

Overview of the NSIP process

Advice Note 8 Summary Handout

An NSIP is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

NSIPs don't require Planning Permission – they require **Development Consent**.

They are administered by the **Planning Inspectorate**, and the process is set out in the Planning Act 2008. The process has **stages** and **timescales**, which are statutory.

Applications for Development Consent are decided by the **Secretary of State**; the elected minister with responsibility for the area of policy.

As part of the process, the applicant must undertake pre-application consultation.

If the application is submitted and accepted, there will be an examination, which will be led by an Examining Authority.

The application process

Pre-application

Look out for information in local media and in public places near the location of the proposed project or on the internet. The developer will be developing their proposals and will consult the public and technical bodies.

This is the best time to influence the proposal and talk directly to the developer.

Acceptance

The Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination including whether the developer's consultation has been adequate.

Pre-examination

You can now register as an Interested Party; you will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case if you have registered.

The Examining Authority will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination.

Examination

You can send in your representations in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing.

You can comment on other Interested Parties' representations.

The Examining Authority has 6 months to carry out the Examination.

Decision

A recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State will be issued by the Examining Authority within 3 months of the examination closing.

The Secretary of State then has a further 3 months to issue a decision on the proposal.

Post-Decision

There is the opportunity for legal challenge.

You can
Respond to the applicant's pre-application consultation
Register to participate in the Examination

And once registered:
Make representations to the Examination, in writing and at hearings
Respond to questions from the Examining Authority
Comment on representations from other parties
Attend Site Visit

A decorative header image featuring silhouettes of various people, including a person in a wheelchair, standing against a light green background. The silhouettes are arranged in a line across the top of the page.

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Advice Note 8 series

The Planning Inspectorate has produced a series of non-statutory Advice Notes about a range of process matters. These are available to download on the legislation and guidance / advice notes page of the National Infrastructure planning website.

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8 series explains how to get involved in the National Infrastructure planning process. It includes 5 annexes, as follows:

Advice Note 8	Overview of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning process for members of the public and others
Annex 8.1	Responding to the developer's pre-application consultation
Annex 8.2	How to register to participate in an examination
Annex 8.3	Influencing how an application is examined: the Preliminary Meeting
Annex 8.4	The examination
Annex 8.5	The examination – Hearings and Site Visits

If you would like to order copies or you require further information about any of these issues, please contact the Planning Inspectorate:

The Planning Inspectorate, Major Casework Directorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN

Email: Nlenquiries@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0303 444 5000

Web: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Alternatively, for independent planning advice, you may wish to contact Planning Aid:

Planning Aid England Advice Line 0330 123 9244

Email: advice@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

General enquiries: 020 3206 1880

Email: info@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

Planning Aid for London: 020 7247 4900

Email: info@planningaidforlondon.org.uk

Planning Aid England Wales: 02920 625 000

Web: www.planningaidwales.org.uk