

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Environmental Statement – Appendix 9.1 Designated sites identified within marine biodiversity study areas 1 and 2

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The Southern Water logo consists of three stylized, wavy blue lines of varying lengths, positioned to the right of the text 'Southern Water'.

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1 Designated sites identified within marine biodiversity study areas 1 and 2

1.1.1 This technical report has been prepared in relation to the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (hereafter referred to as the ‘Proposed Development’). There are 24 designated sites recorded in study areas 1 and 2. These comprise of three Special Area of Conservation (SAC), four Special Protected Areas (SPA), three Ramsar sites, eight Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), five Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and one Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).

Table 1-1 Designated sites identified within study areas 1 and 2

Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
Solent Maritime SAC	European site/ Statutory designation/ National Site Network site	The Pipelines between Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW) and the Water Recycling Plant (WRP) site are within this site. 4.7km from the Eastney Long	Primarily designated for the following qualifying Annex I habitats under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Spartina swards <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> Also hosts other qualifying Annex I habitats which were not the primary reason for selection though do form	This area is 112.5km ² and is designated for important Annex I habitats, including estuaries, Spartina swards and Atlantic salt meadows. The Solent encompasses a major estuarine system with four coastal plain estuaries and four bar-built estuaries. This area is unique as it has four tides. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive estuarine flats, often with intertidal areas supporting eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> sp., green algae, sand and shingle spits. The mudflats support rare sponges in the Yar estuary and a sandy reef of <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> at the eastern side of Chichester Harbour. Solent Maritime is the only site for smooth cord-grass <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> in the United Kingdom and one of two sites where there is significant amounts of

¹ Designated features found at Natural England’s website ‘Designated Sites View – Site Search’ [4] – this includes codes for habitat feature types. For LNR only description of site can be provided.

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		Sea Outfall (LSO).	<p>part of the designated features. These comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water 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 • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') <p>In addition, other non-primarily selected qualifying Annex II species that form part of the designated features includes Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>.</p>	<p>small cord-grass <i>S. maritima</i> are found. Furthermore, this site is one of a few sites for Townsend's cord-grass <i>S. x townsendii</i> and extensive areas of common cord-grass <i>S. anglica</i>.</p> <p>The Solent contains the second largest aggregation of Atlantic salt meadows in the south of England. These salt meadows are notable for being representative of ungrazed type and support a range of communities including sea-purslane <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>, common sea lavender <i>Limonium vulgare</i> and thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i>.</p> <p>Other habitats that are present include sandbanks, mudflats and sandflats, coastal lagoons, annual vegetation of drift lines, perennial vegetation of stony banks, <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand and shifting dunes with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i>.</p> <p>Solent Maritime is also known to have Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>V. moulinsiana</i>, a species which is restricted to calcareous wetlands.</p>
Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA	European site/ Statutory designation/ National Site Network site	The Pipelines between Budds Farm WTW and the WRP site are within this site.	<p>This site is designated as it supports the following breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> • Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> 	Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA covers two large, estuarine basins. Urban development surrounds the west of Langstone Harbour, whereas farmland surrounds the majority of Chichester Harbour. Together, with neighbouring Portsmouth

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
		6km from the Eastney LSO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> <p>The site also supports overwintering populations of the following birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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> 	<p>Harbour, the area forms one of the most sheltered intertidal areas on the South Coast of England.</p> <p>Both Chichester and Langstone Harbours contain extensive intertidal mudflats and sandflats with areas of seagrass beds, saltmarsh, shallow coastal waters, coastal lagoons, coastal grazing marsh and shingle ridges and islands. These habitats support internationally and nationally important numbers of overwintering and breeding bird species.</p> <p>At low tide the mudflats are exposed, the water is drained by channels and creeks which meet to form narrow exits into the Solent. The sediments support rich populations of intertidal invertebrates, which provide an important food source for overwintering birds. Several small freshwater streams flow into the harbours; however, these contribute relatively little freshwater input compared to the tidal flows.</p> <p>There are more than 300 hectares (ha) of seagrass beds <i>Zostera noltei</i> and <i>Zostera marina</i> in the SPA which are an important food source for dark-bellied Brent geese [1]. Overwintering birds also feed and roost in the saltmarsh areas, which are dominated by cord-grass <i>Spartina</i> swards, as well as on coastal grazing marsh.</p> <p>The shingle ridges and islands within the site provide important nesting habitat for three species of tern during the summer breeding season. Adult terns use the shallow coastal waters in the harbours and the</p>

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
			The site also qualifies as it supports a significant wading bird population.	wider Solent to forage for small fish to feed themselves and their chicks. Areas outside the SPA contain important supporting habitats for the birds, including coastal grazing marsh, amenity grassland and agricultural land. Details of these can be found online, in particular via the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy.
Chichester and Langstone Harbour Ramsar	European site/ Statutory designation	The Pipelines between Budds Farm WTW and the WRP site are within this site. 6km from the Eastney LSO.	This site is designated for the following passage and wintering birds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> - Passage • Dark-bellied Brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> - Wintering • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> - Wintering • Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> - Wintering • Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> - Passage • Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> - Passage • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> - Wintering • Waterbird assemblage – Wintering 	Chichester and Langstone Harbours are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive mud and sand flats exposed at low tide. The site is of particular significance for over-wintering wildfowl and waders and also a wide range of coastal and transitional habitats supporting important plant and animal communities. The two large estuarine basins are linked by the channel which divides Hayling Island from the main Hampshire coastline. The site includes intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand and shingle spits and sand dunes. The mudflats support beds of seagrass <i>Zostera</i> and algae <i>Enteromorpha</i> , whilst the lower saltmarsh is dominated by <i>Spartina anglica</i> , with a more varied community at higher levels. Although many areas bordering the site have been developed, some grassland and brackish/freshwater marshes with reedbeds remain.

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
			The site is also designated for the Estuary habitat.	
Langstone Harbour SSSI	Statutory designation	The Pipelines between Budds Farm WTW and the WRP site are within this site. 6km from the Eastney LSO.	<p>This site is designated for breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> • Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> • Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> <p>Non breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> • Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</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> 	<p>Langstone Harbour is a sheltered estuarine basin joined by a stretch of water that separates Hayling Island from the mainland. This area consists of coastal saltmarshes, seagrass, sand dunes, mudflats and reedbeds.</p> <p>This site supports breeding waterbirds including Little Tern <i>S. albifrons</i> and Sandwich tern <i>S. sandvicensis</i>.</p>

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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> <p>Other designations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invertebrate assemblage • MG11 - <i>Festuca rubra</i> - <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> - <i>Potentilla anserina</i> grassland • MG13 - <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> - <i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i> grassland • MG5 - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland • S26 - <i>Phragmites australis</i> - <i>Urtica dioica</i> tall-herb fen • S4 - <i>Phragmites australis</i> swamp and reed-beds • Saline coastal lagoons • SD3 - <i>Matricaria maritima</i> - <i>Galium aparine</i> strandline community 	

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds) • SM1 - <i>Zostera</i> communities • SM14 - <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> saltmarsh • SM16b - <i>Festuca rubra</i> saltmarsh <i>Juncus gerardii</i> sub-community • SM23 - <i>Spergularia marina</i> - <i>Puccinellia distans</i> saltmarsh • SM24 - <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> saltmarsh • SM4 - <i>Spartina maritima</i> • SM6 - <i>Spartina anglica</i> saltmarsh • SM7 - <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> • SM8 - Annual <i>Salicornia</i> saltmarsh • SM9 - <i>Suaeda maritima</i> saltmarsh • Vascular plant assemblage 	
Chichester Harbour SSSI	Statutory designation	1.0km from the Budds Farm WTW.	<p>This site is designated for breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> 	Chichester Harbour is a sheltered estuarine basin joined by a stretch of water that separates Hayling Island from the mainland. This area consists of

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		9km from the Eastney LSO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> • Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> <p>Aggregations of non-breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> • Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</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> <p>It is also designated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IA - Coastal Geomorphology • Invertebrate assemblage 	<p>coastal saltmarshes, seagrass, sand dunes, mudflats and reedbeds.</p> <p>This site supports breeding waterbirds including Little tern <i>S. albifrons</i> and Sandwich tern <i>S. sandvicensis</i>. Chichester Harbour has a population of harbour seals which use two significant haul-out sites, one in Langstone Harbour and the other in Chichester Harbour. Both these haul-out sites are used on a daily basis; however, Chichester Harbour is used by more seals.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MG5 - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland • S4 - <i>Phragmites australis</i> swamp and reed-beds • SD1 - <i>Rumex crispus</i> - <i>Glaucium flavum</i> shingle community • SD2 - <i>Honkenya peploides</i> - <i>Cakile maritima</i> strandline community • SD4 - <i>Elymus farctus</i> ssp. <i>Boreali-atlanticus</i> foredune community • SD6 - <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> mobile dune community • Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds) • SM1 - <i>Zostera</i> communities • SM14 - <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> saltmarsh • SM6 - <i>Spartina anglica</i> saltmarsh • W10 - <i>Quercus robur</i> - <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> woodland 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> W16 - <i>Quercus spp.-Betula spp.-Deschampsia flexuosa</i> woodland 	
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	European site/ Statutory designation/ National Site Network site	Eastney LSO is within this site	<p>This site is designated as it supports the following breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> Sandwich tern <i>Thalasseu sandvicensis</i> <p>This site is not designated for any overwintering bird species or other wading bird populations.</p>	<p>Solent and Dorset Coast SPA is 472.6km² and is designated for three species of tern: Sandwich tern, Common tern and Little tern [2]. The site covers the entirety of the area of the Solent, along with Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester harbours. Additionally, this site extends to the coastline of the Isle of Wight.</p> <p>The site consists of sea inlets, salt marshes, salt pastures, salt steppes, estuaries, mudflats, sandflats, lagoons and sea cliffs.</p>
Bembridge MCZ	Statutory designation	2km from the Eastney LSO	<p>This site is designated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maerl beds Native oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i> Peacock's tail <i>Padina pavonica</i> Seagrass beds Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities Sheltered muddy gravels Short snouted seahorse <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> Stalked jellyfish <i>Calvadosia campanulata</i> Stalked jellyfish <i>Halicylistus</i> sp. 	<p>Located on the east coast of the Isle of Wight, Bembridge MCZ covers an area of 75km², stretching from Nettlestone Point in the north to Ventnor in the south. The site follows the mean high water mark along the coast and extends out from the land seawards. The site encompasses the intertidal and subtidal areas extending to the edge of the deep water channel approach into the Eastern Solent. The area within Bembridge MCZ is highly diverse and includes a wide range of habitats including intertidal sediments which support the notable algae peacock's tail <i>Padina pavonica</i> and deep water habitats supporting features such as sea pens and burrowing megafauna. The large areas of subtidal mixed sediments act as a supporting substrate to several important features such as maerl beds.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subtidal coarse sediment • Subtidal mixed sediments • Subtidal mud • Subtidal sand 	Bembridge is the only known site in the region where maerl can be found. Maerl is a fragile, calcareous, red seaweed that forms large mats and provides shelter for many other species. Maerl is highly sensitive to seabed activities and takes a long time to recover from damage. The site also protects important seagrass beds which provide refuge for the short-snouted seahorse along with tiny-stalked jellyfish, <i>Calvdosia campanulata</i> and <i>Haliclystus</i> sp.
South Wight Maritime SAC	European site/ Statutory designation/ National Site Network site	2.9km from the Eastney LSO	<p>The site is designated for Annex I habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1170 Reefs • 1230 Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts • 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves 	South Wight Maritime SAC is 199km ² on the south coast of England and represents contrasting Cretaceous hard cliffs, semi-stable soft cliffs, and mobile soft cliffs. The site is also selected on account of its variety of reef types and associated communities, including chalk, limestone, and sandstone reefs.
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC	European site/ Statutory designation/ National Site Network site	<p>2.1km from the Pipelines between Budds Farm WTW and the WRP site.</p> <p>7.3km from the Eastney LSO</p>	<p>The site is designated for Annex I habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1150 Coastal lagoons 	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <p>1150 Coastal lagoons: Farlington Marshes is an isolated lagoon in marsh pasture that, although separated from the sea by a seawall, receives sea water during spring tides. The lagoon holds a well-developed Low-Medium salinity insect-dominated fauna. Gilkicker Lagoon is a sluiced lagoon with marked seasonal salinity fluctuation and supports a high species diversity. The lagoons at Bembridge Harbour have formed in a depression behind the</p>

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				seawall and sea water enters by percolation. Species diversity in these lagoons is high and the fauna includes very high densities of <i>Nematostella vectensis</i> .
Solent and Southampton Water SPA	European site/ Statutory designation/ National Site Network site	4km from the Eastney LSO	<p>The site is designated as it supports the following breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> • Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> • Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> • Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> • Sandwich tern <i>Thalasseu sandvicensis</i> <p>The site is also designated as it supports the following overwintering birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> • Dark-bellied Brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> <p>The area also regularly supports at least 20,000 waterfowl.</p>	The 54km ² area extends from Hurst Spit to Hill Head along the south coast of Hampshire, and from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises a series of estuaries and harbours with extensive mudflats and saltmarshes together with adjacent coastal habitats including saline lagoons, shingle beaches, reedbeds, damp woodland and grazing marsh. The mudflats support beds of <i>Enteromorpha</i> sp. and <i>Zostera</i> sp. and have a rich invertebrate fauna that forms the food resource for the estuarine birds. In summer, the site is of importance for breeding seabirds, including gulls and four species of terns. In winter, the SPA holds a large and diverse assemblage of waterbirds.

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Solent and Southampt on Water Ramsar	European site/ Statutory designation/ National Site Network site	4km from the Eastney LSO	<p>This site is designated for the following breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> • Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> • Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i> • Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> • Sandwich tern <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> <p>For the designated wintering birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark-bellied Brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> • Waterbird assemblage <p>And for the following assemblages and habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland invertebrate assemblage • Wetland plant assemblage • Estuary • Sheltered channel between island/mainland 	<p>The area covered extends from Hurst Spit to Gilkicker Point along the south coast of Hampshire and along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises of estuaries and adjacent coastal habitats including intertidal flats, saline lagoons, shingle beaches, saltmarsh, reedbeds, damp woodland, and grazing marsh. The diversity of habitats supports internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl, important breeding gull and tern populations and an important assemblage of rare invertebrates and plants.</p> <p>The site is one of the few major sheltered channels between a substantial island and mainland in European waters, exhibiting an unusual strong double tidal flow and has long periods of slack water at high and low tide. It includes many wetland habitat characteristics of the biogeographic region: saline lagoons, saltmarshes, estuaries, intertidal flats, shallow coastal waters, grazing marshes, reedbeds, coastal woodland and rocky boulder reefs.</p>

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Brading Marshes to St Helen's Ledges SSSI	Statutory designation	4km from the Eastney LSO	<p>The site is designated for aggregations of non-breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> • Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> • Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • Gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i> • Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> • Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> • Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> • Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> • Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> • Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> <p>Habitats for assemblages of breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland damp grasslands 	<p>Bembridge Harbour has a wide variety of estuarine habitats. These include intertidal mudflats and sandflats of ornithological importance, and sand dunes and shingle pits of geomorphological and biological importance which guard the harbour mouth. Beyond the spits are extensive intertidal sandflats with rocky outcrops, shingle, limestone reefs and ledges forming St Helen's Ledges, and the sheltered shallow waters of Priory Bay. This combination of hard and soft coast features support a rich flora and marine invertebrate fauna including a number of species at their most easterly locality in the English Channel. A series of lagoons associated with the estuary have a high species diversity and support several rare specialist lagoonal species. The intertidal mudflats, sandflats, eelgrass <i>Zostera</i> beds, and shingle, together with Brading Marshes, support large numbers of overwintering wildfowl and waders which form an important component of the internationally important bird populations of The Solent. Brading Marshes is also important for its assemblage of breeding birds.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland open waters and their margins <p>Other features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal cliffs and foreshore (EC) - Palaeoentomology • Finite mineral, fossil or other geological (FM) - Palaeoentomology • Invertebrate assemblage • Lowland ditch systems • M22 - <i>Juncus subnodulosus</i> - <i>Cirsium palustre</i> fen meadow • M23 - <i>Juncus effusus/acutiflorus</i> - <i>Galium palustre</i> rush pasture • MG11 - <i>Festuca rubra</i> - <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> - <i>Potentilla anserina</i> grassland • MG5 - <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> - <i>Centaurea nigra</i> grassland • Saline coastal lagoons • SD1 - <i>Rumex crispus</i> - <i>Glaucium flavum</i> shingle community 	

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD12 - <i>Carex arenaria</i> - <i>Festuca ovina</i> - <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> dune grassland • SD2 - <i>Cakile maritima</i>-<i>Honkenya peploides</i> strandline community • SD4 - <i>Elymus farctus</i> ssp. <i>Boreali-atlanticus</i> foredune community • Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds) • Sheltered rocky shores (predominately sheltered to very sheltered from wave action) • SM14 - <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> saltmarsh • SM16a - <i>Festuca rubra</i> saltmarsh <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> sub-community • SM18 - <i>Juncus maritimus</i> saltmarsh • SM24 - <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> saltmarsh • U1 b,c,d,f - <i>Festuca ovina</i> - <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> - <i>Rumex acetosella</i> grassland 	

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U2 - <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> grassland • Vascular plant assemblage • W8 - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> - <i>Acer campestre</i> - <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> woodland 	
Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek SSSI	Statutory designation	4.1km from the Eastney LSO	<p>This site is designated for non-breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> <p>Other designations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderately exposed sandy shores (with polychaetes and bivalves) • Population of Schedule 8 stonewort - <i>Lamprothamnium papulosum</i>, Foxtail Stonewort • Saline coastal lagoons • Sheltered muddy shores (including estuarine muds) • SM1 - <i>Zostera</i> communities • Vascular plant assemblage • W8 - <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> - <i>Acer campestre</i> - <i>Mercurialis perennis</i> woodland 	The Ryde Sands and Wootton Creek SSSI extends some 10km along the sheltered north-eastern shore of the Isle of Wight between Fishbourne and Horestone Point. At low water a particularly wide range of intertidal sediments are exposed over this stretch of coastline, grading from the fine estuarine muds of Wootton Creek, through cobbles and boulders at Pelhamfield to the extensive sandflats at Ryde which reach a maximum width of almost 2km. These sandflats are the most extensive in the Solent and support the richest assemblage of sandy shore marine flora and fauna on the central south coast of Britain.

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges SSSI	Statutory designation	4.8km from the Eastney LSO	<p>This site is designated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC – Palaeogene • EC – Tertiary Mammalia • EC – Tertiary Palaeobotany • MC11 – <i>Festuca rubra</i> – <i>Daucus carota</i> ssp. <i>gummifer</i> maritime grassland • Moderately exposed rocky shores • Moderately exposed sandy shores (with polychaetes and bivalves) • Reefs • SM1 – <i>Zostera</i> communities • Soft Maritime Cliff and Slope 	The Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges SSSI comprises extensive areas of intertidal sand, rock and shingle and includes a series of actively eroding cliffs. Collectively these features comprise the coastline of a broad heathland at the eastern extremity of the Isle of Wight.
Sinah Common SSSI	Statutory designation	5km from the Eastney LSO	<p>This site is designated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Carex arenaria</i> heath • <i>Armeria maritima</i> - <i>Cerastium diffusum</i> ssp. <i>diffusum</i> maritime therophyte community • <i>Atriplex prostrata</i> - <i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i> sea-bird cliff community 	The site is notified for its coastal habitats including the following: pioneer shingle vegetation, maritime shingle grassland which includes dry acid grassland and lichen rich acid grassland, mobile dune, semi-fixed dune, dune heath and an associated small area of saltmarsh.

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Festuca rubra</i> - <i>Armeria maritima</i> maritime grassland • Population of Schedule 8 plant - <i>Petrorhagia nanteuillii</i>, Childing Pink • <i>Rumex crispus</i> - <i>Glaucium flavum</i> shingle community • <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> mobile dune community • <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - <i>Festuca rubra</i> semi-fixed dune community • <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> saltmarsh • <i>Festuca rubra</i> saltmarsh <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> sub-community • <i>Juncus maritimus</i> saltmarsh • <i>Festuca ovina</i> - <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> - <i>Rumex acetosella</i> grassland • <i>Festuca ovina</i>-<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>-<i>Rumex acetosella</i> subcom <i>Cornicularia aculeata</i>-<i>Cladonia arbuscula</i> • Vascular plant assemblage 	

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
Gilkicker Lagoon SSSI	Statutory designation	7.3km from the Eastney LSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of red data book stonewort – <i>Lamprothamnium papulosum</i>, Foxtail Stonewort Population of Schedule 5 crustacean – <i>Gammarus insensibilis</i>, Lagoon Sand Shrimp Population of Schedule 5 sea anemone – <i>Nematostella vectensis</i>, Starlet Sea Anemone Saline coastal lagoons 	Gilkicker Lagoon represents a rare habitat in Britain, where there are relatively few saline lagoons. It is a relict of a former defensive moat which in turn is thought to have been partially derived from an ancient fleet extending parallel and to the rear of the apposition beach of Gilkicker Point. The Lagoon is linked to the sea by an intake through the shingle beach separating it from the sea. It usually maintains a salinity comparable to that of the sea water in the Solent. Saline lagoons characteristically experience large variations in water chemistry and other environmental parameters, and thus support a specialised flora and fauna.
Portsmouth Harbour SPA	European site/ Statutory designation/ National Site Network site	7.6km from the Eastney LSO	<p>This site is designated as it supports the following overwintering birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Dark-bellied Brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> <p>This site is not designated for any breeding bird species or other wading bird populations.</p>	<p>Portsmouth Harbour is composed of intertidal mudflats and sandflats with seagrass beds, areas of salt marsh, coastal lagoons and coastal grazing marsh. There is approximately 0.77km² of seagrass beds, comprised of <i>Zostera marina</i> and <i>Zostera noltei</i> [3].</p> <p>The area is designated for non-breeding birds including black-tailed godwit, dark-bellied Brent goose, dunlin and red-breasted merganser.</p>

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
Portsmouth Harbour Ramsar	European site/ Statutory designation	7.6km from the Eastney LSO	<p>Assemblage of wintering birds associated with intertidal habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa</i> • Dark-bellied Brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • Red-breasted merganser, <i>Mergus serrator</i> 	Portsmouth Harbour is composed of intertidal mudflats and sandflats with seagrass beds, areas of salt marsh, coastal lagoons and coastal grazing marsh. There is approximately 0.77km ² of seagrass beds, comprised of <i>Zostera marina</i> and <i>Zostera noltei</i> [3].
Portsmouth Harbour SSSI	Statutory designation	7.6km from the Eastney LSO	<p>This site is designated for aggregations of non-breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> • Dark-bellied Brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> <p>Other designated features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CG2 - <i>Festuca ovina</i> - <i>Avenula pratensis</i> lowland calcareous grassland • Population of Schedule 5 crustacean - <i>Gammarus insensibilis</i>, Lagoon Sand Shrimp 	Portsmouth Harbour is composed of intertidal mudflats and sandflats with seagrass beds, areas of salt marsh, coastal lagoons and coastal grazing marsh. There is approximately 0.77km ² of seagrass beds, comprised of <i>Zostera marina</i> and <i>Zostera noltei</i> [3].

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of Schedule 5 sea anemone - <i>Nematostella vectensis</i>, Starlet Sea Anemone • SM13a - <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> saltmarsh, <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> dominant sub-community • SM14 - <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> saltmarsh • SM15 - <i>Juncus maritimus</i> - <i>Triglochin maritima</i> saltmarsh • SM16a - <i>Festuca rubra</i> saltmarsh <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> sub-community • SM6 - <i>Spartina anglica</i> saltmarsh • Vascular plant assemblage 	
Hayling Billy LNR	Statutory designation	1.3km from the Budds Farm WTW	Refer to the 'Description of site' column	Afforded LNR status in 2010, this old route of the Hayling Billy train provides beautiful views of one the most unspoilt sections of Langstone Harbour, supporting rare plant species.
West Hayling LNR	Statutory designation	1.3km from the Budds Farm WTW	Refer to the 'Description of site' column	West Hayling LNR, formerly known as the Hayling Oysterbeds, comprises extensive intertidal mudflats that support thousands of resident and migrant waders and wildfowl, which feed on the diverse assemblage of marine invertebrate life.

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Site	Valuation	Approximate distance from Proposed Development/ Eastney Long Sea Outfall	Designated features ¹	Description of Site
Farlington Marshes LNR	Statutory designation	1.1km from the WRP site	Refer to the 'Description of site' column	Farlington Marshes is the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's oldest nature reserve. It is 125 hectares (ha) (308 acres) of flower-rich grazing marsh on the northern shore of Langstone Harbour between Portsmouth and Havant. Farlington Marshes is internationally important for the bird populations that it supports.
The Kench, Hayling Island LNR	Statutory designation	5.7km from the WRP site	Refer to the 'Description of site' column	A small area of inter-tidal mud and saltmarsh within Langstone Harbour. This shallow tidal inlet alongside Ferry Road on Hayling Island is used by many birds as a feeding area and when the tide is high the shingle ridge between the inlet and the main harbour is used as a roost by wading birds.
Sandy Point LNR	Statutory designation	9.2km from the Eastney LSO	Refer to the 'Description of site' column	Sandy Point Nature Reserve has a mosaic of habitats. This mosaic is made up of sand dunes, heathland, shingle, grassland and scrub. These fragile habitats offer a glimpse into how Hayling Island's southern foreshore would have once looked.

References

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- [2] Natural England, “Solent and Dorset Coast SPA,” No date. [Online]. Available: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteGeneralDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9020330&SiteName=Solent%20and%20Dorset%20Coast%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=>. [Accessed 12 December 2025].
- [3] Natural England, “Portsmouth Harbour SPA,” No date. [Online]. Available: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteGeneralDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9011051&SiteName=Portsmouth%20harbour%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=>). [Accessed 12 December 2025].
- [4] Natural England, “Designated Sites View - Site Search,” No date. [Online]. Available: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>. [Accessed 12 December 2025].



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Southern
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The logo graphic for Southern Water, featuring three stylized, white, wavy lines that resemble water or waves, positioned to the right of the word "Water".