

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 18th November 2026

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Implementing the updated NSIPs regime and carrying forward reform in the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025**
Dr Pauleen Lane, Professional Lead, Infrastructure, The Planning Inspectorate
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Reforming the NSIP regime - planning, policy and judicial review**
consenting reform in force under the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 | lessons from early implementation | changes to pre-application requirements, consultation and the continuing notification and publicity framework | examination procedures and decision-making timetables | earlier Planning Inspectorate advice and identifying issues ahead of examination | post-consent flexibility and Development Consent Order reform | National Policy Statement reviews and policy certainty | improving capacity across the regime | digitalisation and efficiency within planning processes | considerations for judicial review reform and reduced routes to challenge | Critical National Importance designations and implications for major clean energy projects
Robbie Owen, Partner and Head of Infrastructure Planning and Government Affairs, Pinsent Masons
Senior representative, NSIP project
Senior representative, planning
Senior representative, statutory consultee
Senior representative, community
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Consenting and progressing NSIPs in practice**
Timothy Robins, Head, Consents, RWE
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **Integrating Biodiversity Net Gain and environmental reform**
implications of mandatory BNG requirements for NSIPs | biodiversity gain statements, delivery and monitoring | Environmental Outcomes Reports and the transition from EIA processes | the Nature Restoration Fund and strategic environmental mitigation | interaction between BNG, the Habitats Regulations, EORs and wider mitigation arrangements | proportionality and avoiding unnecessary duplication in environmental assessment | balancing environmental objectives with project viability, land requirements and delivery timescales | implications for developers, local authorities and environmental bodies | managing cumulative impacts and multiple schemes in the same area
Senior representative, environment
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Priorities for major infrastructure development - investment, coordination and capacity**
Margaret Read, Deputy Director, System Change, NISTA
- 11.50 **Delivering NSIPs - practical lessons from Lower Thames Crossing**
Peter Smith, Sponsorship Director, Lower Thames Crossing; and Asset Needs Manager, National Highways
- 12.00 **Boosting system capacity to deliver major infrastructure projects - developing a long-term pipeline**
maintaining investor confidence under a changing regulatory framework | public and private financing models and wider funding approaches | risk allocation and project viability | skills shortages and workforce requirements | local authority capacity and resourcing | addressing supply chain constraints | sequencing major projects across transport, energy and utilities sectors | coordination across government, regulators, the Planning Inspectorate, statutory consultees and delivery bodies | community engagement and maintaining public confidence in NSIPs | lessons for improving delivery performance across major infrastructure projects | supporting delivery of significant infrastructure alongside net zero and growth objectives
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, NSIP project
- 12.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **Next steps for streamlining the NSIP regime and delivering critical infrastructure**
Alexandra Bush, Deputy Director, Planning Infrastructure, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.05 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum