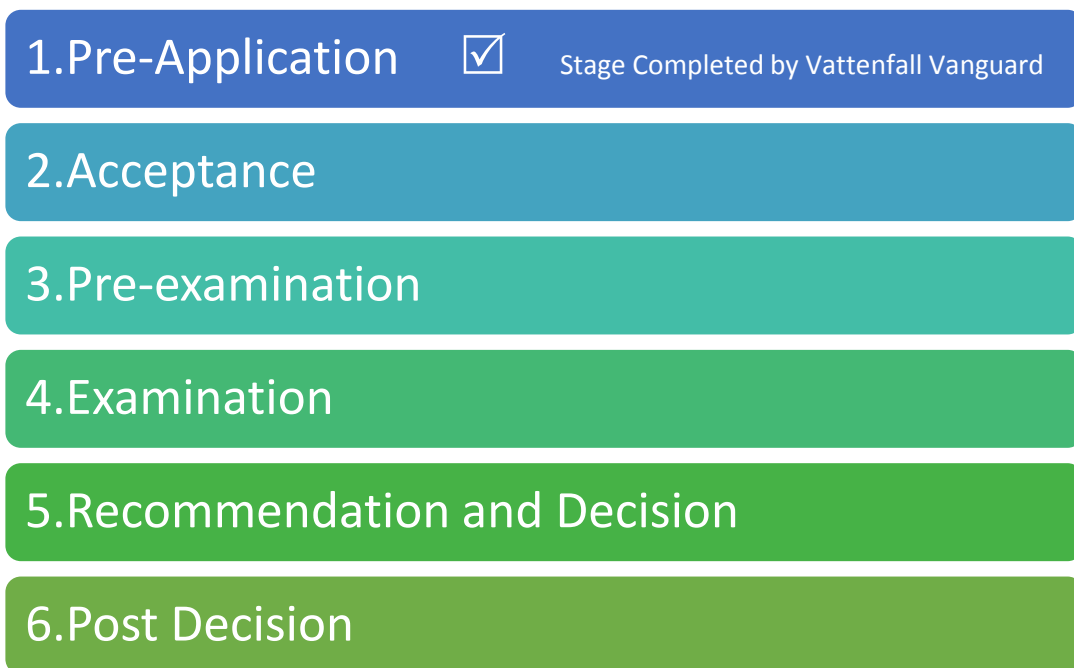


National Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) Process

The Planning Act 2008 process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects was introduced to streamline the decision-making process for major infrastructure projects, making it fairer and faster for communities and applicants alike.

The information below sets out a summary of the details of this process. Further information is available from the [Planning Inspectorate's website](#) which includes a number of helpful short videos explaining the process.

There are six stages to the NSIP process:



The stages are set out in more detail below:

1) Pre-application - Before submitting an application, potential applicants have a statutory duty to carry out consultation on their proposals. The length of time taken to prepare and consult on a project will vary depending upon its scale and complexity. Responding to an applicant's Pre-application consultation is the best time to influence a project, whether you agree with it, disagree with it, or believe it could be improved.

In the case of North Norfolk, The Council have recently taken part in various stages of pre-application consultation for the Vattenfall Vanguard and Orsted – Hornsea Project Three and windfarm proposals.

2) Acceptance - The Acceptance stage begins when an applicant submits an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. There follows a period of up to 28 days (excluding the date of receipt of the application) for the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.

This will include the Planning Inspectorate writing to the Local Planning Authority inviting the submission of an 'adequacy of consultation' representation which the Planning Inspectorate must have regard to in deciding whether or not to accept an application.

Once accepted, all documents are placed on the Planning Inspectorate's website.

Once submitted and accepted, North Norfolk District Council will hold a hard copy at the Council Offices in Cromer of the proposals for the:

- Vattenfall Norfolk Vanguard;
- Orsted Hornsea Project Three; and
- Vattenfall Norfolk Boreas schemes

3) Pre-examination - At this stage, the applicant must publicise that the application has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate including details of when and how people can register. The public will be able to register with the Planning Inspectorate to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation. A Relevant Representation is a summary of a person's views on an application, made in writing. There is a **minimum of 28 days** for the public to register their status as an interested party.

North Norfolk District Council will need to submit a Relevant Representation setting out a summary of the relevant issues affecting our District.

An Examining Authority is also appointed at the Pre-examination stage, and all Interested Parties will be invited to attend a Preliminary Meeting, run and chaired by the Examining Authority. Although there is no statutory timescale for this stage of the process, it usually

takes approximately three months from the Applicant's formal notification and publicity of an accepted application.

4) Examination – Starts the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting. The Planning Inspectorate has up to six months to carry out the examination. During this stage Interested Parties who have registered by making a Relevant Representation are invited to provide more details of their views in writing.

North Norfolk District Council will be invited to submit a **Local Impact Report** to objectively assess the potential impacts of the scheme and provide evidence about the characteristics of the area.

During the examination process North Norfolk District Council may be required to submit written representations, respond to examination questions and comment on other submissions and may also be invited to hearings and site visits. North Norfolk District Council will be encouraged to work with the applicant and other statutory bodies to produce **Statements of Common Ground** to set out areas of agreement.

Careful consideration is given by the Examining Authority to all the important and relevant matters including the representations of all Interested Parties, any supporting evidence submitted and answers provided to the Examining Authority's questions set out in writing or posed at hearings. At hearings, interested parties are entitled to make oral representations about the application.

5) Recommendation and Decision - The Planning Inspectorate must prepare a report on the application to the relevant Secretary of State, including a recommendation, within three months of the close of the six month Examination stage. The relevant Secretary of State (in case of offshore wind farms this will be the Secretary of State for Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy). then has a further three months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

6) Post Decision - Once a decision has been issued by the relevant Secretary of State, there is a six week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court. This process of legal challenge is known as Judicial Review.