



Landscaping with missiles

Most people are happy with a water feature, a bit of trellis or a garden gnome on their lawn. But Wells Reclamation in Somerset has suggested that military hardware is an ideal complement for the back yard. With a Second World War Russian T34 main battle tank and a Bloodhound anti-aircraft missile, the reclamation yard has recently been well stocked in obscure military items left and salvaged. Their latest acquisition is three missile nose cone covers from a Tornado jet fighter. A spokesman said: 'To most people they are defunct military hardware, to others a fantastic focal point for the garden' PICTURE: JASON BRYANT

A little help getting to the otter side

BY JEFF WELLS
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Loved-up otters are being helped across the road – by their very own lollipop man, it emerged yesterday.

The amorous animals are being given a helping hand across a busy road by kind-hearted Charles Pickles.

A tunnel has also been built beneath the A438 at Swainshill, Herefordshire – a popular breeding ground for otters.

Until the otters get used to using the tunnel, Charles, 60, will don a lollipop man's uniform to guide them across the road.

He said: "Otters begin to mate at this time of year and spend their time traversing the road to get to the River

Wye. Part of my time will be spent herding them into the tunnel but when I see them on the road I will be stepping out to stop the traffic."

Charles will wear a bright luminous yellow jacket and hold a sign instructing motorists to stop.

Instead of a picture of children, the sign will show a picture of otters.

Charles volunteered to become the otter's lollipop man after dozens were killed on the road last year.

The animals cross the busy route to get from the River Wye to the Yazor Brook.

An £80 million project to siphon off floodwater from the Yazor Brook to the River Wye included a scheme to build an underground tunnel for otters.



Charles Pickles and one of his otter friends beside the main road at Swainshill which he is helping them to cross. He will stay until the otters get used to their crossing tunnel

Father-of-three Charles added: "It cost very little to include a simple underpass which allows the otters to pass from one field to another without risking their lives

£80m

The cost of the flood scheme, which included the otter crossing

trying to get across the road. We all like happy endings, and it should be the same for otters in love.

"We're hoping the new underpass will help them while they've got their mind on other matters."

It's true, I've a false nail in my sandwich

A hairdresser on a course in Bristol was disgusted when she tucked into a Tesco sandwich and bit down – on a false nail.

Katie Sellers, 29, said she was enjoying her smoked salmon and cream cheese sarnie when something "crunched" in her teeth.

She spat it out and was shocked to discover it was a grubby acrylic finger nail.

Ms Sellers, from Truro, Cornwall, bought the £2.40 Tesco Finest Sandwich from her local store on January 21.

She made the grim discovery the next day after she ate it at the beauty training course.

She said: "I bit the corner off and felt something hard and a bit sharp in my mouth. It crunched between my teeth.

"I felt physically sick. It

'I bit the corner and something crunched between my teeth'

Katie Sellers

wasn't a nice nail – it was discoloured and dirty.

"I thought that people packing sandwiches had to be wearing gloves and I would not have thought they were allowed to wear false nails.

"It's a full acrylic nail. They do fall off eventually and I can only assume it fell off when she was making it.

"It was definitely in the cream cheese because I looked at the sandwich before I ate it. I don't think I will ever buy pre-packed sandwiches again."

Katie put the yellowed nail in a bag and posted it to Tesco but is still waiting for a response.

A Tesco spokesman said: "Ensuring our food is of the highest quality is extremely important to us and we and our suppliers have robust systems in place to prevent foreign objects getting into products.

"We will of course be conducting a thorough investigation into this incident."

Questions over cat DNA result

Big cat tracker Frank Tunbridge has claimed the results of recent DNA testing do not rule out the possibility that big cats are roaming Gloucestershire.

Scientists were called in to find out whether samples found on deer carcasses could have come from the giant felines. But results showed they had been killed by a fox. However, Mr Tunbridge, who has set up cameras in the hope of spotting a panther or puma, suggested foxes could have left their DNA when moving in on the animals after the kill. "The deer had been out three days in bad weather, and foxes can come in after a big cat kill," he said.