

RTS - WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER?

- The large scale of the project means that the Government have directed that it be treated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) (December 2020)
- NSIPs require consent known as a 'Development Consent Order' (DCO).
- The DCO is a statutory instrument granted by the Secretary of State to authorise the construction and development of a NSIP as defined by the Planning Act 2008.
This removes the requirement to obtain many separate consents, including planning permission, and is designed to speed up the process
- The stages of the DCO Process:
 - Pre-Application: Public and Statutory Consultation
 - Acceptance
 - Pre-examination
 - The Examination
 - Recommendation & Decision
 - Post Decision
- Local Planning Authorities are a statutory consultee with a duty to respond to the DCO consultation
- The RTS is currently at the beginning of the Pre-Application: Statutory Consultation stage
- The final scope and design of the project is yet to be fully determined. This will be shaped by the technical, environmental, and economic factors alongside consultation and feedback
- Following acceptance of the Application, parties with an interest in the Scheme will be able to give their views to the Planning Inspectorate during the Examination stage. These will be taken into account alongside the application
- The Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will publish the decision
- Throughout the DCO process, all documents submitted to the Planning Inspectorate will be publicly available on the Planning Inspectorate Website: [National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk)