

# CHESIL BANK, DORSET

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## AIR GUNNERY AND BOMBING RANGE

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### BYE-LAWS

MADE by the Secretary of State for Air under the provisions of the Military Lands Acts, 1892 and 1900, as applied by the Air Force (Application of Enactments) (No. 1) Order, 1918, and the Air Force (Application of Enactments) (No. 3) Order, 1923, with the consent of the Board of Trade and of the County Council of Dorset for regulating the use of the above-named Range.



LONDON:

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1938

# BYE-LAWS

## DESCRIPTION OF THE RANGE

1. The Chesil Bank Air Gunnery and Bombing Range to which these Bye-laws apply (hereinafter called "the Range Area") is situate in the Parishes of Abbotsbury, Langton Herring, Fleet, Chickerell, Weymouth (Wyke Regis) and Portland in the County of Dorset, and consists of two areas of Air Ministry land (hereinafter called respectively "the Principal Land Area" and "the Central Inner Land Area"), together with an area of foreshore and sea abutting on the Principal Land Area (hereinafter called "the Principal Sea Area") and an area of foreshore and sea in the Fleet abutting on the Principal Land Area and the Central Inner Land Area (hereinafter called "the Central Sea Area").

Comprised within the Principal Land Area is a smaller area of land (hereinafter called "the Central Outer Land Area").

The respective limits of the Principal Land Area, the Central Inner Land Area and the Central Outer Land Area are set out in Part I of the Schedule hereto, and the respective limits of the Principal Sea Area and the Central Sea Area are set out in Part II of the Schedule hereto.

The Central Inner Land Area, the Central Sea Area and the Central Outer Land Area are hereinafter together called "the Central Area".

## GENERAL PROHIBITION

2. During such time as notice is given by the hoisting or displaying of signals in manner hereinafter provided in Bye-law No. 4 that air gunnery and bombing practice is taking place the Range Area will be closed to the public and, subject to the provisions of Bye-law No. 3, all intrusion thereon and all obstruction of the use thereof are prohibited.

## OFFENCES DURING PRACTICE

3. (1) During such time as notice is given by the hoisting or displaying of signals in manner hereinafter provided in Bye-law No. 4 that air gunnery and bombing practice is taking place and the Range Area is closed to the public in accordance with the provisions of Bye-law No. 2 then in respect of the land areas and sea areas comprised in the Range Area and subject to the exceptions and exemptions provided in (2) of this Bye-law and in Bye-law No. 8:—

(i) No person shall enter or remain within any such land area or sea area or bring, take, or suffer to remain therein any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing.

(ii) No vessel shall be employed in fishing in any such sea area.

(iii) No pleasure boat shall cruise in any such sea area.

(iv) No vessel shall anchor or remain anchored in or ground on any such sea area.

(v) No aircraft shall alight on, remain in or travel upon any such land area or sea area.

(vi) In the event of any aircraft being from any cause within any such land area, the pilot or other person in charge thereof shall use his utmost endeavours to remove such aircraft out of the area without loss of time.

(vii) In the event of any vessel or aircraft being from any cause within any such sea area, the master or pilot or other person in charge thereof shall use his utmost endeavours to pass out of the area without loss of time.

(2) Provided nevertheless :—

(a) that nothing in this Bye-law shall prohibit access by the public at all times for purposes other than bathing from the seaward side of Chesil Bank and pleasure boating from the seaward side of Chesil Bank, to those portions of the Principal Land Area which are not included in the Central Outer Land Area,

(b) that nothing in this Bye-law shall prohibit fishing by seine nets anywhere within a distance of 400 yards measured (i) from Low Water Mark on the shore of those portions of the Principal Land Area which are not included in the Central Outer Land Area or (ii) from Low Water Mark on the shore of the Central Outer Land Area except when notice is given by the hoisting of the additional signals in manner hereinafter provided in Bye-law No. 4 (2) that air-to-ground firing practice is taking place within the Central Area,

(c) that if, when air-to-ground firing practice is taking place within the Central Area, any fisherman or swanherd in pursuit of his occupation desires to go along or across the Central Outer Land Area such practice shall, on request being made by him to the Officer in charge of the Range party, be suspended and, when firing has ceased, such fisherman or swanherd shall then proceed to go along or across the Central Outer Land Area as quickly as possible without loitering, and

(d) that crab and lobster potting in that portion of the Principal Sea Area which lies to the South and East of Practice Bombing Target No. 1 may take place at all times and every facility consistent with the carrying out

of essential air gunnery and bombing practice on the Range Area shall be afforded by the local Air Force authorities to fishermen to enable them to attend the pots during periods of slack water.

### SIGNALS

4. (1) Notice that air gunnery and bombing practice is taking place within the Range Area is given by the hoisting or displaying of the following signals :—

(A) *By day* :—

(i) By a red flag hoisted on Flagstaff No. 1 at Quadrant Shelter No. 1, erected on Chesil Bank 1,100 yards south-west of the Coastguard Station at Wyke Regis.

(ii) By a red flag hoisted on Flagstaff No. 2 at Quadrant Shelter No. 2, erected on Chesil Bank 1,440 yards south-west of the Old Coastguard Station near East Fleet Farm.

(iii) By a red flag hoisted on Flagstaff No. 3 at Quadrant Shelter No. 3, erected on Chesil Bank 533 yards south-west of Fleet House.

(iv) By a red flag hoisted on Flagstaff No. 6 at Quadrant Shelter No. 4, erected on Chesil Bank 400 yards south of Clouds Hill Cottage.

(B) *By night* :—

By a fixed red light displayed on each of the flagstuffs mentioned in (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) of (A) above and by a red flashing light giving one flash of half-a-second's duration every five seconds situated on Chesil Bank, 1,450 yards south-west of the Old Coastguard Station near East Fleet Farm.

(2) Notice that air-to-ground firing practice is taking place within the Central Area is given by the hoisting of the following additional signals :—

(i) By a red flag hoisted on Flagstaff No. 4, situated on the mainland near Danger Board No. 5, and 673 yards north of Fleet House.

(ii) By a red flag hoisted on Flagstaff No. 5 situated on Chesil Bank midway between Danger Board No. 9 and Notice Board No. 7 and 650 yards south-west of Langton Buildings.

### DURATION OF SIGNALS

The signals referred to above will be hoisted or displayed half-an-hour before practice commences and will be hauled down or extinguished immediately practice has ceased.

## RECOVERY OF SHELL, Etc.

5. No person shall trawl, dredge or search for, or otherwise interfere with, any shot, shell, bomb or other projectile or portion thereof, within the Range Area or take or retain, or be in possession of any such shot, shell, bomb or other projectile, or any portion thereof found within the Range Area.

Any person who, when trawling or dredging shall come into possession of any such shot, shell, bomb or other projectile, or any portion thereof within the Principal Sea Area or the Central Sea Area shall not retain it, but shall immediately return it in its then condition, and without tampering with it, into the water.

Provided nevertheless, that the provisions of this Bye-law shall not apply in the case of persons who recover projectiles under written instructions from the local Naval, Military, or Air Force authorities.

## OFFICERS AUTHORISED

6. Any person doing anything prohibited by or otherwise contravening any of the preceding Bye-laws Nos. 2, 3 or 5 shall be deemed to commit an offence against the Bye-law so contravened. The persons hereby authorised to remove or to take into custody without warrant any persons committing an offence against Bye-laws Nos. 2, 3 or 5, or to remove any vehicle, animal, vessel, aircraft or thing, found within the Range Area in contravention of any of the said Bye-laws are :—

(1) The Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force Station, Warmwell, Dorset.

(2) The Royal Air Force Officer in Charge of the Range.

(3) Any Officer, Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer or any Service Policeman for the time being under the command of the said Officer Commanding.

(4) Any person authorised in writing under the hand of the said Officer Commanding.

(5) Any Constable.

## WHEN VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT IN DANGER

7. When any vessel is within either sea area when closed to the public in accordance with Bye-law No. 2, or any aircraft is within any land area or sea area when so closed, all practice shall cease and a second red flag or second red flashing light

giving one flash of half-a-second's duration every five seconds will be hoisted or displayed below each of the red flags or the red flashing lights referred to in Bye-law No. 4 to notify the master or pilot or other person in charge of the vessel or aircraft that he is within such sea area or land area, as the case may be.

### EXEMPTIONS

8. Save as provided in Bye-law No. 7, these Bye-laws shall not apply to:—

(a) Any vessel entering or passing through the Principal Sea Area or the Central Sea Area in the ordinary course of navigation.

(b) Any vessel compelled to enter or unable to quit the Principal Sea Area or the Central Sea Area by reason of the exigencies of navigation.

(c) Any vessel employed in tending, placing or replacing any of the channel mark buoys or other aids to navigation within the Principal Sea Area or the Central Sea Area.

(d) Any vessel belonging to the Corporation of Trinity House, London, whilst employed on any Trinity House duty or service.

(e) His Majesty's Ships of War, His Majesty's Aircraft, or any vessel or aircraft employed under Admiralty, War Department or Air Council Authority.

(f) Any aircraft compelled to alight on or unable to quit the Range Area.

(g) Any vessel or person employed or assisting in life saving operations under the authority of the Board of Trade in connection with His Majesty's Coastguard Service or under the authority of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in connection with the Lifeboat Service.

### SAVING CLAUSE

9. Nothing contained in any of the foregoing Bye-laws shall prejudicially affect the rights of the Earl of Ilchester as Lord of the Manors of Abbotsbury and Wyke Regis to the franchise of a swannery, or his rights or privileges in or over the foreshore, soil and waters of the East and West Fleets and the Chesil Bank.

### INTERPRETATION

10. In these Bye-laws:—

(a) The expression "air-to-ground firing practice" means the firing of all kinds of ammunition from aircraft in the air against targets on the ground.

*See Summary field → 424-10*

The expression "air gunnery and bombing practice" includes air-to-ground firing practice and the firing of all kinds of ammunition from aircraft in the air otherwise than against targets on the ground and the dropping of bombs from aircraft in the air and any or all of such operations.

(b) The expressions "the Principal Land Area", "the Central Inner Land Area" and "the Central Outer Land Area" include all footpaths within such Areas.

(c) The expression "vessel" includes ship, yacht, lighter, boat and craft of every kind, and whether navigated by steam, motor, sail, oars or otherwise.

(d) The expression "aircraft" includes all balloons, whether fixed or free, kites, gliders, airships, aeroplanes, seaplanes, flying boats and other flying machines.

#### DATE OF OPERATION OF BYE-LAWS

11. These Bye-laws shall come into force on the 31st day of December, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight.

#### SCHEDULE

#### LIMITS OF THE CHESIL BANK AIR GUNNERY AND BOMBING RANGE

##### PART I.—A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRINCIPAL LAND AREA

The area of land comprising the Principal Land Area and affected by these Bye-laws is situated in the parishes of Abbotsbury, Langton Herring, Fleet, Chickerell, Weymouth (Wyke Regis) and Portland in the County of Dorset, and consists of a stretch of the shingle beach known as Chesil Bank extending from a point on the said Bank due west of Ferry Bridge near Small Mouth, Portland Harbour, for a distance of about 9,820 yards in a north-westerly direction to a point on the said Bank situated due west of Seventeen Acre Point on the mainland and is bounded as follows:—

ON THE EAST.—By a line commencing at a point Latitude  $50^{\circ} 35' 06''$  N., Longitude  $2^{\circ} 29' 07''$  W., on High Water Mark on the seaward side of Chesil Bank, about 1,225 yards south of the Coastguard Station at Wyke Regis, marked by Notice Board No. 10 and by Beacon No. 1, which consists of a pile painted black and white and surmounted by a red triangle, and thence proceeding in a northerly direction crossing Chesil Bank for a distance of about 220 yards passing Quadrant Shelter No. 1 and Flagstaff No. 1, which are situated on

the ridge of Chesil Bank, to a point on High Water Mark on the landward side of Chesil Bank marked by Notice Board No. 11, and thence :—

ON THE NORTH-EAST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and proceeding by the line of High Water on the landward side of Chesil Bank in a north-westerly direction for a distance of about 9,700 yards, passing Notice Board No. 1 and Notice Board No. 7, until a point is reached marked by Notice Board No. 8, and thence :—

ON THE NORTH-WEST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and crossing Chesil Bank in a south-westerly direction for a distance of 150 yards passing Flagstaff No. 6 and Quadrant Shelter No. 4 until a point is reached on High Water Mark on the seaward side of the Bank marked by Notice Board No. 9 and Beacon No. 2, which consists of a pile painted black and white and surmounted by a red triangle, and thence :—

ON THE SOUTH-WEST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and proceeding by the line of High Water on the seaward side of Chesil Bank in a south-easterly direction for a distance of about 9,820 yards, passing Danger Board No. 9 and Danger Board No. 1, until the starting point is reached marked by Notice Board No. 10 and Beacon No. 1.

#### B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTRAL INNER LAND AREA

The area of land comprising the Central Inner Land Area and affected by these Bye-laws is situated on the mainland in the Parish of Langton Herring in the County of Dorset, and is bounded as follows :—

ON THE NORTH-WEST.—By a line commencing at a point on the line of High Water about 60 yards west of Works Wall and marked by Danger Board No. 8 and proceeding in a north-easterly direction for a distance of about 110 yards until a point is reached on the southern boundary of Wans Plantation marked by Notice Board No. 6, and thence continuing through Wans Plantation in a north-easterly direction for a distance of about 130 yards until a point is reached marked by Danger Board No. 7, and thence :—

ON THE NORTH.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and drawn in an easterly direction for a distance of about 540 yards, passing Notice Board



No. 5, until a point is reached on the western side of a footpath marked by Danger Board No. 6, and thence :—

ON THE EAST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and drawn in a southerly direction along the western side of the said footpath for a distance of about 320 yards, passing Notice Board No. 4 and Danger Board No. 5, until a point is reached marked by Notice Board No. 3 and thence in a general southerly direction for a distance of about 420 yards, passing Danger Board No. 4, Notice Board No. 2, and Danger Board No. 3, until a point on High Water Mark is reached, marked by Danger Board No. 2, and thence :—

ON THE SOUTH-EAST, EAST AND NORTH.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and following the line of High Water in a general north-westerly direction until the starting point is reached marked by Danger Board No. 8.

### C. DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTRAL OUTER LAND AREA

The area of land comprising the Central Outer Land Area and affected by these Bye-laws is situated in the Parish of Langton Herring in the County of Dorset and consists of a portion of the Principal Land Area described above extending from a point on Chesil Bank 600 yards south of Langton Buildings (on the mainland) for a distance of about 1,200 yards in a south-easterly direction and is bounded as follows :—

ON THE NORTH-EAST.—By a line commencing at a point near a Boat House on the line of High Water about 300 yards south of Langton Hive Point, marked by Notice Board No. 7, and thence following the line of High Water in a south-easterly direction for a distance of about 1,000 yards to a point marked by Notice Board No. 1, and thence :—

ON THE EAST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and crossing Chesil Bank in a southerly direction for a distance of about 200 yards to a point on High Water Mark on the seaward side of Chesil Bank marked by Danger Board No. 1, and thence :—

ON THE SOUTH-WEST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and following the line of High Water in a north-westerly direction for a distance of about 1,200 yards to a point marked by Danger Board No. 9, and thence :—

ON THE NORTH-WEST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and crossing Chesil Bank in a north-easterly direction for a distance of about 160 yards until the starting point is reached marked by Notice Board No. 7.

## PART II.—A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRINCIPAL SEA AREA

The area of foreshore and sea comprising the Principal Sea Area and affected by these Bye-laws is an area quadrilateral in shape situated on the seaward side of Chesil Bank and is bounded as follows :—

ON THE EAST.—By a line commencing at a point on High Water Mark on the seaward side of Chesil Bank, Latitude  $50^{\circ} 35' 06''$  N., Longitude  $2^{\circ} 29' 07''$  W., marked by Beacon No. 1 and Notice Board No. 10 and drawn in a direction  $203\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  true for a distance of 2.92 sea miles to a point Latitude  $50^{\circ} 32' 25''$  N., Longitude  $2^{\circ} 30' 55''$  W., and thence :—

ON THE SOUTH-WEST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and drawn in a direction  $308\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  true for a distance of 6.80 sea miles to a point Latitude  $50^{\circ} 36' 39''$  N., Longitude  $2^{\circ} 39' 15''$  W., and thence :—

ON THE NORTH-WEST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and drawn in a direction  $59\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  true for a distance of 3.20 sea miles to a point on High Water Mark on the seaward side of Chesil Bank, Latitude  $50^{\circ} 38' 17''$  N., Longitude  $2^{\circ} 34' 55''$  W., marked by Beacon No. 2 and Notice Board No. 9, and thence :—

ON THE NORTH-EAST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and following the line of High Water through a point marked by Danger Board No. 9 (1.00 sea miles) and through a point marked by Danger Board No. 1 (1.63 sea miles) for a total distance of 4.88 sea miles to the starting point at Beacon No. 1 and Notice Board No. 10.

## B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CENTRAL SEA AREA

The area of foreshore and sea comprising the Central Sea Area and affected by these Bye-laws is situated in the West Fleet, north of Chesil Bank, midway between the Old Coast-guard Station and Fleet House and is bounded as follows :—

ON THE EAST.—By a line commencing at a point on High Water Mark on the landward side of Chesil Bank 530 yards west of Fleet House, Latitude  $50^{\circ} 37' 22''$  N., Longitude  $2^{\circ} 32' 54''$  W., marked by Notice Board No. 1 and drawn in a direction  $12^{\circ}$  true for a distance of 0.10 of a sea mile to a point on High Water Mark on the north side of West Fleet 500 yards west of Fleet House, Latitude  $50^{\circ} 37' 28''$  N., Longitude  $2^{\circ} 32' 52''$  W., marked by Danger Board No. 2, and thence :—

ON THE NORTH-EAST, EAST AND NORTH.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and following the line of High Water in a north-westerly and then

easterly and northerly direction, passing Flagstaff No. 4 and continuing in a northerly and then westerly direction to a point 390 yards south-east of the Old Coastguard Station, Latitude  $50^{\circ} 37' 47''$  N., Longitude  $2^{\circ} 33' 09''$  W., marked by Danger Board No. 8, and thence :—

ON THE NORTH-WEST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and drawn in a direction  $246^{\circ}$  true for a distance of 0.25 of a sea mile to a point on High Water Mark on the landward side of Chesil Bank 580 yards south of the Old Coastguard Station, Latitude  $50^{\circ} 37' 41''$  N., Longitude  $2^{\circ} 33' 28''$  W., marked by Notice Board No. 7, and thence :—

ON THE SOUTH-EAST.—By a line commencing at the last mentioned point and following the line of High Water to the starting point at Notice Board No. 1.

DATED this Eleventh day of November, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight.

KINGSLEY WOOD  
Secretary of State for Air.

The Board of Trade hereby signify their consent to the foregoing Bye-laws.

OLIVER F. C. STANLEY  
President of the Board of Trade.

The Dorsetshire County Council hereby signify their consent to the foregoing Bye-laws.

SHAFTESBURY (Chairman).

C. P. BRUTTON (Clerk.)

## NOTICES

### PENALTY FOR OFFENCES

(1) By Section 17 (2) of the Military Lands Act, 1892, it is provided :—

“ If any person commits an offence against any Bye-law under this Act he shall be liable on conviction before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to a fine not exceeding FIVE POUNDS, and may be removed by any Constable or Officer authorised in manner provided by the Bye-law from the area whether land or water to which the Bye-law applies, and taken into custody without warrant and

brought before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to be dealt with according to law, and any vehicle, animal, vessel, or thing found in the area in contravention of any Bye-law may be removed by any Constable or such Officer as aforesaid and on due proof of such contravention be declared by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to be forfeited to His Majesty."

#### APPLICATION TO SEA AREAS

(2) By Section 2 (2) of the Military Lands Act, 1900, it is provided:—

"Where any land, the use of which can be regulated by Bye-laws under the Military Lands Act, 1892, or this Act, abuts on any sea or tidal water or where rifle or artillery practice is or can be carried on over any sea, tidal water, or shore from any such land, Bye-laws may be made in relation to any such sea, tidal water or shore as if they were part of the land."

#### PROGRAMME OF PRACTICE

(3) Air gunnery and bombing practice may take place on the Range at any time of the day or night throughout the year except between 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 6 a.m. on the next following Mondays.

Air-to-ground firing practice will take place only during daylight hours and will be against targets situate in the Central Outer Land Area.

The only bombs used will be small practice bombs.

#### WHERE BYE-LAWS CAN BE INSPECTED AND OBTAINED

(4) Copies of these Bye-laws can be obtained free of charge from the Under-Secretary of State (S.4), Air Ministry, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and can be seen at the following places:—

The Office of the Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force Station, Warmwell, Dorset.

The Office of the Clerk to the Dorset County Council, County Offices, Dorchester, Dorset.

The Office of the Town Clerk, Weymouth.

The Office of the Clerk to the Portland Urban District Council, Portland, Dorset.

The Office of the Clerk to the Dorchester Rural District Council, 53, High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset.

H.M. Coastguard Station, Abbotsbury, Dorset.

H.M. Coastguard Station, Wyke Regis, Dorset.

#### PLAN OF THE RANGE

(5) A plan of the Range to which these Bye-laws apply is shown at the foot hereof.

CHESIL BANK, DORSET

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AIR GUNNERY AND BOMBING RANGE

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BYE-LAWS dated 11th November, 1938

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*CORRIGENDUM*

*Delete* Notice No. (3) appended to the Bye-laws and  
*substitute* the following :—

PROGRAMME OF PRACTICE

(3) Air gunnery and bombing practice may take place on  
the Range at any time of the day or night throughout the year.  
(September, 1939)

*Notwithstanding any fine limit mentioned in the above byelaws the current maximum fine as at 01/09/2008 is the sum of £500 being the maximum on level 2 of the standard scale.*