© George Monbiot has hit the spot again. Natural England has been emasculated and, as part of the "Defra family", it has also apparently been told not to get in the way of landowners and other government bodies. Here in the New Forest national park (another site of special scientific interest), Natural England is allowing the Forestry Commission and others to carry out damaging "wetland restoration" works at the Latchmore Brook and elsewhere, without any scientific assessment of its desirability or consequences. The public body responsible for protecting the natural environment has been shackled. **Professor John Shepherd** Chair, Friends of Latchmore

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