



Environmental Statement

CHAPTER 7 – Designated Sites and Features

Langstone FCERM Scheme

January 2025

Langstone FCERM Scheme Environmental Statement

Chapter 7

Designated Sites and Features

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7. Designated Sites and Features

7.1 Introduction

This chapter includes the baseline information on designated sites and features within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM Scheme area. The sections below describe the environmentally designated sites and a baseline of the historic environment and archaeology. Note that the impact assessments associated with these features are detailed in the Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment for European Sites (**Appendix C**), **Chapter 8 (Marine Ecology)**, **Chapter 9 (Terrestrial Ecology)** and **Chapter 10 (Ornithology)** for SSSI features, **Chapter 12 (Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impacts)** and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (**Appendix N**) for National Landscape features and **Chapter 11 (Historic Environment and Archaeology)** and Heritage Statement (**Appendix M2**) for heritage assets. This chapter provides baseline information only.

7.2 Internationally / European Protected Sites

International and European designations protect Chichester and Langstone Harbours (Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar) and Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC). SPAs are sites that are classified under EU law in accordance with Article 4 of the European Council (EC) Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC) (known as the Birds Directive). They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species. A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated for international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO. SACs are sites designated under the EU Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of habitats and wild flora and fauna (known as the Habitats Directive), because they make a significant contribution to conserving the habitat types and species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive.

These designated sites contribute to the 'National Site Network' under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (which includes changes under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019).

Table 7.1 provides a summary of the International and European designated sites within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM scheme. **Figure 7.1** illustrates the location of these designated sites.

7.2.1 Solent Maritime SAC

The proposed scheme lies within and adjacent to the Solent Maritime SAC. The SAC is primarily designated for the presence of estuarine, spartina sward (*Spartinion maritima*) and Atlantic salt meadow (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*) habitats. Seven additional Annex 1 habitats, including coastal dunes, sandbanks, mudflats and sandflats, are also present as qualifying features. The protected features of this site could potentially be impacted by the Langstone FCERM Scheme and have been screened in for further assessment within the Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment (**Appendix C**).

7.2.2 Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar

The proposed scheme lies within and adjacent to the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA. The SPA qualifies under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) for supporting breeding and overwintering populations of species of European importance, including three species of breeding tern; Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) and Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*), and non-breeding populations of Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*), Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Sanderling (*Calidris alba*), Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Teal (*Anas crecca*), Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) and Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive by regularly supporting 63,192 individual waterfowl (5-year peak mean 2017/18 – 2021/22) (Austin et al., 2023).

Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar site also covers the same extent as the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA. The Ramsar site qualifies under Ramsar Criteria 1, 5 and 6. Ramsar Criterion 1 states that '*A wetland should be considered internationally important if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic range*'. The site includes intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits and sand dunes. Ramsar Criterion 5 states that '*A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds*'. The harbours regularly support large numbers of non-breeding waterbirds, with the average for the 5 years up to 2021/2022 in excess of 63,000 birds for both the harbours (Austin et al. 2023), as well as supporting significant numbers of migratory wild bird species. The harbours have been the overwintering site for over 5% of the world population of Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) (Stillman et al. 2009), therefore qualifying under Ramsar criterion 6. The site is also internationally important for Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*) and Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*), and nationally important for Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) and Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).

The protected features of the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar site could potentially be impacted by the Langstone FCERM Scheme and have been screened in for further assessment within the Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment (**Appendix C**).

7.2.3 Important Bird Areas

The BirdLife International Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Programme is a worldwide initiative which aims to identify and protect sites of international significance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity. Over 13,000 IBAs have been identified globally. Sites are selected based on bird numbers and species complements they contain. IBAs are particularly important for species that congregate in large numbers, such as wintering and passage waterbirds and breeding seabirds. Many sites have also been identified for species of global and European/EU conservation concern. Within the UK, 313 IBAs have been identified covering an area of 2,857,355 ha (BirdLife International, 2024a).

The proposed scheme lies within and adjacent to the Chichester and Langstone Harbours IBA. BirdLife International (2024b) describes the Chichester and Langstone Harbours IBA as two interconnecting harbours with extensive mudflats and associated saltmarshes, sand-dunes, islands, and areas of Juncus marsh and reedbed (*Phragmites*). The site is approximately 5795 ha in size and is important for breeding terns including Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) and Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*); and is important for wintering and passage wildfowl and waders including populations of Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*) and Common Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*).

7.2.4 Supporting Habitat to the Internationally Important Sites

There are areas within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM scheme that have been identified as supporting habitat to the internationally designated sites. These areas of functionally linked land are known to support Brent Geese and wading birds during the overwintering bird period (October to March inclusive) as high tide feeding and roosting sites. See **Chapter 10 - Ornithology** for further details on these sites.

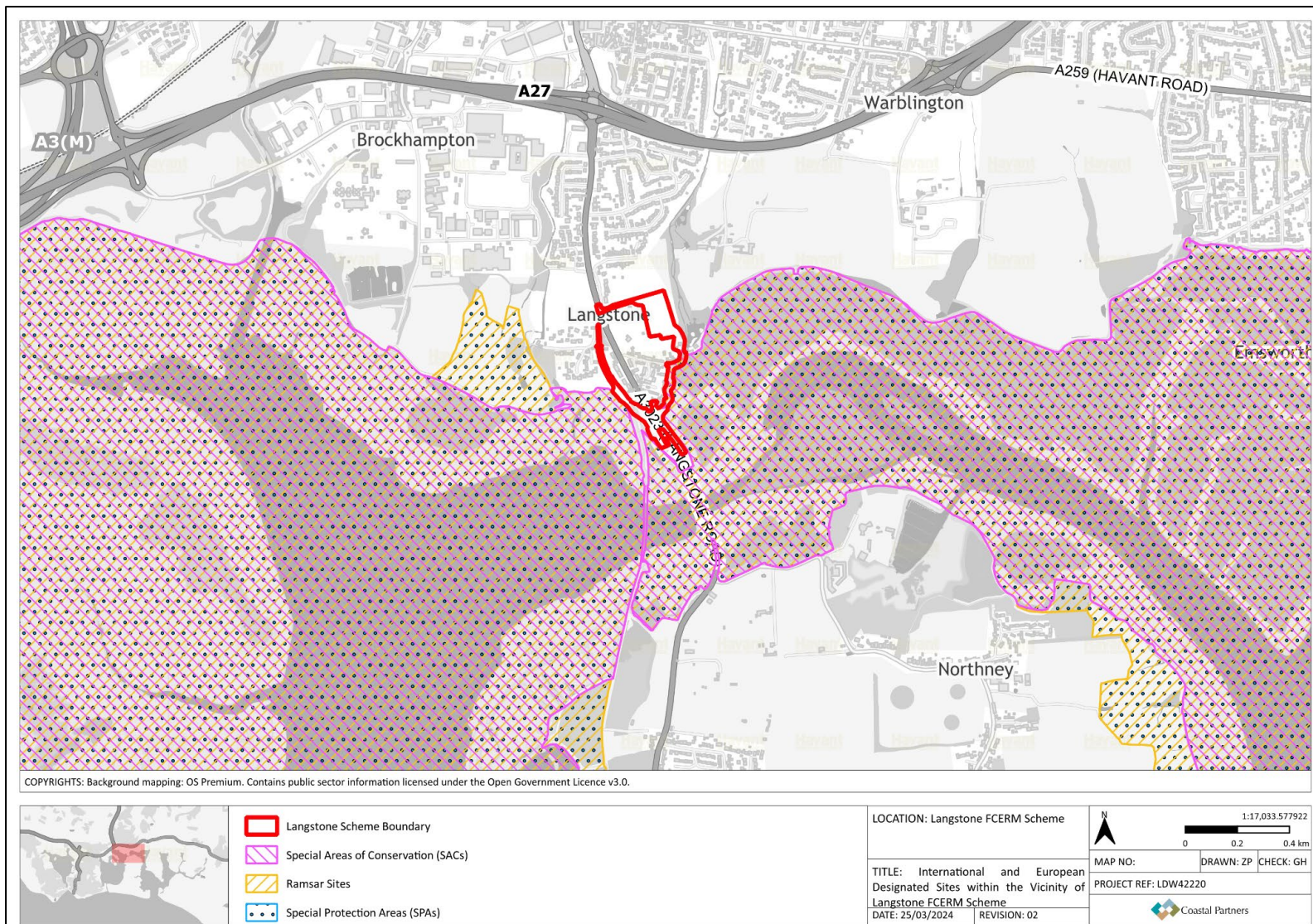


Figure 7.1: International and European designated sites within the vicinity of the Langstone FCERM scheme.

Table 7.1: Summary of International and European designated sites within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM scheme

Site	Habitat Feature	Species Feature	Distance from proposed scheme	Potential for impact?	Scoped out?
Solent Maritime (SAC)	The qualifying habitat features of the SAC include: • Estuaries • Spartina swards (<i>Spartina maritima</i>) • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Coastal lagoons • Annual vegetation of drift lines • Perennial vegetation of stony banks • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')	The species which are a key feature of the site are: • Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)	Within / adjacent	Yes	No
Chichester and Langstone Harbours (SPA and Ramsar)	The habitat features and supporting habitats of the Ramsar and SPA include: • Saltmarsh • Sand and shingle spits • Sand dunes • Estuary • Coastal grazing marsh • Intertidal sandflats and mudflats	The species which are a key feature of this site are: • Breeding: - Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) - Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) - Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) • Non-breeding: - Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) - Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>)	Within / adjacent	Yes	No

Site	Habitat Feature	Species Feature	Distance from proposed scheme	Potential for impact?	Scoped out?
	- Lagoon - Shingle bar - Pools - Subtidal sediments - Shallow coastal waters	- Common Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i>) - Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) - Dark-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>) - Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) - Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) - Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) - Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) - Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) - Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) - Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) - Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) - Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) - Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) - Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) - Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>)			

7.3 Nationally Protected Sites

The Langstone FCERM scheme lies within and adjacent to three nationally protected environmental sites including Chichester Harbour National Landscape, Chichester Harbour SSSI and Langstone Harbour SSSI (**Figure 7.2** and **Table 7.2**). Warblington SSSI lies within 2km of the proposed scheme.

7.3.1 Chichester Harbour National Landscape

Chichester Harbour National Landscape (previously known as Chichester Harbour AONB) is located within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM scheme. The National Landscape designated in 1964 is a landscape of national importance which includes valuable wildlife, habitats, geology, heritage, as well as scenic views. The land and seascape are characterised by open water, tidal inlets, intertidal mud, saltmarshes, coastal oak woodlands and backed by the South Downs National Park. The National Landscape designation affords protection within the national planning system. The protected features of this site could potentially be impacted by the Langstone FCERM Scheme and have been scoped in for further assessment within **Chapter 12 (Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impacts)** and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (**Appendix N**).

7.3.2 Chichester Harbour SSSI

Chichester Harbour SSSI is located within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM scheme and is important for its intertidal and associated terrestrial habitats. It is of particular significance for wintering wildfowl and waders and also breeding birds both within the Harbour and in the surrounding permanent pasture fields and woodlands. The extensive intertidal mudflats are feeding grounds for internationally important Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*), Sanderling (*Calidris alba*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). The protected features of this site could potentially be impacted by the Langstone FCERM Scheme and have been scoped in for further assessment within **Chapter 8 (Marine Ecology)**, **Chapter 9 (Terrestrial Ecology)** and **Chapter 10 (Ornithology)**.

7.3.3 Langstone Harbour SSSI

Langstone Harbour SSSI is located within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM scheme and includes one of the largest areas of mixed saltmarsh on the south coast. This area of rich intertidal system is of international importance, supporting high densities of intertidal invertebrates and large populations of migrant and overwintering waders and wildfowl. The Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) and Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*) are among the key feature species of the site. The protected features of this site could potentially be impacted by the Langstone FCERM Scheme and have been scoped in for further assessment within **Chapter 8 (Marine Ecology)**, **Chapter 9 (Terrestrial Ecology)** and **Chapter 10 (Ornithology)**.

7.3.4 Warblington Meadow SSSI

Warblington Meadow SSSI is located approximately 1.1km northeast of the Langstone FCERM scheme. The SSSI is important for its unimproved grazing marsh which graduates

from freshwater, base rich marsh to old, reclaimed saltmarsh in Chichester Harbour, and for its rich associated flora. No pathways for interaction between the proposed scheme and the SSSI have been identified, therefore this site has been scoped out of any further assessment.

7.3.5 Marine Conservation Zones

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) created a new type of Marine Protected Area (MPA) called a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). MCZs protect nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology. On 21 November 2013, 27 new MCZs were announced following the culmination of a process closely involving stakeholders. On 17 January 2016, a further 23 new MCZs were announced as part of a second tranche, which included The Needles MCZ in the Solent and Utopia MCZ to the east of the Isle Wight. During the summer of 2018, Defra launched a further consultation on a third tranche of MCZs. This third tranche included two sites around the Isle of Wight, which were formally designated in May 2019: Bembridge MCZ and Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ.

There are no MCZs within the study area. The nearest designated MCZs are Bembridge MCZ and Selsey Bill and the Hounds MCZ. Both of these sites are located approximately 15km away from the proposed scheme and have therefore been scoped out of any further assessment.

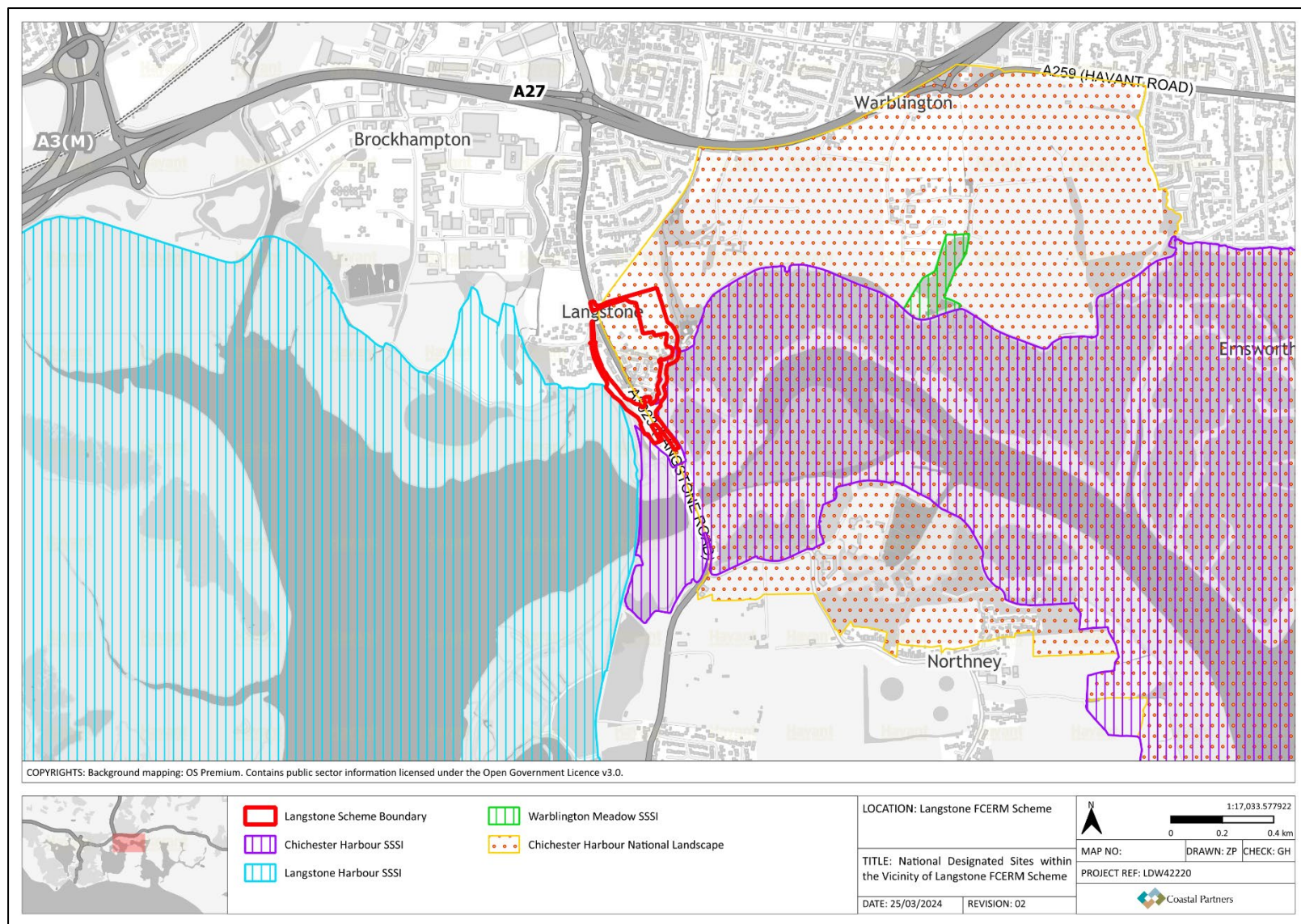


Figure 7.2: National designated sites within the vicinity of the Langstone FCERM scheme

Table 7.2: Summary of National designated sites within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM scheme

Site	Habitat Feature	Species Feature	Distance from proposed scheme	Potential for impact?	Scoped out?
Chichester Harbour (SSSI)	The habitats that are notified features of the SSSI are: • Coastal vegetated shingle • Coastal Geomorphology • Littoral sediment • Lowland fens, including basin, flood-plain, open water transition and valley fens • Lowland mixed deciduous woodland • Lowland neutral grassland • Sand dune; strandline, embryo and mobile dunes • Saltmarsh	The species which are notified features of the site are: • Breeding Birds: - Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) - Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) - Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) • Non-breeding Birds: - Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) - Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>) - Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) - Dark-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>) - Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) - Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) - Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) - Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) - Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) - Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) - Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) - Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	Within / adjacent	Yes	No
Langstone Harbour (SSSI)	The habitats that are notified features of the SSSI are: • Saltmarsh • Transitional brackish marsh and reedbeds • Mudflats	The species which are notified features of the site are: • Breeding Birds - Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) - Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)	Within / adjacent	Yes	No

Site	Habitat Feature	Species Feature	Distance from proposed scheme	Potential for impact?	Scoped out?
	- Eelgrass beds - Saline coastal lagoons - Lowland neutral grassland	- Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) • Non-breeding Birds: - Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) - Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) - Dark-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>) - Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) - Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) - Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) - Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) - Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) - Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) - Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) - Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) - Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) - Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) - Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) - Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>) • Invertebrate assemblage • Vascular plant assemblage			
Warblington Meadow (SSSI)	The habitats that are notified features of the SSSI are: - Lowland mire grassland and rush pasture - Saltmarsh	The species which are notified features of the site are: • Fen meadow: - <i>Juncus subnodulosus</i> - <i>Cirsium palustre</i> • Saltmarsh: - <i>Festuca rubra</i> - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i>	1.1km (northeast)	No	Yes

7.4 Locally Protected Sites

Langstone Mill Pond Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) lies adjacent to the proposed scheme (**Figure 7.3**) and could potentially be impacted. Therefore, this SINC has been scoped in for further assessment. A further seven SINC are located within 1km of the scheme (**Figure 7.3**) including Southmoor Reserve (250m northwest), Wade Court Park (300m north), Southmoor Big Field (450m west), Hayling Billy Line (500m southwest), Pyecroft Meadows (650m south), North Common and Saltmarsh (750m southeast) and North Common East (1km southeast). These seven SINC will not be affected by the Langstone FCERM Scheme and have therefore been scoped out of any further assessment.

7.4.1 Langstone Mill Pond SINC

Langstone Mill Pond SINC is approximately 0.98 ha consisting of predominantly freshwater and reedbed habitat. The SINC supports two species that meet Section 6 of the SINC Selection Criteria including Townsend's Cord-grass (*Spartina maritima* x *alterniflora* = *S. x townsendii*) which is a county scarce plant species and Large-leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) which is a county rare species. The protected features of this site could potentially be impacted by the Langstone FCERM Scheme and have been scoped in for further assessment within **Chapter 9 (Terrestrial Ecology)** and **Chapter 10 (Ornithology)**.

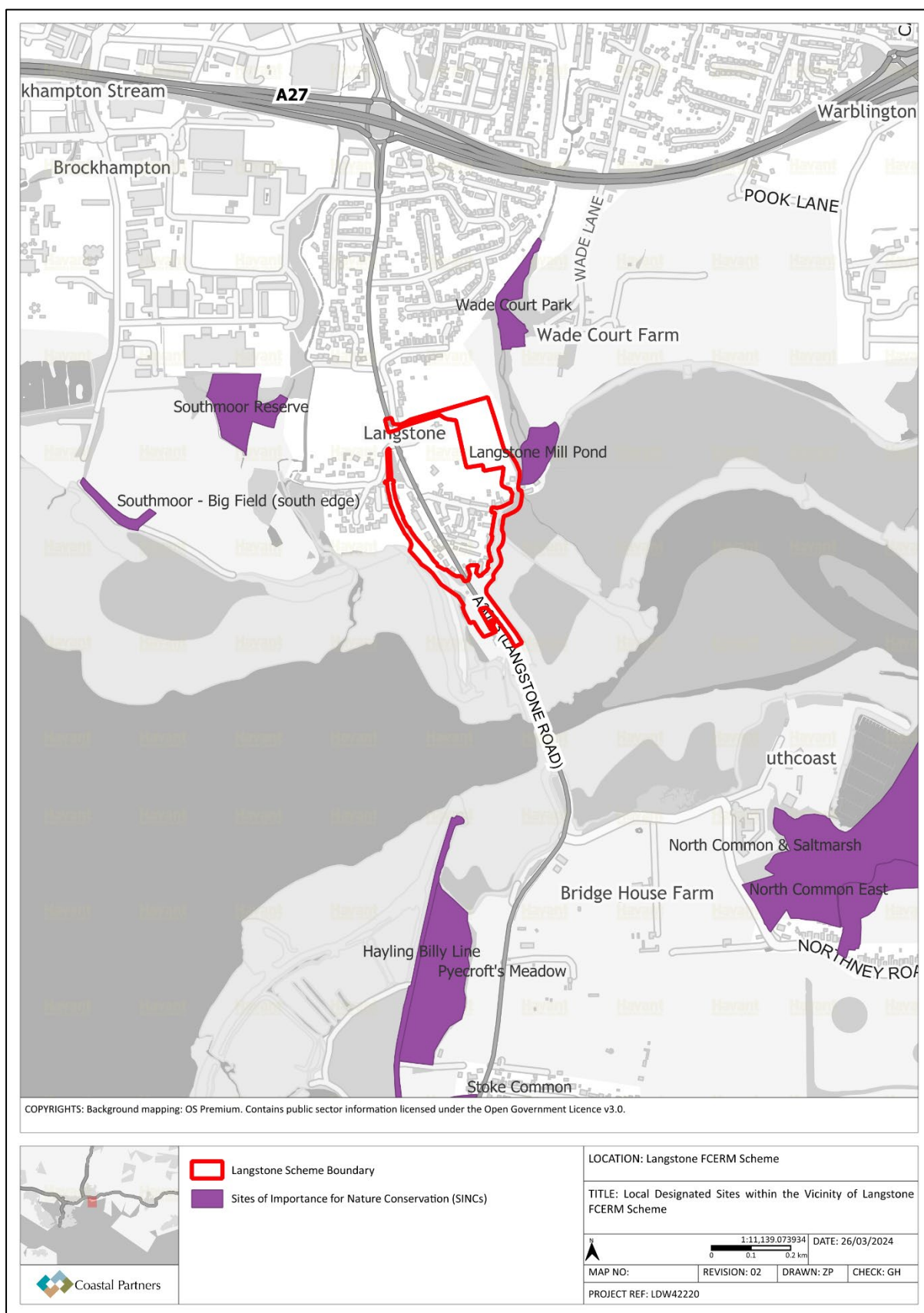


Figure 7.3: Local designated sites within 1km of the Langstone FCERM scheme

7.5 Designated Heritage and Archaeology Features

This section gives a baseline of the historic environment and archaeology features that could be potentially impacted by the Langstone FCERM scheme, both directly and indirectly. The impact assessment for these features is included in **Chapter 11 (Historic Environment and Archaeology)** of this ES and the Heritage Statement (**Appendix M2**).

There are no scheduled monuments located within or adjacent to the proposed Scheme. Black Barn, Warblington (NHLE 1001800) scheduled monument is located within 1km of the Langstone FCERM Scheme, approximately 950m northeast (**Figure 7.4**).

Three conservation areas are located within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM Scheme boundary including Langstone Conservation Area, Mill Lane Conservation Area and Wade Court Conservation Area (**Figure 7.4**). Three additional Conservation Areas lie within 1km of the Scheme boundary (Wessex Archaeology, 2024).

Seven grade II listed buildings are located within and adjacent to the Langstone FCERM Scheme boundary comprising of the old mill, four houses and two public houses (The Royal Oak and The Ship Inn) (**Figure 7.4**). Twelve additional grade II listed buildings are located within 1km of the Scheme boundary (Wessex Archaeology, 2024).

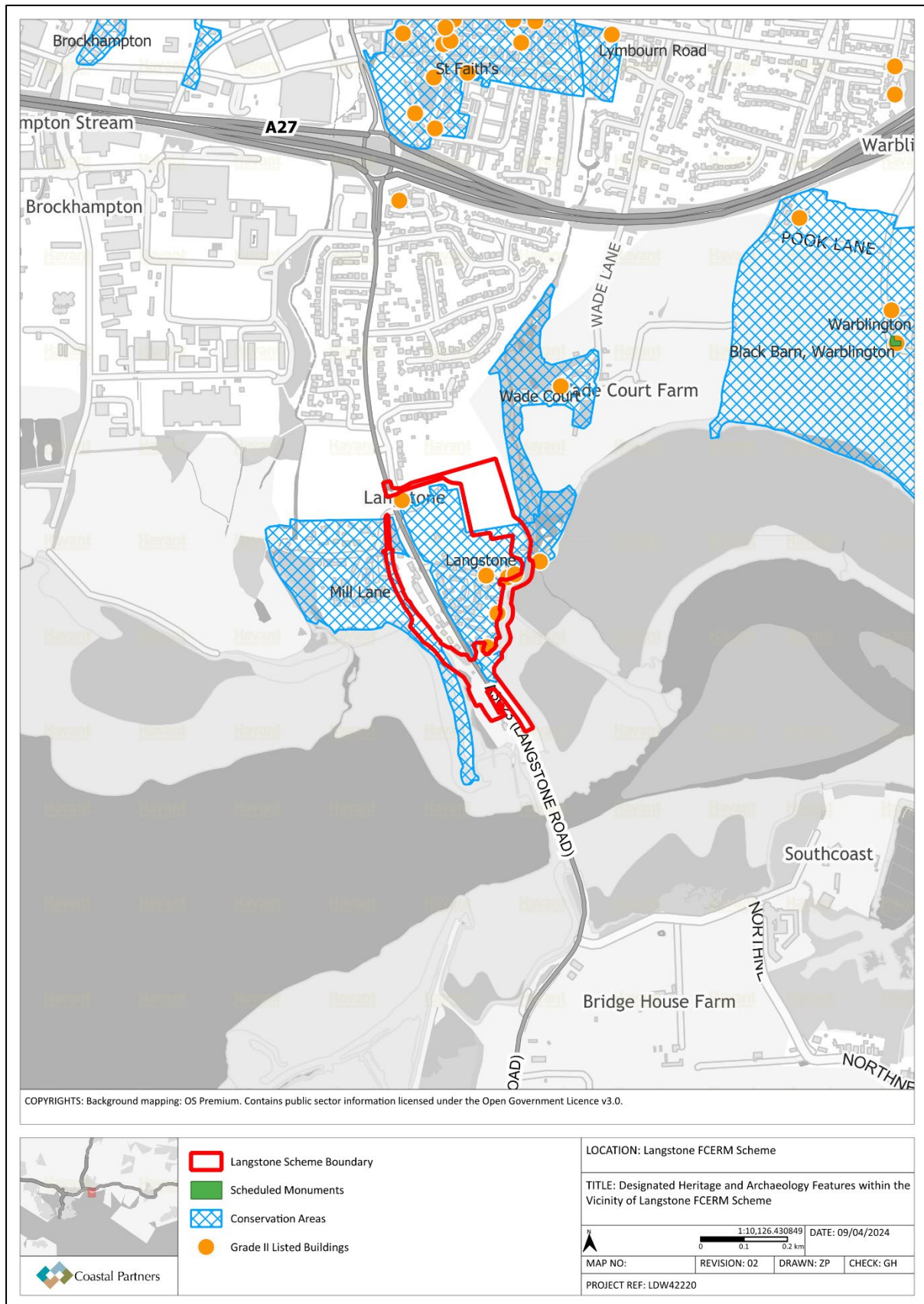


Figure 7.4: Designated heritage and archaeology features within 1km of the Langstone FCERM Scheme

7.6 References

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