

FLEET STUDY GROUP

Minutes of the 88th meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held at the Estate Office, West Barn Yard, Abbotsbury, on the 24th November 2006.

Present: John Whittaker (Chairman), Dennis Seaward, Geoff Poole, Lin Baldock, Malcolm Bray, Don Moxom, Richard Edmonds, Jon Bass, Jeanne FitzPatrick, Ed Harland, Kevin Donnelly, Rachel Waldock, Ken Coombe, Sue Eden.

1. Apologies for Absence: received from Peter Tinsley, Patrick O'Sullivan and Danuta Kochanowska.

2. Notes of Last Meeting: Accepted as a true record, with the exception of Ken Coombe's name missing from those present.

3. Matters Arising:

FSG Archive discs were still available for anyone not taking one last time.

Malcolm Bray gave an update on data collection under the SW Regional Monitoring Project. Some LIDAR has already been flown with more to follow. The West Bay wave buoy is in place and operating but not on website yet. Another wave buoy is to be placed opposite Wyke Regis. DM2 control points on Abbotsbury beach are in place. The next beach survey is planned for April 2007.

4. Reports from Representatives:

Dorset Coast Forum. Don Moxom reported that there had been a very good video presentation from Egdon – the gas pipeline company – modelling of the brine discharge showed very rapid dilution. Planning application expected in January. Marine Park – seen as not solely for wildlife. Information gathering seen as an important opportunity and attracting 'industry' to the area – economic benefit opportunities. Will be very high profile with the 2012 Olympics coming to the area.

SMP 2. Richard Edmonds and Rachel Waldock on steering group. Any new data/research reports requested to be sent to group. Nothing on the table for new research at present but a good opportunity to identify gaps and new areas of research. Portland Harbour Shore is one area that needs looking at. There will be consultation and the FSG will be on the consultation list. Some main issues – West Bay/Burton Beach/Chesil Cove. There is a requirement this time to monitor designated areas, especially European designations. EA and EN proactively started the process. Champs were not produced for Poole Harbour or the Fleet therefore those gaps need to be filled. The FSG could educate – not just the flood risk agenda but awareness of the dynamics of the whole beach, not just the ends (Abbotsbury/Chiswell). Managed

realignment in Poole Harbour is being looked at but generally in Dorset there is limited opportunity for this.

FSG website. It is hope that the Ilchester Estates would be providing broadband for the Chesil Beach Centre so the website could be maintained there. The site would need to be hosted by a University – hosting elsewhere would be very expensive. Other host possibilities were for the Dorset Coast Forum or The Natural History Museum (through JW). **JW and RE to look into.**

5. Current Research:

Monks Wall, Abbotsbury. Kevin Donnelly reported on a lecture Alasdair Bruce had given to the Abbotsbury Heritage Group. Cores taken by Alasdair on both sides of the wall had been examined for their ostracod content. Initial thoughts suggest the wall was not a dam as a “freshwater event” was found either side. The structure also appears to be stepped at the Abbotsbury end. Small pieces of the stone would be knocked off for analysis and provenancing. Further work expected to take place next June. Alasdair to be asked to give a presentation to the FSG next year.

Data recording. High resolution temperature/depth recorders on the Fleet – one is in place at Clouds Hill and one due to go in. Data is sent to the Visitor Centre at Ferrybridge. An additional receiver for wave buoy data would be good to have at the centre. **EH to follow up with SoC.**

6. AOB.

A contact is needed for fish behaviour in UK waters

JB to contact Cefas.

West Bexington carpark – plans to extend this. **RW to bring details to next meeting.**

JW reported, with regret, that Danuta Kochanowska’s post (Marine Database Officer) was not to be renewed by DERC from March 2007.

7. Presentation: Malcolm Bray gave a presentation entitled ‘Chesil Beach: baseline profile measurement and analysis’. Detailed handouts were provided.

8. Future meetings and venues:

The next meeting of the FSG will take place on Friday 16th March 2007 - possibly at Weymouth College. The venue will be confirmed when the Agenda is sent out later.