

## **Fleet Study Group**

Minutes of the 85th meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held on Friday, 18th November 2005 at 2.30 pm at the Estate Office, West Yard, Abbotsbury.

**Present:** Dennis Seaward (Acting Chair), Richard Acornley, Lin Baldock, Malcolm Bray, David Bucke, Sue Burton, Ken Coombe, Sue Eden, Richard Edmonds, Danuta Kochenowska, Don Moxon, Geoff Poole, Dave Wheeler.

**Apologies for Absence:** Jeanne FitzPatrick, Ed Harland, Gordon LePard, Rachel Waldock, John Whittaker.

**Notes of Last Meeting (15 July 2005):** these are not yet available due to unforeseen circumstances; they will be circulated soon [Enclosed herein].

**Matters Arising (except where specifically mentioned below):** None.

**Reports from Representatives:** Joint Dorset Marine Committee of 24 October 2005: "Diving Attractions" are being considered in Dorset, in the form of artificial reefs including one near the northern arm of Portland breakwater and another outside the harbour.

**Research:** Alison Poole from CEH has been studying feeding behaviour of Ringed Plovers on the Fleet. The National Vegetation Classification of Annex 1 - listed habitats at Chesil and the Fleet Report to EN - is complete. Bryan Edwards (DERC) hopes to survey Chesil lichens before terns return end of March. Portland Harbour development plan involves environmental studies. Planned Gas chamber off Portland and associated gas pipeline east of Portland raises questions over maintenance of adequate control over water quality in construction phase.

**Chesil Survey Stations:** As recorded in the last minutes and in the Chesil Beach Centre Autumn 2005 Newsletter, the survey on Chesil and the Fleet was inaugurated on 15th July 2005, comprising 30 benchmark markers along Chesil, four along the landward shore and six within the Abbotsbury Swannery, together with the monolith on the crest of Chesil near the Centre. In order both to perpetuate Alan's memory and to standardise references, these should be known as **THE ALAN CARR BENCHMARKS** and **THE ALAN CARR MEMORIAL STONE**, respectively.

**FSG web site and leaflet:** Postponed to the March meeting.

**Future Meetings and Venues:** these are held on the 3rd Friday in March, July and November, usually alternating between Abbotsbury and Brooklands. For 2006, the dates are 17th March, 21st July and 17th November. Venues to be announced.

**Presentations:** Richard Edmonds introduced the proposal, subject to funding, to extend the SCOPAC "Channel Coast Observatory" westward from Portland Bill to Lyme Regis and beyond. Two documents were tabled:

(1) *Section 9, knowledge limitation and monitoring requirements: Lyme Regis to Portland Bill, from the SCOPAC Sediment Transport Study (1994),*  
and

(2) *Chesil Beach and the Fleet Lagoon: Monitoring and Research Requirements and Opportunities* by Malcolm Bray.

The latter paper was introduced by the author (MB) and was discussed and adopted by FSG as recommendations to provide guidance for discussions on any forthcoming Southwest Regional Monitoring Initiative, a decision upon which is understood to be imminent.

The Bray paper above will be sent to Andrew Bradbury (Southampton School of Oceanography) and Keith Cole (Secretary of Lyme Bay and S Devon coastal Group) to express Fleet Study Group interest and wish to collaborate should the SW Coast proposal be successful.