

Could the far-right split?

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In case you missed it, there was an outlier in the local election results this week. It happened in Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, where all seats up for election were won by the local very far-right Restore Party branch operating as Great Yarmouth First.

As the [Anti-Capitalist Musings Substack](#) (which I recommend, which has been monitoring this far-right action) noted:

Nigel Farage told a Reform UK eve-of-poll event that Rupert Lowe would not get one per cent of the vote in Great Yarmouth. The room laughed and clapped. Yesterday, Great Yarmouth First won all ten seats in the borough's Norfolk County Council divisions, with vote shares above forty per cent in every single one. In Magdalen, Kevin Huggins took fifty per cent. In at least one other division, the candidate cleared forty-three. Reform, running against them in their ex-MP's constituency, was pushed into second place.

Farage was not making a careless prediction. He was expressing a consensus. Most people looking at British politics over the past six months have not taken Restore Britain seriously. A recently registered party, a millionaire MP with a complicated history, a social media operation that looked, from a distance, like performance. The press has barely covered it. The left has largely ignored it. When I wrote, at the party's founding in early 2026, that this was the most dangerous far-right formation Britain had seen in decades, the response was sceptical.

And as they added:

What Farage missed, and what the consensus missed, is that Great Yarmouth First was never a vanity project. It was a proof of concept. Lowe and his campaigns director Charlie Downes designed the operation around a specific theory of how to build electoral power on the radical right. Local branding to neutralise the toxicity of the national name. A policy cadre operating behind a presentable figurehead. Targeted deployment in the one constituency where the ground had been prepared. If it worked in Great Yarmouth, it could be replicated. That was always the stated plan.

The march of the far-right is not finished yet, and in Great Yarmouth, the Restore pushed Reform into second place in every seat. No one else really got a look in anywhere.

Why note this? I do so for the very obvious reason that Rupert Lowe has money, right-wing inclinations that far exceed those of Nigel Farage in their vulgarity, and now he has proven electoral success. To presume in that case that the far right in the UK is a single force will, henceforth, be a potential mistake. The possibility that their vote will be split is something to be taken into account, which might change the electoral arithmetic as a consequence.

Do not ignore, either, just how repugnant the message of this party is. There is nothing remotely subtle about its attitude towards those from ethnic minorities. If you think Farage treads a careful line when it comes to racism, Rupert Lowe does not. There is nothing remotely subtle to be found in his position. If this toxicity spreads, we are, whether they win or not, in trouble.