

FLEET STUDY GROUP

Minutes of the 96th meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held at Slepe Farm, Wareham on 17th July 2009.

Present: E. Harland, R. Waldock, D. Moxom, S. Fiest, G. LePard, J. Cox, K. Donnelly, J.Dadds, P.O'Sullivan

Apologies for Absence: R. Edmonds, L. Baldock, J. Bass, D. Bucke, S. Eden, B. Edwards, S. Hales, J. Leverick, P.Tinsley, D. Seaward, A. Holiday, H. Marshall.

Notes of Last Meeting:
Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

Report on February storm – DM has produced one for the newsletter, a more detailed one for the archive will be produced – will need some technical input.
Coring data interest – nothing yet
Asparagus and lichen surveys – no information.
Sea Pea and Sea Kale at west end of the Fleet – right over the crest this year.

Reports from Representatives:

Dorset Coast Forum.

Marine litter summit – details of talks can be found at
http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/9/0/Marine_Litter_Summit_notes.pdf

The fishing for litter campaign details can be found at
<http://www.fishingforlitter.org/FishingforLitterSouthWest.aspx>

The summit highlighted the huge challenge to keep popular beaches clean.

The next DCF meeting was on the 9th June and focussed on wind energy.

Channel Coast Observatory SW.

The April newsletter can be found at
<http://www.channelcoast.org/southwest/newsletter/>
The photographic record of the back of Chesil Beach is very good – need to ensure we have a copy for the archive.

Jurassic Coast Team.

The consultation on the WHS Management Plan is now complete. The team is hoping to organise a workshop on space-based radar monitoring of coastal change, probably

towards the end of September. WHS is supporting a small piece of work covering the Dorset coast to demonstrate how the technology may work. The WHS team have access to a Gigapan camera that can make high resolution panoramic pictures. See www.gigapan.org for details.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2)

Consultation on SMP2 is due to close shortly after the FSG meeting.

Portland Port Consultative Committee.

Security for the Olympics was the main topic – but there was not much progress to report.

Research reports.

Helen Marshall working on AFLP techniques for Akera reported slow progress due to teaching commitments and low funding.

John Fisher has undertaken a mollusc survey of the Fleet – has sent to Dennis Seaward – useful for comparison with work of 30 years ago?

Dr Denton is working on Invertebrates in the Fleet & Portland Harbour saltmarsh (NE contract).

EH's work – Hydrophone at the Black Hut – listening for clicking sound in shallow water – 3 types of clicks heard in the Fleet – Snapping Shrimp (1%), fish (little goby?) (1%), unknown (98%).

Durlston hydrophone work will be restarting soon.

Dorset C-SCOPE. Details of the C-Scope project can be found at <http://www.cscope.eu/en/>

The Fleet Management Plan. will be on the website soon.

Chesil Beach Centre – still going ahead despite loss of SWRDA funds.

Hurricane recovery – conservation and long term care is needed. Needs to have RAF permission to disturb an aircraft. An Appropriate Assessment is being prepared.

Swan round up is tomorrow. Cygnets affected by the bacterium *Clostridea* this year.

100th Meeting.

3 ideas so far:

State of Fleet Report

Exhibition – Melbury – DM to look at availability

Seminar – museum (other possible venues – sailing academy/corn exchange)

Possible topics – Wildlife/Geology/Archeology/Formation/History

Website – more old postcard images have been added.

Any other business.

GLP – BBC are interested in the causeway for the next series of Coast.

JC – Harry Potter film with sequence filmed in the Abbotsbury reedbeds is now out.

RW – information on the new draft marine SACs is available on the NE website at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/sacconsultation/default.aspx>

DM - Breeding bird populations in the reedbeds being surveyed under the HLS agreement with NE.

JD – Little Terns – NE funded wardening. No nesting, food supply likely to be reason – evidence from Common Terns – single clutch size and abandoned nests. Very little whitebait in the Fleet and prawns arrived very late in the season. Common Terns from Lodmoor seen fishing off Portland Bill – v. unusual.

EH – little fish producing clicking sounds – could Cefas identify?

Patrick O'Sullivan from Plymouth University gave a presentation on the Mute Swans in the Fleet 1808-2008 and their likely effect on nutrient loadings to the lagoon.

Future meetings and venues. 20th November 2009 at Abbotsbury.
19th March Brooklands?/ Portland Port?