

The Fleet Study Group

Ed Harland

Chairman, Fleet Study Group



The Fleet Study group collates and disseminates information, and encourages research, on the Fleet Lagoon, Chesil Beach and Portland Harbour, Dorset.

The Group

The Fleet Study Group was established in 1975 with the inaugural meeting held at the then Dorset Institute of Higher Education (DIHE), now Weymouth College. It is a voluntary organisation that brings together those with a wide range of scientific and local interests. It meets three times a year, usually in March, July and November. The Fleet Study Group has the full support of the Ilchester Estates which owns the principal part of Chesil Beach and the Fleet Lagoon. The group has also been supported by a number of other organisations over the years.

Objectives of the Group

- The collection, collation and dissemination of scientific, historical and other relevant information about the Fleet, Chesil Beach and adjacent areas
- To assemble and maintain an archive of relevant information
- The identification of gaps in our knowledge and the identification of future research topics
- The consideration of environmental effects of natural and anthropogenic changes

Composition of the Group

The Fleet Study Group comprises representatives from Natural England, the Dorset County Council World Heritage Site Team, Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC) and the Ilchester Estates, and scientists with a wide range of interests including geology, geomorphology, archaeology, ecology and biology. The current chairman is Ed Harland.

Membership is by invitation to those expressing an interest in appropriate topics and wishing to further the Group's objectives. The present membership consists of both amateurs and professionals who have worked in the study area and on relevant topics.

The Fleet Study Group Archive

A collection of nearly 350 papers and items relevant to the study area. The items are held in the reference section of Weymouth College Library, Cranford Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset, under the care of the Chief Librarian. Material may be consulted at the library but may not be borrowed or removed from the library. Photocopies can be provided at cost and with the consent of the librarian. A copy of the catalogue of archived items is held at the library and is also available to download as an EXCEL spreadsheet from the Fleet Study Group pages of the Chesil Beach website www.chesilbeach.org/FSG.

Symposia

From time to time the Fleet Study Group holds symposia to discuss results of recent studies. The Proceedings of the first three (1981, 1985 and 1993) have been published. The 1981 and 1985 proceedings can be downloaded from the FSG web pages.



The Fleet Study Group archive in Weymouth College library



Fleet Study Group members at work in the Upper Fleet



The unveiling of the memorial stone to Alan Carr, a past chairman of the Fleet Study Group

Web site: www.chesilbeach.org/FSG