

# Letters to the editor

**Email** news@adt.press

**Post** 66 Old Milton Road, New Milton BH25 6DX

## FC's wetland work unjustified

SIR — The National Audit Office has just completed its investigation of the New Forest wetlands restoration scheme.

One of the significant findings by the NAO is that this scheme does not form part of the Forestry Commission's statutory obligations (for which it is already funded).

However, the Forestry Commission has stated many times, both in writing and in public meetings such as planning meetings and in the Court of Verderers, that it has a legal responsibility to restore the New Forest Crown Lands to "favourable condition".

Since this "justification" for these works has now been shown by the highest authority not to have any validity, what reason can the Forestry Commission now give for continuing this "restoration" programme which is currently underway in places such as Wootton, causing serious welfare problems to the indigenous fish populations?

**Dr Fiona Macdonald  
BVMS MRCVS  
Mockbeggar,  
Ringwood.**