

Why are politicians denying the existential threat from...

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As the [FT has noted](#) this morning:

The UK's sea level is rising faster than the global average and at an accelerating rate, scientists have warned in a study that also shows how climate change is making Britain hotter and wetter as extremes of weather "become the norm".

Sea levels have risen by 13.4cm in the UK since 1993, compared with a global average of 10.6cm, according to the annual state of the UK climate report published on Monday.

They added:

Svetlana Jevrejeva, a scientist at the National Oceanography Centre and co-author of the research, said the report for 2024 was the first time it had noted that the UK's sea level rise was above the global average. This "intensifies coastal hazards" around the country, she added.

That, I think, is right up there with the greatest understatements of all time.

Among the many threats that this country is failing to take seriously, rising sea levels is amongst the highest.

For example, when the sea walls around The Wash in Norfolk and Lincolnshire begin to fail, as they inevitably will given the current state of indifference towards maintaining them at adequate levels, the most productive farmland in the whole of the UK begins to flood as far inland as Bedford, with cities like Cambridge likely ceasing to be sustainable. Moreover, we will lose whatever agricultural sustainability we currently have.

Despite the desperate desire of right-wing economists and those politicians they inspire, to pretend that the future does not exist because they claim that all the financial consequences arising in time to come can be fully and appropriately appraised as if they occur in the present, that is total nonsense. As a matter of fact, we have to plan for future events that are distinctly different from those happening at present. One

of these differences is flooding.

We are going to see more floods in the future. Anyone who claims otherwise is lying.

The choice that we have now is not to discount this possibility (as economists would put it), or to pretend that it is too expensive to consider, but to instead plan for the certainty that it will happen. If we wish for our children to live in a viable country, then we have no choice but to do so.

In that case, the big question is why our politicians are pretending otherwise and why they are so squeamish on this issue, which is absolutely fundamental to the future viability of the country as a whole in which we live? They are willing to squander hundreds of billions of pounds on nuclear power plants that might well be underwater before they can ever deliver the energy that they supposedly promise, but they are not willing to consider how they might protect the land on which people live from ceasing to exist. The irresponsibility of that is incomprehensible.