

A Protected Sites Strategy for the Solent

Jessica Taylor
Natural England



What is a Protected Site Strategy (PSS)



Strategic Landscape Approach

PSS is a landscape-scale strategy improving conservation and resilience across protected sites in England.

Addressing External Pressures

PSS tackles environmental pressures beyond site boundaries like pollution, climate change, and hydrological impacts.

Collaborative Partnership

PSS fosters partnership among authorities, landowners, and communities for shared conservation solutions.

Strategic Framework Role

PSS provides a coordinated framework integrating evidence, funding, and actions but is not regulatory.

What is a Protected Site Strategy (PSS)



Environment Act 2021 – Provision 110 – Protected Site Strategies*

Natural England may prepare and publish a strategy for:

- improving the conservation and management of a protected site, and
- managing the impact of plans, projects or other activities (wherever undertaken) on the conservation & management of the protected site.

A strategy is called a “protected site strategy”.

A “protected site” means: a European site, a site of special scientific interest or a marine conservation zone within England.

Useful links and resources



[Environment Act 2021 – Provision 110 – Protected Site Strategies](#)



[Guide to interaction of PSS with other environmental levers](#)



[Protected Site Strategies Advisory Guidance 1.0 - NE793](#)

Why a Protected Site Strategy (PSS)

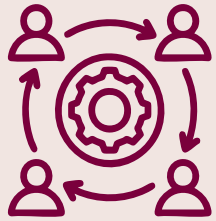


- Protected Site Strategies involve looking at ways to improve protected sites and the landscapes or seascapes around them that are facing complex environmental pressures.
- These pressures can cause decline in the important wildlife and habitats on the site and its surrounding landscape or seascape.
- By exploring what these pressures are and bringing different groups of people together to collectively find solutions, Protected Site Strategies will help improve biodiversity in the local landscape on these sites, allowing people and wildlife to thrive.

PSS aim to bring together a variety of stakeholders and **‘any other person that Natural England considers should be consulted in respect of the strategy, including the general public or any section of it’*** to find solutions to challenging environmental issues and restore our most precious habitats, species, and geodiversity.

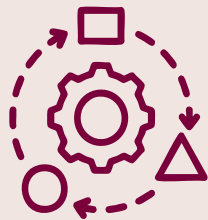
Why a Protected Site Strategy (PSS)

The PSS approach is different because it is:



Collaborative

Aims to foster collective actions that recognise interconnections between the economy, nature, society and culture to support more effective nature conservation and recovery.



Transformational

Seeks to improve the fortunes of nature represented on protected sites by addressing pressures impacting on the wider landscapes they sit within such as climate change, air and nutrient pollution, or intensive human activities.



Delivery focused

Takes long-term commitment to action, built around producing and implementing clear plans that address challenges in practice throughout the landscape. Milestones will be set and once achieved need to be celebrated.



Adaptive

It is an iterative process that builds over time to increase impact and adapt to changing conditions and opportunities.

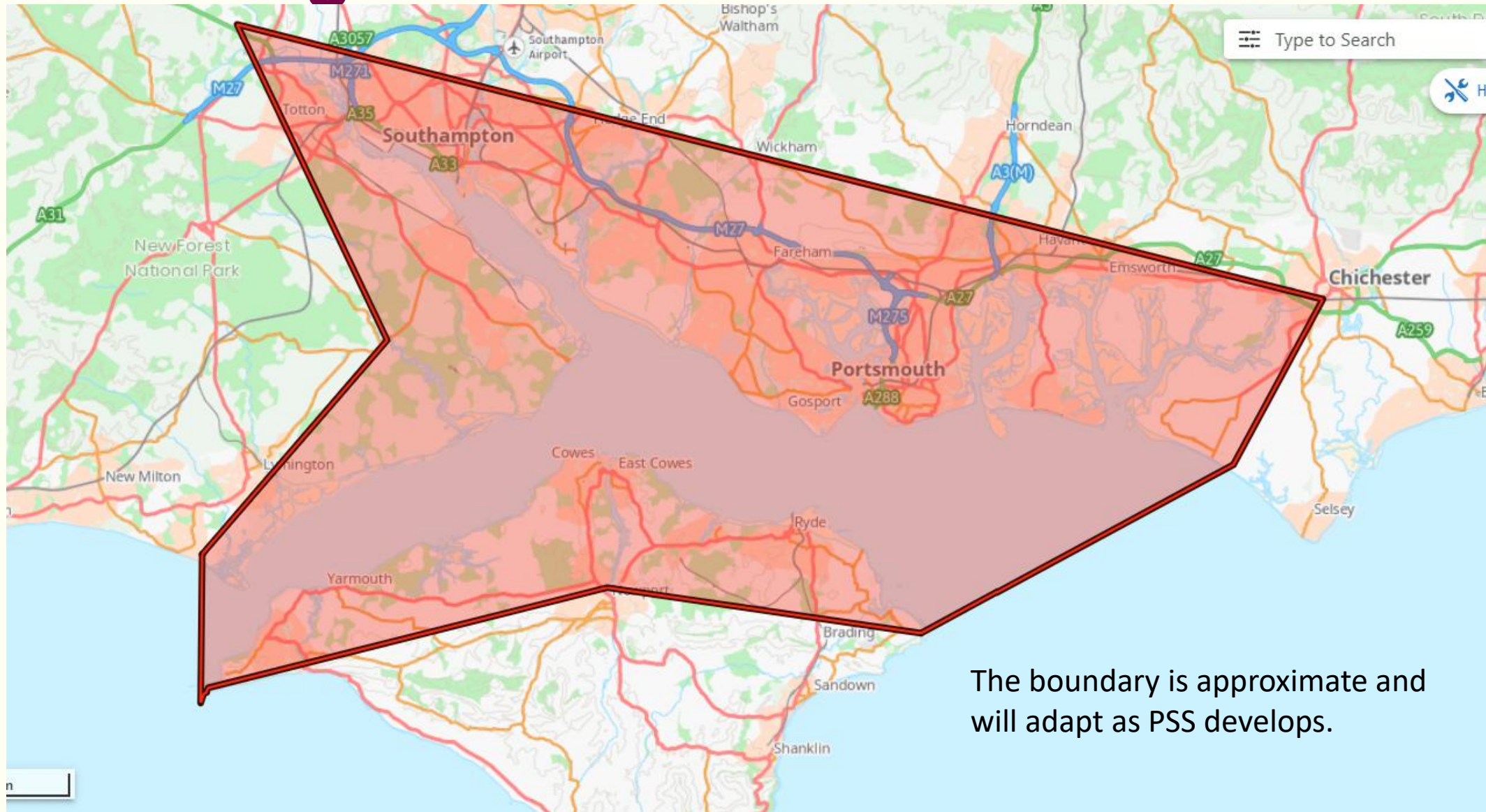
Drafting the Strategy



Section 110 (4) of the Environment Act states that a Protected Site Strategy may:

- **Include an assessment of the impact** that any plan, project or other activity may have on the conservation or management of the protected site (whether assessed individually or cumulatively with other activities).
- **Include Natural England's opinion on measures** that it would be appropriate to take to avoid, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impact on the conservation or management of the protected site that may arise from a plan, project or other activity.
- **Identify any plan, project or other activity that Natural England considers is necessary** for the purposes of the conservation or management of the protected site
- **Cover any other matter which Natural England considers is relevant** to the conservation or management of the protected site.

Introducing the Solent PSS



Introducing the Solent PSS

Topics of Focus

- Coastal Squeeze
 - BUDS
 - Strategic Delivery
 - Alternative Options
- Water Quality
 - Not just nutrients
 - Potential link to EDP
- Recreational Disturbance
 - Habitats e.g. anchoring
 - Species



Introducing the Solent PSS

Additional Topics of Focus

- Project List
- Funding Tools
 - Internal Grants and Schemes
 - External Funding
- Green and Blue Commerce
- Green and Blue Finance
- Connecting People with Nature
- Green Social Prescribing
- Connecting to the LNRS / MRAP



Associations and Opportunities



- National BuDS working group, National Ports working group, Marine PSS working group.
- Solent Seascape Project – Solent Recovery Plan
- Other local initiatives e.g. Bird Aware Solent, Three Harbours Partnership
- Crossover with other marine and coastal PSS
- Development of Marine Recovery Action Plans (MRAPs)



Initial Discussion



- Are these the right focus areas?
- What are the emerging issues?
- How would people like to be involved / kept up to date with progress?

