

Shipwrecks on Chesil Beach

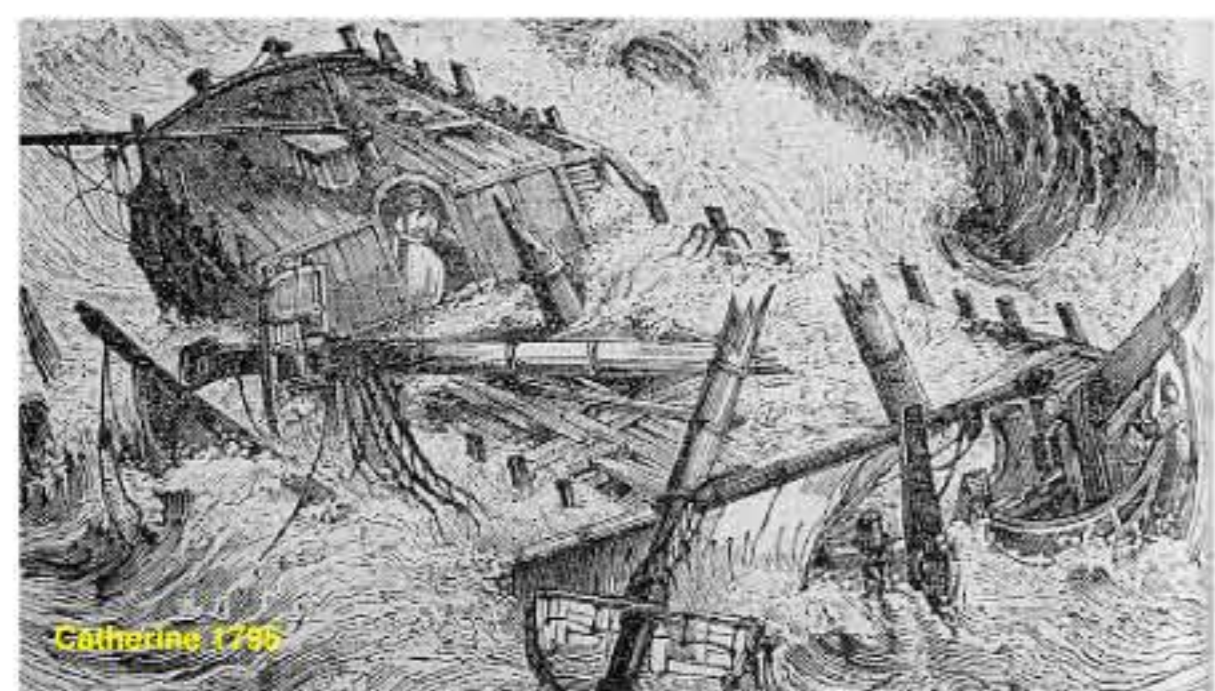
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Dorset County Council



These are vessels which are known to have been wrecked along Chesil beach, it is probably only a fraction of the vessels which have actually been lost

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|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Abercrombie | H L S 161 | Sapphire |
| Aeolus 1795 | Haabets Anker | Seasearch 169 |
| Alexander | Iris | Seasearch 177 |
| Amalie 1869 | Isobel | Spritely |
| Amyntas | James and Magdalen | Sundancer II |
| Angel Guardian | James Fennell | Taberan |
| Arethusa | Jane Catherine | Thank Landing Craft 2454 |
| Arthur Le Juvenale | Johanna Elizabeth | Thames |
| Atlas | Johanna Theresa | Thomas |
| Barmston (Martha Sauber) | Johannes | Three Relations |
| Bassurella | John 1699 | Turenne |
| Betsy 1806 | John 1855 | Two Brothers 1853 |
| Biscaye | Jonge De Henloff | Two Friends |
| Blandford | Katherine | Two Sisters |
| Carvalho | Kentbrook | Unidentified 1243 medieval vessel |
| Cassibelaunus | La Carp | Unidentified 1356 medieval vessel |
| Catherine 1795 | La Mercuria | Unidentified 1666 French Cargo Vessel |
| Catherine 1809 | Lamyrton | Unidentified 1668 a Dutch Craft |
| Charming Molly 1754 | Lanoma 1888 | Unidentified 1668 b French Craft |
| Christiana | LCT A2454 | Unidentified 1676 Hoy |
| Cinq Soeurs | Le Pelerin | Unidentified 1742 b |
| Columbine | Leonora | Unidentified 1750 Dutch Cargo |
| Colville | Les Cinq Soeurs | Unidentified 1768 English Sloop |
| Commodore 1839 | Linderhurst | Unidentified 1768 French Vessel |
| Cora | Little Belt | Unidentified 1774 Dutch craft |
| De Hoop (Hope, Hop) | Madeleine Tristan | Unidentified 1785 Dutch Galliot |
| Dorothea 1914 | Margaret and Ann | Unidentified 1798 Sloop |
| Dove 1838 | Marie Johanna | Unidentified 1799 Spanish Brig |
| Dunlin | Marie Reine | Unidentified 1813 |
| Ebenezer | Mercuria (La Mercuria) | Unidentified 1813 a Brig |
| Edwin and Sarah | MFV No. 1089 | Unidentified 1818 |
| Eiffort 1810 | Naiad | Unidentified 1819 |
| Eiilda (Eiilda) | Nancy 1793 | Unidentified 1832 Sloop |
| Elizabeth and Johanna | Nancy 1801 | Unidentified 1838 American Craft |
| Elizabeth and Kitty | New Syren | Unidentified 1838 Brig |
| Elizabeth and Margaret | Nor | Unidentified 1838 Brig |
| Emma Maria 1903 | Noreg | Unidentified 1838 Polacca |
| Emmanuel | Norval | Venus 1795 |
| Endeavor 1800 | Notre Dame De Victoire | Venus 1850 |
| Enterprise | Nouvelle Loire | Vera (Vercingetorix) 1889 |
| Essay | Ocean Bride | Verbena |
| Falconer | Ora et Labora | Victory |
| Fannie C | Patria | Vriendschap Heike |
| Fanny 1760 | Peggy 1767 | Wasster Norland |
| Fanny 1806 | Peggy 1796 | William (William Kedger) |
| Fleet Cannon Site | Peter | William Brewster |
| Flora 1803 | Petronille | Young De Henloff Christient Hendrick |
| Flora 1869 | Pheasant | Young Elizabeth |
| Fortuna 1824 | Piedmont | Young Ferdinand |
| Four Friends | Pollux | Zenobie (Zenobia) |
| French Coaster 1717 | Polly 1786 | |
| Friends Adventure | Preveza | |
| Gertrude | Ran | |
| Golden Fleece | Royal Adelaide | |
| Golden Grape | Saggiario | |
| Golden Grove | Sapphire | |
| Gracful | | |



Chesil Beach is one of the worst stretches of coast in the country for shipwrecks, as it can easily form a classic lee shore. The prevailing wind blows directly onto the beach, the sea bed has poor holding qualities for anchors, and the beach is shaped in such a fashion that it is very hard to safely run a ship ashore.

There was one desperate way of trying to save lives if a ship was caught in West bay, to steer directly at the beach! Then, if the crew were very lucky, the vessel would lodge there long enough for the crew to scramble ashore. But if it was bad for the ships and their crews, it was good for the local people who looked upon shipwrecks almost as a natural harvest, like shoals of mackerel. The children had a rhyme;

Blow wind, Rise storm.
Bring us a ship on shore before morn.