

Presentment to the Verderers' Court, 17 July 2013

Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you. My name is Margaret Bunyard. I live at Ogdens and am a member of the Friends of Latchmore.

I would like to draw your attention to a report on the proposed re-alignment of Latchmore Brook that was produced in May by an eminent, independent ecologist.

Tom Langton has over 38 years of experience with habitats and species and has managed well over 300 consultancy and research projects in the United Kingdom. He became concerned when he heard about the proposed work at Latchmore and undertook his own research as a result.

It is important to say here that this work was not commissioned by the Friends of Latchmore. The report is an independent evaluation of the works proposed at Latchmore and other sites. It is therefore essential reading for all those concerned with the management of the New Forest and with the way in which EU funding is being used. It is a very important document.

I understand that the Verderers have already been sent a pdf of the report and it is available on the Friends of Latchmore website – www.friendsoflatchmore.org . But I will leave you a hard copy here which I hope will be useful.

I would also like to clear up a possible misunderstanding about the Friends of Latchmore. The group is not against 'restoration' in the New Forest *per se*, but we strongly believe that there should be appropriate pre- design monitoring and evaluation before any work is undertaken as well as post-project monitoring. Indeed the flora and fauna here are so rich and the hydrology so complex that this is surely essential to avoid unintended consequences.