



Chesil Beach Reference Points – Re-Survey 2019

Data collection methods

Introduction

The Chesil beach reference points were installed during 2004 and then accurately surveyed by Portsmouth University in 2005. Fifteen years on it is now time to re-visit all the points, make sure they are intact and service them where necessary, and determine any changes to the environment around them. Details of the reference points are contained in the Duane & Bray report from 2005 and available on the FSG website.

The aim is to classify each into one of three categories:

- a. Minimal impact. These points will be surveyed once using the minimal procedure set out below and then in the future will receive only the minimal type surveys very infrequently in order to minimise disturbance to the environment around them. At present the suggested minimal points are CB03, CB06, CB12, CB17, CB21 and CB25.
- b. Normal survey. These points will be surveyed as and when possible using the standard method set out below. There will be some minimal disturbance to the environment around each marker.
- c. Full survey. A small number of selected markers will be surveyed in as much detail as possible. Disturbance to the area around the marker will be inevitable.

The data collected during the survey will be added to a report for each marker containing as much of the history of the area as possible. A summary report will also be prepared covering just the data collected this year.

Data to be collected when visiting a minimal impact marker

When visiting this class of reference point the aim is to minimise the disturbance to the environment around the marker while still collecting sufficient data to document the marker and area around it. Only one person should conduct the survey, and the marker post should not be approached closer than 5 metres.

1. Photographs

All photographs should be taken in landscape mode and preferably with 4:3 picture ratio.

Take the following photographs:

- Four photographs looking north/east/south/west with the reference point in the foreground
- Two photographs looking each way parallel to the shoreline with the reference point in the foreground
- Two photographs looking up the beach to the crest and down to the shoreline with the reference point in the foreground
- Two photographs from the beach crest and the shoreline looking towards the reference point.
- Two photographs from the beach crest looking northwards and southwards along the crest of the beach to show both sides of the crest
- If possible, an aerial shot looking down towards the marker. Ideally two photographs should be taken, 90 degrees apart around the circle.
- Where pictures from previous visits exist and are not covered by the above these pictures should, where possible, be repeated

2. Physical condition

Is the marker still in position and as described in Duane & Bray, 2005?

Is the surrounding area still as described in Duane & Bray, 2005?

Is the marker post still in satisfactory condition?

If possible, take a close-up photograph of the post from both sides.

3. Litter count

A litter count should be carried out by remote observation using binoculars and/or from any pictures that may have been taken. The litter categories are set out later in this report.

4. Anthropogenic use

Determine any anthropogenic use of the post and area around it

5. Plant, bird, animal and insect use

This must be by remote observation using binoculars and/or by studying photographs post-visit

6. Miscellaneous

Note anything you feel is important about the marker and the surrounding area not covered by the above.

Data to be collected when visiting a normal survey marker

The aim of the work is to establish the condition of each marker and to document the environment around each marker and any changes that may have occurred since the original survey.

During the initial survey please collect as much of the data set out below as possible. Data should be collected from within a suitable radius. By default, this should be 2.5 metres but other radii may be needed depending on the physical conditions around the marker.

Be careful to avoid trampling the surrounding area until photographs have been taken and other information collected.

1. Photographs

Replicate the photographs shown in the CD attached to Duane & Bray, 2005

Take any additional photographs that may be needed to illustrate any changes.

Take the following photographs using as high a resolution as the camera permits:

- Four photographs looking north/east/south/west with the reference point in the foreground
- Two photographs looking each way parallel to the shoreline with the reference point in the foreground
- Two photographs looking up the beach to the crest and down to the shoreline with the reference point in the foreground.
- Two photographs from the beach crest and the shoreline looking towards the reference point. If necessary, enhance the position of the reference point with a high-visibility marker.
- Two photographs from the beach crest looking northwards and southwards along the crest of the beach
- If possible, an aerial shot looking down on the marker and including the set radius. Ideally two photographs should be taken, 90 degrees apart around the circle.

- Where pictures from previous visits exist and are not covered by the above these pictures should be repeated

2. Physical condition

Is the marker still in position and as described in Duane & bray, 2005?

Is the surrounding area still as described in Duane & Bray, 2005?

Measure the length of the marker post above the beach/ground level

Is the marker post corroded and/or in need of servicing?

Take two close-up photographs of the post, one from each side.

3. Litter

Carry out a litter count within the set radius using the same criteria as our previous litter surveys. These criteria are set out later in this report.

If possible clear all litter within the radius.

4. Anthropogenic use

Note any use by man of either the marker or the area included within the set radius.

5. Plant life

Estimate percentage cover/number of plants for each of the species present.

6. Bird life

Note any observed use of the marker or surrounding area by birds e.g. nest site, perch, remains etc.

7. Animal life

Note any use of the area by mammals or other animals. This may include tracks or droppings or discarded food items.

8. Insects

Note any insects seen within the set radius

9. Miscellaneous

Note anything you feel is important about the marker and the surrounding area not covered by the above.

Requisite equipment

Camera

If possible, camera pole and remote display/control unit to take aerial picture

A means of marking out the set radius (tape measure or calibrated rope plus painted blocks)

Compass

Notebook or log sheets. A suitable log sheet can be found at the end of this document.

Copy of the Duane and Bray report

Copy of the photographs on the CD so the pictures can be replicated

Bag for the collected litter

Suggested procedure

On arrival, avoid disturbing the area within the set radius as much as possible until removing the litter. The suggested procedure is:

- a. Arrive at site, identify the reference point and set up equipment
- b. Assess the area around the reference point and answer item 1
- c. Take the four photographs of the reference point looking N/E/S/W plus the two looking up to the beach crest and down to the shore
- d. Mark out the set radius, then, if possible, take the aerial photograph
- e. Note the use of the area as set out in items 4 to 9
- f. Carry out the litter survey, then clear the litter within the set radius
- g. Measure the length of the marker post above ground level
- h. Take the two photographs from the beach crest and the shoreline
- i. Remove the set radius markers and clear the site

Full survey points

At full survey points carry out the procedure as set out above for normal survey points but then the surveys for plants, birds, animals and insects should be much more thorough and detailed so a better understanding of the environment around each marker post is gained. Appropriate expertise should be brought in and it may be necessary to carry out multiple site visits to complete the data collection.

The surveys should be widened from the 2.5 metres set circle to include areas of interest around the survey marker. This may include information on the physical environment such as canns and major anthropogenic items such as litter or man-made structures.

Reporting

Data collected should be recorded in a notebook or on a logsheet. Photographs should be copied onto a DVD or USB stick.

Collected data will be collated and reported in a common format. The reports are available from the FSG website or from the Chairman, Fleet Study Group.

Litter categories

Litter should be categorised by size and material. Based on previous surveys the suggested categories are:

Size

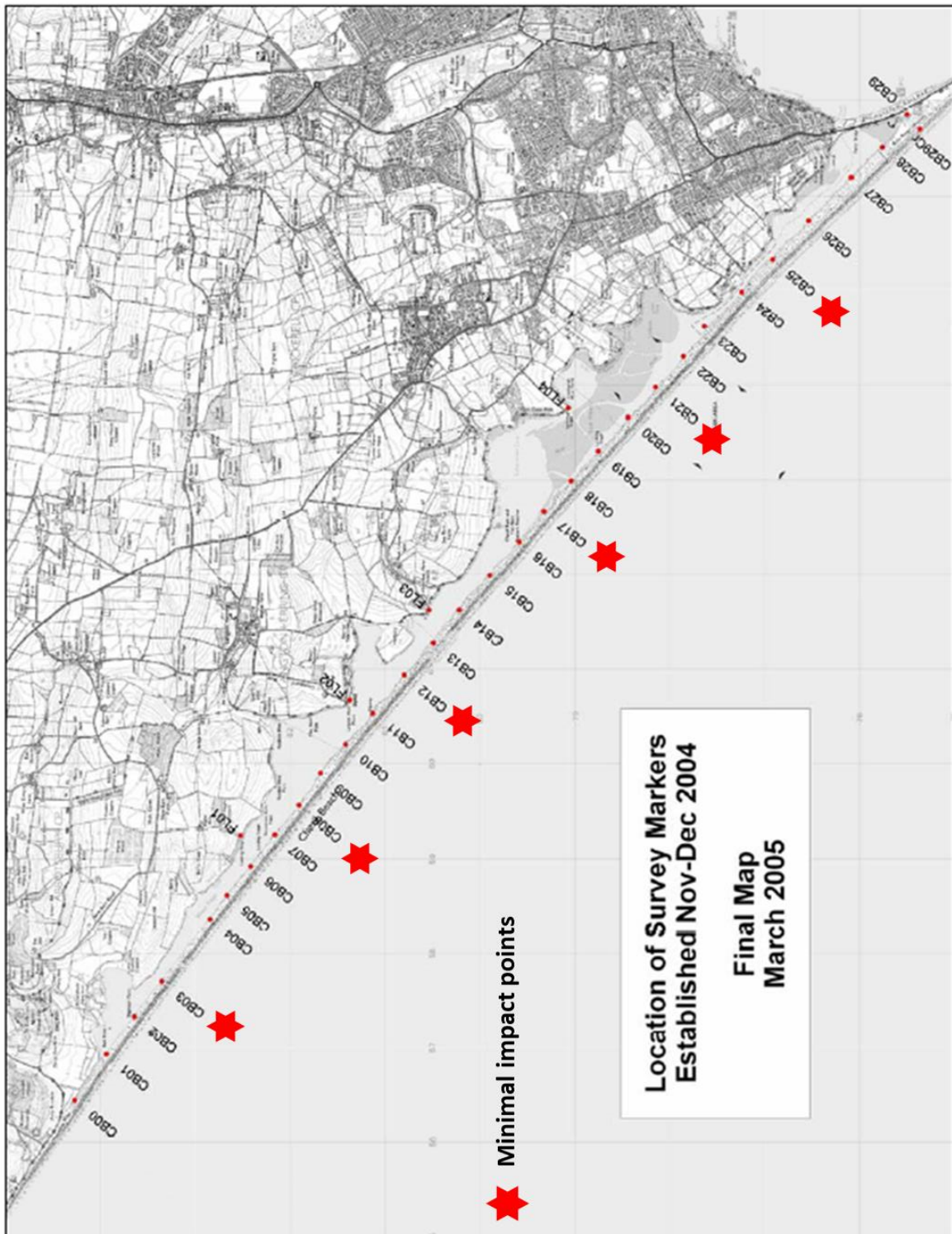
Large	>20cms
Medium	10-20 cms
Small	5-10cms
Fragments	<5cms

Material

Glass
Plastic
Metal
Mixed
Other

Reference Point locations

The points with red stars are the suggested minimal impact points. This may need to change depending on what is found during the visit.



Chesil Beach reference point survey log sheet

Marker:

Date:

Time (GMT):

Type of survey: Normal/Minimal

Physical condition of marker:

Photographs:

North	east	west	south
Up the beach		down the beach	
To beach crest		to shoreline	
From beachcrest		From shoreline	
Beachcrest north		Beachcrest south	
Aerial pictures		Replicate Duane & Bray pictures	

Surveys:

Anthropogenic use:

Plants:

Bird use:

Animal use:

Insects:

Litter:

Miscellaneous notes: