

FLEET STUDY GROUP

Minutes of the 93rd meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held at English Nature, Slepe Farm, Wareham on 25th July 2008.

Present: G. Poole, D. Moxom, J. Cox, S. Eden, J. Bass, E. Harland, R. Waldock, L. Baldock.

Apologies for Absence: D. Seaward, J. Fitzpatrick, M. Bray, P. O'Sullivan, G. LePard, Jo Leverick, S. Feist and J. Whittaker

Notes of Last Meeting: Accepted as a true record with the exception of the recorded presence of S. Eden.

Matters Arising: Flyer - 100 to be produced. Changes have been made to the Chesil Beach and Fleet Nature Reserve section and geological interest has been added in the list of habitats.

Reports from Representatives:

Dorset Coast Forum. Meeting held on 22nd May. Seabed mapping presentations were given by the Dorset Wildlife Trust, Hydrographic Office, MCA and Cefas. The afternoon session was on regeneration of coastal towns.

C-Scope Intereg bid has been submitted – success or otherwise should be known by the end of October. (*Post meeting note – the bid was successful*)

Joint Dorset Marine Committee. The seabed mapping project has begun and data dissemination will be via Dorset Explorer.

Channel Coast Observatory SW. The revised website is operational, however the old website is still available. New site takes a very long time to download pages.

Jurassic Coast Team. A report on the Social, Cultural and Economic Impact of the brand has been produced. The management plan is currently being reviewed.

Research reports.

Dr Helen Marshall wishes to undertake a study of population genetics within the Anaspidean *Akera bullata* within the Fleet, following the results from this preliminary study, she will apply for a NERC New Investigators grant to investigate larval dispersal of *A. bullata* around the UK.

Ed Harland gave an update on the data loggers in the Fleet.

Preparations for 2012 Olympics. EH expressed concerns that the channel between the new marina breakwater and the shore is still closed and could be having an effect on the Southern end of Hamm Beach. RW to find out when this is due to be reopened.

SMP2. Stakeholder meetings are due to be held at Poundbury and Kingsbridge. EH will attend at Poundbury.

Access to the Fleet. DM asked that access to the Fleet is considered by the FSG. It would be useful if a scientific document could be produced outlining particularly sensitive areas along the Fleet edge and a rationale as to why increased access would be damaging. Areas of particular concern are Rodden Hive and Herbery.

Website. A bird list has been added thanks to Steve Groves.

The site came under 'attack' by a user in the US. However security prevented access. There has been a consistent rise in activity since December, likely to drop at the end of the summer.

AOB. EH – Postcards on the website – West Bay area goes back to 1860 when the harbour was opened.

Future meetings and venues – November – Wyke Regis Bridging Camp date and time to be confirmed. March 2009 - Abbotsbury.

A presentation was given by Lin Baldock on monitoring *Zostera* in the Fleet.