

# Letters to the editor

## Destruction, not restoration

SIR, I was interested to read the Forestry Commission's response to Sir Desmond Swayne's "Vandalism to change stream's character" piece in last week's paper.

The spokesperson on behalf of the Forestry Commission says of the engineering works: "it will ultimately encourage southern damselfly, smooth snake, birds, fish and otters".

It seems a great shame that they do not appear to know that all those protected species are already thriving there as are many more.

It is very sad that other Forest organisations whose remit is to preserve the Forest and grazing are ignoring the destruction that has, in the name of "restoration", been perpetrated at numerous sites — Ditchend/Must Thorns stream near Godshill, Harvestslade near Burley, Broomy/Amberslade Bottom near the High Corner Inn, repairs and more infilling are frequent in these works, Broomy has just been infilled with hoggin only one year after the initial work.

It is well worth visiting these sites to see for yourself, or visit one of the earlier "restorations" like Warwickslade which has rows of mature dead trees marking where the stream used to flow.

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