

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work, not least the suppliers of the gravel, etc. The cost of all this gravel must be enormous. **so much** gravel has gone into Broomy Inclosure it's like a builder's yard.

The tracks around the woods are **so wide now** that they look as though they could hold a Grand Prix race.

The Woods are now completely unrecognizable. **no more** are the once peaceful narrow forest tracks that went around them.

With **real concern for the forest**, they could still have been a delight to ride or walk.

**Verderers**, you are appointed and elected to look after the best interest of the NEW FOREST and **should**, along with the National Park, be **making sure** that the Bird Conservation Legislation and Planning Application rules are adhered to, **not ignored** and **misused** in the way they have been in Amberslade and Broomy Inclosure.

