

PSS Initiation Check List

A stock-take to assess your starting point.

Tick	Item	Comments
	Rationale – check why this site/s have been chosen	
	Condition of site – when was the last condition survey done? What were the findings i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable Unfavourable (Recovering) Unfavourable (No Change or Declining). Part Destroyed or Destroyed 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local perception – does the site have a public profile . It may not be one unified perception but a collection – who would know this? Could this be explored further? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High risk – due to external pressures e.g. development, pollution, recreation 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key issues identified at starting point 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What (at this stage) is/are considered the most critical and relevant pressure(s)? 	
	Location	is that geospatial characteristics of the site?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the site/sites located within or in close proximity to a protected landscape? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the site/sites located near people? Towns, cities, villages etc. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is this one site or a collection of interdependent sites? 	
	Data & evidence What is held & by whom?	Is there up-to-date evidence specific to this site/s to inform the Rationale? What wider data and evidence is available to inform this and to understand the context?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) data 	LNRS data may give area wide picture of nature recovery to help inform PSS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Records Centre data 	Specific to protected site/s
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional eNGO data? E.g. Wildlife Trust, Rivers Trust, bird clubs, local species groups etc. 	Perhaps collected through specific projects – more detailed than NE and LRC data
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WeBS data – for sites with birds as an interest 	
	Defra group data (see MAGIC, ask EA & FC)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodlands etc 	
	Local Planning Authority (LPA) data	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the latest Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA)for LPAs in the vicinity 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the latest Local Plan sustainability appraisal(s) for LPAs in the vicinity 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data and evidence collected to support strategic solutions, such as on nutrient neutrality 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anything else? E.g. if they own land within/adjacent to the protected site, do they have useful data/evidence on it? 	
	Natural England data	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSSI - Citation, map, Operations Requiring Natural England's Consent (ORNEC), Views About Management (VAMS), Monitoring Specifications, 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Protection Area (SPA)/Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/Ramsar – Conservation Objectives & Supplementary Advice about Conservation Objectives (SACO) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition assessments 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management specifications 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other data on the protected site 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consents/assents for site 	
	Strategies, Policies & Plans – What is in place, who 'owns' it and how up to date is it?	Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal & HRAs assessment will list these
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LNRS 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plans (e.g. whole area plans for landscape or development sites) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site management plans 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Improvement Plan (NE) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPA Local Plan(s) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPA SPD(s) or equivalent 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catchment Plans 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diffuse Water Plans 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Risk Management Plans, Coastal plans, etc 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation strategies -SAMMS 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other 	
	? List regulations & legislation impacting on site	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather and Grass Burning Regulations 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree felling 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other 	
	Existing & Recent Projects & schemes	Think about your geography
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Recovery Project 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Partnership 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eNGO projects 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land management schemes e.g. Countryside Stewardship, - Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL), Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS), Catchment Sensitive Farming 	
	Skills - What is needed	Beyond scope of one person
	Visionary – leadership Ability to ‘zoom out’ and see the big picture	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project management 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mediation & facilitation 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> technical understanding 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> procurement contracts & commissioning 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDPR & data management 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial management 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comms & events support 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder understanding 	
	Local Resources what is it and where is this held?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder contacts & relationships 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local technical knowledge 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local academic resource e.g. university 	
	Local knowledge & understanding of site	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are local people living near the site aware of its existence? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are local people living near the site aware of its designations and special qualities (do they value this) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are local people aware that the site/sites are not in good condition 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What if any public engagement, promotion, and messaging has been undertaken connected to the site? 	
	Wider resources	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist knowledge e.g. academic institutions 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other protected sites with similar issues 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies of similar areas approaches 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NE national PSS hub (tbc) 	
	People & Partnerships who are they? How active?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Nature Partnership 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catchment Partnership 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm cluster group 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other strategic partnerships that affect the geography of the site e.g. sports, art & culture, 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities of interest - relevant organisations not currently in partnerships/engaged 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Nature Partnership 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Forum... 	
	Timelines of other impacts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Plan publication 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeports 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Recovery Schemes 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other 	

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