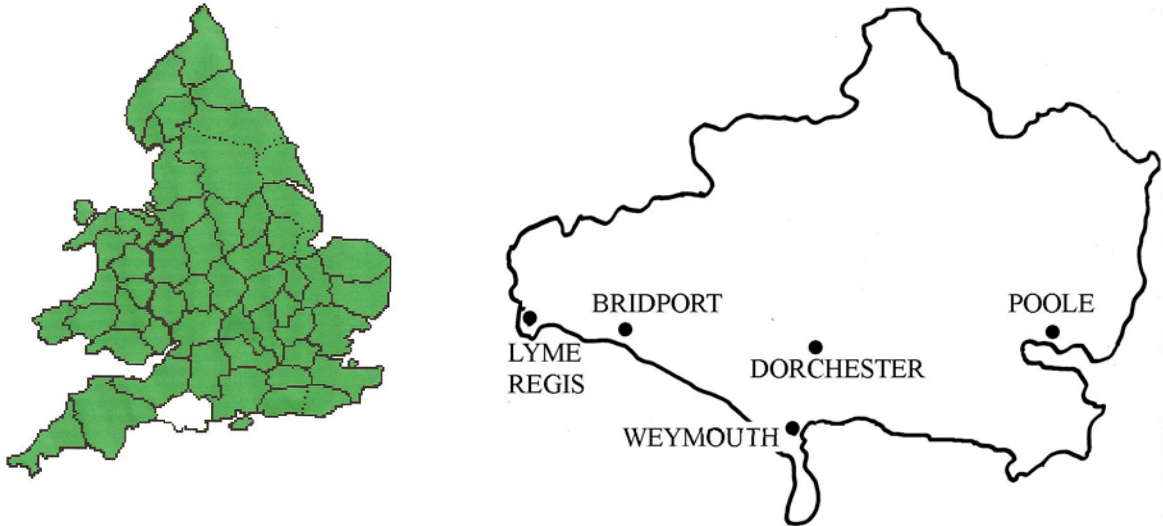


## DORSET



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
<p>1826</p> <p>1834 -1835</p> <p>1838</p> <p>1843</p> <p>1857</p> <p>1858</p>	<p>1 set of standards [346] verified.</p> <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>Committee criticises the cost and effectiveness of the system [QS MISC 14].</p> <p>Sherborne transferred to WD, Wareham transferred to MD.</p> <p>County police force set up.</p> <p>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>	<p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p style="text-align: center;">⊕ PEGLER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">⊕ E·D</p> <p style="text-align: center;">⊕ M·D</p> <p style="text-align: center;">⊕ W·D</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DC SE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E C ⊕ D.C</p> <p style="text-align: center;">⊕ DC W</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D.C ⊕ E</p>	<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 (W.D)</i> - Beaminster Charles Frampton (1834-46) Akerman Thurman (1846-58)</p> <p><i>Mid-Dorset (M.D)</i> - Weymouth, John Thurman (1834-45) William Dennis (1845-58)</p> <p><i>East Dorset (E.D)</i> - Blandford Samuel Pegler (1834-49) William Russell (1849-58)</p> <p>No mark for Charles Frampton has been identified. Those for John Thurman (T) and Pegler turn up occasionally, and are sometimes accompanied by the relevant ED or MD mark.</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>

¶ 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 portrait is in the National Gallery. 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-)                      George Underwood (&amp;-1875-81-)                      Alfred Hazzard (-1885-89)</p> <p><i>Bridport</i> (W, 159)                      Patrick McHale (1858-81-)                      Henry Freeman (&amp;-1885-89)</p> <p><i>Cerne Abbas</i> (C, 160)                      George Hunt (1858)                      James Blake (1859-60-)                      William Brown (-1866-&amp;)                      John Pitfield (-1875-)                      Henry Freeman (-1880&amp;)                      William Lavender (&amp;-1885-89)</p>	<p><i>Dorchester</i> (S, 161)                      Robert Everett (1858-59-)                      George Underwood (-1863-67&amp;)                      Henry Batty (-1875-80&amp;)                      William Gale (1881-89)</p> <p><i>Shaston, Shaftesbury</i> (NE, 162)                      Richard Hare (1858-67-&amp;)                      William Brown (&amp;-1875-)                      Henry Freeman (&amp;1881-&amp;)                      John Hains (-1885-89)</p> <p><i>Sherborne</i> (N, 163)                      Edward Lewis (1858-67-)                      Richard Hare (&amp;-1875-)                      George Florance (-1880-89)</p>	<p><i>Sturminster</i> (NC,164)                      John Hammond (1858-67-&amp;)                      William Lavender (-1875&amp;)                      William Grant (-1880-85-)                      Walter Devenish (-1889)</p> <p><i>Wareham</i> (SE,165)                      Thomas Eeles (1858-75)                      William Lavender (&amp;1875-81-&amp;)                      William Feltham (-1885-89)</p> <p><i>Wimborne</i> (E,166)                      George Baynton (1858-67-)                      John Hammond (&amp;-1875-80)                      Henry Batty (&amp;1881-85-)                      Joseph Marsh (-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>
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>S&amp;E district:</i> J.B.S. Mitchell (q1891/2-1909) [MR 09:143] O. Wilson (q1898/9-1933) W. Hanson (1933-58) [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	 ? ?	---	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	 ? ?	---	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]. 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]; but we know that, in 1866, the borough surveyor was acting as the IWM, stamping 180 weights. The standards were reverified in 1867. In 1875 [K] Charles Coward (CC 1871-89) was clerk of the market and IWM. He probably continued as such until the borough police force was wound up in 1889. In 1895 [K] John Benjamin was mysteriously listed as inspector.</p>				
<p><b>Gillingham:</b> a set of standards [213] was verified for this Liberty and Manor in 1826.</p>				

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
<b>Lyme Regis</b>	AncBo MB:1835 ncp		233	s:1834 [499]  n:1879-1889
<p>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/**].</p> <p>In 1864 the standards were reverified for the use of the inspector, S. Lee [SBk], who was probably a member of the county police force. In 1866 it was reported that a sergeant of police was the IWM, probably Henry Batty, who was also listed in 1867 [K]. The inspectors of WM listed subsequently in Kelly's directories were all police officers: Thomas Hitch (1875), Alfred Wills (1880), Joseph Marsh (1885) and William Sprackling (1889).</p> <p>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.</p>				
<b>Poole</b>	CCorp MB:1835 qsb		74	s:1826 [146] r:1867  n:1879-1974
<p>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.</p> <p>The inspectors appointed in 1834 were Thomas Brown and John Darby, who had previously acted in that capacity.</p> <p>Benjamin Inkpen was chief constable from 1835 to 1862, and may have acted as IWM for part of that time. William Gifford (CC 1863-69) was listed as IWM in 1867 [K], and Stephen Hunt (CC 1869-91) 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Subsequently the chief inspectors were C. Knott (1934-66) [MR 66:179] and G.W. Roberts (1966-72-) [MR 66:154, 179].</p>				



¶ 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>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] was listed as the inspector in 1852 [S]. Whilst Lancelot Dunman was acting as the assistant IWM in 1863 [DCC: 14/5/63], William Dennis, the former county IWM, who was made redundant when the police assumed that role, was active as the borough IWM in 1866 [SM: 17/4/66]. Samuel Bull was the inspector in 1875 [K] and 1889 [K].</p> <p>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

<b>POOLE</b>	
<b>Wedderburn</b>	G.A. Wedderburn, the Southampton firm, scale makers in Poole [1895 K]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High Street &lt;1895-99&gt;</li></ul>
<b>Barrington</b>	George Barrington, scale maker [1899 K]. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 14 Church Street &lt;1899-1903&gt;</li></ul>
<b>WEYMOUTH</b>	
<b>Avery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Queen Street &lt;1965&gt;</li></ul> Probably in Weymouth earlier but no record 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*

- DCC Dorset County Chronicle 1863-67.
- 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;