

Recent Infrastructure Projects and Proposals in the UK

Meyric Lewis

Barrister

Francis Taylor Building

Temple, London, UK

Current climate in the UK – cricket season



Current climate in the UK – Soccer World Cup



Current climate in the UK – united in happiness



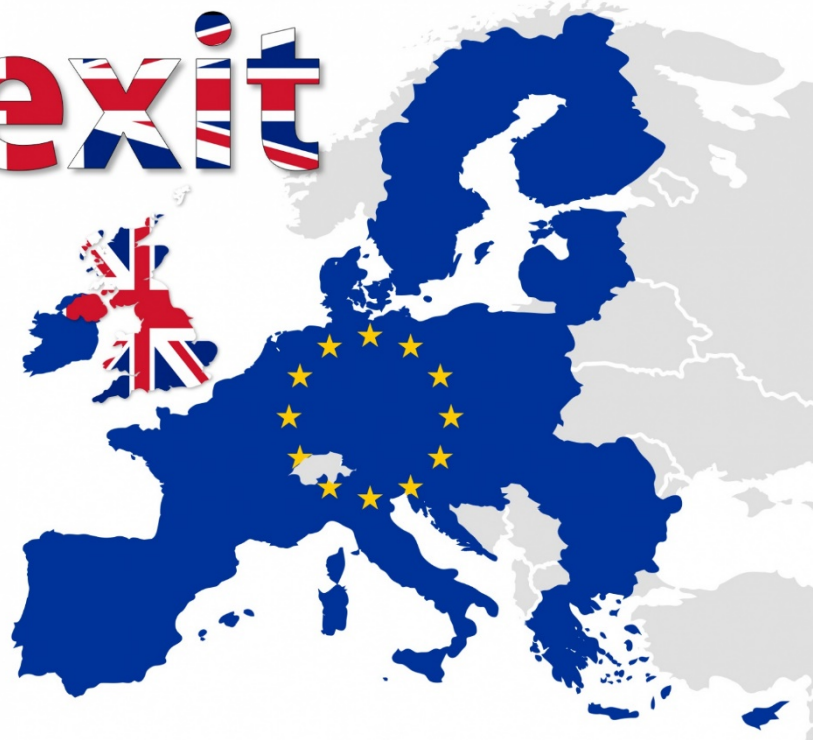


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Compulsory Purchase Association

Current climate in the UK – err...

Brexit



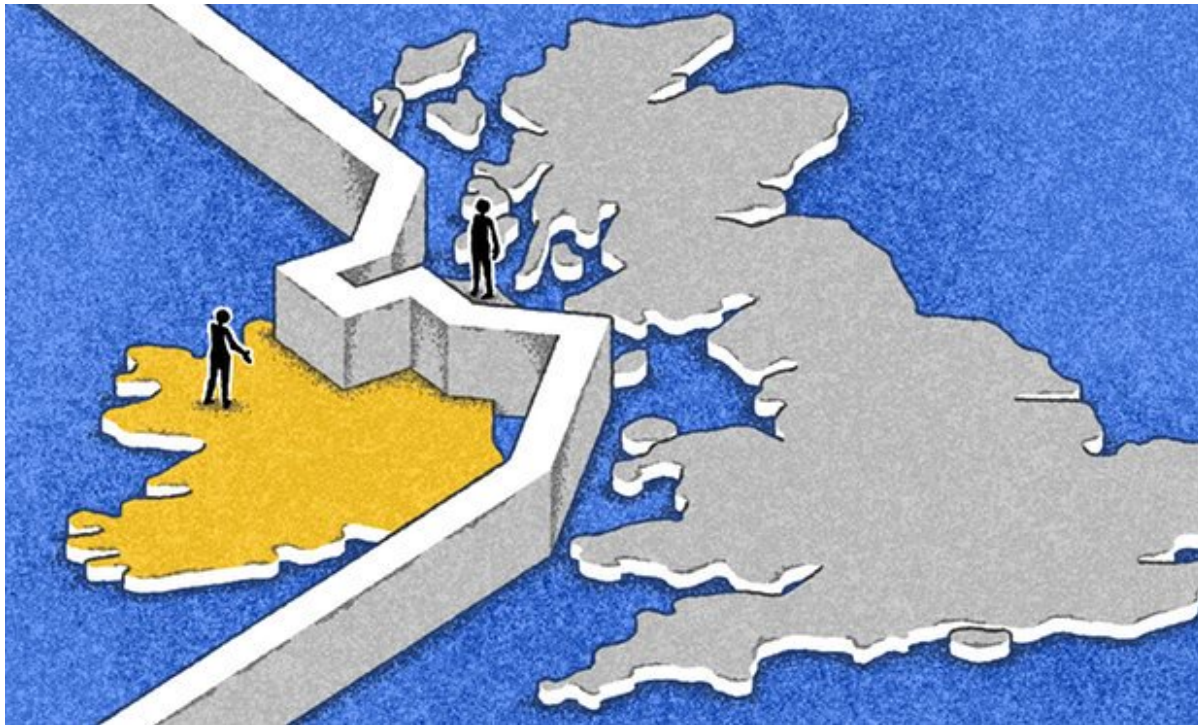
United in a sense of common purpose? Well, no – Scotland largely in favour of remaining



On the other hand – Wales largely pro leaving



Northern Ireland just in favour of remaining –
but “no border”



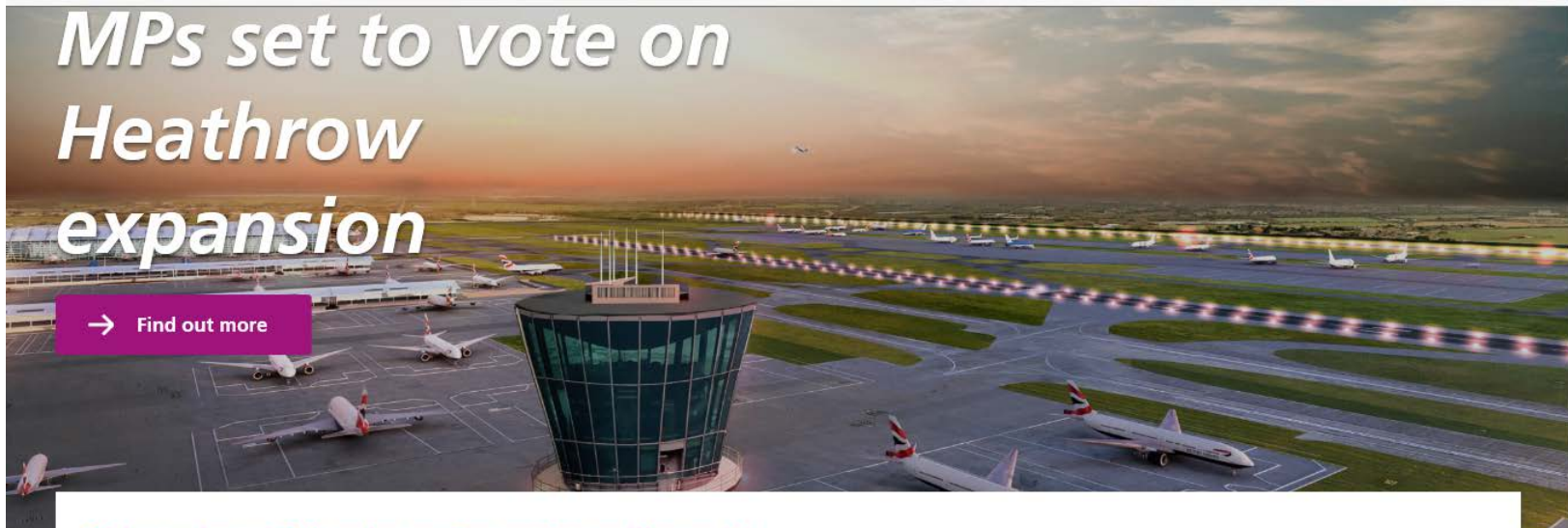
Where to next?



Or perhaps



Despite current uncertainties, many large projects in progress/at planning stage – Third runway for Heathrow Airport



Did you know? Heathrow Expansion will provide ...

£187_{bn}

Up to £187 billion in economic growth benefits across the country.

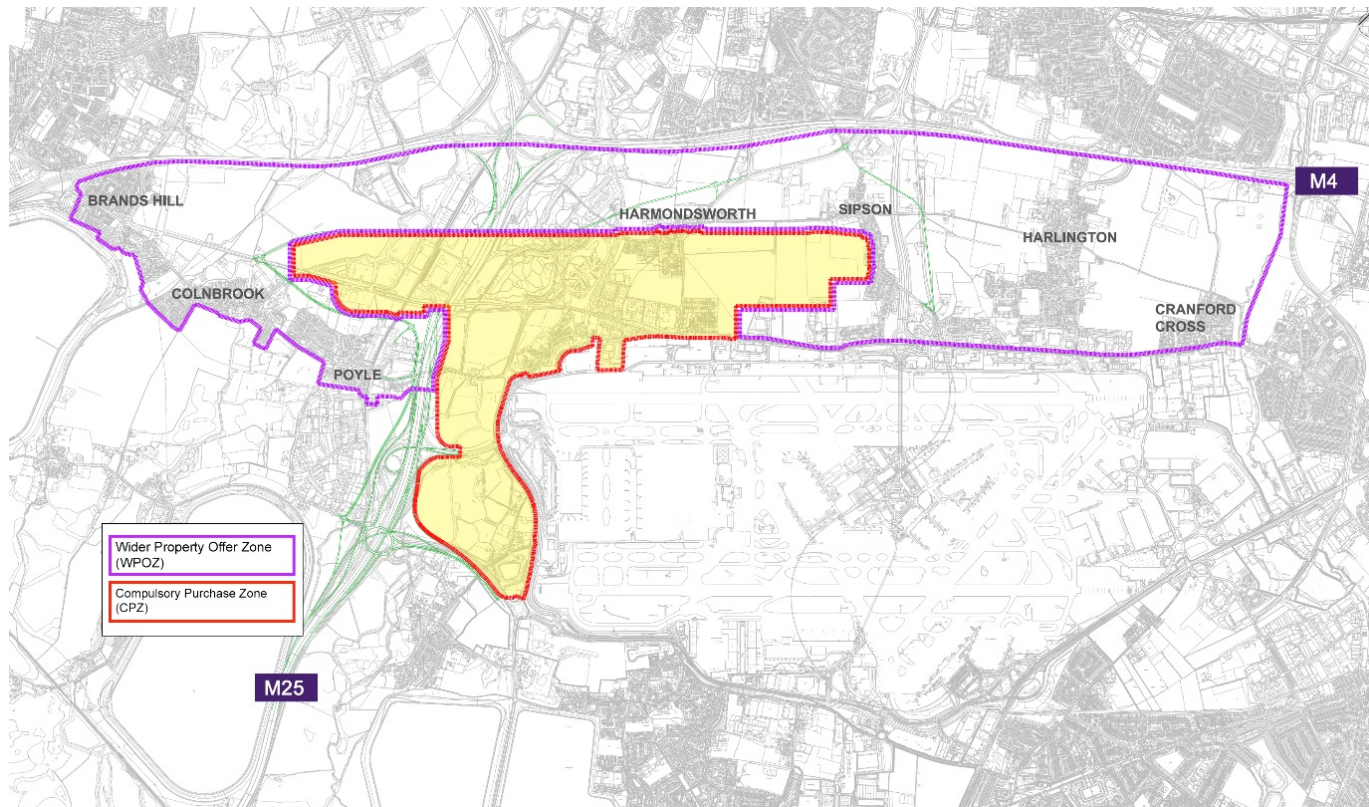
New Routes

An expanded Heathrow will create new domestic routes.

180,000 Jobs

Up to 180,000 new jobs created across the UK.

Large area required for expansion including
people's homes
Project costs of £14bn (?)



Vocal opposition/resignations from Government



“7 Hurdles” according to Stop Heathrow group

- ▣ “725,000 people already impacted by aircraft noise
 - ▣ Air pollution levels already exceed EU legal limits
 - ▣ 3,750 homes would need to be demolished
 - ▣ Millions of people are already firmly opposed to 3rd runway
 - ▣ Transport infrastructure could cost taxpayer up to £18bn
 - ▣ 3rd runway would increase chance of a plane crash by 60%
 - ▣ 3rd runway means impossible for UK to meet climate targets”.
-
- ▣ Objections will be heard in a “public examination” – ie not an adversarial “inquiry” – of a development consent order (DCO) application

Longford Village

By David Hawgood, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9236729>

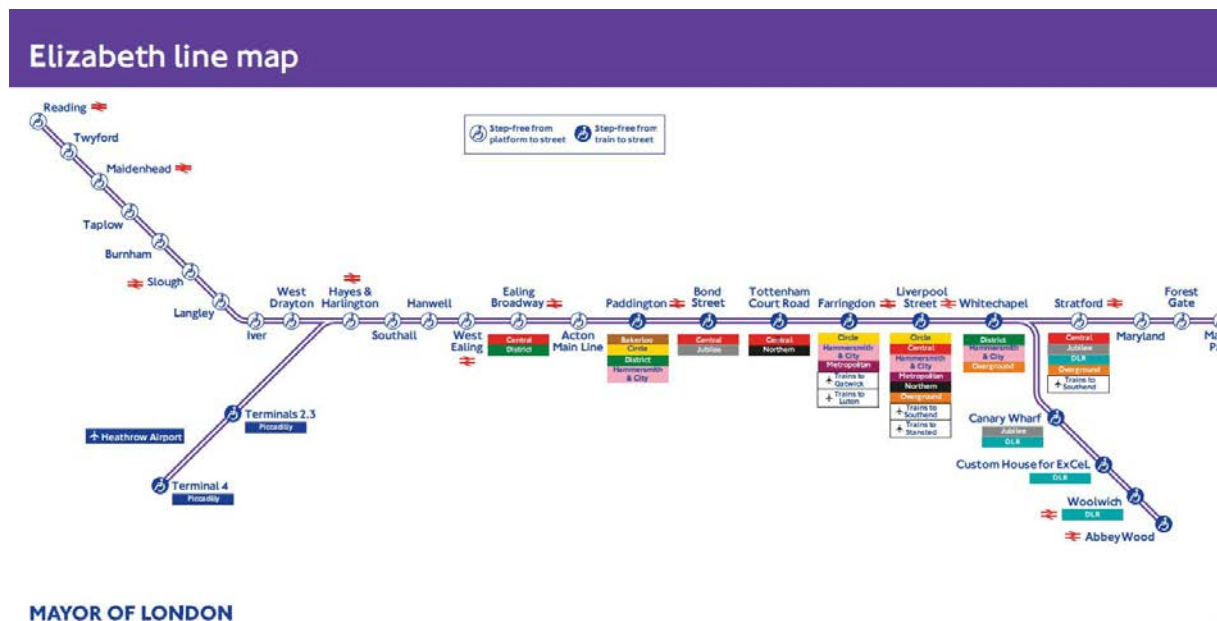


Less controversial? Crossrail/the Elizabeth line

A new underground line for London

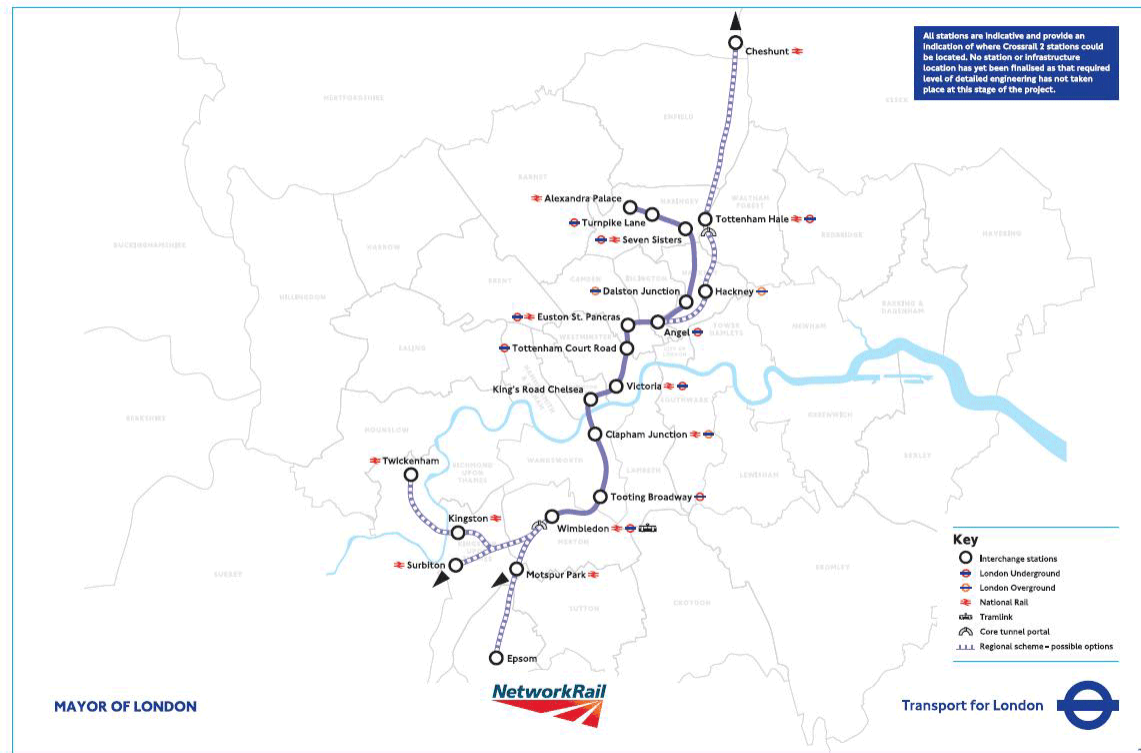
Opening late 2018; project cost £15bn

Promoted as a Bill in Parliament



To be followed by Crossrail 2 (new north-south line; opening 2030s; project cost £30bn)

Crossrail 2 regional option



A recognised need? Thames Tideway Tunnel DCO

London's new "super sewer" (£5bn)



Some back story – the Great Stink of 1858



Bazalgette sewer constructed in 1860s



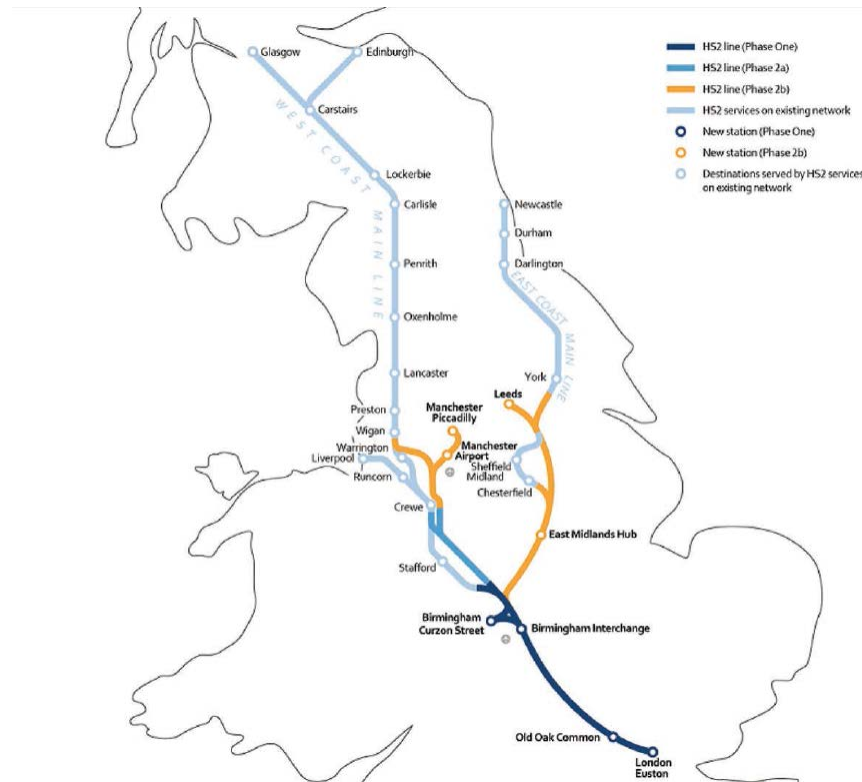
Renewal of old/provision of new infrastructure – an ongoing issue eg London's C19 water pipes



The aftermath



More controversy – High Speed/HS2: London to Birmingham then Manchester and Leeds (£56bn)



**(Like Crossrail) promoted as a Bill in Parliament
Right to be heard but cannot question principle**



Formal dress optional:



Objections:

Many businesses displaced (or if no alternative, extinguished)

Many homes acquired or rendered uninhabitable

In urban areas, home and business owners have only limited rights to compensation – see below



A continuous process – balancing the needs of society against the rights of individuals

Some other “major infrastructure” DCO schemes:

Wylfa Nuclear Power Station (9,000 construction workforce)

Cleve Hill Solar Park

London Paramount Entertainment Resort

Currently approx. 50 new road proposals by Government

Plus housing and other regeneration “CPOs” (compulsory purchase orders) – objections heard at a public inquiry

HS2 and Crossrail were promoted as Bills in Parliament

- all 3 processes can include forcible expropriation of land

Wylfa Newydd nuclear power station



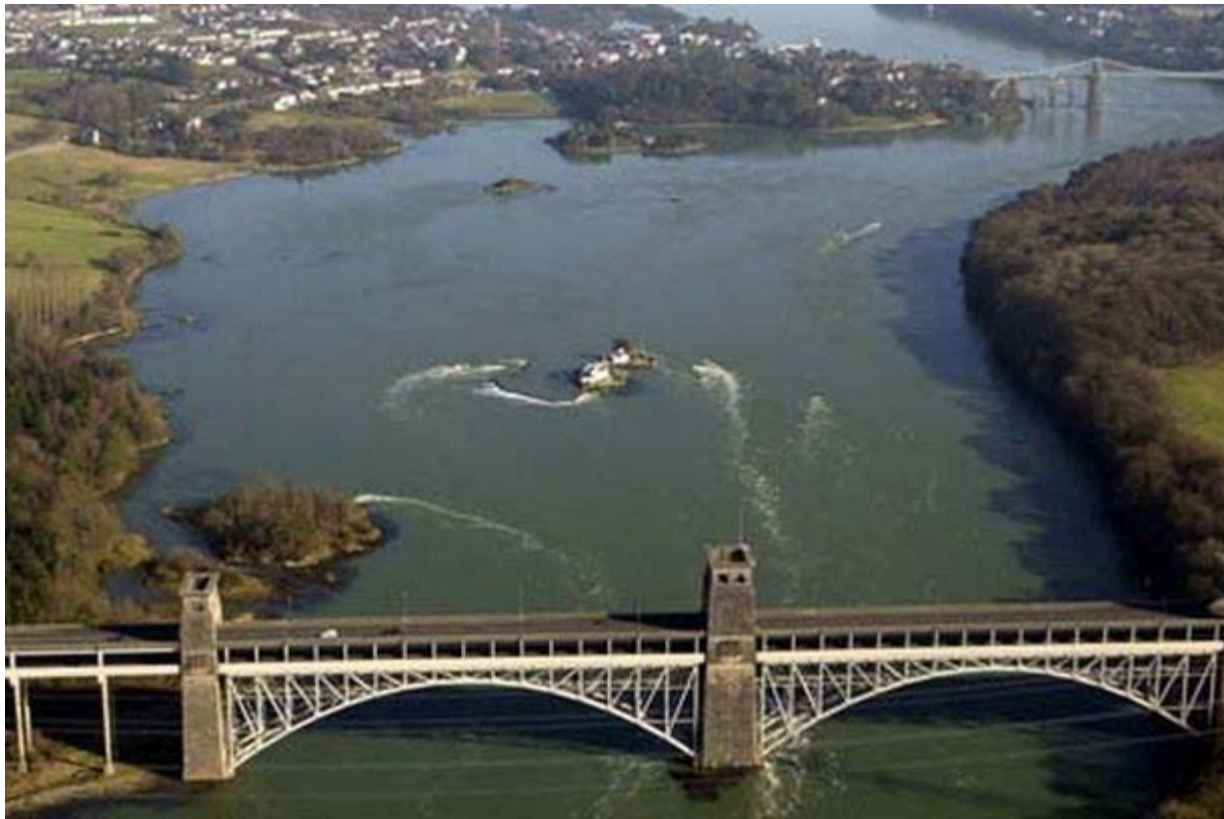
Anglesey, North Wales



E.g. of Welsh coast (not subject to development)



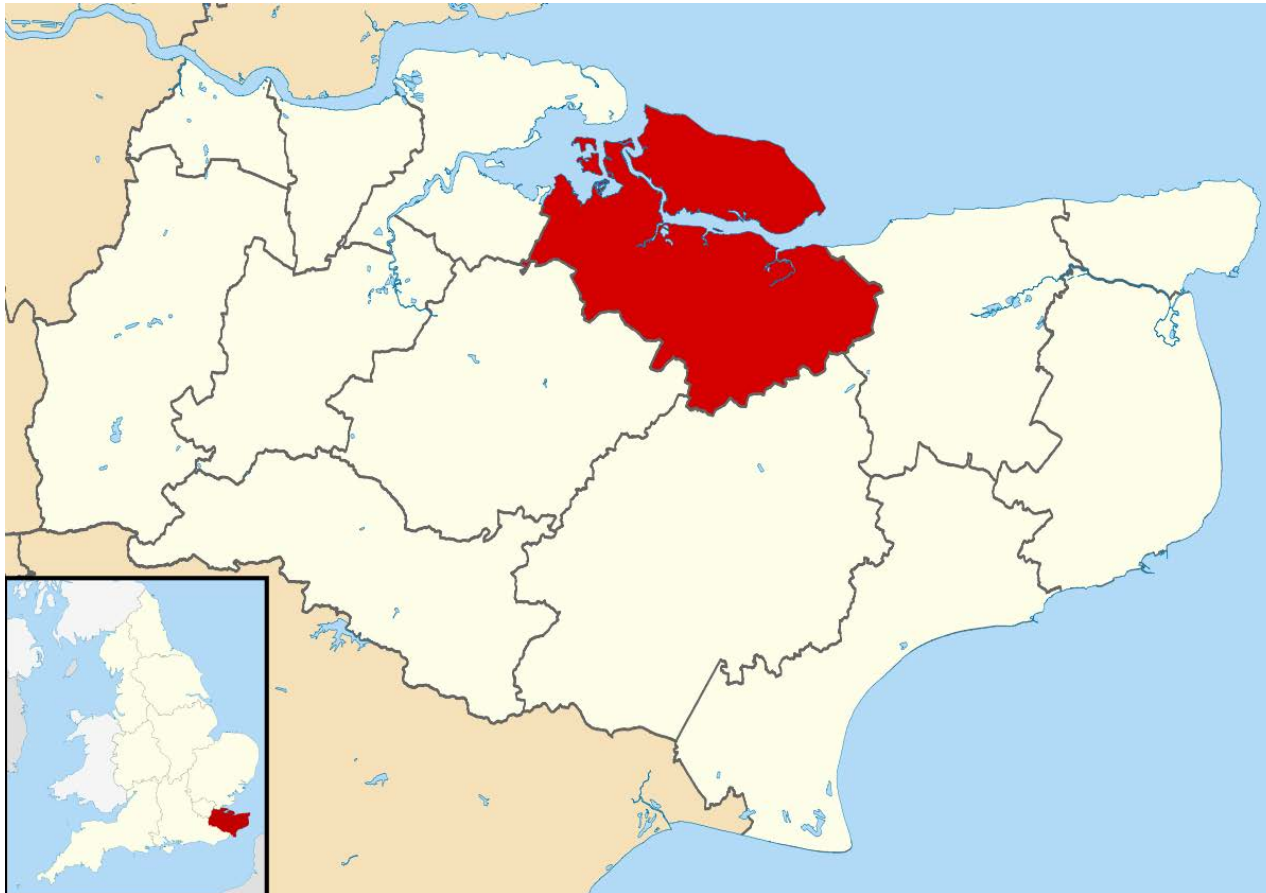
**Menai Strait – only way across is 2 bridges
but max 9,000 construction workers needed**



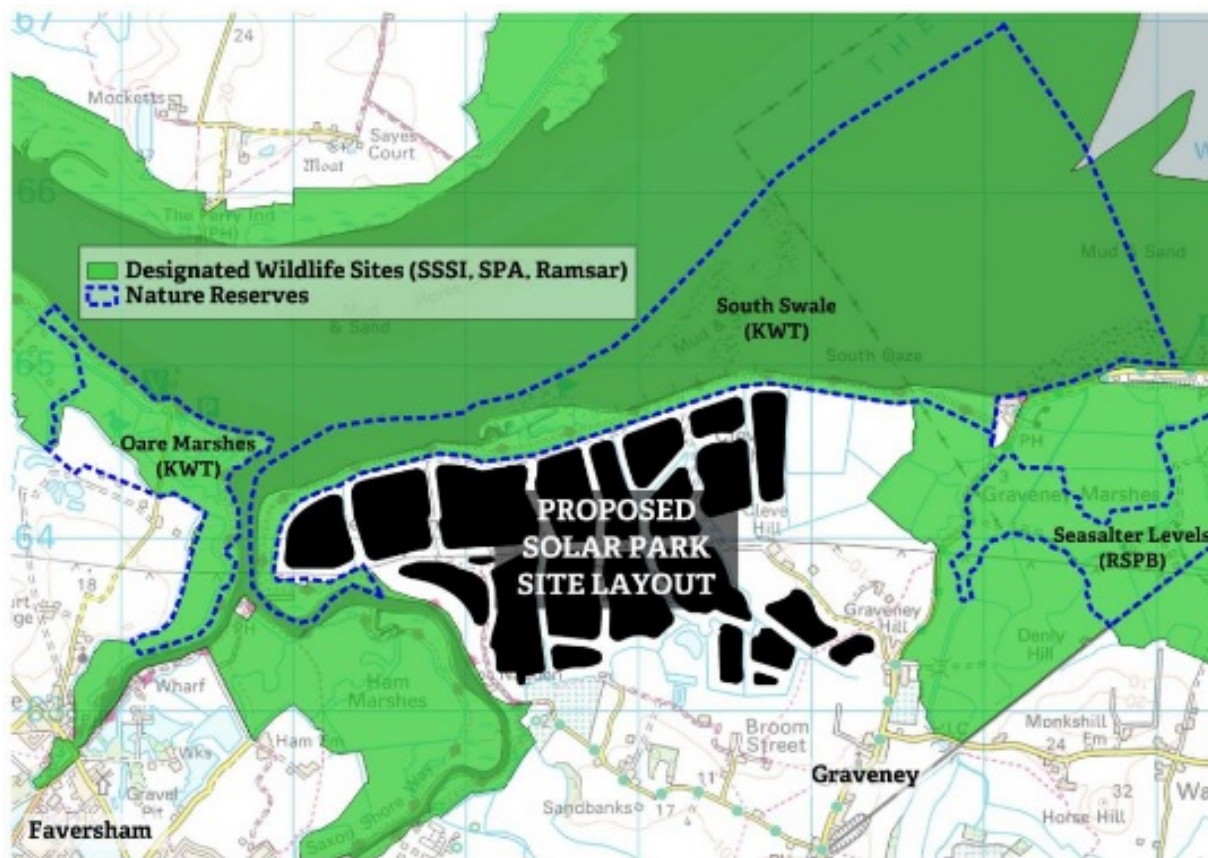
Cleve Hill Solar Park (890 acres) – “to provide power for over 100,000 homes”



County of Kent



Wildlife Trust objection – protected areas



London Paramount Resort DCO (on hold?)



Housing/regeneration CPOs eg Aylesbury Estate in South London

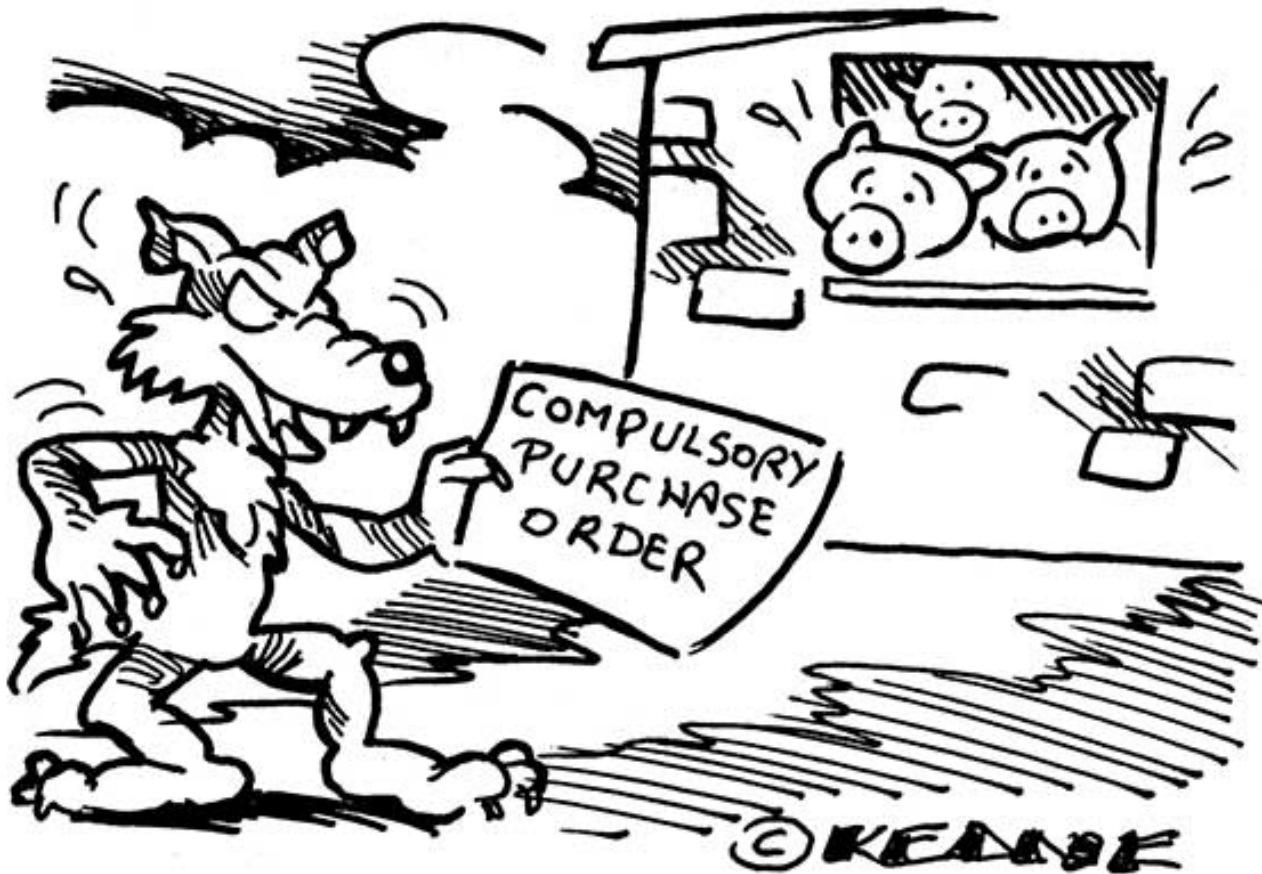




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Compulsory Purchase Association

Popular impression of UK compulsory purchase:



Objections to compulsory purchase order heard at “public inquiry” (“examination” for DCOs)

566 new homes to be provided

Tenants in local authority units all relocated

74 “leaseholders” had bought their homes. 10 objected – but only 4 remained in occupation at the date of the decision (2016)

Objection upheld: displaced owners could not afford comparable properties in local area NB “public sector equality duty” – elderly and ethnic minorities over-represented among the poor

Government agreed error in decision because relocation policy not properly taken into account – reconsideration awaited

UK confirmation process for proposals

Development consent orders (DCOs) – like Heathrow, Thames Tideway and Wylfa – considered at Inspector-led “examination” rather than an adversarial public inquiry, ie no oral evidence, no cross-examination of experts or promoting party. Time-limited decision making process. Can involve taking of land.

CPOs – solely involves taking of land. Considered at public inquiry. Cross-examination allowed. Can be longer process. “Planning permission” required in addition.

Bills in Parliament – like HS2 & Crossrail – considered in both houses by committees of MPs/Lords. Cross-examination allowed but principle of project cannot be questioned.

Key Issues/tensions

Pressing need to encourage and foster economic growth

Pressing need to upgrade and maintain essential infrastructure

Pressing need to provide more housing (300,000 units a year?)

All these to be balanced against

Environmental issues (ecology; heritage; climate change; air quality)

Construction impacts

Citizens' rights – private property not to be acquired save in accordance with the law

Keeping impacts to the minimum reasonably possible

Lastly – a creative use of compulsory powers!



Now back to gloomy old Britain – & Thank you!



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