

REVERSING BEECHING?

Law and the new 'Railway Revolution'

A roundtable discussion of the legal challenges associated with railway building in the 21st Century.

- High Speed 2
- Re-opening of the Waverley and Varsity lines
- Planning procedures
- Safety
- Judicial review
- Environmental protection

For further information, contact

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The railways are enjoying a renaissance and the once unthinkable is now happening. New railways are actually in the process of being planned and built rather than closed. Aside from the flagship HS2 scheme a number of other projects are at various stages of development. For example, the re-opening of part of the famous 'Waverly Line' (or Borders Railway) is nearing completion and plans are afoot to re-establish the 'Varsity Line' between Oxford and Cambridge.

Since the dawn of the railway revolution law and lawyers have been at the heart of the development of the railway system. The solicitor to the Stockton and Darlington Railway, Francis Mewburn, played an instrumental role in ensuring that the promoters were equipped with the necessary powers to operate their line. His innovations can even be detected in the HS2 Bill.

Law has also been at the heart of this new era of railway building where developers face new legal challenges, including the exponential growth of judicial review, environmental impact assessment and human rights. The HS2 project has generated much litigation, culminating in a judgment delivered by the Supreme Court. As regards smaller projects a number of interesting issues have emerged, including overlaps between the Transport & Works Act 1992 and the Planning Act 2008.

As an inaugural event for my centre I would like to invite you to participate in a roundtable discussion of some of the key legal issues facing the industry as it embarks on this new era of railway building.

Dr Mark Wilde

Associate Professor in Law

Wednesday 13 May 2015: room G04 Foxhill House (School of Law)

9:30 – 10:00 coffee and tea

10:00 – 13:00 discussion (tea and coffee provided)

13:00 – 14:00 buffet lunch for those who can stay

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