

## [National infrastructure must satisfy net zero and people concerns](#)

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Four design principles should be addressed in all new national infrastructure projects, according to the National Infrastructure Commission's Design Group.

The group has produced its report, Design Principles for National Infrastructure, a month before the government is expected to publish its own National Infrastructure Strategy during the Budget in March.

The report is the first of its kind to be produced in the UK, according to the commission's chair Sir John Armitt. Its recommendations are based around four principles for the planning and delivery of projects to construct and renew nationally significant infrastructure.

These are:

- **Climate:** Infrastructure must help set the trajectory for the UK to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner. It must be capable of adapting to climate change.
- **People:** Projects should be human scale, instinctive to use and seek opportunities to improve the quality of life for people who live and work nearby.
- **Places:** Schemes should provide a sense of identity for communities, supporting the natural and built environment and enriching ecosystems.
- **Value:** Value should be added beyond the main purpose of the infrastructure, solving problems well and achieving multiple benefits.

For the Design Group, schemes outlined in the National Infrastructure Strategy will have their 'legacy' judged on how they respond to the needs of the climate crisis, the environment and communities. It wants the government to adopt these principles in its own strategy.

Professor Sadie Morgan, chair of the National Infrastructure Design Group said: "We are moving into a seminal decade for our infrastructure and the design of every major project should celebrate our nation's ambition for flourishing communities and an enriched environment.

"By embedding excellent design into planning and delivery from day one and encouraging everyone in the sector to embrace it as part of their role, we can ensure we leave a proud inheritance that inspires people and helps the UK achieve our climate targets.

"The Design Principles need to be front and centre in the government's forthcoming National Infrastructure Strategy, so the infrastructure revolution we have been promised is the best that it can be."

[View the 'Design Principles for National Infrastructure'.](#)

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