

*PRESENTMENT 18TH JULY 2012*

*Official Verderer– Verderers, Good morning.*

*My name is Ailsa Farrand, I live, ride, walk and turn out ponies in the area of Latchmore.*

*I am delighted the plans for the engineering work at Latchmore have been delayed and trust it will give time for proper consideration to be given to the project.*

*There are still plans however to go ahead with the Thompsons Castle mire work -Unit 28 - this year. This is specifically the lawn area connecting the Thompsons Castle Mire to Latchmore and where it will significantly alter the drainage into the brook, there have been no Consents or Permissions obtained in the 'Restoration' Plans , Method Statements, Natural England letters or Environment Agency consents for work on this triple SSSI unit which is stated by Natural England to be in favourable condition. Is this good practice, is it legal?*

*No evidence has been produced to indicate the mire is drying out. Local observation is it has remained stable for many years.*

*The Brook is designated as 'Unfavourable Recovering' but requests to see the assessment under Freedom of Information Act have not been successful – it would appear there isn't one.*

*The importing of 10,000 tons of potentially contaminated gravel and clay to fill the existing stream is taking place without any form of impact assessment on the process or outcome. How is this best practice or legal?*

*Professor Sear indicated that tree cover should not be removed from the stream banks as this will warm the water and kill the fish and invertebrates. He also pointed out that some of the meanders where it is proposed to re-route the stream into, are too high and that it would thus be unsuccessful. He added that he had repeatedly asked that monitoring should take place before and after works, or how else can success or failure be judged?*

*For Health and Safety reasons to protect operators of heavy machinery, many trees have been felled - sadly, digging for ordnance and an explosion to remove a WW2 'training aid' have resulted in destroying the nesting sites of protected species. A wildlife crime has been reported to the Police.*

*Gorse and shrubs have been removed that were habitat for the Dartford Warblers, Stonechats, etc. Interestingly Natural England would not allow a couple of days filming earlier this year at Blackbushe in Hampshire as the noise may have disturbed the Dartford Warblers; at Latchmore their habitat has been removed! Double standards maybe?*