

*Eve Dennis.*

DORSET INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (WEYMOUTH)

FLEET STUDY GROUP

Minutes for the 1st meeting (6th of the small Working Party) of the restructured Fleet Study Group.

The meeting was held in the Conference Room of D.I.H.E. Weymouth at 4.00 p.m. on 25th November 1977.

Those present were:

- Dr. M. Ladle (Chairman)
- Mr. J. Soane (D.W.T.)
- Mr. E. Green (Strangways)
- Miss E. Dennis (N.C.C.)
- Dr. J. Whittaker
- Mr. J. Poole
- Mrs. J. FitzPatrick (Sec)

Apologies were received from Dr. A. Carr and Mr. D. Womersley.

1. The minutes of the Jubilee Meeting at Abbotsbury, 18th June 1977, were accepted.
2. Report on the informal meeting between Lady Teresa, the Strangways agent, Mr. Kitemaster, Mr. Green and Dr. Ladle, Dr. Whittaker, Mr. Soane, Mr. Poole and Mrs. FitzPatrick at the College, Weymouth on 27th November 1977.

Dr. Whittaker had just received permission from the Central Electricity Generating Board to use the relevant data from their hydrological survey 1968. Thirty hydrological charts were xeroxed free of charge, together with a copy of part of their written findings. This information will prove extremely valuable for future work and the group expressed their thanks to Dr. Whittaker for his initiative and trouble. The data will be deposited in the groups Archives in the Library at the Weymouth College when he has used the information to update his own paper on the physical characteristics of the Fleet. Mrs. FitzPatrick was instructed to write a letter of thanks to the C.E.G.B.

The problem of publication of work carried out on the study area was then discussed. Lady Teresa very generously made available an annual sum of £250 from 18th January 1978 to enable previous research to be published or to finance research as may be thought fit. The Chairman expressed the group's thanks to Lady Teresa for giving up her time to come to the meeting.

3. The Secretary then summarised the other events that had taken place since the Jubilee Meeting in June 1977.

- (1) The British Phycological Society's field meeting 1977 was based on the College at Weymouth and members spent one of their days sampling various areas of the Fleet. The results have been incorporated in the Dorset list of algae, prepared for publication by Dr. E. Burrows and Mr. W. Farnham.
- (2) Miss Jenny Moore of the Botany Department, British Museum, sent an extract from the 1976 Charophyte Survey Report. Seven sites on the Fleet were visited on 3rd and 4th June 1976. Lamprothamnion papulosum has a very local distribution and is known only at six sites in the British Isles. This species was found at only two of the Fleet sites visited, i.e. Cloud's Hill Ferry and between Shipmoor Point and Berry Knap.

A collection of diatoms was also made.

- (3) Mrs. FitzPatrick attended the first European Ecological Symposium on Ecological Processes in Coastal Environments. The Fleet Study Group exhibited a poster advertising their activity. A summary of the aims and activities has been sent for the symposium volume which is being published.

At the Norwich meeting, two of Dr. Round's research students indicated that they hoped to come down to the Fleet to sample Diatoms during 1978.

- (4) The Royal Navy have carried out a photographic aerial survey of the Fleet during the summer of 1977 and Mr. Green now has 50 large photographs of the study area which need interpreting.
- (5) Mrs. FitzPatrick visited the Department of Oceanography, Southampton with a colleague, Mr. L. Daniel. After an interesting discussion with Prof. Raymond, it was agreed that he should send some members of his department to visit the Fleet to see what projects/research might be undertaken there.
- (6) Dr. J. Whittaker's paper on the Fleet has been delayed whilst he incorporates the new information from the C.E.G.B.
- (7) Mr. J. Poole has obtained permission from the Civil Engineers to examine the exploratory bore hole material to be collected before work starts on the Weymouth and Portland Sewage Scheme.

4. The proposals for two future projects (Hydrology and Sedimentation) on the Fleet were then discussed.

It was felt that there were several possibilities:-

- (a) Job creation - Man power services - but applications had to be in to Exeter by the end of 1977.
- or (b) N.C.C. grant. Mrs. FitzPatrick had spoken to Mr. R. Mitchell (N.C.C.) at the Norwich meeting in September 1977 about the possibility.
- or (c) With the impending visit from the Department of Oceanography to the Fleet, it was decided to await the outcome of this visit, i.e. to explore this possibility first.

In the meantime, small projects such as sedimentation studies by the Geography Department and the Biological Studies by the Environmental Science Department at Weymouth should continue to be encouraged.

Mr. Soane asked the Strangways estate if small cages could be made and put on the bed of the Fleet to exclude the swans and ducks in order to carry out simple growth studies on the Zostera.

Mrs. FitzPatrick was asked to make enquiries from the editor of the proceedings of D.A. & N.H.S. concerning the publication of Dr. Whittaker's paper.

The date of the next meeting was tentatively fixed for 10th March 1978. 4.00 p.m. Conference Room, Weymouth.