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THE PRINCIPAL
MISS N. M. O'SULLIVAN
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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
CRANFORD AVENUE
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*SFA to attend
if possible
ew.*

Fleet Study Group
c/o College of Education
WEYMOUTH

March 26th, 1975.

The Fleet and Chesil Beach, both together and in themselves, represent notable features on the Dorset coast. The beach is perhaps one of the most studied coastal features in Great Britain and is considered as being nationally and internationally important, whilst the lagoon, with marked tidal and salinity gradients along its length, represents a sedimentary environment and an ecological habitat of great scientific interest.

There is evidence of growing pressure on this area, both from land and from off-shore activity, which could seriously disturb and put at risk the attributes of this classic site.

The Strangways Estate, as freeholders of a large part of the Chesil Beach and the Fleet, and the Dorset Naturalists' Trust are vitally concerned with the future of the area and feel that there is an urgent need to establish a larger group of those who may be able to contribute to our knowledge of the area and those whose interests may be involved, even if only peripherally. The purpose of such a group would be to collate and make available information gathered. The precedence for establishing such groups has been encouraged by the National Environmental Research Council (Publications Series B. No.9, January 1975) and several groups are active for various major estuaries - Clyde, Firth, Bristol Channel, etc.

The terms of reference for the proposed group might well be -

- (i) to review and evaluate the state of scientific knowledge of the Fleet waters and Chesil bank. Among other aspects this would include hydrological and sedimentary processes, chemical and biological studies, quaternary research.
- (ii) to identify gaps in our knowledge of the area.
- (iii) to suggest priorities for research most likely to advance that knowledge.

One of the first tasks will have to be the definition of boundaries of the larger area likely to influence the study site.

The inaugural meeting of the Fleet Study Group will take place at the Weymouth College of Education at 2.30 p.m. in the Conference Room on THURSDAY, APRIL 24th, 1975. The Principal of the College, Miss N.M. O'Sullivan, has kindly agreed to take the chair at this meeting. A first list of invited participants is included and it is hoped you will be able to send a representative. If you feel that there is any significant omission, please let us know.

R.S.V.P. to:
The Acting Secretary,
Fleet Study Group,
College of Education,
Weymouth.

Fleet Study Group,
c/o College of Education,
Cranford Avenue,
WEYMOUTH, Dorset.

First List of bodies to whom this invitation has been sent.

The Fleet Sanctuary Trust Conservation Management Group:-

Strangways Estate,
Dorset Naturalists' Trust,
Local Anglers (Mr. J. Churchouse),
County Planning Department.

National Environmental Research Council.

Nature Conservancy Council.

Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (Coastal Unit), Norwich.

Freshwater Biological Association, East Stoke, Wareham, Dorset.

Hydrographic Unit, Taunton.

Marine Biological Association, Plymouth.

M.A.A.F. Fishery Station, Weymouth.

Wessex Water Board.

Atomic Energy Establishment.

Underwater Weapons Establishment.

Dorset County Council.

Weymouth Corporation.

West Dorset District Council.

Court Leet, Portland, Dorset.

The Crown Commissioners.

The Assistant Queen's Harbour Master, Portland.

H.M.S. Osprey, Portland.

The Portland Bird Observatory.

The National Trust.

It is also intended to invite groups and individuals who have made some contribution to the scientific knowledge of the area.