Rethinking Net Zero: How a 60-Year Climate Doomsday Narrative Is Driving Britain's Economic Suicide

An Overview of the Science, and the Economic Suicide of Britain

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Executive Summary

In 2019, the UK committed to a target of net-zero emissions by 2050 ostensibly to assist in the fight against climate change. This commitment rests on two core assumptions:

1. We are beyond reasonable doubt, heading towards a scenario of catastrophic human-driven global warming.

2. The UK can meaningfully influence the global climate through its actions.

This paper concludes these assumptions are false and therefore Net Zero should be abolished by repealing the Climate Change Act. It argues that Net-Zero is not a measured response to physical climate realities, but the product of a doomsday narrative that has been evolving for decades. In the process, it has become detached from the real drivers of climate and is dangerously indifferent to the economic and strategic damage it is inflicting on Britain.

Net Zero has coincided with the decline of key strategic sectors, including automotive manufacturing, refining capacity, and domestic energy production, and is a serious threat to our energy and food security. Both the nation and the taxpayer are becoming poorer and increasingly more vulnerable. It is imperative we don't allow our country to collapse on the altar of a theory that does not stack up.

The paper recommends that the UK:

1. Repeal the Climate Change Act and begin withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, restoring sovereign control over climate and energy policy;
2. Remove punitive climate levies and subsidies and regulatory barriers that deter investment;
3. Rebuild the North Sea sector and domestic refining capacity as strategic national assets;
4. Scrap inheritance tax on farms and actively support British food production to reinforce food security and restore agricultural sovereignty;
5. Establish an Independent Climate & Energy Audit Office and mandate Resilience Impact Assessments for publicly funded climate and environmental bodies, to ensure every "climate" measure delivers demonstrable economic and strategic benefits.

The paper concludes that, given the UK's small share of global emissions and the dominance of natural climate drivers, Net Zero cannot meaningfully impact global climate trajectories but can and already does, inflict real harm on Britain's economy and strategic resilience. Ultimately, this paper argues for climate policy grounded in scientific realism rather than apocalyptic storytelling, and in national sovereignty rather than supranational pressure. It does not advocate abandoning environmental stewardship; it argues for redefining it, for the protection of Britain's people, land and economy in a world where climate will always change, with or without us.

Part 1: The Climate Story They Don't Tell

Introduction: Rethinking Net Zero

For almost four decades, the United Kingdom has been told that its overriding duty, morally, politically, and even economically, is to "fight climate change." That story was written into law through the Climate Change Act in 2008, embedded into every government department, and used to justify a sweeping programme known as Net Zero, a target to reach net-zero CO_2 emissions by 2050.

Net Zero is no longer just a slogan. It determines how we generate electricity, what cars we are allowed to build and drive, how our farmers use their land, how industry operates, and how much households pay to heat and light their homes. It is invoked to explain why traditional industries must close, why energy bills must rise, and why British food production can be sacrificed in favour of solar panels and wind turbines.

All of this rests on two core assumptions:

1. That we are, beyond reasonable doubt, heading towards a scenario of catastrophic, human-driven global warming; and

2. That the UK, by rapidly reducing its relatively small share of global emissions, can meaningfully influence the future climate of the planet.

These assumptions are treated as settled truth. Questioning them is often portrayed as ignorance or denial. Yet when we look carefully at the long-term scientific evidence, the time record of ice ages and interglacials, the role of orbital cycles, and the behaviour of the oceans and atmosphere, a different picture emerges. The Earth's climate has always changed, often abruptly, long before industrial emissions existed. We are in fact living in an interglacial warm period that fits into a pattern hundreds of thousands of years old.

At the same time, the public story about climate has shifted dramatically over the last sixty years. In the 1960s, the media promoted the idea of an imminent "New Ice Age" (Science & Mechanics, 1969). By the late 1980s, the same outlets declared that "Global Warming Has Begun" (Shabecoff, 1988). In both eras, small slices of data were amplified into global emergencies, while the broader context of natural cycles and long-term evidence received little attention. The emotional script however, barely changed. Create fear, guilt, moral pressure and demand urgent political action.

Net Zero is the latest policy expression of this script. It is not a measured response to physical climate realities, but the product of a doomsday narrative that has been evolving for decades. In the process, it has become detached from the real drivers of climate and is dangerously indifferent to the economic and strategic damage it is inflicting on Britain.

The argument unfolds in three parts:

• Part I begins by exploring our fascination with the weather and analyses the science of Earth's natural climate rhythm. The 1970s cooling scare and the later flip to global warming are investigated in detail. This investigation shows how the modern climate narrative operates as a

political tool, using what I call the HEAT strategy, and sets out evidence that Earth is a self-regulating system, not a fragile system on the brink of collapse.

• Part II brings the focus home to Britain. It outlines the consequences of embedding Net Zero into UK law: the erosion of our industrial base, especially in automotive manufacturing; the collapse of domestic refining capacity; rising energy costs, growing dependence on imports; and the weakening of our food security as productive farmland is turned over to non-productive "green" uses. It argues that, given our small share (~1%) of global emissions (IEA, 2025), these sacrifices cannot alter global climate patterns and are making the country poorer and more vulnerable.

• Part III sets out a different way forward. It proposes concrete policy changes to move us away from ideology-led Net Zero towards evidence-led national resilience: repealing the Climate Change Act; withdrawing from the Paris Agreement; ending punitive climate levies and subsidies; rebuilding North Sea hydrocarbons and refinery capacity; restoring support for farmers and food production; establishing Resilience Impact Assessments and an Independent Climate & Energy Audit Office; and ensuring that climate institutions serve adaptation, security and prosperity.

This is not a call to ignore the environment or to pretend the climate does not change. On the contrary, it begins with the recognition that climate will always change, with or without our permission. The real question is whether we respond in a way that makes Britain stronger, more secure and self-sufficient, or whether we continue down a path that weakens our economy, hollows out our industries, and leaves us exposed, all in the name of a narrative that does not match the underlying science.

The chapters that follow invite the reader to look again at what we have been told, about the weather, about climate, about Net Zero, and what true environmental stewardship and national survival ought to mean for the United Kingdom.

1. We've Always Lived at the Mercy of the Weather

The consistent and violent changes in our weather have always fascinated us. It's the first thing we talk about with strangers and the last thing farmers check before they sleep. Long before anyone had heard of "climate change," people were living and dying by the whims of the sky.

Imagine London in 1814, when the River Thames froze so solid that people set up stalls, games and tents on the ice. The Frost Fair became a celebration, and indeed a tradition: an entire city stepping out onto a frozen river to drink, to dance, to trade. Today we look back at that scene with curiosity and nostalgia, what must life have been like then? How cold must it have been for the Thames to turn into a field of ice?

Image 1: Frost Fairs on the River Thames (Guildhall Library Blog, 2017)

Stories like this fascinate us because the weather is never just a backdrop. It shapes how we feel when we wake up, what clothes we wear, whether we plant crops or watch them fail. It decides how much food can be grown, which regions thrive and which one's struggle. In many places it dictates whether your home is safe or vulnerable, whether your life is comfortable or harsh.

On a deeper level, the Earth is our home, and we all have a natural, emotional stake in what it's doing and where it's heading. You don't need a degree in physics to care about that. It doesn't matter where you come from, what religion you follow, your politics, gender, or beliefs, we all share the same sky. We are all, in some way, invested in the question: what is happening to our climate, and what might happen next?

Because the short-term weather is so unpredictable, it's human nature to look for someone or something that can make sense of it. We turn to meteorologists, forecasters, scientists, newspapers and politicians. We listen to whoever claims to have an explanation. And over time,

there has been a strong temptation to package the complexity of Earth's climate into a simple, one-size-fits-all story.

2. The Science of Earth's Natural Climate Rhythm

Long before anyone spoke about "Net Zero" or carbon targets, a quiet mathematical revolution was taking place. In the early twentieth century, a Serbian engineer named Milutin Milankovitch set out to answer a question that had haunted scientists for generations: why do ice ages come and go?

Milankovitch approached the problem the way an engineer would, with numbers. He began calculating, in extraordinary detail, how small changes in the Earth's movement through space affect the amount of sunlight that reaches different parts of the planet. Three ingredients mattered:

- Eccentricity: how stretched or circular Earth's orbit is around the Sun;
- Obliquity: the tilt of Earth's axis, which affects how extreme the seasons are;
- Precession: the slow wobble of that axis, which shifts the timing of the seasons.

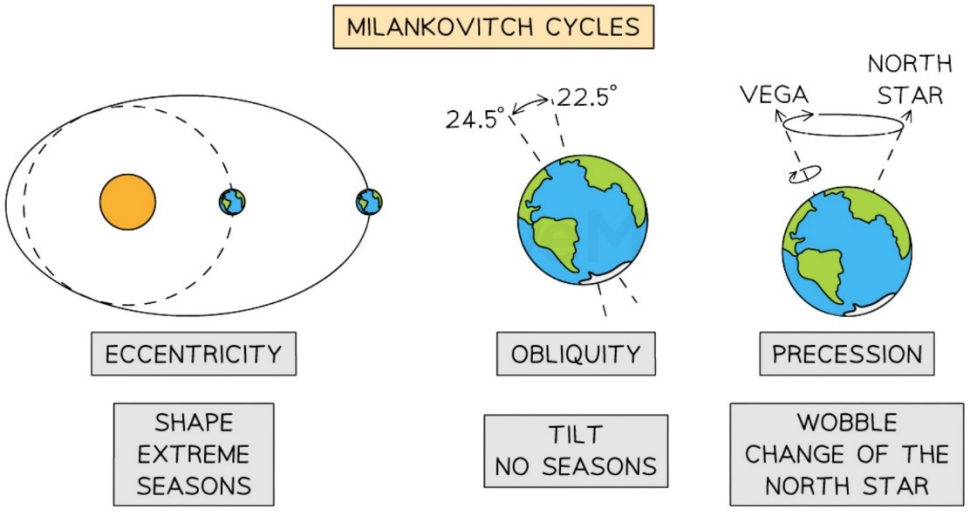

Image 2: Schematic of Milankovitch cycles (eccentricity, obliquity and precession) (Save My Exams, 2025).

These cycles have been playing out for tens of thousands of years. Milankovitch proposed that when they line up in certain ways, they change the amount of solar energy reaching key regions like the high northern latitudes. Over long periods, that gentle nudge is enough to tip the balance between growing and melting ice sheets. In other words, he suggested that natural, predictable variations in Earth's orbit are the pacemaker of the ice ages.

At the time, there were no detailed long-term climate records to test his ideas. You cannot prove a 100,000-year cycle with a few hundred years of thermometer readings. So, while his work was admired in academic circles, it was not widely embraced. Without empirical evidence, his theory was easy to set aside.

Decades later in the 1970s deep-sea sediment core data revealed precise 23,000, 41,000 and 100,000-year cycles (Hays, Imbrie & Shackleton, 1976), precisely the timescales Milankovitch had predicted from orbital mechanics. The data demonstrated that the major advances and retreats of ice sheets line up with these orbital cycles. Milankovitch's theory was widely accepted as the dominant explanation for Earth's glacial rhythms.

Therefore, the grand rhythms of Earth's glacial and interglacial periods are not random and are not primarily driven by human activity like we are told. They are strongly linked to orbital forcings, the slow, steady changes in how our planet travels around the Sun.

This is crucial context, because it tells us three things:

- Warming and cooling are not new. The Earth has warmed sharply before, long before industrial emissions existed;
- We are currently in one of those natural warm phases;
- Even if all man-made greenhouse gas emissions stopped tomorrow the planet would continue to warm.

Although these mechanisms had been confirmed by the scientific literature, newspapers and magazines were busy telling a very different, much scarier story. A sudden man-made Ice Age was just around the corner.

3. The Ice Age That Never Came: How the 1970s Cooling Scare Was Sold

By the mid-1970s, a misinformation gap had emerged between what most climate scientists were saying and what the public were being told.

Between 1965 and 1979, 44 peer-reviewed papers predicted a future warming trend, and only 7 papers suggested global cooling. In other words, the majority of experts were already pointing towards warming. Yet if you picked up a magazine or newspaper at the time, you could be forgiven for believing a new Ice Age was just around the corner.

Image 3: The media sold a story, not a science (Time Magazine 1973), (Time Magazine 1977).

Headlines did not say, “Most scientists say a new ice age is not imminent.” Instead, they ran with the opposite, “Experts say a new Ice Age is imminent”. In 1974 the British magazine *Radio Times* splashed the melodramatic headline, “The Ice Age Cometh.” (Radio Times 1974). American outlets followed a similar pattern. The mood was captured visually in pieces like “The Cooling of America” (Image 4). Cold snaps, failing crops, frozen cities and regional weather anomalies were presented as evidence that a global cooling disaster was underway. Television specials and magazine covers turned a temporary regional blip into a global long-term trend.

Image 4: It was never the scientific community telling the world an ice age was coming, it was the media, with their use of selected “experts”. (Time Magazine 1979), (Science & Mechanics, 1969)

Behind the scenes, something very different was happening. The cooling trend observed in the Northern Hemisphere between 1940 and 1970 was being investigated and, in many cases, understood as a local, temporary effect. Industrial aerosols, volcanic activity and natural ocean cycles all suppress temperatures over a few decades, but they do not overturn the long-term orbital cycles that drive glacial cycles.

Instead of explaining the distinction between short-term regional cooling and long-term global cycles, the media seized the idea of a forthcoming freeze. A small number of speculative papers and quotes were enough to build an entire doomsday narrative.

Fear needs details and quickly the story spread into food and famine. Newsweek (1975) reported that “governments were not prepared for the grim reality of climate-driven food shortages”. They wrote about planners failing to factor climatic uncertainty into their projections of future food supplies, and implied that delay would make it almost impossible to cope once the crisis hit. It was not just about chilly winters, it was about hunger, instability and global chaos.

Alongside this, a familiar emotional lever was pulled, sympathy for suffering in poorer countries. Articles of the time described how new national borders made it impossible for “starving peoples” to migrate from their devastated fields, as they supposedly had in past famines

(Newsweek 1975). The message to the comfortable Western reader was clear, your inaction will doom people far away.

If that feels familiar, it should. Exactly the same emotional chord is being played today with images of flooded villages, failed crops and desperate families, offered up as proof of "climate catastrophe", and as justification for sweeping political action.

Image 5: Erosion and flooding due to climate change compels residents to travel long distances on foot to access supplies." (Cope n.d., The Times Environment newsletter, 2025).

So, in the 1970s, we had a very specific situation:

- Most scientific papers foresaw warming, not an imminent deep freeze.
- A short-term cooling blip in the Northern Hemisphere was treated by the media as if it were a permanent global shift, even after undisputable empirical evidence to the contrary emerged.
- Fear of famine, food shortages and suffering in poorer countries was woven into the narrative to create urgency and moral pressure.
- The long-term orbital and glacial cycles, the real drivers of climate over tens of thousands of years, were sidelined.

It was the 1970s equivalent of doomsday clickbait, because fear sells.

This is a familiar pattern. A complex, long-term scientific picture is reduced to a simple doomsday slogan. A tiny slice of data is blown up into a global emergency. Carefully chosen "experts" are given the microphone, while the broader consensus is quietly ignored. And the public, understandably concerned about weather, food and human suffering, is steered into supporting whatever policy response is waiting in the wings.

The Ice Age never came. But the story of the Ice Age did its job.

4. From Global Cooling to Global Warming: Same Playbook, New Story

This fear took hold of a generation. In a speech to the Royal Society in 1988 Margaret Thatcher talked about the "fear", that people were feeling. The fear that humans were "creating a global heat trap which could lead to climatic instability." Thatcher was fearful of projections from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), that "such warming could cause accelerated melting of

glacial ice and a consequent increase in the sea level of several feet over the next century", and rightly so. That is a scary tale. Especially when the president of the Maldives at the time was adamant the island was going to be swallowed by sea water, because its highest point was a mere 6 feet above sea level.

This prediction from the National Academy of Sciences was false. Sea level has risen by only 15cm since then (Woodworth, 2005). This is the same NGO who even after undisputable empirical evidence emerged showing that orbital forcings were responsible for the changing climate, called for "urgent attention and recommend a world-wide, long-term climate research and monitoring programme under international bodies like World Meteorological Organisation and International Council of Science" (National Research Council 1983). Ie: An NGO recommending that more control be given to even broader reaching NGOs. It is clear, these unelected organisations 'empire build' and cannot be trusted.

However, it worked hook, line and sinker. The emotional formula was identical to todays.

1. Show distant suffering (177,000 potential climate-change refugees);
2. Tell the audience that "climate change" caused it;
3. Suggest that only major political and economic interventions can stop it, and we don't have time to properly scrutinise this;
4. Heavily imply that if you resist those interventions, you are complicit in the suffering.

It is a classic tactic, make the public feel guilty and afraid, and they will be far less likely to question whatever "solution" is rolled out in response.

This is a strategy we see time and time again. I describe this as the HEAT strategy:

- Hysteria – the tone is one of constant catastrophe, whether it's famine from cooling or climate-change refugees from warming.
- Everyday blame – the public are told that their normal way of living is responsible for the crisis.
- Appeals to compassion – emotional images of suffering in poorer countries are used so that questioning the narrative feels cruel or heartless.
- Time pressure – we are told there is no time left for proper scrutiny; drastic government action must be taken immediately, always by unelected, privately funded bodies.

Today the IPCC and a web of NGOs, think tanks and "climate campaigners" sit at the centre of this story. They take the scientifically established fact that we are in a warming phase, something perfectly consistent with the Milankovitch cycles, and add a crucial twist: this time, it's your fault, and only radical political and economic change can fix it.

5. The data never stacked up!

By 1988, the new script was well and truly being rolled out. On Friday 24 June, The New York Times ran with: "Global Warming Has Begun, Expert Tells Senate" (Image 6). Overnight, the public were told to stop worrying about freezing and start worrying about boiling.

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

VOL. CXXXVII . . . No. 47,546 NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1988

Global Warming Has Begun, Expert Tells Senate

Sharp Cut in Burning of Fossil Fuels Is Urged to Battle Shift in Climate

By PHILIP SHABECOFF

WASHINGTON, June 23 — The earth has been warmer in the first five months of this year than in any comparable period since measurements began 130 years ago, and the higher temperatures can now be attributed to a long-expected global warming trend linked to pollution, a space agency scientist reported today.

Until now, scientists have been cautious about attributing rising global temperatures of recent years to the predicted global warming caused by pollutants in the atmosphere, known as the "greenhouse effect." But today Dr. James E. Hansen of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration told a Congressional committee that it was 99 percent certain that the warming trend was not a natural variation but was caused by a buildup of carbon dioxide and other artificial gases in the atmosphere.

An Impact Lasting Centuries

Dr. Hansen, a leading expert on climate change, said in an interview that there was no "magic number" that

60.0
59.5
59.0
58.5
58.0
57.5
Temperature in Degrees Fahrenheit
1950-1980 Average
1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 '88

Global Warming: Greenhouse Effect?

Average global temperatures through the first five months of 1988. As a baseline, scientists use the global average from 1950 to 1980.

Source: James E. Hansen and Sergej Lebedeff

The New York Times/June 24, 1988

Drought Raising Food Prices; Inflation Effect Seems Minor

Image 6: "Global Warming has Begun", the story changes (Shabecoff, 1988)

Let's zoom in to look at what this headline was built on, "The Earth has been warmer in the first 5 months of this year than in any comparable period since measurements began 130 years ago…" From this, we are told that a long-expected global warming trend has finally arrived and may be linked to pollution. Five months of data were held up as proof of a global "trend", a time period so short as to risible.

The baseline they chose was equally revealing, 1950 to 1980. Within this timeframe lies the very cooling period (1950–1970) that had been used to scream "Ice Age!". Using this artificially cool period as the baseline meant any subsequent warming would look dramatic on a graph. It's data manipulation: pick a cold reference point, and everything that follows appears unusually warm. This was not neutral science. It was data manipulated in a way that told a ready-made story.

Similarly in Thatcher's speech where she stated, "It is noteworthy that the five warmest years in a century of records have all been in the 1980s", is actually, not noteworthy at all, not in climatic terms. Crispin Tickell who Thatcher credits with persuading her to make the speech, was a Kings Scholar when he graduated in modern history at Oxford (not science), and is credited with convincing her of the global warming emergency. All along, none of this was ever based on real trends, just mass hysteria and confirmation bias.

In modern reports, this twist is wrapped in technical language and comes with a long list of obscure projected harms, "Mental health impacts are expected to arise from exposure to extreme weather events, displacement, migration, famine, malnutrition, degradation or destruction of health and social care systems … and anxiety and distress associated with worry about climate change". Each hazard then conveniently supports a raft of new policies and funding streams, from carbon trading schemes to vaccine development, from "green finance" to

international aid tied to climate conditions (IPCC 2023). Once again, the climate story becomes a doorway into a vast policy programme and a huge transfer of money.

In a 2025 Times Environment newsletter, Zac Goldsmith argued that decarbonisation is now so entrenched in markets that political involvement is almost redundant, and that government efforts should instead go into "protecting nature". Meanwhile, Joss Garman, a former Labour staffer and climate campaigner, claims that saving rainforests is both economically smart and the "cheapest way to fight climate change", even tying it to the price of the weekly family food shop. The message is familiar: climate policy is not only morally necessary, but also essential to protecting your wallet and your dinner table.

6. The Net Zero Narrative

Where scientists saw orbital mechanics, glacial rhythms and natural variability, the media and their chosen experts saw an opportunity: a narrative that can be used to justify sweeping policies, international agreements, and intrusive controls over energy, land use and, ultimately, everyday life. The IPCC has become, in effect, a story factory. Its summaries are not neutral scientific documents; they are political tools, designed to create a sense of crisis that justifies intervention and control. National governments, instead of independently weighing evidence and costs, often treat these reports as marching orders.

The result is policies like Net Zero: sweeping, expensive programmes that touch every part of life: energy, transport, industry, agriculture, even what we eat and how we heat our homes. These policies are sold as our only hope of averting disaster. But when you strip away the marketing, they also do something else: they give unprecedented leverage to NGOs, supranational bodies and corporate interests over the domestic decisions of sovereign countries.

Net Zero looks less like a calm, rational response to proven danger and more like the latest instalment in a 60-year doomsday franchise. The plot changes slightly, but the ending is always the same: more control, more interference and more money flowing upwards to the people and organisations who authored the script.

For those of us who are starting to see through this, it is time to call it what it is: a narrative, not a neutral objective truth. A story that uses the language of science but regularly discards scientific facts and nuance whenever they get in the way of the desired conclusion.

7. Where We Really Are in Earth's Climate Cycle

We are currently living in an interglacial period which has lasted around 19,000 years. The Last Glacial Maximum spans roughly 26,500–19,000 years ago, with the coldest conditions centred around ~21,000 years ago (Clark et al., 2009). The Earth is meant to be warming, and there is nothing we could do to stop it. Similar warm peaks have occurred multiple times before (image 7) often just as abruptly, long before humans were burning coal, oil or gas.

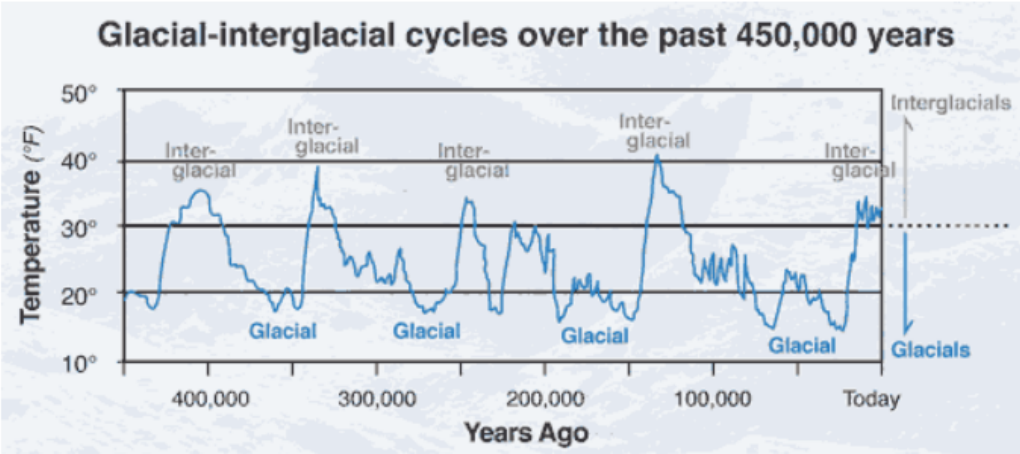

Image 7: Glacial–interglacial cycles over the past 450,000 years show that ice ages occur every 100,000 years (Eldredge & Biek, 2019).

The pattern is unmistakable. Temperature rises sharply as an ice age ends, plateaus in a warmer period, then falls again as a new glacial phase begins. The exact timings and shapes of these curves are governed by the Milankovitch cycles.

From this long-term view, two points become hard to ignore:

1. Our current warming period sits neatly within the range of past interglacials;

2. These warming periods are driven by astronomical cycles, not greenhouse gases. So even if we stopped all carbon emissions tomorrow the Earth would continue to get warmer;

Against this backdrop, the modern claim that we are experiencing an entirely "unprecedented" man-made warming, driven by human emissions, starts to look highly unlikely. To insist that 'this time' is completely different, you would have to argue that the immense orbital forcings and natural rhythms that have dominated the last million years have somehow been pushed aside, and that we, a late-arriving species, have taken control of the climate.

This is where Net Zero, fails its first basic test. If the theory behind it is that we are racing towards a catastrophic and unprecedented warming event, then the long-term data simply do not support that claim.

What's more, there is a lot of evidence to suggest that when the Earth is pushed too far, it has the ability to self-regulate and bring itself back to homeostasis.

7. The Earth As a Self-Regulating System

We see evidence of self-regulating events in our history, and they are a testament to the natural feedback loops which mean the earth functions as a self-regulating system.

Historical examples include the Younger Dryas event approximately 12,900 years ago. This was a sudden cooling episode which was reversed by changes in North Atlantic ocean circulation and naturally stabilised temperatures (Broecker, 1998). These changes in ocean circulation were not random, they were a natural response of the Earth. Earth's coupled systems, the oceans, atmosphere, ice, and biosphere interact to achieve balance through feedbacks that operate over

years to centuries. This is not a new idea and was first proposed in the 1970's by chemist James Lovelock. The theory suggests that the atmosphere, oceans, soil, and all living beings interact to maintain conditions suitable for life, much like a body regulates temperature, pH, or oxygen levels (Lovelock, 1979).

Another example is the Tambora eruption of 1815, which caused the global "Year Without a Summer" and widespread crop failure, yet was followed by natural recovery within a decade (Stothers, 1984). The famous Mount Pinatubo eruption of 1991 injected 20 million tonnes of sulphur dioxide into the stratosphere, temporarily cooling global temperatures by about 0.5°C (McCormick, Thomason & Trepte, 1995). As the aerosol load fell, water-vapour and cloud fields relaxed back toward their pre-eruption state. This illustrates how fast atmospheric and ocean-mixed-layer feedbacks help to restore the climate once a volcanic forcing fades (Soden et al., 2002; Robock, 2000).

When there have been other large, sometimes abrupt, climatic shifts driven by volcanic aerosols or reorganisations of ocean circulation, the evidence to date suggests these influences modulate rather than override the orbital pacing; in other words, they have not been shown to delay the onset of an ice age dictated by the prevailing orbital configuration (Milankovitch, 1941; Petit et al., 1999).

However, an independent study referenced by the IPCC in their latest report claims exactly the opposite, that "human-induced global warming is expected to delay the next ice age for at least 100,000 years" (Ganopolski, Winkelmann & Schellnhuber, 2016), meaning for the first time in the Earth's history, we would miss an ice age. The IPCC then has the audacity to add, *"The choices made within the next few years will determine the amount of cryosphere remaining on our planet and therefore, the future of generations to come."* (International Cryosphere Climate Initiative, 2023). Once again, the classic playbook is used; generating catastrophe (ice ages delayed) and creating urgency so that drastic action must be taken by non-elected officials immediately.

Frankly, these self-regulation events show Earth's temperature balance shifts dramatically even in the absence of human involvement and that it has the innate ability to maintain equilibrium through various feedback mechanisms. Despite these well-documented scientific arguments, Climate Change NGO's simply ignore the climatic systems that govern planetary temperature and stability. This reductionist approach has led to economic and infrastructural vulnerabilities across key sectors on a trajectory that will result in the UK becoming uncompetitive, deindustrialisation, the export of jobs, industry and production and thus the economic suicide of Britain.

Part II – Britain Under Net Zero

8. Economic Suicide: Driving Away Industry, Jobs and Investment

Automotive Industry

The UK's commitment to Net Zero has coincided with a sharp decline in traditional manufacturing, particularly within the automotive industry, one of Britain's oldest and most distinguished sectors. The transition to electric vehicles has been driven by mandates rather than consumer demand which has led to production uncertainty, job losses, and the closure of historic plants within the automotive industry (Rhys, 2023). Decades of expertise in combustion-engine design and component manufacture have been rapidly devalued, with supply chains disrupted and investment diverted overseas (Bailey and Budd, 2024).

Real-world examples include Bridgend engine plant in South Wales which closed in 2020 resulting in around 1,700 direct job losses and thousands more in the supply chain (Ford Motor Company 2020), whilst major manufacturers such as Volkswagen are shifting EV development and production to China to cut costs (CLEPA, 2025). Unless we have an attractive regulatory framework for companies to invest, we will continue to see economic decline.

A *Sustainability Magazine* report on Vauxhall's decision to close its Luton van plant notes that the closure could lead to around 1,100 job losses and explicitly frames it as part of the tension between "aggressive regulatory goals" for decarbonisation and the realities of the EV market (Darley, 2024). The cumulative effect has been the hollowing out of industrial communities, the loss of sovereign manufacturing capability, and a transfer of economic advantage overseas.

Oil Refineries

Oil refineries are the basic building blocks of the modern industrial economy. Refineries produce essential feedstocks for plastics, fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals and industrial chemicals. Without them an economy becomes entirely dependent on the whims of other nations. This is an unacceptable strategic and geopolitical risk.

In just a few decades we've gone from 19 refineries to four, leaving the UK increasingly dependent on foreign-processed fuels and petrochemical inputs (BEIS 2014), and creating structural vulnerability in supply chains (House of Commons Committee 2025). The UK has also been winding down domestic oil and gas production since 2004, raising costs for investors and undermining economic competitiveness (ICAEW 2025). Meanwhile, UK industrial energy prices remain significantly higher than those of competitor economies, placing UK manufacturing at a severe disadvantage (ONS 2025; House of Commons Library 2025). The UK's inability to domestically source basic pharmaceutical inputs was highlighted during the Covid period (ICAEW 2025).

Policy mechanisms such as the Emissions Trading Scheme, Industrial Emissions Directive, Fuel Quality Directive, Renewable Energy Directive, and UK-specific measures like the Carbon Price Floor and Carbon Reduction Commitment loaded additional compliance and capital costs onto plants already battling thin margins (Energy and Climate Change Committee 2013). Independent analysis estimated regulatory-driven burdens added around £5.5 billion in costs between 2013–2020, effectively eliminating profitability and deterring investment (IHS Purvin & Gertz 2013). The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and related carbon-pricing measures continue to impose

escalating cost pressures, making UK refinery operations increasingly unviable (Advanced Biofuels USA 2025; Carbon Pulse 2025).

The closure pattern is clear: Coryton in 2012 (Hansard 2012), Milford Haven in 2014 (Welsh Government 2014), and Grangemouth in 2025 converting to an import-only terminal after sustained losses and competition from newer, larger overseas facilities (Reuters 2024; Reuters 2025). Climate policy has raised costs, markets have squeezed margins, and capital has walked. Once domestic refining disappears, it will be prohibitively expensive and time-consuming to re-establish them.

If the remaining refineries are permitted to close, the UK will become permanently dependent on overseas refining capacity, with no straightforward path to reverse that dependency (S&P Global 2025). Refining capacity is central to industrial independence, national resilience, and capability in times of conflict, underscored by Ukraine's targeted strikes on Russian refineries (S&P Global 2025).

A government that claims to act "for future generations" cannot continue endorsing policies that make those generations more dependent, more exposed, and less capable of sustaining an independent industrial base.

9. Net Zero Destroys Energy Security

Parliament's Energy Security and Net Zero Committee describes an "energy affordability crisis" from late 2021 to 2023, in which UK electricity and gas prices soared, driven by post-COVID demand and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. By 2025 domestic energy prices remained around 75% above pre-crisis levels and UK industrial electricity prices were the highest in Europe (UK Parliament 2017). In 2025, Octopus Energy warned Parliament that even if wholesale prices halved, household bills would still rise by approximately 20% due to developing policy and expanding network charges (Ambrose 2025). The UK currently has among the highest electricity prices in the Western world, with the second-highest domestic electricity cost among IEA nations in 2024 (Ofgem 2025).

The transition to Net Zero is estimated to cost the UK economy £30 billion annually (Office for Budget Responsibility 2022), with these costs being passed onto consumers through rising energy bills, taxation, and inflation. The Energy Crisis Commission (2024), a cross-party group, concluded that a "perfect storm of factors, including heavy reliance on gas for both heating and power, made the UK critically vulnerable to spikes in global fossil fuel markets," leaving homes and businesses "dangerously exposed."

Offshore Energies UK (2025) reports that the UK now imports more than 40% of its total energy needs and warns that this figure could rise to 80% within the decade if domestic production continues to decline (Offshore Energies UK 2025; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero 2024). This will rise to 94% by 2050, even if new North Sea fields such as Rosebank proceed (End Fuel Poverty Coalition 2025).

The North Sea Transition Authority (2023) confirms a structural downward trend in domestic output, necessitating ever-higher import volumes. We seem to be moving into a future where we will be increasingly dependent on the reliability of renewables, leaving us vulnerable and keeping us price-exposed in crises, adding further to economic vulnerabilities.

The Windfall Tax on oil and gas, the Energy Profits Levy, has pushed the total tax burden on North Sea producers to around 78% (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2024). Harbour Energy, the UK's largest oil and gas producer, reported a post-tax loss of US $93 million in 2024, despite generating US $1.22 billion in pre-tax profit (Harbour Energy, 2025). If these punitive taxes were removed and replaced with a pro-investment regime, companies would reinvest, jobs would grow, supply chains would expand, and local communities would benefit.

A resilient energy strategy requires reliable baseload power from nuclear, natural gas, or advanced clean-coal technologies, rather than complete reliance on imports and intermittent renewables. Strengthening our North Sea and refining sectors through pro-investment fiscal policy would increase domestic energy security, support high-skilled employment, and ensure that value creation occurs within the UK economy rather than being exported abroad.

A reminder of "green" system fragility came on 28 April 2025, when a continental-scale blackout struck Spain and Portugal, leaving over 10 million people temporarily without electricity, partly due to the intermittent nature of solar and wind power as primary sources. We must regard this event as a warning of what can happen when a nation places Net Zero targets above broader national priorities.

10. Net Zero Destroys Food Security

The IPCC 2023 synthesis report concludes that climate change poses a significant and growing risk to global food security (IPCC 2023). If this were truly believed by government, then surely they would be taking conscious steps to increase food security and strengthen agricultural resilience, not repurposing some of our most productive farmland for solar arrays and rewilding, rather than productive agriculture. Farmers face rising regulatory burdens, hostile inheritance tax pressures, and declining policy support for food production, all contributing to increased reliance on imports.

If policymakers genuinely perceived an impending climate threat to food supply, they would be prioritising domestic agricultural productivity and national food sovereignty. Instead, current policy choices increase our exposure to external supply-chain failures and commodity price volatility.

The key problem with current policy as it relates to our primary producers, our farmers, is that there is no investment in the future of food production in Britain. This trajectory will lead to a decline in farms producing food for the public, and further increase our dependence on overseas imports, adding to our economic vulnerability. At present, tax payer funded financial support for farmers prioritises rewilding and the environment over food production, there is almost no financial support from government to help farmers maintain or expand national food output.

The one exception is a technology subsidy that pays up to £500,000 for robotic equipment to "improve productivity". However, in practice this actually weakens food security by supporting and classifying the installation of solar photovoltaic systems on farmland as productivity-enhancing. Furthermore, financial aid is only given to farmers who adopt net-zero-aligned practices, increase wildlife habitats, or demonstrate mitigation of 'climate change'. This is a two-tier policy that penalises food producers.

Meanwhile, in the case of the HS2 high-speed rail project, the same government has felled ancient woodlands and veteran trees, bulldozing through nesting season (Woodland Trust 2025) whilst wasting tens of billions of taxpayer money (Rail Magazine 2025; HS2 Six-Monthly Report 2025). This demonstrates a clear double standard in environmental policy and an absence of authentic environmental stewardship.

Agricultural support should serve its core purpose: secure, affordable food for the British public and a viable future for British agriculture. We must move away from schemes that pay farmers not to produce and bury them in paperwork and instead incentivise true food sovereignty. That means simple, stable payments that reward output, resilience, and stewardship, keeping fertile land in serious cultivation, backing modern kit and skills, and developing farms capable of meeting future challenges.

Part III – Replacing Net Zero with Rational Climate Policy

11. Net Zero Does Not Equal Environmental Responsibility

Net Zero does not ensure environmental responsibility. The UK exports a significant proportion of its plastic waste abroad, particularly to Turkey, Malaysia, and other countries, where much of it is burnt or dumped, creating more emissions and pollution that it otherwise would. A 2021 Greenpeace investigation found that UK-labelled waste sent to Turkey was being burned in fields or piled in illegal dumps, rather than recycled (Greenpeace UK 2021). Emissions generated abroad are not counted in the UK's carbon ledger. This creates the illusion of sustainability.

Research also shows that wood pellets imported from North America and burned at Drax Power Station for "renewable energy", actually produce more CO_2 per unit of energy than coal, whilst destroying carbon-sequestering forests in the US and Canada. The emissions from logging, processing, shipping, and burning these pellets are also not counted in UK emissions (Bright et al. 2022), once again creating a numeric illusion of sustainability.

Moreover, the offshoring of heavy industries to countries with lower environmental standards has paradoxically increased global emissions, whilst eroding Britain's manufacturing base (Helm, 2012).

This is not environmental stewardship, this is not caring about the planet, it is an illusion. We are being forced to frantically chase net zero, at the cost of our economy, our industries, our communities and even our environment.

12. Principles for Evidence-Led Climate Policy

If we accept that climate will always change and that Britain is a small player in global emissions, then the test of a good climate policy is not how dramatic its slogans are, but whether it leaves our country stronger and more self-sufficient. An evidence-led climate policy for the UK should be built on at least three basic principles:

Resilience Before Symbolism

Climate policy must first and foremost strengthen Britain's ability to withstand shocks: in energy, agriculture, industry and infrastructure. A policy which raises costs, deepens dependency, and drains strategic capacity is not "green".

National Interest Over Supranational Pressure

Britain's climate policy must be made in the interests of the British people, by elected representatives in Westminster, not written elsewhere and rubber-stamped here. International agreements can inform, but they must not override our duty to keep the lights on, the shelves stocked, our people secure, and our industries alive and profitable, generating wealth for the country. If a treaty, target or deadline conflicts with these duties, it is the treaty that should give way, not the country.

Whole-System Science, Not Single-Metric Obsession

The climate system is governed by orbital mechanics, ocean circulation, volcanic activity, cloud feedbacks and biosphere interactions, not solely CO_2 concentration. Climate policy must recognise and reflect this complexity.

Taken together, these principles point towards a different kind of climate policy: one that treats climate change as a given, something we can use as an advantage because we are able to predict its changes. Not as a mythical dragon to be slain at any cost. The recommendations that follow are designed to move the UK from the current ideology-led Net Zero framework towards an honest, resilient and genuinely sustainable approach that is in the public interest.

13. Policy Recommendations

Repeal the Climate Change Act

The Climate Change Act (2008) created legally binding targets that constrain sovereign policymaking. Its repeal is essential to re-establish democratic control over energy and economic policy. An interim amendment, swiftly made via a statutory instrument, could immediately reduce the legal target from 100% to 50%, effectively pausing Net Zero until repeal is completed.

Leave the Paris Agreement

Withdrawal would restore sovereign discretion over energy policy and remove supranational constraints. The legal process takes approximately one year. The US has already demonstrated that withdrawal is both possible and strategically viable.

Scrap All Climate and Environmental Levies and Subsidies by Repealing the Legislation

Only measures proven by mandated Resilience Impact Assessment – see below - to strengthen the economy should remain.

Create an Attractive Regulatory Framework for Companies to Invest In, Particularly in the North Sea and Oil Refineries

Britain must create a genuinely attractive regulatory framework that incentivises private-sector energy investment, particularly in North Sea production and domestic refining capacity. Instead of deterring developers with punitive taxation and arbitrary regulatory shifts, government should provide stable, long-term conditions that reward capital investment and innovation. Tax incentives promote growth and innovation; subsidies distort behaviour and undermine market efficiency.

Invest in North Sea Hydrocarbons

The North Sea should be treated as a strategic national asset. The default should be approval of development, with refusal reserved for exceptional cases. The objective is a productive, profitable North Sea sector that maximises its contribution to GDP, tax receipts and national energy security. Industrial prosperity and national prosperity are inseparable, and energy abundance is the foundation of both.

Public communication and investment branding should emphasise regional benefits: Yorkshire Gas for Yorkshire jobs; Scottish Oil for Scottish jobs. The economic and social multiplier effects of thriving energy communities are immense, and history shows the damage caused when industrial bases collapse.

Stop Closing Refineries

Refineries underpin pharmaceuticals, fertilisers, plastics and industrial supply chains. The UK's collapse to four remaining refineries represents a structural national risk. Once gone, these facilities cannot be quickly restored.

Scrapping Carbon Capture and Storage

Carbon capture and storage is a new technology of unproven effectiveness and worth. Taxpayers' money must not be invested in developing and delivering it unless and until its value is established. This may mean simply scrapping and abandoning all work on carbon capture and storage.

Mandate "Resilience Impact Assessments" for Climate and Environmental Groups

All publicly funded climate NGOs and environmental groups must demonstrate measurable net-positive economic contribution to national resilience. Those that cannot justify their budgetary burden, whether in energy, food, industry, or infrastructure can not be publicly funded.

Scrap Inheritance Tax for Farmers

Removing this burden prevents forced sales of agricultural land, keeps capital in rural economies, and strengthens food security.

Additional Support for Farmers

Policy must shift away from paying farmers not to produce and toward supporting domestic food production. Bureaucratic barriers should be reduced, and support should prioritise productivity and supply-chain resilience.

Establish an Independent Climate & Energy Audit Office

The central aim of this body should be the attainment of food and energy sovereignty, as essential pillars of national security. This would be a dedicated institution focusing on long-term energy and agricultural strategy, while appropriately adapting to climatic shifts.

Anticipated changes in seasonal patterns, such as warmer and wetter winters, will alter the ´timing, composition, and yield of crops. Farmers must be alerted to these changes so they can plan.

All climate data and modelling should be generated domestically to ensure methodological integrity, transparency, and independence. Furthermore, the Ministry of Defence should cooperate closely with this office to protect, maintain, and secure critical national energy infrastructure.

Withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights

Invoke Article 58 of the ECHR to initiate the six-month withdrawal process, restoring full legal sovereignty over human-rights interpretation. Recent litigation has used the Convention to compel climate policy outcomes through external courts, undermining democratic decision-making. UK-based rights protections would remain in place, with adjudication returning to British courts and Parliament retaining full authority over national policy.

Conclusion

The central claim of this paper is simple: climate change is not an unprecedented anomaly but the visible expression of Earth's long-standing natural rhythms. Ice cores, sediment cores and orbital calculations all point to the same picture, a planet moving in and out of ice ages on roughly 100,000-year cycles, with sharp interglacial warmings like the one we are living through now. Volcanic eruptions, ocean circulation shifts and abrupt events like the Younger Dryas show that the climate system can swing, absorb shocks and then re-stabilise without any human intervention.

Against that backdrop, the modern climate narrative looks less like sober science and more like a story that has been rewritten to fit each decade. In the 1970s, a short cooling blip became an imminent Ice Age. In the late 1980s, the script flipped to runaway warming. In both cases, the deeper Milankovitch cycles, the self-regulating behaviour of the Earth system and the true balance of scientific opinion were pushed aside. What dominated instead was the HEAT strategy: hysteria, everyday blame, appeals to compassion, and relentless time pressure to justify drastic action.

Net Zero is the latest policy expression of that narrative. It asks a small, already de-industrialised country to believe that it can meaningfully steer a climate system governed by astronomical cycles, while simultaneously stripping away the very tools that make a nation resilient: affordable energy, domestic industry, secure food supplies and strategic autonomy. It makes Britain poorer, more fragile and more dependent on foreign suppliers, all in exchange for emissions cuts on paper that may make real environmental outcomes worse.

This is not responsible climate policy; it is a form of managed national self-harm. A state that is serious about preparing for climate risk, whether warmer, colder, wetter or drier, would be securing arable land, backing productive farming, investing in reliable baseload power, and rebuilding industrial capacity. It would treat blackouts, supply shocks and food insecurity as national emergencies every bit as real as any projected rise in average temperature. Instead, under the banner of Net Zero, Britain is marching in the opposite direction.

A different path is possible. Repealing the Climate Change Act and withdrawing from the Paris Agreement would restore democratic control over climate and energy strategy. Scrapping punitive climate levies and subsidies, rebuilding North Sea hydrocarbons and domestic refining, and removing damaging burdens such as inheritance tax on farms would strengthen the foundations of prosperity, cheap energy, strong industry and secure food supplies. An Independent Climate & Energy Audit Office geared towards national resilience planning would

end the ideological enforcement of emissions targets, and restore support for farmers, energy security and industry.

In the end, the only thing truly unprecedented in this story is not the climate itself, but the ideological onboarding of scientists and policy to serve a single, apocalyptic narrative. A sustainable strategy for Britain must start from a different premise: that climate will continue to change, with or without Net Zero, and our duty is not to sacrifice the country on the altar of symbolism, but to make it strong enough to face whatever the weather brings.

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