

Promoting non-discriminatory alternatives to imprisonment across Europe

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About Me

- **Director International Centre for Prison Studies London 2005-10**
- **Member Youth Justice Board in England and Wales 1998-2006**
- **International Expert on Probation**
- **Trainer and Evaluator**
- **Associate Penal Reform International**

EVALUATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S WORK UNDER THE PROGRAMME LINE "PRISONS AND POLICE" 2016-2019



“It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.”

Nelson Mandela

January 2021



Promoting non-discriminatory alternatives to imprisonment across Europe

One of the main focus areas of this project concerns the impacts of the application and implementation of alternative sanctions on minority groups and those left uniquely vulnerable due to specific personal or background characteristics or circumstances

It has included European and national level research which has identified poverty and social economic disadvantage as presenting key challenges in relation to non-custodial sanctions in Hungary

Council of Europe (2016) Action Plan on Building Inclusive Societies 2016- 2019.

- Europe's cultural fabric has long been a rich tapestry, made up of many different traditions, heritages and outlooks. Diversity, however, must be managed. Integration does not happen by accident. Without smart policies to foster integration and to promote mutual understanding and respect, parallel societies emerge: people living alongside one and other, rather than living together.
- Ensuring that all individuals can live free from discrimination and have fair opportunities, irrespective of their background, is one of the best ways to heal social division and drain the fear and resentment that extremists seek to exploit. On this platform of equal rights and equality before the law, we can then build inclusive societies, where individuals maintain their own identities while respecting each other's differences, united by a set of shared, democratic values.

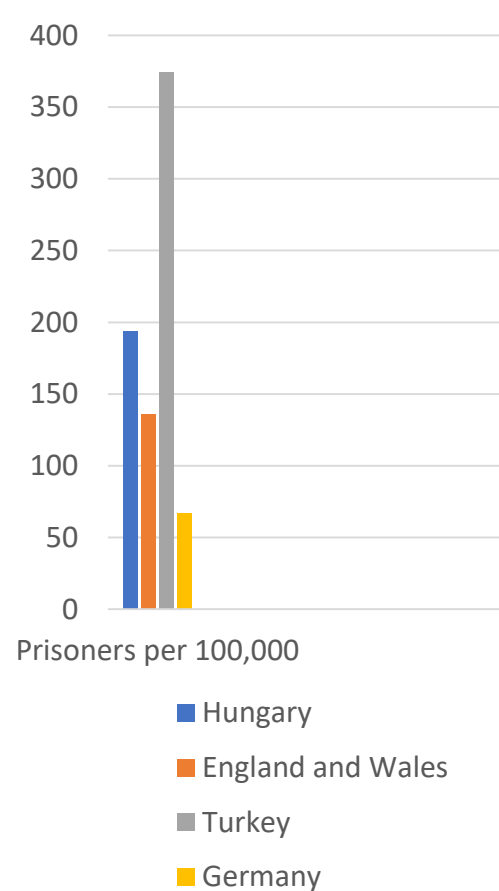
- Council of Europe recommends training on:
- Practice in legal context and rights-based approaches
- Anti-discriminatory practice
- Gender responsiveness
- Mental health, intellectual disabilities and substance misuse
- Foreign nationals
- Source: Guidelines regarding Recruitment, Selection, Education, Training and Professional Development of Prison and Probation Staff (2019)



Prison construction in the United Kingdom – a solution?



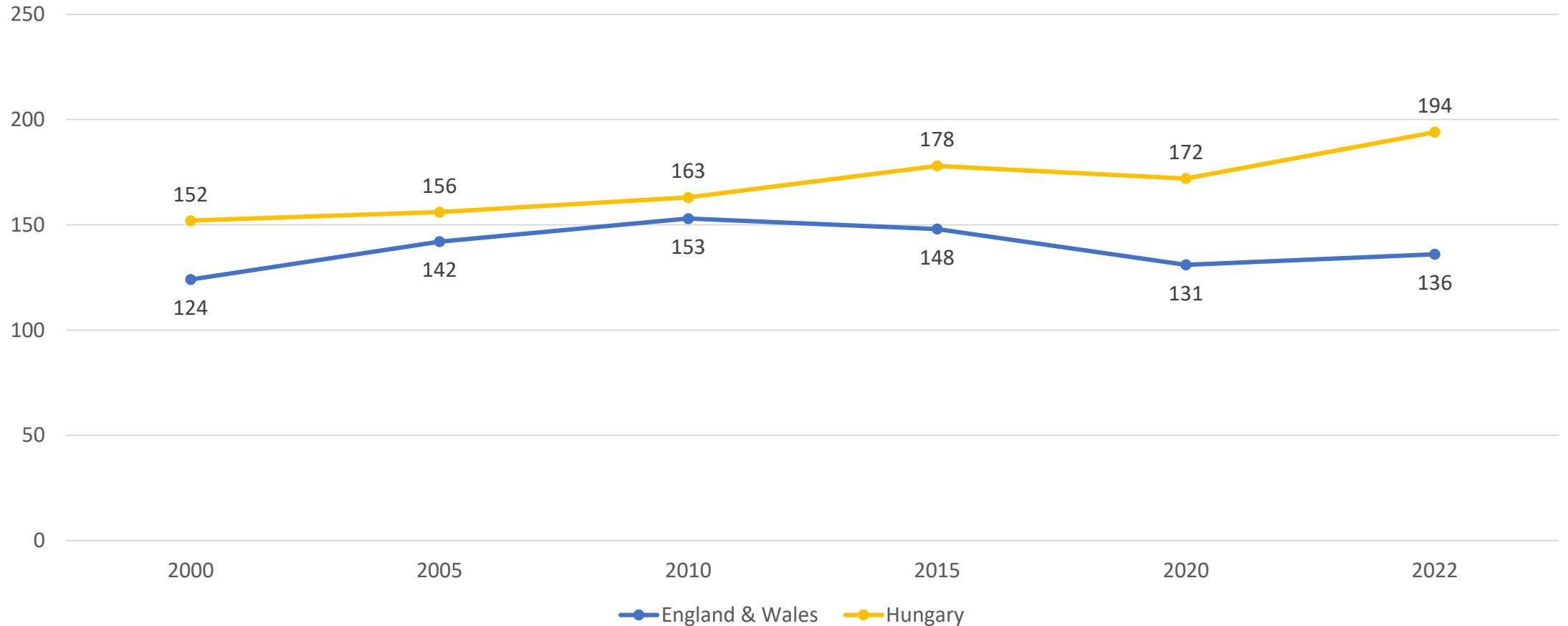
Prison Rates per 100,000



Turkey	374
Belarus	345
Russian Federation	324
Gibraltar (United Kingdom)	273
Georgia	263
Azerbaijan	216
Hungary	194
Poland	192
Moldova (Republic of)	183
Albania	182
Slovakia	182
Lithuania	182
Czech Republic	179
Latvia	165
Malta	159
Estonia	156
Serbia	153
United Kingdom: England & Wales	136

Source: World Prison Brief at <https://www.prisonstudies.org/world-prison-brief-data>

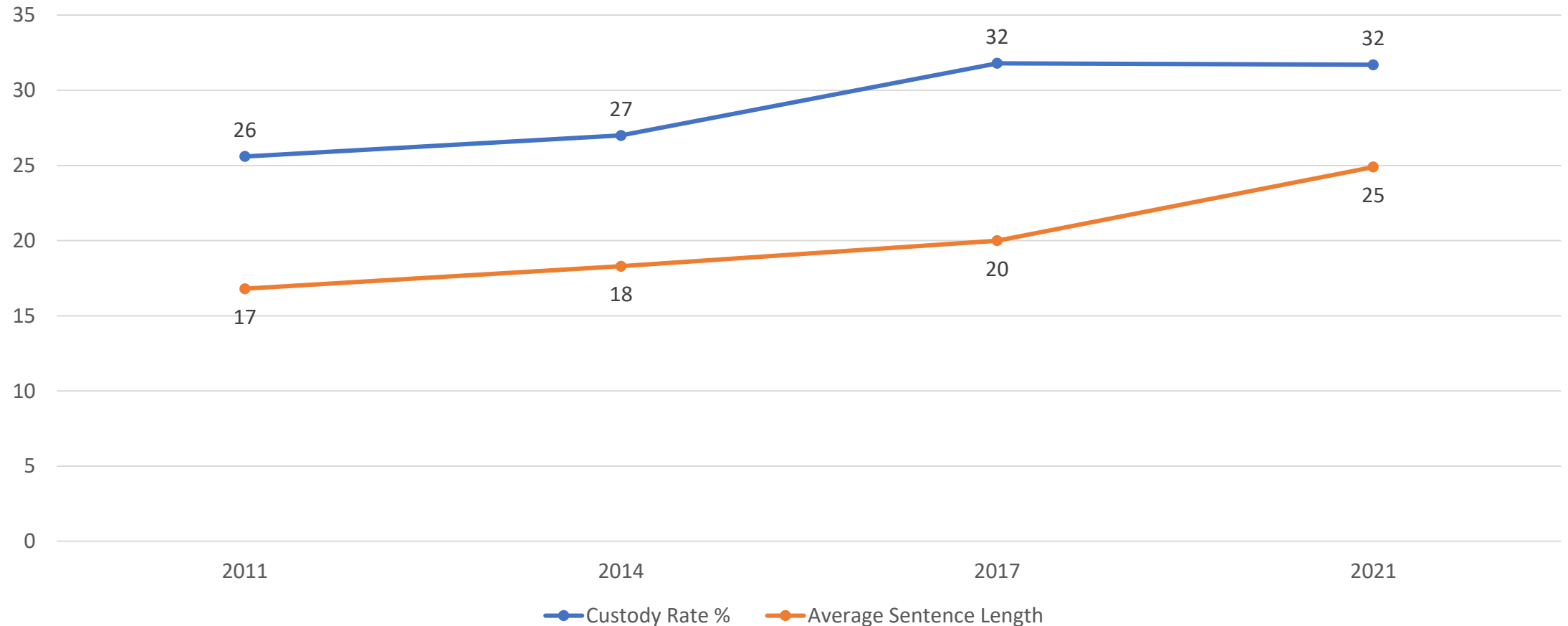
Trends in Prison Populations in England and Hungary



Source: World Prison Brief at <https://www.prisonstudies.org/world-prison-brief-data>

Custodial Rate (%) and Length of Sentences (Months) in England and Wales 2011-2021

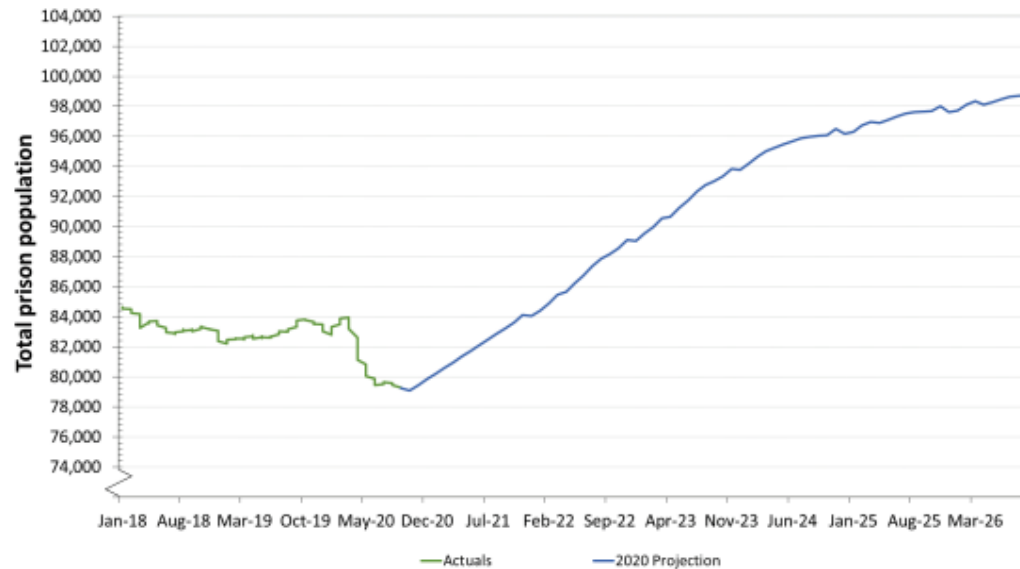
Indictable Offences



Source: Criminal Justice statistics England and Wales <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-march-2022>

Prison Projections

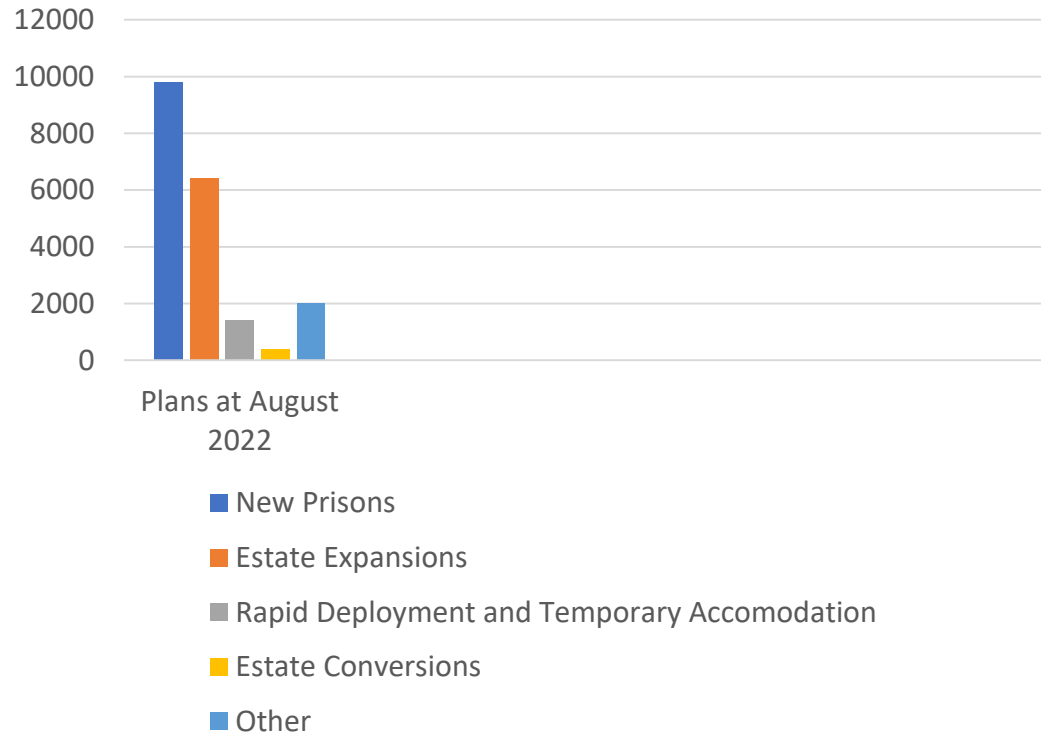
Figure 1.1: Total Prison Population Projection, September 2020 to September 2026.



- 20,000 New Police
- Improved Clear up of Crime
- More Prosecutors
- More Custodial Sentences
- Longer Sentences
- Less conditional release
- More recall
- Men , women and children

Plans and will they happen?

Plans for 20,000 New Places



Minister to Parliament August 2022

- “While I am not able to provide a complete breakdown of the 20,000 prison places and when they are expected to deliver over the next five years, because some elements of the programme are at crucial sensitive stages, such as seeking planning permission, developing detailed delivery plans or undertaking procurement activity, I can provide assurance that the Portfolio is on track and is progressing”.

What does CPT say?

- The CPT takes note of the plans of the United Kingdom authorities to deliver additional prison places but reiterates that **addressing the issue of overcrowding requires a broader coherent strategy**, covering both admission to and release from prison, to **ensure that imprisonment really is the measure of last resort**.

Report on its periodic visit to the United Kingdom,
which took place from 8 to 21 June 2021

Ministers criticised for plans to create 500 new UK prison places for women

Investment in steering women away from crime 'dwarfed' by cost of new places, says penal reform charity



📷 A female prison officer walks down the corridor of a women's prison in Surrey, England.
Photograph: Andrew Aitchison/Corbis via Getty Images

Ministers have been criticised for plans to create 500 new prison places for women as part of proposals designed to reduce the numbers in the criminal justice system

- The MoJ said the new places would be built in existing prisons, would include in-cell showers and allow more women to be held in open conditions.
- The department said “some of the new places will also allow women to have overnight visits with their children to prepare for life back home”, a proposal the Howard League said was “concerning”.
- the Prison Reform Trust, said: “Reducing the women’s prison population is a central plank of the government’s female offenders strategy.
- “Even a temporary rise in women’s prison numbers will be a mark of failure. Instead of planning for a rise, the government should redouble its efforts to ensure women are not being sent to prison to serve pointless short sentences.”

Costs and Benefits

- Could improve quality of infrastructure
- If prison population does not rise, then old prisons can be closed
- Shifts focus of the system further away from rehabilitation
- Financial, social and ethical costs
- £ 4 Billion
- Expanding existing estate will put pressure on regimes
- Serious staffing crisis already

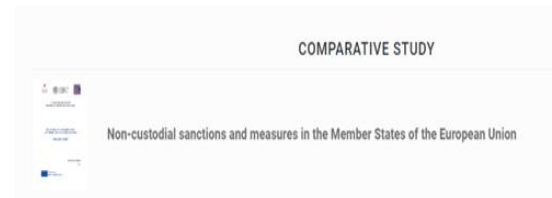
What Else Could we Do?

- Increase Diversion
- Strengthen Sentencing Guidelines
- Reform Alternatives
- More Hostels/Electronic Monitoring
- Increase Healthcare options
- Justice Reinvestment?

**Transform
Justice**

**Justice reinvestment:
empty slogan or sustainable
future for penal policy?**

By Rob Allen
February 2014



To Find Out More.....



30 min

PLAY ►

Ep7: Do we really need new prisons?

[The Transform Justice Podcast](#)

Society & Culture

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In 2021 the government announced that it would dedicate £4 billion to building 20,000 new prison places by the mid-2020s. These plans have been faced with opposition from criminal justice experts and local communities. In this episode, Penelope and Rob are joined by Dr Kate Paradine, Chief Executive of Women in Prison and Nick Hardwick, Professor in Criminal Justice at Royal Holloway University of London to discuss why the government is expecting such an increase in the prison population, whether we need more prison places, and if the government can actually deliver on their proposals.

Kate Paradine @klparadine

Women in Prison (@WIP_live) are campaigning to stop new prison places for women. Find out more and join the campaign here.

Professor Nick Hardwick @nicklhardwick2

Read more about Nick's work here.

Further Resources