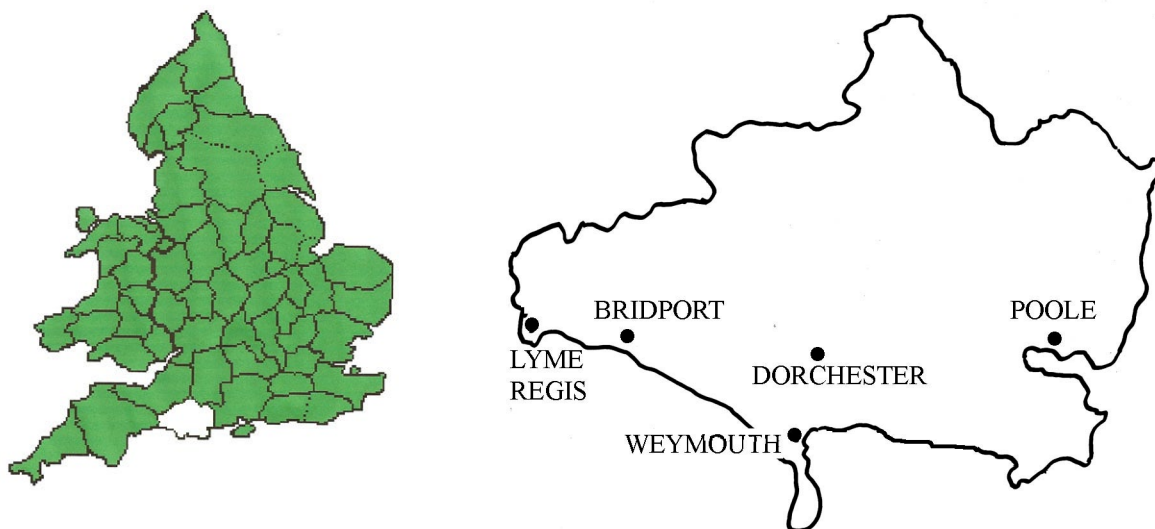


## DORSET



Dorset lies on the south coast of England, and is bordered by Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire, and Hampshire. Poole and Weymouth have been important ports since medieval times, but the rest of the county is mainly rural. The county had a large number of small hundreds, but for administrative purposes it was traditionally divided into nine divisions, and these were the weights and measures units for most of the nineteenth century.

Poole was a 'county corporate' and exercised separate control over weights and measures for several centuries, although its activities in the nineteenth century seem to have been rather half-hearted. The ancient boroughs of Bridport, Dorchester, Lyme Regis, and Weymouth also had local jurisdiction for a while, but only Poole and Weymouth survived the Act of 1889.

There is no evidence of specialist scale and weight makers in the county until the end of the nineteenth century. Even in 1911, the only scale makers listed in Kelly's Dorset Directory were Avery's, and all their offices were in neighbouring counties – Bournemouth in Hampshire, Salisbury in Wiltshire, and Yeovil in Somerset.

In 1974 Bournemouth and its environs were transferred from Hampshire to Dorset.

### A: Inspection by the County of DORSET

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1826	1 set of standards [346] verified.		<p>There were 9 petty-sessional divisions of the county. In 1834 they were combined into 3 WM districts, as opposite.</p> <p><b>Inspectors 1834-58:</b></p> <p><i>West Dorset</i> (W.D) - Beaminster Charles Frampton (1834-46) Akerman Thurman (1846-58)</p> <p><i>Mid-Dorset</i> (M.D) - Weymouth, John Thurman (1834-45) William Dennis (1845-58)</p> <p><i>East Dorset</i> (E.D) - Blandford Samuel Pegler (1834-49) William Russell (1849-58)</p>
1834-1835	<p>3 inspectors appointed for the whole county. 3 more sets of standards verified [745-7], including 2 short sets for the divisions of Blandford and Sherborne.</p> <p>WD = Beaminster. MD = Sherborne, Cerne, Dorchester. ED = Shaftesbury, Blandford, Wimborne, Wareham, Sturminster.</p>	<p><b>T</b></p> <p><b>⊕</b> <b>PEGLER</b></p> <p><b>⊕</b> <b>E•D</b></p> <p><b>⊕</b> <b>M•D</b></p> <p><b>⊕</b> <b>W•D</b></p>	
1838	Committee criticises the cost and effectiveness of the system [QS MISC 14].		
1843	Sherborne transferred to WD, Wareham transferred to MD.		
1857	County police force set up.	<p><b>DC</b> <b>SE</b></p>	<p>The police superintendents for the nine divisions were WM inspectors 1858-1889. Until 1879 the marks comprised the letters DC and district letters EC, W, C, S, NE, N, NC, SE, and E, corresponding to the divisions as listed below. Most marks also include a crown, but this may be missing.</p>
1858	7 sets of standards [1236-41, 1245] obtained by the Chief Constable for all divisions except Blandford and Sherborne, which presumably had them already.	<p><b>EC</b> <b>DC</b></p> <p><b>WB</b> <b>DC</b> <b>W</b></p> <p><b>DC</b> <b>EC</b></p>	

¶ An excerpt from the report of the committee appointed to look into the activities of the county inspectors in 1838. They found that the inspectors had stamped weights brought to them, but had not entered and searched the premises of shopkeepers. As a result there had been no income from fines. Taking into account the salaries of the inspectors, the county had spent £454 4s 3d without a single conviction having taken place.

	Fees received.			Costs.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Pegler's 1st visit, } in 1834-35,	4	8	0	7	7	3½
Mr. P.'s 2nd visit, in } 1835-36,	2	12	6	5	16	8
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	7	0	6	13	3	11½
Mr. Frampton's 1st visit } in 1834-35,	3	2	5	7	16	1
Mr. F.'s 2nd visit in } 1835-36,	0	9	2½	6	1	4½
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	3	11	7½	13	17	5½
Mr. Thurman's 1st visit } in 1834-35,	2	19	5½	7	17	0½
Mr. T.'s 2nd visit in } 1835-36,	1	12	1	6	5	6
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	4	11	6½	14	2	6½
Total Fees received as } above in 2 years,	15 3 8					
Total Costs attending } the receipt of the same,	41 3 11½					



¶ Weights showing the marks of Samuel Pegler and John Thurman, two of the inspectors appointed in 1834. Pegler was a well-known clockmaker and gunsmith in Blandford, and his 1832 portrait, by Alfred Stevens, is in the Tate Gallery; another portrait of him, attributed to the British School, is in the Dorset Natural History Museum. The Thurman family were long-standing residents of Weymouth. The inspector John is probably the one whose death is reported in 1845, and whose son Akerman Thurman served as inspector for West Dorset from about 1847 until the police took over in 1858.

### Police officers as inspectors 1858-1890




<p><i>Blandford</i> (EC, 158)            Jeremiah Watts (1858-67&amp;)            William Brown (&amp;1867-70)            John Pitfield (1870-75&amp;)            George Underwood (1875-81)            William Lavender (&amp;1882-85&amp;)            Alfred Hazzard (1885-89)</p> <p><i>Bridport</i> (W, 159)            Patrick McHale (1858-84)            Henry Freeman (&amp;1884-89)</p> <p><i>Cerne Abbas</i> (C, 160)            George Hunt (1858)            James Blake (1859-60)            William Brown (1860-67&amp;)            Edward Lewis (&amp;1867-70)            Henry Batty (1870-74&amp;)            John Pitfield (&amp;1875-76)            Henry Freeman (1877-80)            John Pitfield (&amp;1880-1885)            William Lavender (&amp;1885-89)</p>	<p><i>Dorchester</i> (S, 161)            Robert Everett (1858-59)            William Brown (1860)            *** Delahay (1861)            George Underwood (1861-69&amp;)            Richard Hare (1869-74&amp;)            Henry Batty (&amp;1874-80&amp;)            William Gale (1881-89)</p> <p><i>Shaston, Shaftesbury</i> (NE, 162)            Richard Hare (1858-70&amp;)            George Underwood (&amp;1870&amp;)            William Brown (&amp;1871-76)            John Pitfield (&amp;1876-1880&amp;)            Henry Freeman (&amp;1880-84&amp;)            John Hains (-1885-89)</p> <p><i>Sherborne</i> (N, 163)            Edward Lewis (1858-67&amp;)            Jeremiah Watts (&amp;1867-74)            Richard Hare (&amp;1875-76)            George Florance (1876-89)</p>	<p><i>Sturminster</i> (NC,164)            John Hammond (1858-70&amp;)            William Lavender (1870-75&amp;)            William Grant (1875-89)            Walter Devenish (1889)</p> <p><i>Wareham</i> (SE,165)            Thomas Eales (1858-75)            William Lavender (&amp;1875-82&amp;)            William Feltham (1882-89)</p> <p><i>Wimborne</i> (E,166)            George Baynton (1858-68)            John Hammond (&amp;1869-80)            Henry Batty (&amp;1881-86)            Joseph Marsh (1887-1889)</p>
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¶ Weights stamped in the divisions between 1858 and 1879. The one on the left is from the SE division (Wareham), and has earlier GR marks as well as an unidentified central mark. The one on the right is from the EC division (Blandford).



¶ A bronze weight with several marks. The earliest are the two GR stamps, followed by the WD mark from the period 1834-1858. Finally the VR159 mark denotes the Bridport division; this number was used only between 1879 and 1889, and the denomination was probably added at the same time.


Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1879	9 numbers issued: 158-166. The numbers were issued to the divisions in alphabetical order, as listed above.		<b><i>Qualified inspectors:</i></b>  <i>S&amp;E district:</i> J.B.S. Mitchell (q1891/2-1909) [MR 09:143]
1889	Dorset CC formed. Inspection of WM remained under the authority of the chief constable, but civilian inspectors were appointed. There were two districts: S and E (Dorchester) 161 N and W (Sherborne) 163.	  	<i>O. Wilson (q1898/9-1933)</i> <i>W. Hanson (1933-58)</i> [MR 58:95]  <i>N&amp;W district:</i> R. Churchill (q1891/2 -1925) W.P. Lonsdale (1926-39) W.K. Nattrass (1939-59) [MR 79:125]
1936	Responsibility transferred from the chief constable to a civilian chief inspector.  Between 1945 and 1949 a third district was formed.		<i>Chief inspectors 1936-74:</i> J. Mackinnon (1936-45) [MR 36:211; 45:99] W.R. Breed (1945-74) [MR 46:11; 58:96; 79:37]
1950	Numbers 161-163 in use.		
1974	Bournemouth and some other areas of Hampshire transferred to Dorset.		

## B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the County of DORSET

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
<b>Bridport</b>	AncBo MB:1835 cp	 <b>D.C</b> <b>B.C</b> ?	---	s:1836 [837]
<p>Samuel Rooker Champ, whitesmith and sometime superintendent of the borough police force, was appointed IWM in 1836. In 1852 he resigned in favour of Akerman Thurman, the county inspector for West Dorset. The borough retained authority and in 1862 the superintendent of the county police Patrick McHale was appointed. In 1867 it was reported that authority had been transferred to the county [DC/BTB/**].</p>				
<b>Dorchester</b>	AncBo MB:1835 cp	 <b>D</b> ?	---	s:1835 r:1867
<p>In 1834/5 standards [653] were issued to the inspector, James Hutchings, a basket maker [SBk], but he is recorded as living in Weymouth in 1851 [H]. By 1858, there was concern [DCC 5/8/58] that there was no IWM; two years later, when no inspection of weights had taken place for five years, it was resolved that the power to appoint an IWM lay with the Quarter Sessions but the Municipal Act of William IV 4&amp;5 had removed that power from the borough [DCC 5/7/60]. However, the borough surveyor Mr Jowett was paid £10 per annum in 1865 for his services as IWM [DCC: 12/10/65] and he was active a year later [SM: 23/10/66], stamping 180 weights. The standards were reverified in 1867. But in 1871, Jowett tendered his resignation as IWM in favour of Charles Coward (CC 1871-89), listed as clerk of the market and IWM in 1875 [K]. He continued as IWM until the borough police force was wound up in 1889 and the borough ceased to be a Weights and Measures authority, because the population was less than 10,000.</p> <p>Charles Howard was appointed as IWM in Weymouth in 1891, subject to his passing the BoT examination. In 1895 [K], John Benjamin was mysteriously listed as inspector in Dorchester.</p>				
<p><b>Gillingham:</b> a set of standards [213] was verified for this Liberty and Manor in 1826.</p>				



¶ On the left, a bronze one-pound weight, originally verified in the Georgian period and reverified in Lyme Regis in the period 1834-79. On the right is a detail from a 2oz bronze weight, showing the verification mark for Lyme Regis.


Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Lyme Regis	AncBo MB:1835 ncp		233	s:1834 [499]  n:1879-1889

The inspector appointed in 1834/5 was Henry Jefferd, sergeant-at-mace [Sbk]. Although the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 did not grant Lyme a commission of the peace, one was subsequently approved. The death of John Edwards, the IWM, was reported in 1842 [SM: 13/8/42]. Richard Edwards was mentioned as IWM from 1849 to 1853, when he was told to return the standards [DC/LR/D/\*\*].

In 1864 the standards were reverified for the use of the inspector, S. Lee [SBk], who was an officer in the county police force. In 1866 it was reported that a sergeant of police (Henry Batty) was the IWM; he was also listed in 1867 [K]. Batty was promoted to Superintendent, in charge of the Cerne Abbas District in 1870 but had been succeeded by Thomas Hitch in 1869 [BN 31/12/69], listed as IWM in 1875 [K]; Alfred Wills was active in 1879 [BN 29/8/79] and listed in 1880 [K].

Sergeant William Sprackling was appointed in 1887 [BN 12/8/87], listed as IWM in 1889 [K].

Despite the employment of county police officers, the borough retained its authority, as indicated by the assignment of verification number 233 in 1879. In 1889 the borough ceased to be a WMA because its population was less than 10,000.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
<b>Poole</b>	CCorp MB:1835 qsb		74	s:1826 [146] r:1867  n:1879-1974

The mark depicts a shield with three scallop shells and a dolphin, part of the arms of Poole. The significance of the letter S is not known, but it was definitely part of the mark.

The inspectors appointed in 1834 were Thomas Brown and John Darby, who had previously acted in that capacity. Darby died in 1837 (DCC 23/3/37) but Thomas Brown continued to act until 1848 when, due to his extreme age, he was replaced by Benjamin Inkpen (CC 1835-62). The Sheriff of Poole held an annual Court when the jury examined the WM of the townspeople [DCC 5/11/40;21/10/41]. William Gifford (CC 1863-69) acted as IWM, as did Stephen Hunt (CC 1869-91), who was listed as IWM 1875-89 [K]. In 1891 the police forced amalgamated with the Dorset force. No IWM was listed in the Annual Reports for 1892 and 1896, and it is possible that the county inspector was employed at that time. However, the Town then decided to separate from the county, initially appointing an unqualified inspector who failed to pass the BoT examination. He was succeeded by a retired police officer, who had been an IWM prior to 1890, but he retired in 1906.

However, a qualified inspector, Sydney Bass (q1905/6 in Stafford), was appointed as IWM in 1907 [MR 07:3]. John O'Brien (q1894/5 in Ireland) was in Poole, at least from 1911 [K] to 1934.

Subsequently the chief inspectors were C. Knott (1934-66) [MR 66:179] and G.W. Roberts (1966-72-) [MR 66:154, 179].

*Town and County of the Town of POOLE.*  
**T**O all Persons making, selling, or exposing for Sale, or using Weights or Measures in their respective Trades or Callings,  
**WE DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE,**  
That under and by virtue of the several Acts of Parliament relating to Weights and Measures, we have been appointed Inspectors of Weights and Measures for the Town and County of the Town of POOLE; and that for the purpose of carrying the duties of our Office further into effect, we, or one of us, shall attend daily from Ten in the Forenoon until Four in the Afternoon, at the Town Hall, with authenticated Copies of the Imperial Weights and Measures; when and where all Persons concerned residing in the Town and County of the Town of Poole are requested to make application to us the undersigned Inspectors to appoint a time to attend and have their Weights and Measures examined, compared, and stamped, otherwise they will be subject to the Penalties imposed by the said Act.  
December 24th, 1834.  
**THOMAS BROWN,** } Inspectors for the Town and County  
**JOHN DARBY,** } of the Town of Poole.  
**N. B.**—All Persons who, after the 1st of January next, shall sell, or expose to sale, or use any Weights and Measures which have not been so stamped, shall, on conviction, forfeit a Sum not exceeding Five Pounds.

¶ Notice of appointment of Thomas Brown and John Darby from the Dorset County Chronicle of 25 December, 1834, p. 1.





¶ The bronze weight shown above has three marks comprising the letter S above a shield. Close examination shows that the shield represents the arms of Poole (right), displaying three scallop shells and a dolphin. This mark is very rare, despite the fact that Poole was a county corporate and had exercised authority over weights and measures for several centuries. The significance of the letter S is not known, but it is clearly part of the verification mark. The weight also shows the ‘moon and star’ mark of Portsmouth, and two unidentified marks comprising a strange-looking crown above the letters R.A.

<b>Weymouth</b>	AncBo MB:1835 cp		124	s:1825 [40] r:1844 n:1879-1974
<p>No mark, used before the assignment of the number 124 in 1879, has been identified, although inspectors were active from 1834.</p> <p>The inspector appointed in 1834 was George Powell, who had previously served in that capacity. William Warry was active as the IWM in 1844 [SM: 6/1/44]; he continued in post until 1868 [BN 31/10/68]. Whilst Lancelot Dunman was acting as the assistant IWM latterly [DCC: 14/5/63], William Dennis, the former county IWM, who was made redundant when the police assumed that role, was also active in the borough in 1866 [SM: 17/4/66]. Samuel Bull was appointed IWM in 1868 [BN 28/11/68] and was listed as the inspector in 1889 [K].</p> <p>Supt Charles Coward, the ex-Superintendent of the Dorchester Borough Police, was appointed in 1891, subject to his passing the BoT examination; this was not to happen, however. Charles Hutchings qualified in 1891/2. He was the son of a basket-maker, Eli Hutchings [1881 Census], and may well be related to the James Hutchings who was IWM in Dorchester in 1834. Charles Hutchings was still in post in 1939 although he was over 70 by that time.</p> <p>Subsequently the chief inspectors were D. W Johnson (1952-64) [MR 52:239; 64:274], and G.M. Crookson (1964-72-) [MR 64:299].</p>				

C: The trade in Dorset

**SCALES, WEIGHTS, OR WEIGHING  
MACHINES.**

**J. LOSEBY,**  
**142, HIGH STREET, AND NEW STREET,**  
**POOLE.**

**EVERY DESCRIPTION OF SCALES  
WEIGHTS, WEIGHING MACHINES  
REPAIRED AND MADE AS NEW,**  
At the Shortest Notice, at the Above Address, by a  
**THOROUGHLY PRACTICAL SCALE MAKER.**

GROCERS' and BUTCHERS' SHOPS fitted out  
on the best and lowest terms.  
BUTCHERS' and GROCERS' FITTINGS and  
CUTLERY of the best quality.

SCALES AND WEIGHTS CONTRACTED FOR  
AND ADJUSTED BY THE YEAR.

¶ Advertisement from the Bournemouth Guardian,  
from the period 23 February to 11 May, 1895.

POOLE	
<b>Wedderburn</b>	G.A. Wedderburn, the Southampton firm of scale makers, was in Poole by 1895 [K]. • High Street <1895-99>.
<b>Loseby</b>	Joseph Loseby, an ironmonger, advertised in 1895 that he repaired scales, weights and weighing machines [BG 02-05/1895]. However, in 1897, he was referred to as the late J. Loseby [BG 13/11/97].
<b>Barrington</b>	George Barrington was listed as a scale maker in 1899 [K] and in the 1901 Census. However, there is no trace of him in the 1911 Census. • 14 Church Street <1899-1903>.
WEYMOUTH	
<b>Avery</b>	• Queen Street <1965>. Although the firm was probably in Weymouth before this, no such record has been found as yet.

## References for Dorset

### *Published Works*

#### *Directories*

- P. Pigot's Directory of ... Dorset ... (N53, N73, N78) 1830, 1842, 1844.
- R. Robson's ... Directory of London and the Western Counties (N105) 1840.
- H. Hunt's Directory of Dorset ... (N229, ST384) 1851.
- S. Slater's Directory of ... Dorsetshire (ST34) 1852.
- K. Kelly's [Post Office] Directory of Dorset ... (ST385) 1855-1939.
- T. West of England and Trewman's ... (ST349) 1858-84.
- Ha. Harrod's ... Directory of Dorsetshire (ST386) 1865.

#### *Newspapers*

- BG Bournemouth Guardian 1893-97.
- BN Bridport News 1856-1900.
- DCC Dorset County Chronicle 1824-1884.
- DCH Dorset County Herald 1852-1910.
- PCH Poole and County Herald 1852-1882.
- SM Sherborne Mercury 1829-67.

### *Original Documents*

#### *Dorset Record Office*

QS MISC 14. Various documents relating to inspection of WM in the county, including: printed report of committee (with case) 1838; alteration of divisions 1843; returns from inspectors 1853.

PE/CAM/CO 2/1. Notices of inspection in the 9 divisions, 1867, 1868.

DC/BTB/\*\*. Bridport borough records: (P3) receipt of standards by the inspector in 1853; (P4) meeting to appoint S.R. Champ as inspector 1836; (P5) Thurman appointed 1852; (HJ1) Champ's resignation in favour of the county inspector 1852 and Thurman's expense claims up to 1858; appointment of McHale, 1862.

DC/LR/D/\*\*. Lyme Regis borough records: (4/3) return of standards to the Town Hall 1853; (5/3) Mr Edwards' salary for 1849-50-51-52.