

# Langness, Derbyhaven & Sandwick Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)

## Designation Documents

Please note:

- Notification as an ASSI confers no public right of entry to any land without the permission of the landowner.
- The citations and lists of operations requiring the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture's consent may be subject to minor editorial changes and should not be assumed to be an exact facsimile of the original legal document.

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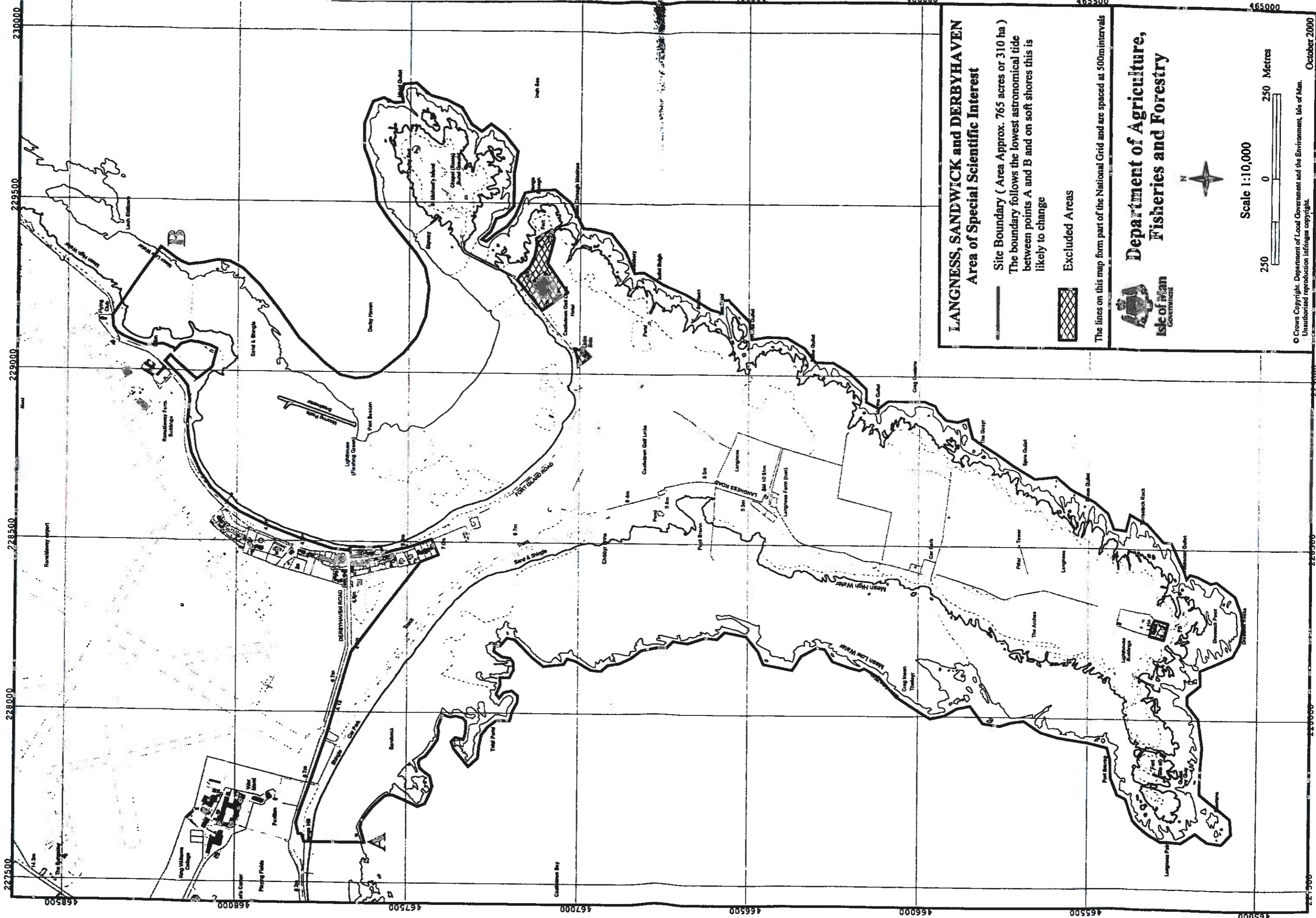
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**Isle of Man**  
Government  
*Reelips Eilan Vannin*





**LANGNESS, SANDWICK and DERBYHAVEN**  
**Area of Special Scientific Interest**

— Site Boundary ( Area Approx. 765 acres or 310 ha )  
 The boundary follows the lowest astronomical tide between points A and B and on soft shores this is likely to change



Excluded Areas

The lines on this map form part of the National Grid and are spaced at 500m intervals



**Department of Agriculture,  
 Fisheries and Forestry**



Scale 1:10,000



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October 2000

## NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix I

**Area:** Isle of Man

**Parishes:** Malew                      **Site name:** Langness, Sandwick and Derbyhaven

**Status :** Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). Notified under Section 27 of the Wildlife Act 1990.

**Planning Authority:** Department of Local Government and the Environment

**Local authority:** Malew Commissioners

**National Grid Reference:** SC 291681 - SC276652      **Area:** 310 ha. (765 acres)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet:** 1:50,000 OS Landranger 95                      1:10,560 SC 26 NE  
1:25,000 Isle of Man Public Rights of Way and Outdoor Leisure Map

**Date notified:** October 19<sup>th</sup> 2000                      **Varied and confirmed:** 27<sup>th</sup> April 2001

**Date of last revision:** N/A

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this designation is to formalise the protection of an area which is important for its fauna, flora, geology, geomorphology and landscape.

### **Description and reasons for notification:**

#### Fauna

Langness is of outstanding scientific importance as the only place in the British Isles where the lesser mottled grasshopper, *Stenobothrus stigmaticus*\*\* has been recorded. The grasshopper is found in the short grass around rock outcrops.

Langness is the most important Manx locality for wintering and migrant waders, and wildfowl. They feed mainly in the intertidal zone but also on the upper shore and coastal grassland. The sheltered coast is important for ducks (particularly teal *Anas crecca*, wigeon *Anas penelope* and shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*) and waders (lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*\*, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* and ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*) as well as visiting rarities. Significant numbers of waders roost here and large feeding flocks of curlew *Numenius arquata* and golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* have been recorded in the area. Raven *Corvus corax* and chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*\* nest on the rocky coast and lapwing\* have bred on the saltmarsh. In winter there are heaps of seaweed on the strandline in which choughs dig and feed. Its location as a southern promontory makes Langness a key site for migrant birds and a great variety of species have been recorded, comparable with the range of species on the Calf, which is a British Isles Bird Observatory. These include wryneck *Jynx torquilla*\*, little auk *Alle alle*, goosander *Mergus merganser* and little egret *Egretta garzetta*.

The birds are the main vertebrates but frogs *Rana temporaria*\*\* and common lizards *Lacerta vivipara* \*\* have been recorded. Around the shores grey seals *Halichoerus grypus*\*\* haul out on the rocks.

The peninsula also attracts migrant butterflies (red admiral *Vanessa atalanta*, painted lady *Vanessa cardui* and clouded yellow *Colias croceus*) and moths (silver-Y *Autographa gamma*). The heath and grassland are habitats for a wide variety of invertebrates, including Grey *Hadena caesia mananii*\*\* and pod lover moths *Hadena perplexa capsophila*\*\*. The native butterflies include dark green fritillary *Argynnis*

*aglaja*, grayling *Hipparchia semele*, common blue *Polyommatus icarus* and small copper *Lycaena phlaeas*. A total of 15 species of butterfly have been recorded. Other invertebrates recorded include green tiger beetle *Cicindela campestris*, great yellow bumble bee *Bombus distinguendus*, the saltmarsh centipede *Schendyla peyerimhoffi* and a rare moth *Pyrausta sanguinalis*\*\*\* which also occurs on the Ayres.

### Flora

The dominant vegetation is believed to have been gallic heath (Manx gorse *Ulex gallii* and heathers, *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica cinerea*) and dune vegetation (marram grass- *Ammophila arenaria* and sand sedge *Carex arenaria*). Now relatively little heath remains in pockets on the shallower soils. Where the ground is not intensively managed as golf greens, the vegetation is un-improved grassland, heath and scrub on limestone, Manx slate and conglomerate and on sand.

One of the largest areas of saltmarsh on the Island is on the Castletown side of the peninsula. Such species as sea club-rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus*, grass-leaved orache *Atriplex littoralis*, maritime rush *Juncus maritimus* and sea aster *Aster tripolium* occur there. Interesting coastal grassland plants include spring squill *Scilla verna* and Danish milk vetch *Astragalus danicus*. Around the margin of Langness freshwater seepage creates flushes of interesting plants; black bog rush *Schoenus nigricans*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, celery leaved buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus* and bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*. A water tank between the cliffs and the golf course, with planted white water lily *Nymphaea alba*, attracts damselflies (*Enallagma cyathigerum*, *Ischnura elegans* and *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) and adds to the diversity of habitats. The strandline vegetation includes the dramatic sea kale *Crambe maritima*, sea radish *Raphanus raphanistrum ssp maritimus* and a variety of more common flowering plants.

### Geology, geomorphology and landscape

The Langness peninsula is an example of a "tombolo", a rocky island joined by a sandy spit to the main island. The area has geological formations of limestone, Manx slate and conglomerate overlain with sand and shingle at the land-ward end. This combination occurs nowhere else on the Island. Dramatic rock arches of conglomerate or "pudding stone" occur in the south east. This conglomerate overlies Manx slates illustrating an "unconformity" or a gap in the geological sequence. Within the conglomerate there is a dyke of basalt: a volcanic intrusion. The variety of rocks leads to soils which are diverse in structure and acidity.

### **Other information:**

The land has a history of copper mining, lime burning and farming. The importance of human history in the area has been reflected in the designation of several listed monuments under the terms of the Manx Museum and National Trust Act 1959.

This site forms a cohesive ecological unit which is important for its terrestrial ecology and together with the marine and inter-tidal area of Derbyhaven and Sandwick bays, meets the criteria for designation as a wetland of international importance under the RAMSAR Convention. Much of the peninsula and its adjoining foreshores have been a designated Bird Sanctuary since 1936.

Full species lists are available from the Biological Records Centre, Manx Museum, Douglas.

\* listed in Schedule 1 of Wildlife Act 1990

\*\* listed in Schedule 5 of Wildlife Act 1990

\*\*\* Proposed Red Data Book species

NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix II

Site Name: Langness, Sandwick and Derbyhaven

Operations likely to damage the special interest of the site

Type of operation

1. Cultivation including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and reseeded (excluding that required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area\*).
2. Grazing where already damaging, the introduction of grazing and changes in grazing regime (including type of stock or intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).
3. Stock feeding, where already damaging, the introduction of stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice.
4. Mowing or other methods of cutting where they are already damaging, changes in mowing or cutting regime (including conversion from hay making to silage or cessation of mowing), (excluding that required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area).
5. Application of manure, fertilisers and lime (excluding that required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area).
6. Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers) (excluding herbicides required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area).
7. Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials, (excluding that required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area).
8. Burning, lighting of fires and changes in frequency or pattern of burning, where applicable.
9. The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animals \*\*, plant or seed (excluding domestic dogs, and excluding grass seed sown on tees, greens, fairways and practice areas).
10. The killing or removal of any wild animal \*\*, including pest control (excluding that required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area).
11. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including herb, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf mould or turf, (excluding that required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area).
12. The introduction of tree and /or woodland management and changes in tree and/ or woodland management.
13. Drainage (including moor-gripping, the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains), (excluding that required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area).
14. The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes) (excluding irrigation required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area).
15. Infilling of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
16. Coastal fishing or fisheries management and seafood or marine life collection, where already damaging, the introduction of coastal fishing and changes in coastal fishing practices or fisheries management and seafood or marine life collection, including the use of traps and fish cages.
17. Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.
18. Bait digging on inter-tidal areas, (if it is shown to be damaging).
19. Erection of sea defences or coastal protection works, including cliff or land-slip drainage or stabilisation measures.
20. Extraction of minerals including peat, shingle, sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil, chalk, lime, limestone pavement, shells and spoil, (excluding sand removal for bunkers).

21. Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22. Storage of materials (excluding that required to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area where locations have been agreed with DAFF).
23. Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling, (excluding any locations agreed with DAFF).
24. Modification of natural or man-made features (including cave entrances), clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree and bettering, buttressing or grading rock faces and cuttings, infilling of pits, and quarries.
25. Removal of geological specimens, including rock samples, minerals and fossils.
26. Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest,  
(excluding vehicles required by those taking part in a game of golf or to manage the tees, greens, fairways and practice area, or in other locations agreed with DAFF, or for overnight parking of camper vans, when in locations agreed with DAFF, outside bird breeding season - ie excluding 1<sup>st</sup> May to 16<sup>th</sup> July).
27. Recreational or other activities likely to damage features of interest (excluding walking, with or without dogs).
28. Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices, where already damaging, introduction of game or waterfowl management and changes in game or waterfowl management and hunting practices.

\* tees, greens, fairways and practice area are areas indicated provisionally on accompanying prints of aerial photographs.

\*\* "animal" includes any mammal, reptile, bird, fish or invertebrate.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2001