

The biggest threat to the UK's borders comes from cli...

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Published: January 12, 2026, 8:25 pm

Rishi Sunak was interviewed by Trevor Phillips on Sky News this morning. He was petulant, pedantic, defensive of his record and simultaneously aggressive towards Phillips, whilst also being inappropriate and evasive. Apart from that, the interview went well.

I do, however, wish to ignore all those points and pick up an issue which he did not, of course highlight. Nor did Phillips.

Sunak's claim was that we have to increase defence spending in the UK as part of our programme of defending our borders. It's all very Trumpian.

Simultaneously, he was adamant that we have to 'stop the boats', and that those words should be interpreted in accordance with their plain meaning. In other words, he was saying that there should be no more of what he describes as illegal immigration, even though the vast majority of people crossing the Channel do so legally, meaning he entirely misdescribes the problem.

In all this Sunak downgrades the significance of any measures to tackle climate change. He has no interest in doing that. Trump does not believe climate change is real, so nor can Rishi. In doing so he does, however, miss the glaringly obvious point, which is that the biggest threat to our borders comes from climate change.

We face the threat of serious inundation of large parts of the country from floodwater, whilst anyone who pretends that climate change will not create refugees in record numbers is straightforwardly in denial of a glaringly obvious truth that is staring us in the face.

That is what Sunak is now doing.

Unfortunately, it seems to be what Labour is doing as well.

We have a particular problem there seem to be no grown-up thinkers in UK politics right

now who can look at the underlying long-term causes of the issues that we face and base policy upon addressing those issues so that we might anticipate and even prevent problems arising. They prefer short-term posturing instead.

It would really help if we could have politicians who could think beyond their need for instant gratification right now, but Labour and the Tories (at least) do not seem capable of providing them.