

FLEET STUDY GROUP

Minutes of the 97th meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held at Charlestown, on 20th November 2009.

Present: E. Harland, R. Waldock, D. Moxom, S. Fiest, J. Cox, J.Dadds, D. Bucke, D. Seaward, L. Baldock, J. Bass, D. Brunnsden, G. Poole, S.Wilson, S.Hales.

Apologies for Absence: R. Edmonds, S. Eden, J. Leverick, K. Dawson, A. Holiday, G. LePard, M. Bray.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:
Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

Report by Don on the February storm – now on the website.
Asparagus and lichen surveys – not known.
Coring data – nothing to report – drop from agenda.
Fleet Management Plan – reduced version will be produced for the website.
Hurricane recovery – completed – undertaken as BBC wished to film for the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The engine was not recovered but various other pieces were.

Reports from Representatives:

Dorset Coast Forum.

Marine Spatial Planning 2 day International Conference was held at Portland Heights. Talks on day one and a workshop on Indicators on day two.. Details can be found on the C-Scope website at <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=393998>

Questionnaire on the River Wey – can be found at <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=394081> (post meeting note – consultation closed on 4th December 2009)

The next DCF meeting will be on the 9th June 2010 and will be focusing on wind energy, and particularly the proposed West Wight wind farm.

Jurassic Coast Team.

New management Plan (for the next 5 years) is now signed off and can be found at <http://www.jurassiccoast.com/299/managing-the-site-37/whs-management-167/world-heritage-site-management-370.html>

The Lyme Regis Fossil Festival will take place in May – part of the 'Festival of Carnivals' linked to the Olympics.

SMP2 review

The consultants are in the process of compiling and analysing the consultation responses. DM has responded to the consultation asking that existing accesses to the Fleet are allowed to be maintained.

Portland Port Consultative Committee.

Oil spill contingency plan has been updated.

Olympics – no change – a security exercise has taken place, Sailing areas are still to be agreed.

The Harbour Revision Order (HRO) required to allow port expansion – the DfT have said it will be made but at the time of the meeting it was still awaited.

Dorset AONB.

Waterborne transport plan – details can be found at <http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/coastal-corridor/waterbornepassengertransportstudy/278-ports-of-call-event.html>

Research reports.

JC – botanical conditions assessments of Chesil Beach have been undertaken for SSSI reporting – comparisons with the recent NVC survey need undertaking. Details will go onto the Natural England website. Lots of hares were seen and small mammal nests seen under large debris – voles and shrews. Geological assessments are being undertaken.

LB – strandline surveys have been undertaken by Steve Trehwella using pitfall traps.

Paludinella, a small salt marsh snail, has been found on the revetment near the old tank farm.

Couch's goby – found again at Castle Cove and the Narrows (+ in Poole Bay) – Castle Cove probably a breeding population.

Richard Acornley (CEFAS) has completed the dye tracing exercise report.

Malcolm Bray has more data on the Feb 09 storm and is interested in the lichen survey re disturbance/overwashing events.

EJH – Work measuring underwater noise in the Fleet is continuing. The clicking sound of biological origin has now stopped as the water has cooled.

DM – work on a readbed survey had started and was being funded by DEFRA and NE.

SH – The constant-effort ringing survey had now been running for 15 years.

100th meeting of the FSG.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to activities associated with the forthcoming 100th Meeting of the Fleet Study Group. Activities discussed include:

A public meeting and exhibition to be held in the Charlestown/Chickerell area on the evening of Tuesday 16th November 2010.

The 100th meeting of the FSG to be held during the afternoon of Friday 19th November at a venue yet to be decided. It will consist of a review of past achievements and current work, and a discussion on the future of the Group.

A Meeting with the theme 'Chesil Beach: Past, present and future' to be held during the afternoon of Tuesday 11th November at a venue currently being negotiated. Attendance will be by invitation only and it is primarily aimed at the decision makers of Dorset. There will be three presentations looking at the origins of the beach, our current understanding of the influences acting on the beach, and an exploration of possible future scenarios for the beach and the resulting impact on the area behind the beach.

Travelling exhibition. The aim is to put together a set of posters and small artefacts illustrating many aspects of Chesil Beach and the Fleet. It will be part of the public meeting, but will then do the rounds of public libraries, visitor centres, etc.

Poster. An A3 poster could be produced describing the work of the FSG and highlighting activities which the public can attend.

A Chesil and Fleet book. A number of options were discussed. One option would be to produce a book in conjunction with the Jurassic Coast team. Another could be a walkers guide to the Fleet and Chesil Beach.

In order to streamline progress in planning these events it was decided to form a sub-committee consisting of EH, DM, SF, LB and SW. (Post meeting note – this group met on 4th Dec)

Future meetings and venues 19th March, Portland Port?

Any other business.

There were no items discussed.