

# Chesil Bank and the Fleet Lagoon Designations

Don Moxom

Chesil Bank and the Fleet Nature Reserve



A number of statutory and non statutory designations with their associated instrumentation, legislation, plans, policies and arrangements wholly or partly cover or influence Chesil, the Fleet and the adjacent area of West Dorset, Weymouth, Portland Harbour and Lyme Bay. The key items are listed below.

## A wetland of international importance designated under the RAMSAR convention

A RAMSAR site is one that is covered by an intergovernmental treaty. This embodies the commitments of its member countries to maintain the ecological character of their Wetlands of International Importance and to plan for the sustainable use.

## EC Birds Directive.....

### Special Protected Area (SPA)

This directive allows EU states to fulfill the Bern and Bonn Conventions... 'to provide the framework for the conservation and management of human interactions with wild birds in Europe'.

## East Devon and Dorset World Heritage Site (WHS) designated by UNESCO in 2001

The whole of the Chesil and Fleet SSSI falls within the WHS or 'Jurassic Coast'. There is a management plan relating to the site's protection, conservation and enhancement of landscapes and seascapes, visitor management and education.



2 of the 9 little tern chicks which were successfully reared during the 2010 season. Chesil Beach is home to the only colony of this Schedule 1 bird in the south west

## Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

HLS is a Defra initiative to protect the rural environment. Ilchester Estate has an HLS agreement which supports nature conservation and environmental activity on Chesil Bank.



Internationally important numbers of wigeon winter on the Fleet

## Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

This is one of a family of landscapes protected in the UK for the conservation and enhancement of its natural beauty. There is a management plan.

## Shoreline Management Plans (SMP)

SMPs are detailed assessments of the risks associated with coastal processes and help reduce these risks to people and the developed, natural and historic environments. As a sea defense Chesil has been artificially enhanced at Portland, and further work is envisaged. Otherwise the plan is to leave Chesil alone to act as a natural barrier.

## EC Habitats Directive.....

### Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

This is the means by which the European Union meets its obligations under the Bern Convention – 'to promote the maintenance of biodiversity....

### Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Site Management Statements (SMS)

SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites .... 'preserving our natural heritage for future generations'. SMSs are Natural England's advice to land-owners on how the special natural features of the SSSI should be maintained or enhanced.

## European Water Framework Directive

This requires the Environment Agency to implement and report upon regular water quality testing.

## Planning Policy statement 9

This directs local authorities to give strong protection to their most important sites for bio-diversity. West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council both have portions of Chesil and Fleet in their areas.

## Abbotsbury Estate Heritage Land Management Plan

In 1996 Ilchester Estates entered into an agreement with the Countryside Commission setting out a range of management obligations for the Estate.



Yellow horned poppy

