

# How does Chesil beach move?

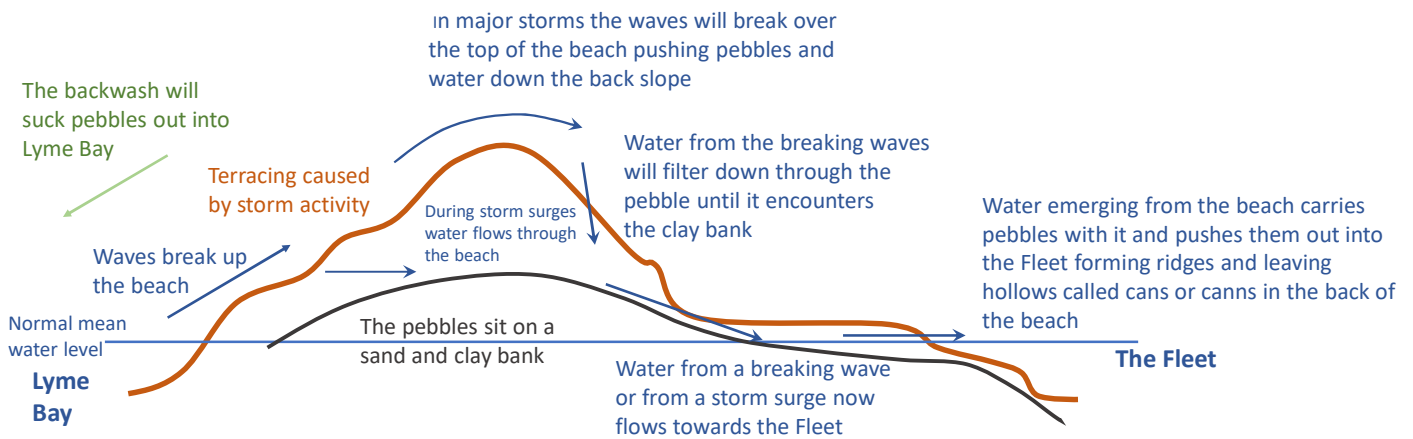
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Waves breaking over Chesil Beach during a storm

Chesil Beach is often described as having moved eastwards over the centuries. Estimates of the speed of advance vary, but one commonly used figure is 15cms per year at Portland, reducing further north-west towards Bridport. 1000 years ago this would have placed the beach 150 metres to the west of its current position. It is likely that the Fleet was also this much wider.

The movement of the beach is not at a steady speed. It is a series of steps coinciding with major storms. It should also be remembered that the beach crest can move independently of the beach base. During the February 2014 storms the beach crest is estimated to have moved 6-7 metres, while the base of the beach may have moved only 0.1-0.2 metres



Water emerging from the back of the beach at Ferrybridge during the February 2014 storm



Ridges of pebbles pushed out water flowing from the beach



The cans can be very large. These are opposite the Wyke Regis Bridging Camp.

Waves during easterly gales will redistribute the pebbles to form a smooth shoreline

