

An Introduction to Infrastructure Planning for Planning Students

23 February 2026

Housekeeping

- Please post your questions in the Teams chat we can will answer them at the end.
- The webinar is being recorded.
 - Made available for you.
 - Uploaded to the NIPA website.
 - The recording will be cut so not to include the Q&A.
- Prepare for some interactivity!

AGENDA

- Introductions
- What is Infrastructure Planning?
- The Process
- Who is Involved?
- Project Examples
- Why I Like Working in Infrastructure Planning
- National Infrastructure Planning Association
- Q&A

Who we are



Anna Sutherland-
Bamber
DCO Director, Icen



Jordan Martin
Associate Director
(Planning), DWD



Emily Moulson
Town Planner, Jacobs

Jordan Martin MRTPI

BBC
TWO



RTPI
Royal Town
Planning Institute



DWD



Emily Moulson MRTPI

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



BSc Geography
2017

Jacobs



RTPI

Royal Town
Planning Institute

**Sheffield
Hallam
University**

**Town Planning
Degree
Apprenticeship**

**MSc Urban
Planning**

2021-2023



2020

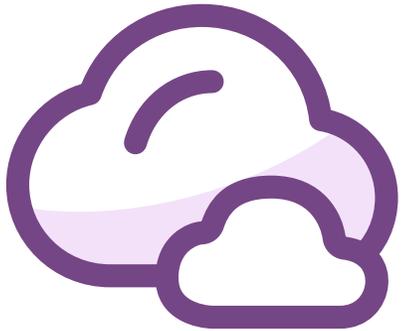
**Dispensing
Technician**



2024-now

**Chartered
Town Planner**





What is infrastructure? Why do we need it?

Infrastructure

- Backbone of our country
- Underpins essential services – water, energy, transport, waste
- Can't live without out
- Enables national priorities
 - Net zero
 - Housing delivery
 - Resilience
 - Public service reform
- The choices made today shape the country for decades

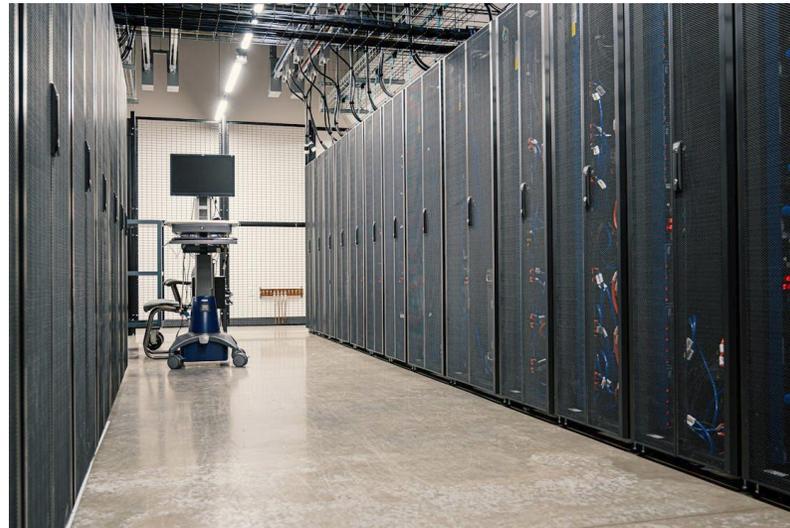
- Clean water and waste water treatment
- Reliable energy, grid capacity
- Transport networks
- Digital connectivity



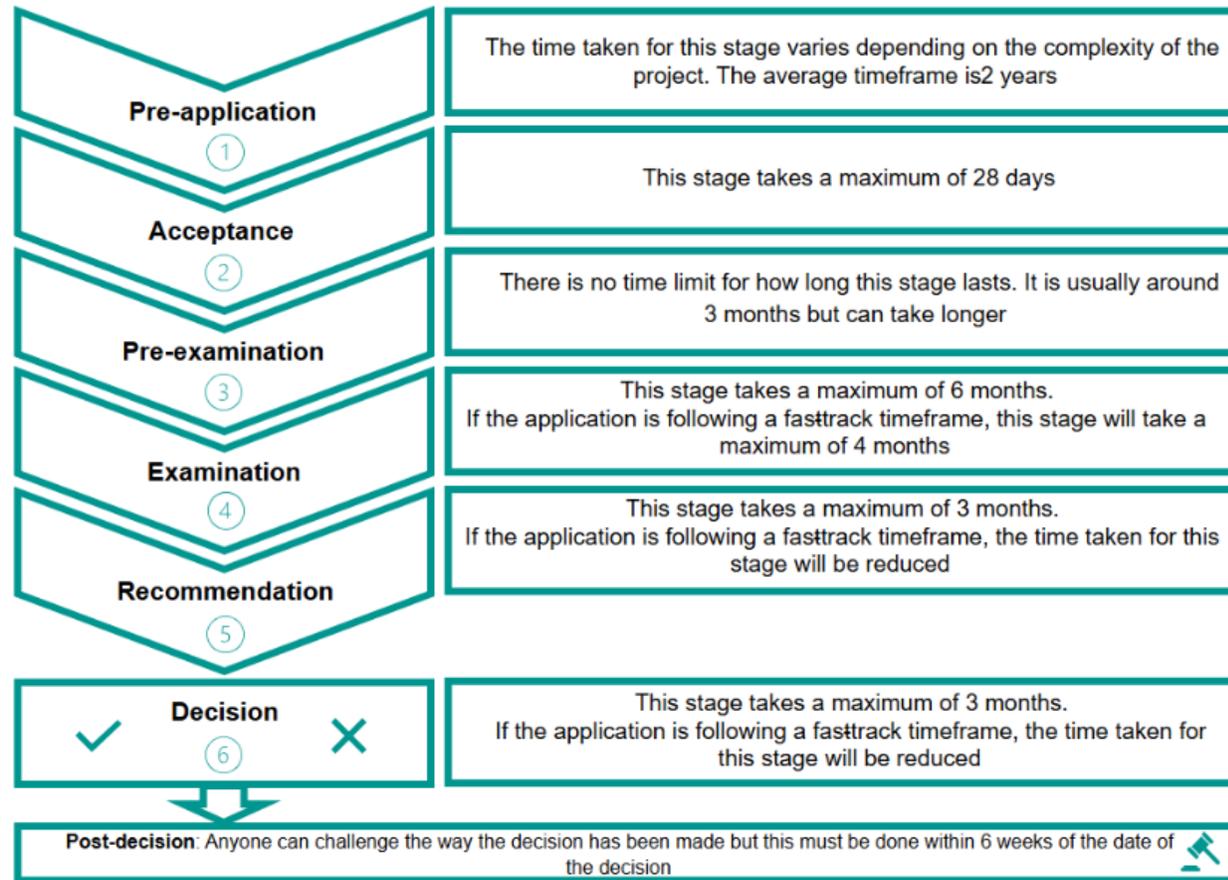
What is Infrastructure Planning?



What is Infrastructure Planning?



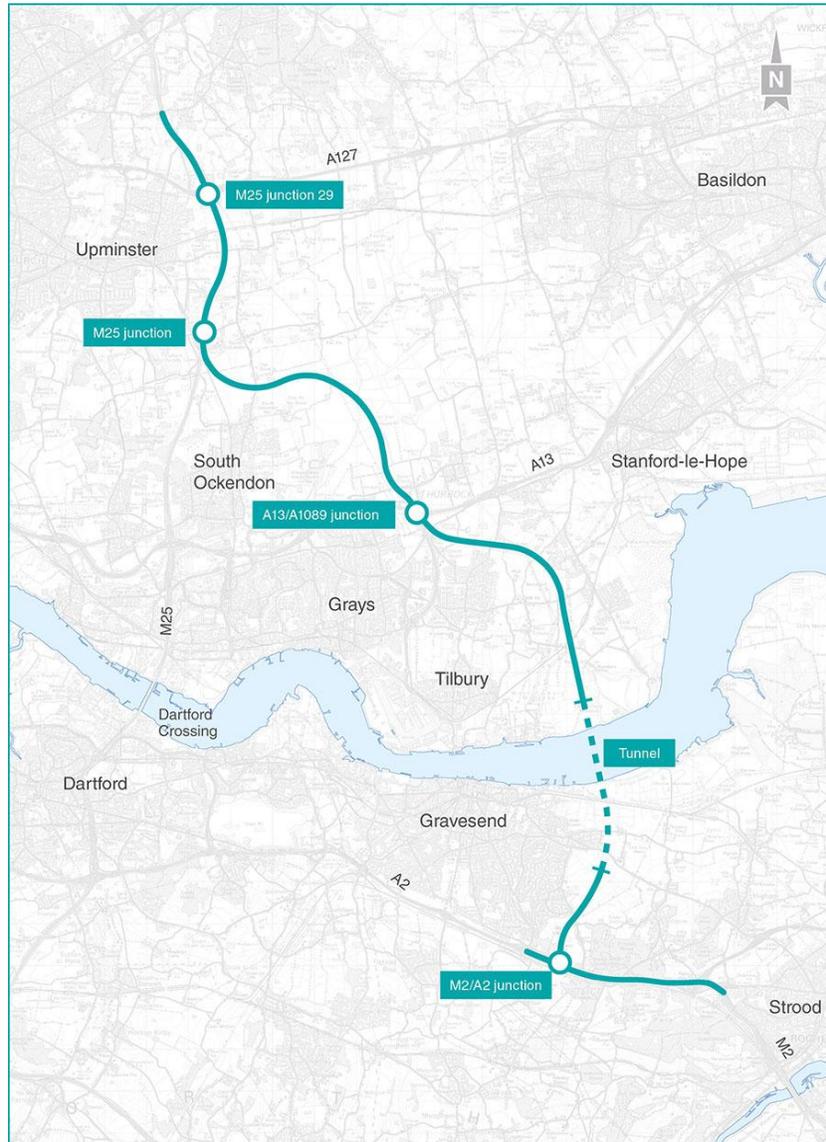
The Process (Revised)



Who is Involved?



A122 Lower Thames Crossing



- 23km of road, including over 4km of tunnel under the River Thames
- £11bn total cost
- DCO Submitted: 2022
- DCO Approved: 2025
- Construction starts: 2026
- Operational: early 2030s



Removing diesel



Using the lowest concrete and cement



Reusing and recycling steel

Tideway “the super sewer”



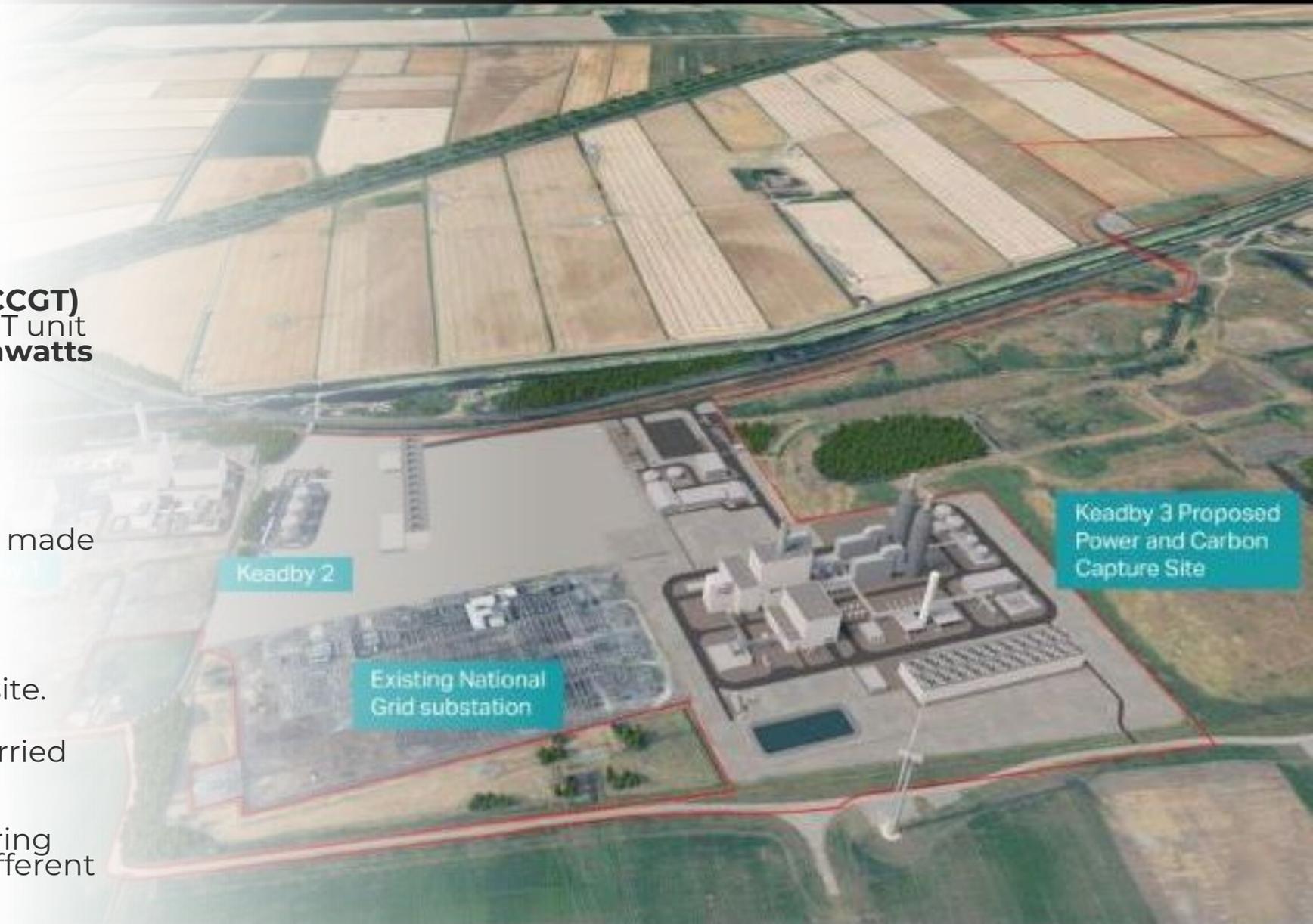
- 24 construction sites
- 25km of tunnel under London
- £5bn total cost
- DCO Submitted: 2012
- DCO Approved: 2014
- Construction started: 2016
- Operational 2024

16,175,500 TONNES
sewage diverted from the River Thames*

*into the London Tideway Tunnel system since August 2024. The tunnel was fully connected and operational in February.
Data last updated 22/1/2026.

Project Example: Keadby 3 Carbon Capture Power Station, North Lincolnshire

- A **combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station**, comprising a CCGT unit with a capacity of up to **910 megawatts** electrical output (gross), **carbon capture and compression plant**, electrical, gas, and cooling water connections, and associated development.
- Development Consent Order was made by Secretary of State in 2022.
- First of a kind Application.
- To be the third power station on site.
- Consultation and Examination carried out in the midst of COVID-19.
- Submitted a Change Request during Examination that included five different changes.

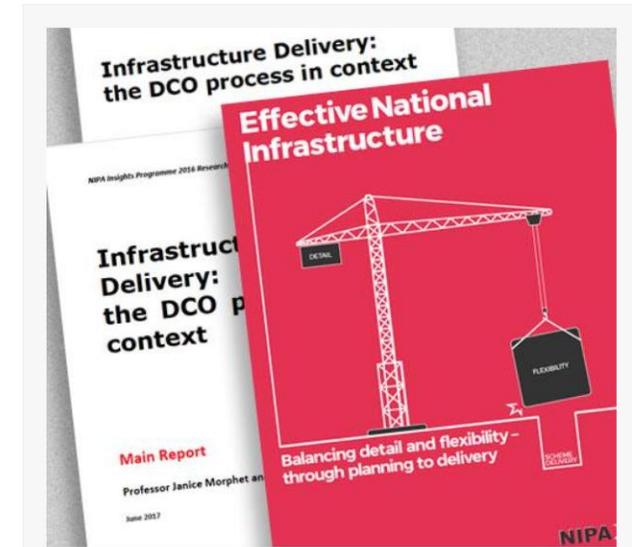


Why I Like Working in Infrastructure Planning

- Diverse disciplines and backgrounds working as one team.
- Exciting and transformative projects, creating resilience and solutions to the world's sustainability problems.
- Working on projects that are nationally significant and first of a kind.
- Helping to tackle big issues of the day (energy security, climate change).
- Continual professional development and career opportunities.

National Infrastructure Planning Association

- NIPA was established in November 2010 with the aim of bringing together individuals and organisations involved in the planning and authorisation of major infrastructure projects.
- NIPA was created to develop and disseminate learning and best practice for both promoters and those affected by proposed projects.
- Over 700 members from across disciplines and organisations including consultancies, developers, statutory consultees and local planning authorities.
- Events include Mentoring, NIPA Conference, NIPA Dinner, Socials, Breakfast Shares, Seminars and meeting experienced professionals.
- Early Year Practitioners Group (less than 10 years) hosts specific events including site visits and mentoring workshops.
- Student Membership: £25.
- Network with professionals.
- Senior people in organisations.
- Attendance at our events, seminars etc.
- Looks good on your CV.



NIPA Award 2026 – Opportunity for Postgraduate students

- The **NIPA Award 2026** recognises original thinking and high quality analysis in the field of national infrastructure planning.
- Open to post graduate students undertaking accredited planning courses, the Award seeks to encourage informed debate and new perspectives on the delivery of vital national infrastructure in the UK.
- Entrants are invited to write up to **1,500 words** respond to one of three set questions addressing key contemporary challenges, including delivering meaningful community benefits, improving efficiency through digital tools, and supporting decarbonisation and climate resilience.
- Submissions should demonstrate critical thinking, sound evidence and practical insight relevant to the planning and delivery of nationally significant infrastructure projects.
- The Award offers **prize money of up to £1,500**, with shortlisted entrants invited to present their work to the **NIPA Leadership**.
- All prize winners and shortlisted candidates will also be invited to attend the **NIPA Annual Conference 2026**, providing a valuable opportunity to engage with experienced practitioners across the public and private sectors.
- **Submission deadline 30 April.**
- Link on the NIPA website!

Q & A





**What is your one key
takeaway?**

**What other resources would
you find useful?**