

FLEET STUDY GROUP

Minutes of the 73rd meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held at West Yard, Abbotsbury on the 23rd November 2001

Present: D R Seaward (Chair), G Le Pard (Secretary; Dorset County Council), B Betts (Dorset Coast Forum), D Bucke, V Copley (English Nature), P Dyrinda (Swansea University), E Green (Ilchester Estates), M House, D Moxom (Ilchester Estates), G Poole.

Apologies for Absence: K Coombe, J Fitzpatrick, J Whittaker (Natural History Museum).

1. **Notes of last meeting:** the minutes of the meeting of 20th July were agreed as correct.
2. **Matters arising:** none.
3. **Reports from Representatives:**
 - 3.1. Dorset Coast Forum meeting held 19th October 2001. This concerned Landslips and concentrated primarily on the work undertaken in the Lyme Regis area.
 - 3.2. **Joint Dorset Marine Committee;** the Marine Literature Database has been launched on the web (via www.dorsetcoast.com) including the Fleet archive. The Marine wildlife database is now up and running at DERC. An assistant started inputting information in December. The Sea bed mapping Project is in the planning phase.
4. **FSG Symposium Proceedings:** review of submitted papers continues.
5. **Current research:**
 - 5.1. Survey stations and the Alan Carr memorial; an initial survey has been done by DM and GLP. WDDC have offered help with the surveying in of the stations once fixed.
 - 5.2. A monograph on the Ammonites of Tidmoor Point by Nigel Chapman has been completed and will shortly be published
 - 5.3. Archaeology; a short note on the Beaver bones from Abbotsbury has been submitted to the Proceedings of the Dorset Nat Hist Soc for publication. Information on other sites in the Fleet has been placed on the Dorset Coast Forum web site (see above). The Iron Age salt boiling hearth in Pirates Cove has been relocated. As it is now intertidal, detailed vertical measurements could give evidence of past sea level.
 - 5.4. A far-eastern sea squirt *Perophora japonica* has been recorded in 2001 in the Fleet by Lin Baldock. Presumably this is a shipborne alien which was first recorded in UK in Plymouth in 1999.
6. **Research proposals:** none to report.
7. **FSG Leaflet:** DRS will produce draft for next meeting.
8. **FSG web page:** PD, GLP, DM and DRS will produce ideas for debate at the next meeting.
9. **AOB:** none.

10. **Future meetings:** 22 March 2002; 19 July 2002; 22 November 2002.

Presentation by Paul Chester, Environment Manager, Portland Port Ltd on the role of Portland Harbour Authority.

Portland Port Ltd is the statutory Harbour Authority for Portland Harbour and its surrounds, becoming established as such following the adoption of the Portland Harbour Revision Order. This places a number of duties on the Harbour Authority including the conservation of the Harbour's flora and fauna.

In performing the duties of Harbour Authority, the Port has prepared a Harbour Management Plan. This is a generic document which could be developed in much greater detail in the future given the ever increasing recreational and other pressures on the Harbour.

A further commitment of the Portland Harbour Revision Order is the establishment of the Portland Harbour Consultative Committee. This is an unusual commitment in a Harbour Revision Order and one which was included in recognition of the environmental importance. Members of the Committee, which meets to discuss matters significantly affecting the Harbour, include representatives of English Nature and the Chesil and Fleet Reserve Warden.

Survey work has also been undertaken in the Harbour; most of this is related to development plans such as the Royal Naval Air Station and limited research is currently undertaken. This is something which PPL would however support.

GLP/DRS/31.01.02