



Climate Change, Health and the role of the VCSE Sector

10 October, 10am – 12noon, Priory Street Centre

yorkcvs



Welcome

What are climate commissions?

Climate Commissions are city- or area-wide partnerships bringing together people and organisations from the public, private and civic sectors who work collaboratively to help drive, guide, support and track climate action.



Evidence-based - inspired by
UK's Climate Change
Committee



Independent voice, but
work co-operatively with
local government



Authoritative
advice on steps
towards a low
carbon, climate
resilient future



“An experiment
in a new form of
governance”
(no two are the
same!)

10 Things Climate Commissions do (part I)



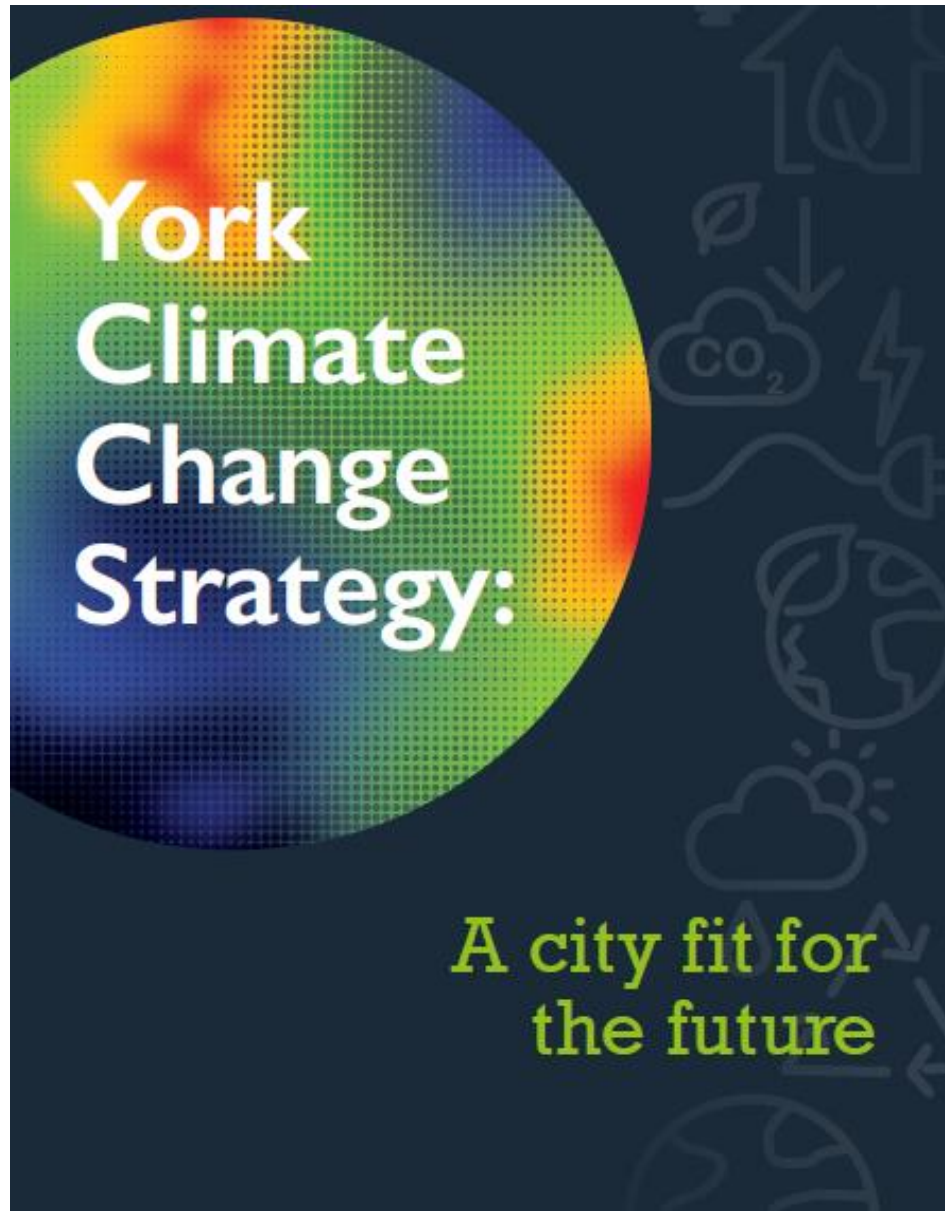
- Connect and mobilise local actors, promote partnership working and co-production of climate action
- Promote inclusive processes that involve and empower local actors, support meaningful representation of different groups and work towards fair outcomes
- Build a sense of common ownership and shared responsibility
- Be a trusted voice, building climate/carbon literacy, acting as a critical friend and a focal point/clearing house for information
- Engender positivity, emphasising how climate action can be an opportunity to deliver on other social, economic and environmental objectives

10 Things Climate Commissions do (part II)



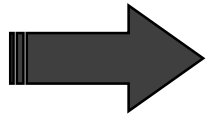
- Strengthen the evidence base and commission, prepare, support and/or promote the adoption and delivery of local climate action plans
- Inform, guide, support and track progress towards local climate targets
- Review current activities, celebrate successes and promote the replication/scaling up of different forms of best practice
- Provide neutral spaces for the review of different issues, and publish position papers on contentious issues to support informed, balanced debate
- Provide on-going, longer-term support for climate action beyond electoral cycles.





“A prosperous, progressive, and sustainable city, giving the highest priority to the wellbeing of its residents, whilst protecting the fabric and culture of this world-famous historic city.”

A net zero carbon & climate resilient city by 2030



Increase collaboration and co-operation



Continuously adapt to change



Fair, inclusive, healthy and sustainable communities



New employment and investment opportunities




Good governance and evidence based planning

Priority themes and strategic objectives



YCC Working Groups

- **Waste Working Group Working Group**
 - **Energy Working Group**
 - **Connecting with Green Spaces Working Group**
 - **Energy Working Group**
 - **Buildings and Retrofit Working Group**
 - **Energy Working Group**
 - **Transport Working Group**
 - **Health and Climate Working Group** 
 - **Future Economy Working Group**
 - **Food Working Group**
 - **Education Working Group**
- Air Quality
 - Extreme Cold
 - Extreme Heat
 - Zoonotic infections
 - Commercial Determinants of climate change
 - Active Travel

What is climate
change?

Quick overview

- Climate change is the long-term shift in the Earth's average temperatures and weather conditions
- Natural causes cannot explain the rapid warming seen in the last century
- 1.2C warming already had huge environmental impact:
 - more frequent and intense extreme weather, such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall
 - rapid melting of glaciers and ice sheets, contributing to sea-level rise
 - huge declines in Arctic sea-ice
 - ocean warming
- The more temperatures increase, the worse the impacts will become
- Limiting long-term average temperature rises to 1.5C is crucial
- A 2C warming scenario versus 1.5C could include:
 - **Extreme hot days** would be on average 4C warmer at mid-latitudes (regions outside the poles and tropics), versus 3C at 1.5C
 - **Sea-level rise** would be 0.1m higher than at 1.5C, exposing up to 10 million more people to events including more frequent flooding
 - More than 99% of **coral reefs** would be lost, compared with 70-90% at 1.5C
 - Twice the number of **plants and vertebrates** (animals with a backbone) would be exposed to unsuitable climate conditions across more than half the geographical area where they are found
 - Several hundred million more **people** may be exposed to climate-related risks and susceptible to poverty by 2050 than at 1.5C.
- The impact is **not** equally distributed, globally or closer to home

Evidence

01

Human influence has warmed our world, from our atmosphere, to oceans, to land

02

Temperatures have risen on the Earth's surface by more than 1.2°C since the pre-industrial period

03

Each of the last three decades has been hotter than the previous one

- The change in temperature isn't being felt equally, with the greatest increases seen over land than over oceans, and twice as fast in the Arctic

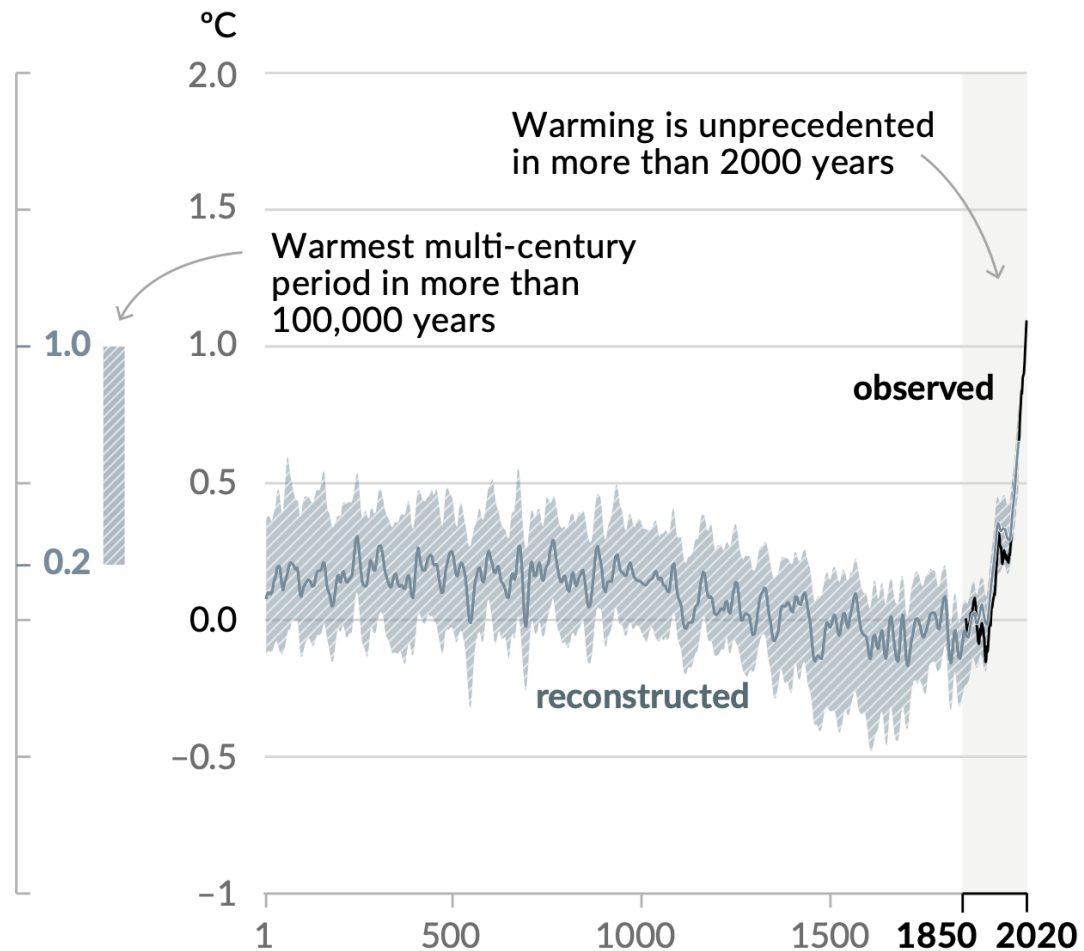
1. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2023/climate-change-drives-uks-first-year-over-10c>
2. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282612717_Too_hot_too_cold_too_wet_too_dry_Drivers_and_impacts_of_seasonal_weather_in_the_UK



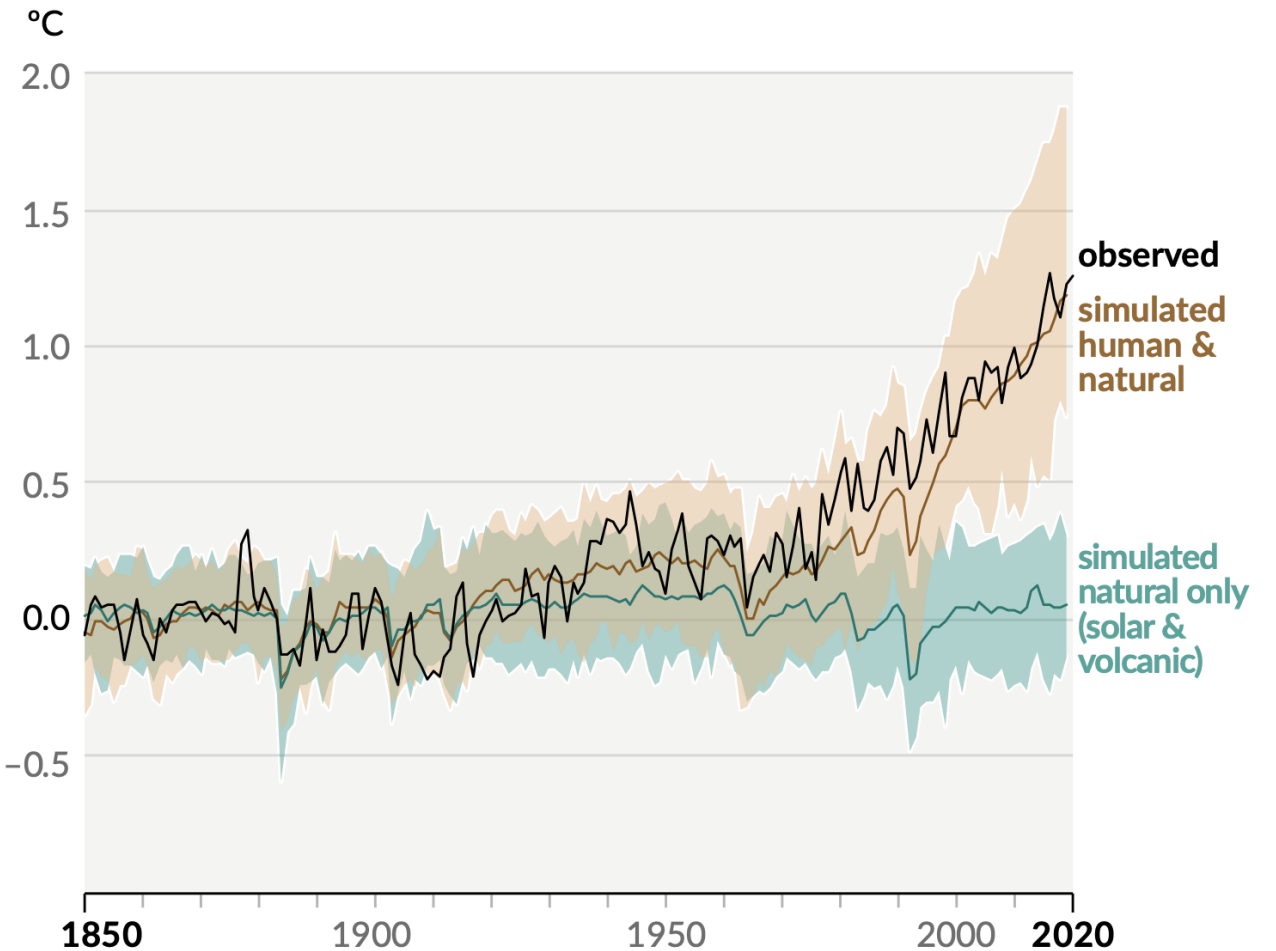
Climate change is unprecedented

- Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years
 - Changes in global surface temperature relative to 1850 - 1900

(a) Change in global surface temperature (decadal average) as **reconstructed** (1–2000) and **observed** (1850–2020)



(b) Change in global surface temperature (annual average) as **observed** and simulated using **human & natural** and **only natural** factors (both 1850–2020)



Causes of Climate Change



Generating power



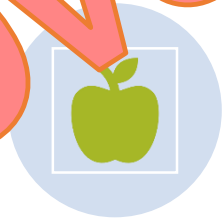
Manufacturing goods



Cutting down forests



Using transportation



Producing food



Powering buildings

Overconsumption

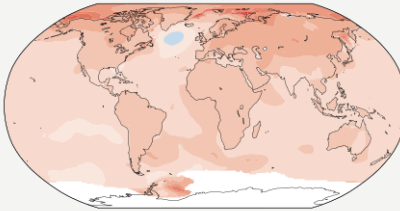


More warming, more changes

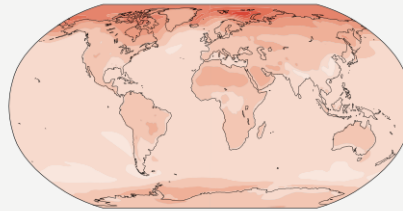
(a) Annual mean temperature change (°C) at 1°C global warming

Warming at 1°C affects all continents and is generally larger over land than over the oceans in both observations and models. Across most regions, observed and simulated patterns are consistent.

Observed change per 1°C global warming



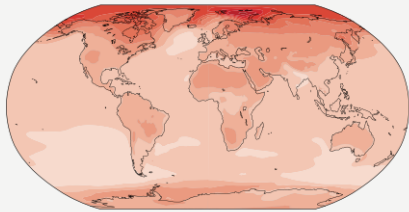
Simulated change at 1°C global warming



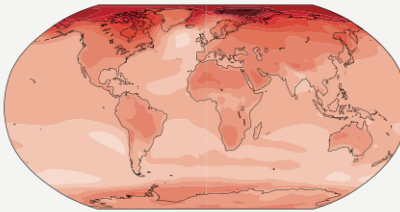
(b) Annual mean temperature change (°C) relative to 1850–1900

Across warming levels, land areas warm more than ocean areas, and the Arctic and Antarctica warm more than the tropics.

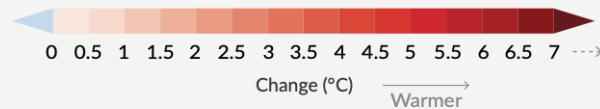
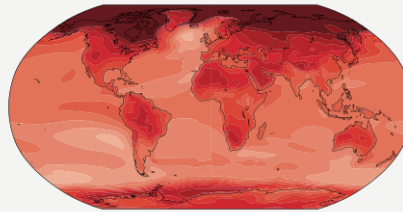
Simulated change at 1.5°C global warming



Simulated change at 2°C global warming



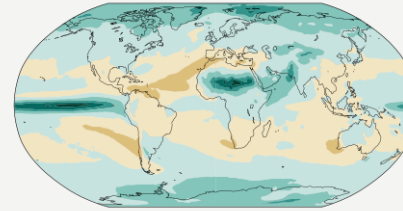
Simulated change at 4°C global warming



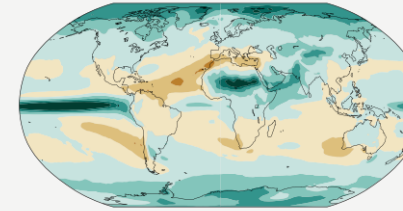
(c) Annual mean precipitation change (%) relative to 1850–1900

Precipitation is projected to increase over high latitudes, the equatorial Pacific and parts of the monsoon regions, but decrease over parts of the subtropics and in limited areas of the tropics.

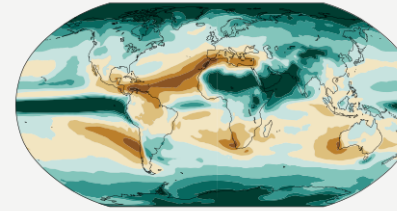
Simulated change at 1.5°C global warming



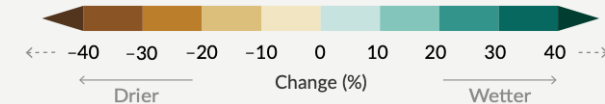
Simulated change at 2°C global warming



Simulated change at 4°C global warming



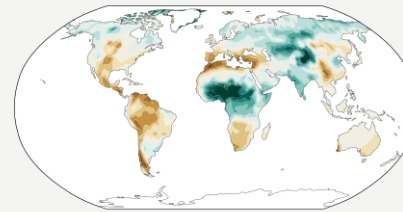
Relatively small absolute changes may appear as large % changes in regions with dry baseline conditions.



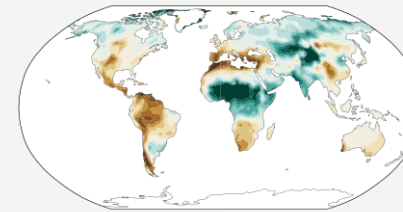
(d) Annual mean total column soil moisture change (standard deviation)

Across warming levels, changes in soil moisture largely follow changes in precipitation but also show some differences due to the influence of evapotranspiration.

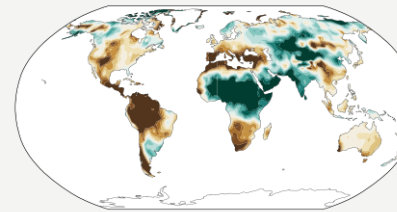
Simulated change at 1.5°C global warming



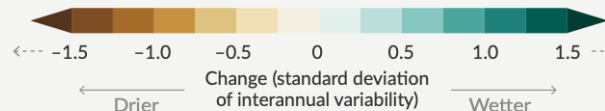
Simulated change at 2°C global warming



Simulated change at 4°C global warming



Relatively small absolute changes may appear large when expressed in units of standard deviation in dry regions with little interannual variability in baseline conditions.



Climate > News
Earth sets its hottest day record for third time in a week
The record is likely to be broken sooner rather than later, warn experts
Stuti Mishra, Louise Boyle • 3 days ago • 8 Comments

'Climate change is out of control' warns UN chief as Earth suffers hottest week on record



By Euronews Green with AP • Updated: 11/07/2023 - 10:20

The latest numbers help prove "that climate change is out of control," says UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Earth reached its hottest day ever for the third day in a row on Wednesday, according to one unofficial analysis. This made the past seven days the world's hottest week on record.

Climate change impacts June temperature records

Author: Press Office
14:00 (UTC+1) on Mon 3 Jul 2023

June has been confirmed as the hottest on record for the UK. According to provisional Met Office figures, the average mean temperature of 15.8°C for June 2023 in the UK is the highest in a series since 1884, with England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland also reporting their respective warmest June on record.

Heatwave last summer killed 61,000 people in Europe, research finds

Hottest summer on record - fuelled by climate crisis - brought unusually high mortality rates, statistics show

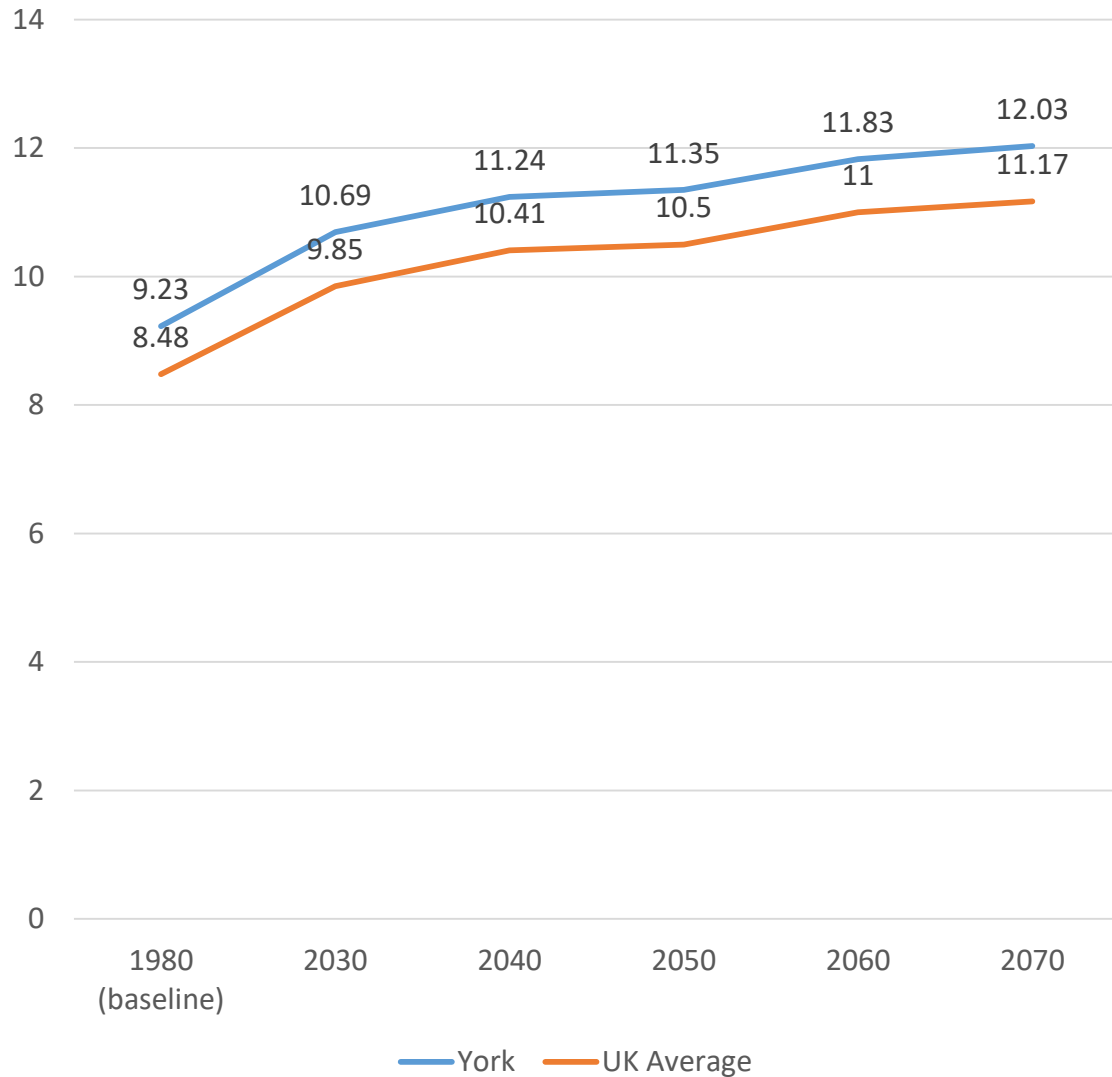


Record Breaking

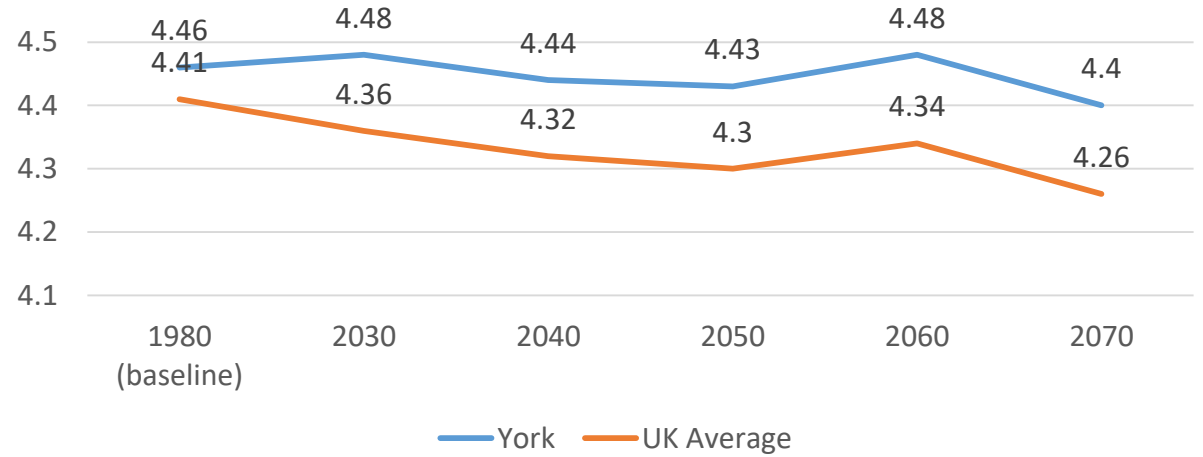
- We've had the hottest day on record, the wettest day, the hottest month, the wettest month, the lowest levels of ice in the Antarctic, the fastest rates of ice melt... all in the last 18-months..

What does this
mean for York?

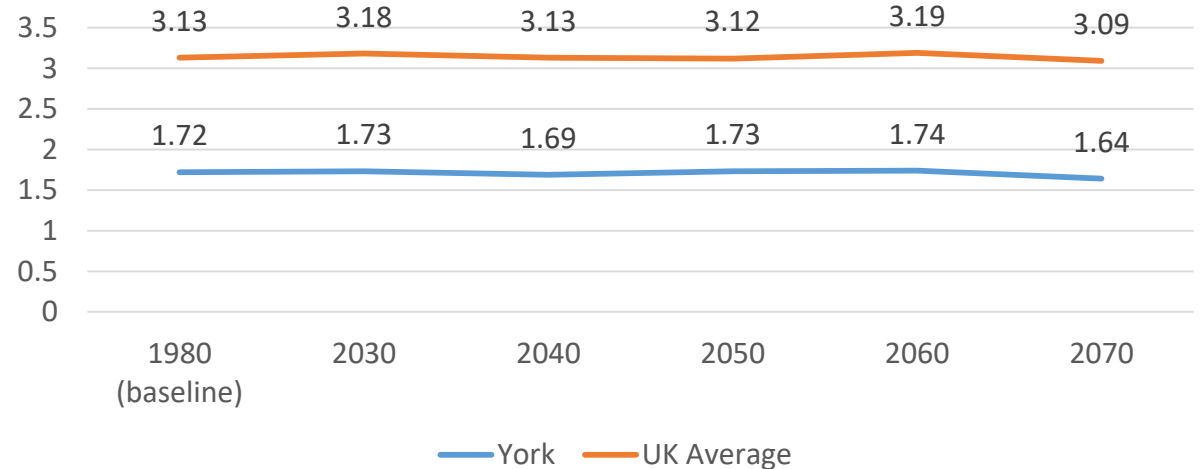
Future climate change expected in York under *existing global policies* (equivalent to warming level of 2.0-3.7C which is RCP6) showing yearly averages for **temperature** for York Vs the UK



Future climate change expected in York under *existing global policies* (equivalent to warming level of 2.0-3.7C which is RCP6) showing yearly averages for **wind** for York Vs the UK

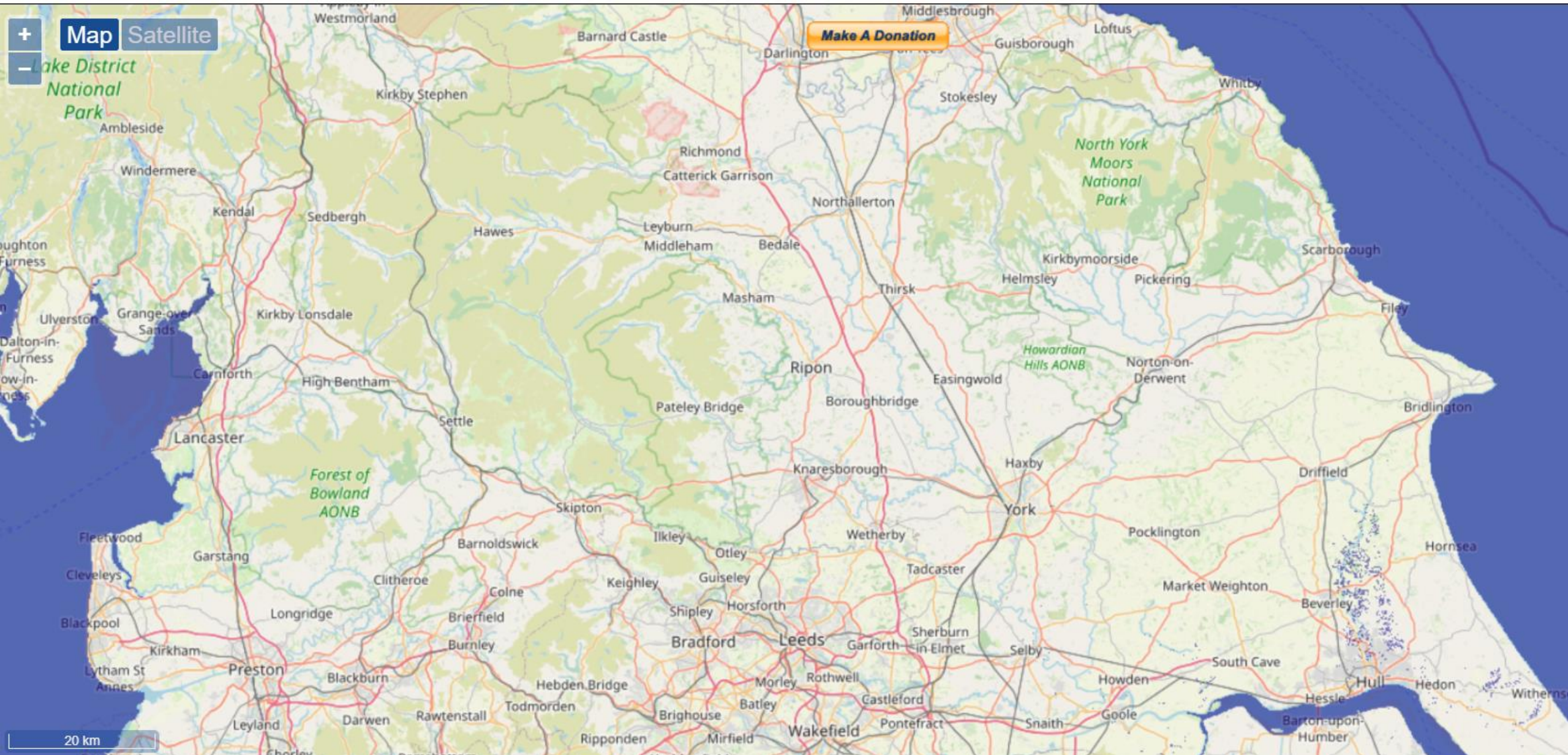


Future climate change expected in York under *existing global policies* (equivalent to warming level of 2.0-3.7C which is RCP6) showing yearly averages for **rain** for York Vs the UK



Sea level rise: 0 m ▾

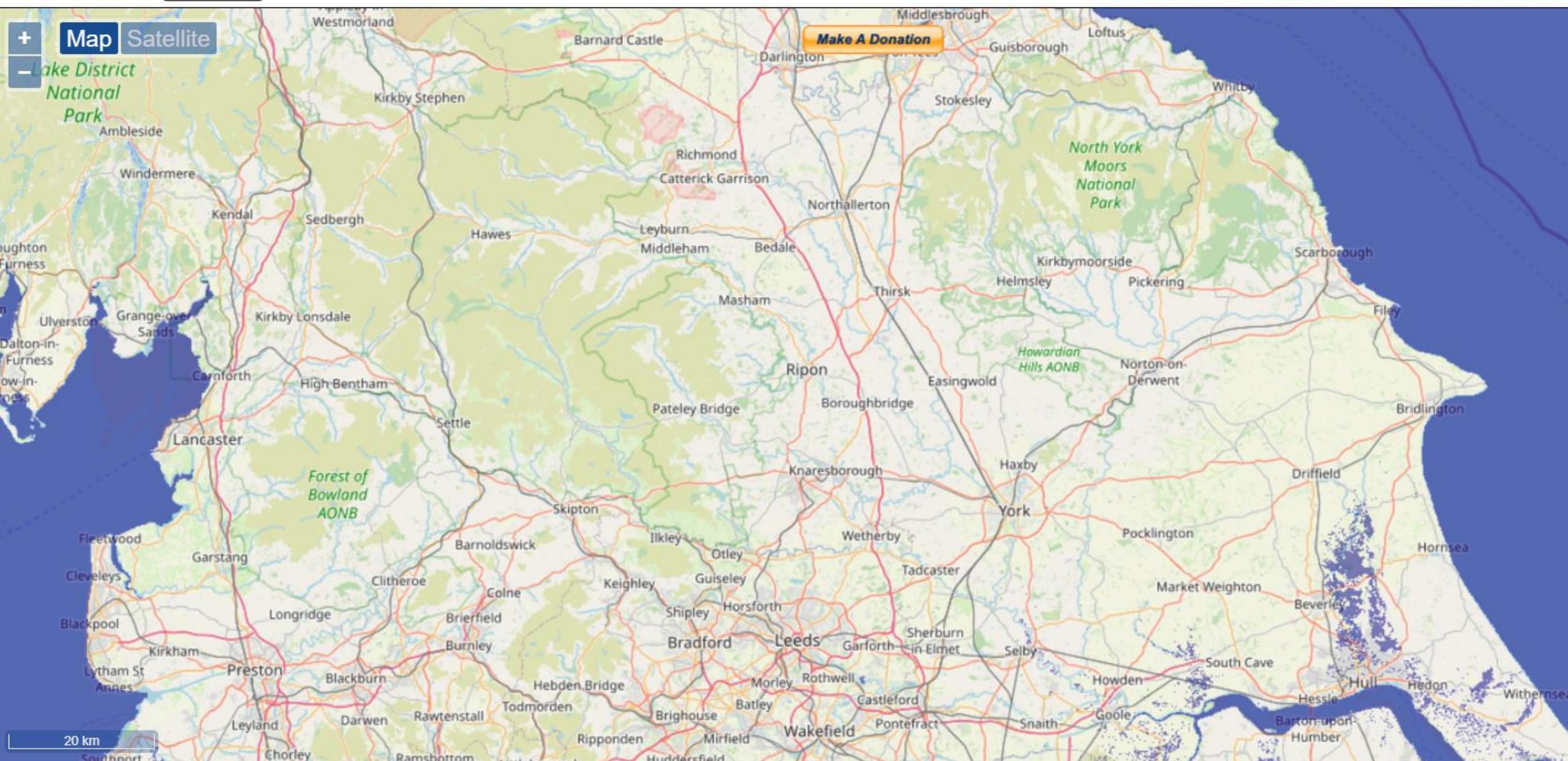
[Europe](#) [N. America](#) [S. America](#) [Africa](#) [SE. Asia](#) [C](#)



<https://flood.firetree.net/?ll=54.1986,-1.3945&zoom=9&m=0>

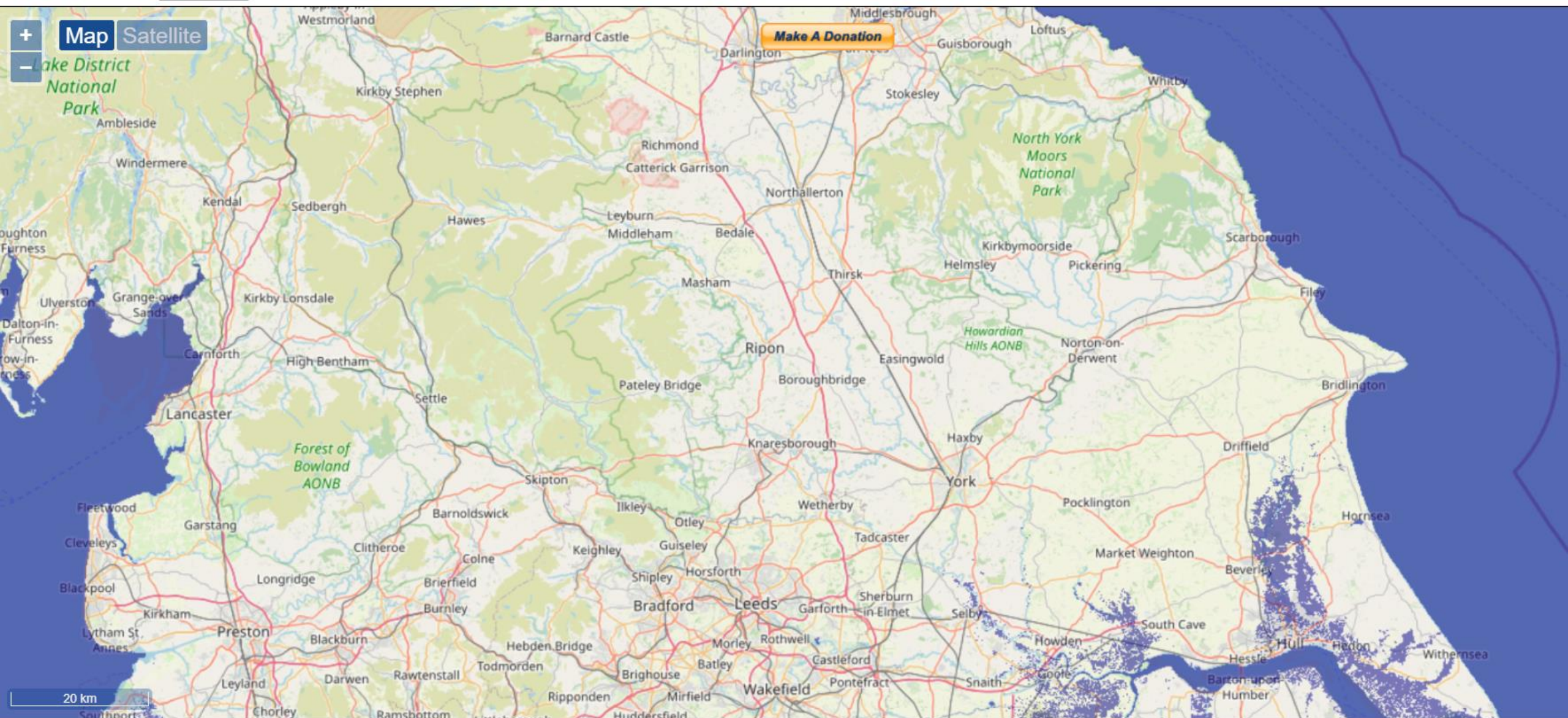
Sea level rise:

[Europe](#) [N. America](#) [S. America](#) [Africa](#) [SE. Asia](#) [C...](#)



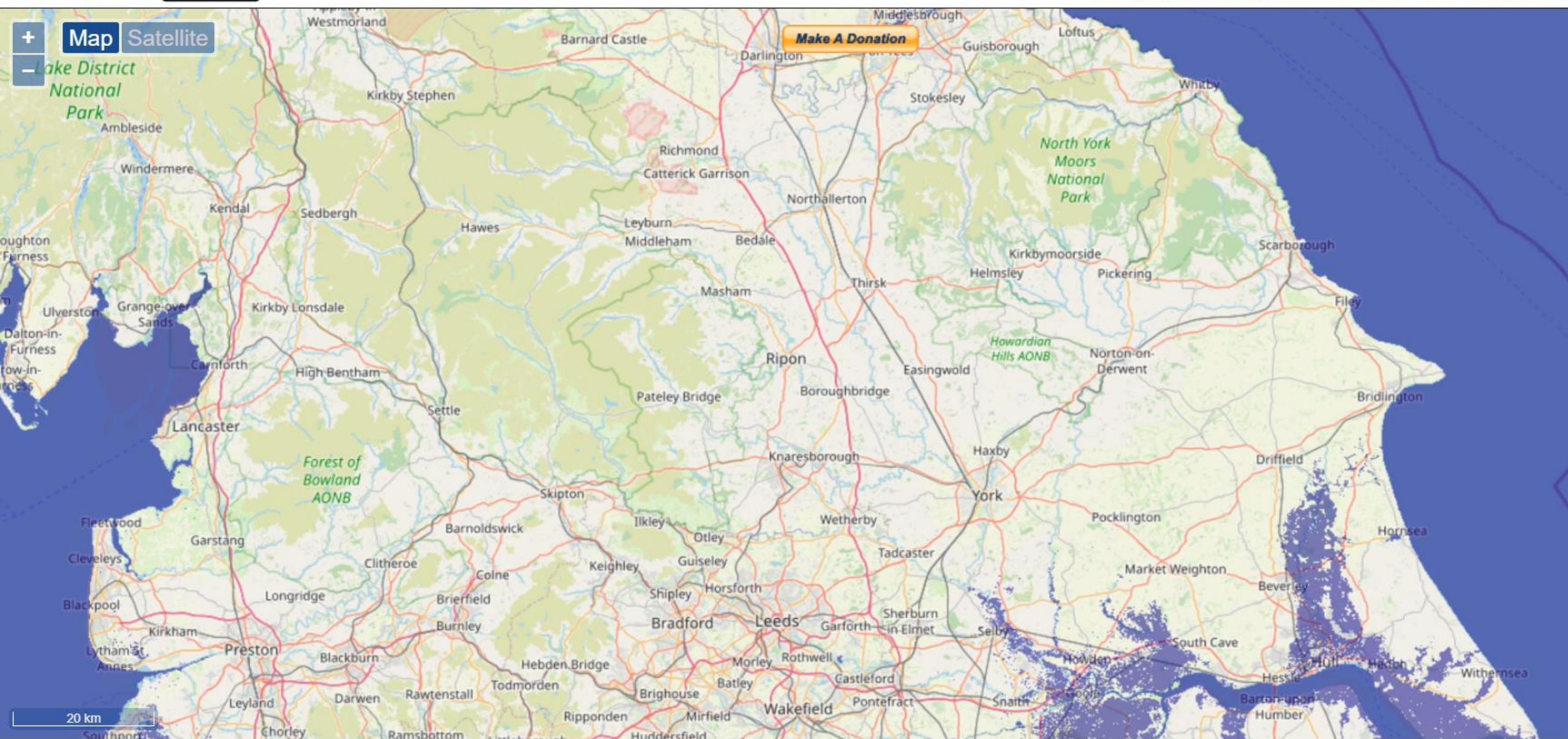
Sea level rise:

[Europe](#) [N. America](#) [S. America](#) [Africa](#) [SE. Asia](#) [China & Japan](#)



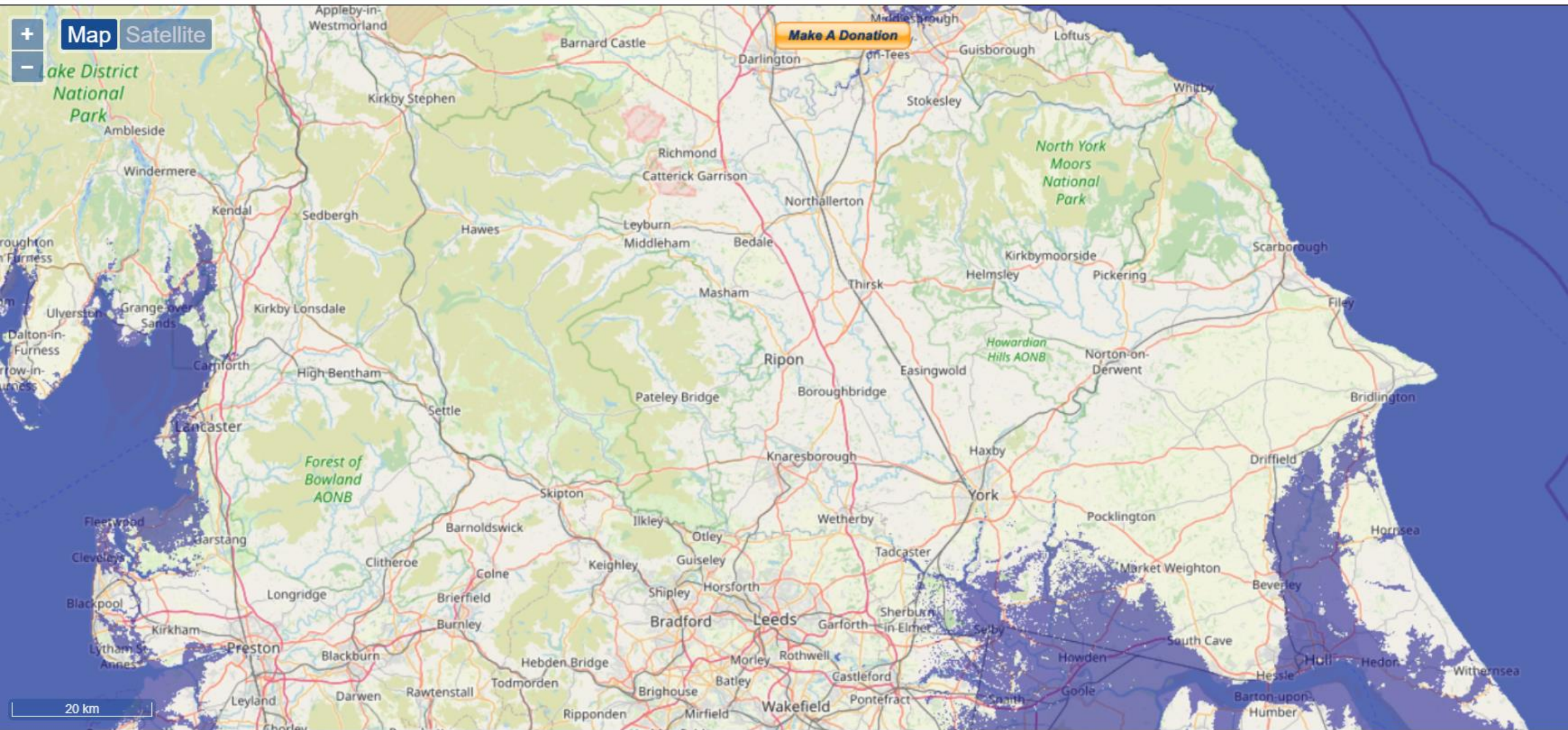
Sea level rise:

[Europe](#) [N. America](#) [S. America](#) [Africa](#) [SE. Asia](#) [China](#)



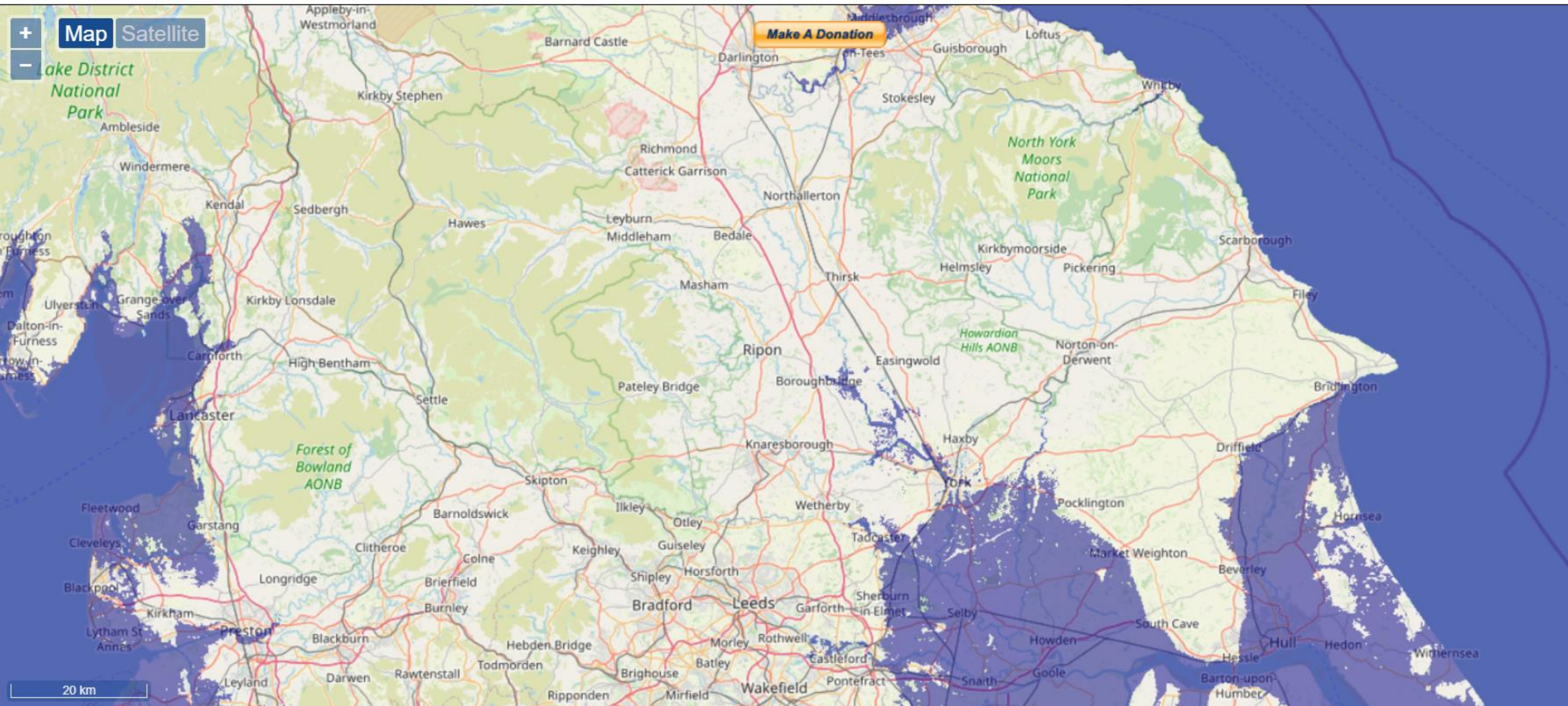
Sea level rise: +7 m ▾

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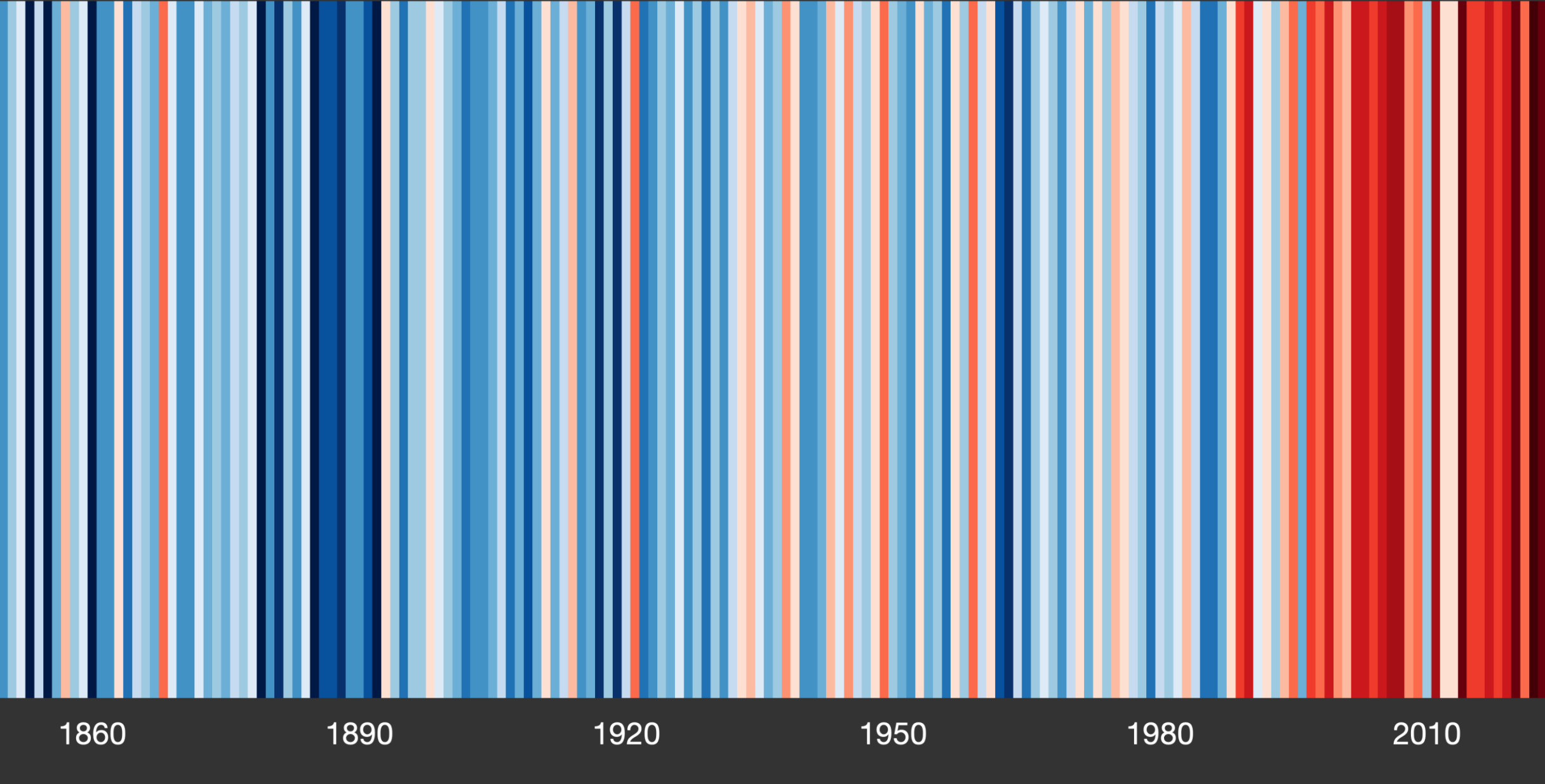


Sea level rise: +13 m 

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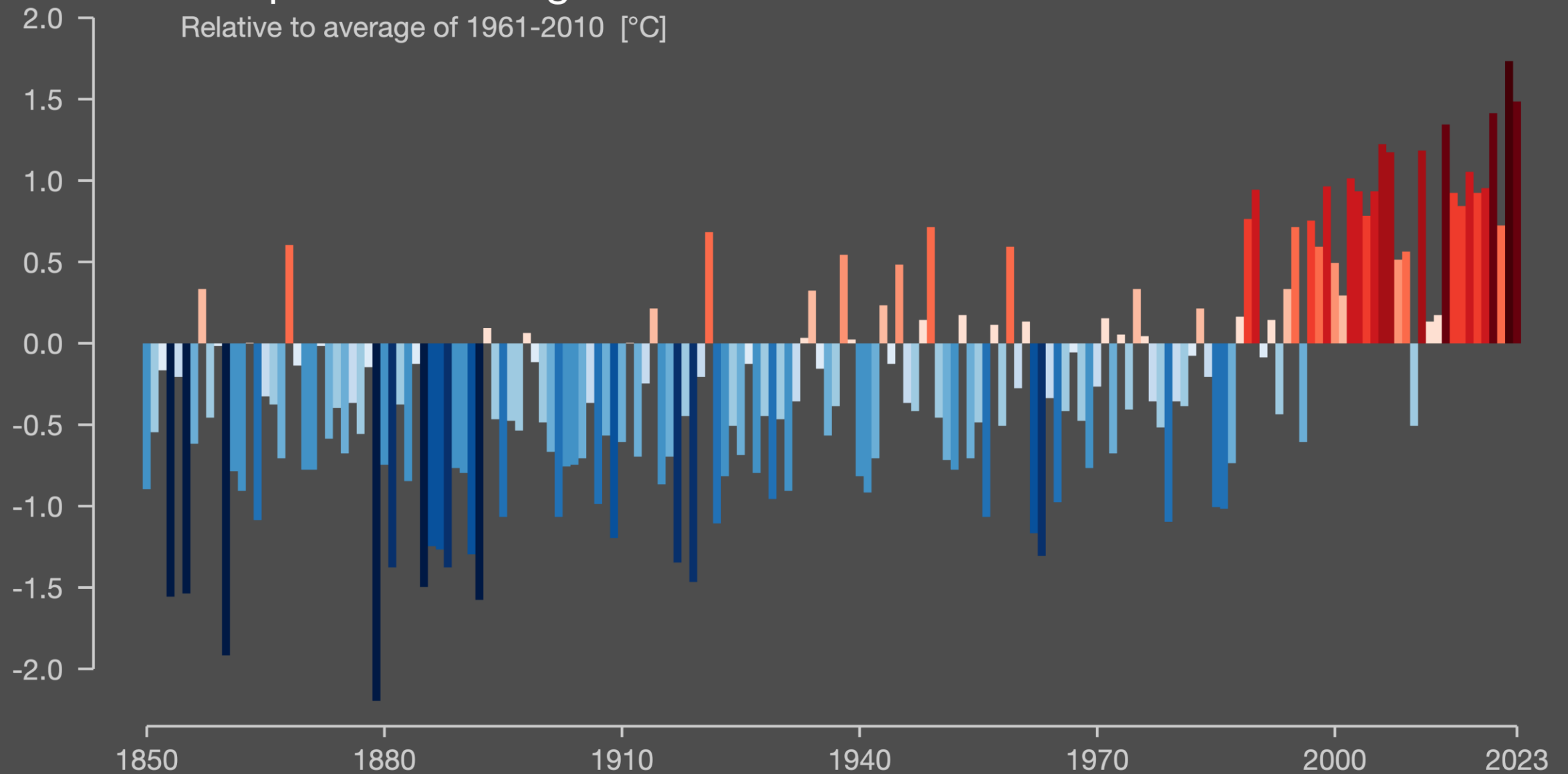


Temperature change in York since 1850



Temperature change in York

Relative to average of 1961-2010 [°C]



What is climate
change a public
health issue?

Climate Change is a Public Health Issue

1. The actions that are good for the planet are good for health.
2. Climate change is already impacting on the health of our communities.
3. The effects of climate change are disproportionately impacting on our most disadvantaged communities, widening inequalities.
4. Prevention is cheaper and better for the planet than the treatment of ill health. Delivering care comes at a financial cost as well as an environmental cost.
5. Climate specific policies and climate in all policies can help us to achieve major health and wellbeing co-benefits, strengthening the case for action on climate change.
6. The health benefits of climate policies resonate strongly with the public and policy makers due to the direct nature of some of the health effects, with benefits evident over shorter timescales, strengthening the case for action on climate change.

Climate Change and Health



- *Climate change is an emergency with multiple adverse consequences that will worsen health inequalities - WHO*
- 2008/9 the First Lancet Commissioned Multi-disciplinary report on climate change stated that 'Climate change is the greatest global health threat of the 21st century'
- Climate change has been identified as the most important health threat of the century, but it is also the [“greatest opportunity to redefine the social and environmental determinants of health”](#)

“Tackling social inequalities in health and tackling climate change must go together”

Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review, 2010

Impacts

Some of the effects of changes to our climate include:

- risk to water supplies
- localised flooding and flooding in coastal regions
- damage to marine ecosystems and associated failure of fisheries
- loss of biodiversity
- heat stress, affecting human health and habitability
- increased risk of wildfires
- food insecurity as conditions for growing crops change and habitable region of pests expands





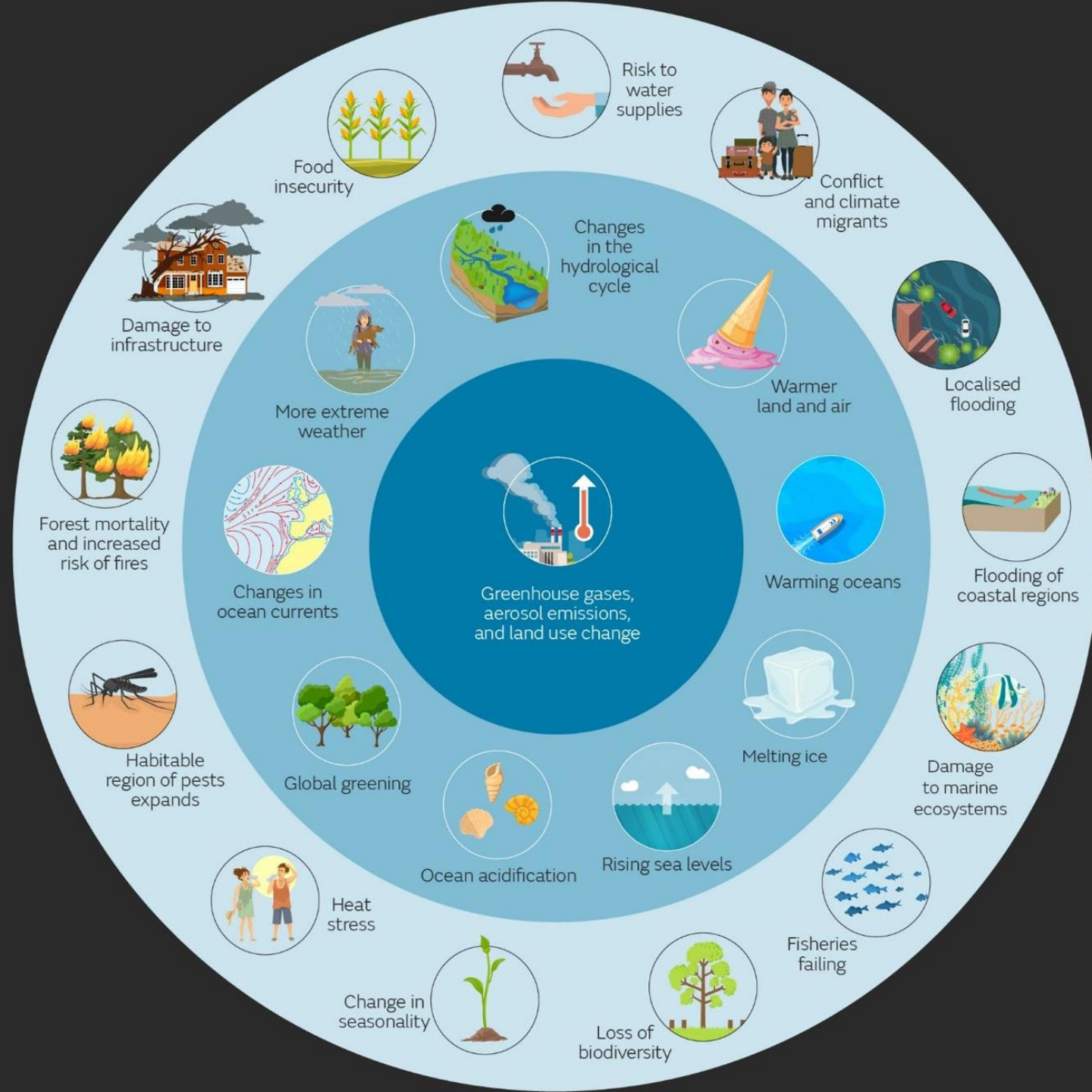
Drivers of
climate change



Changes to the
climate system



Impacts



The impact on health

- Three kinds of health impacts have been identified:
 - Relatively direct impacts, usually caused by weather extremes
 - Consequences of environmental change and ecological disruption in response to climatic change
 - Consequences that occur when populations are demoralised and displaced by the following climate change induced factors:
 - economic dislocation,
 - environmental decline and conflict situations including traumatic, infectious diseases, nutritional, psychological and other health consequences.

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/42749>



DIRECT IMPACTS

- Storm
- Drought
- Flood
- Heatwave
- Temperature Change
- Wildfires



INDIRECT IMPACTS

- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Land Use Change
- Ecological change

MEDIATING FACTORS



ENVIRONMENTAL

- Geography
- Baseline weather
- Soil / dust
- Vegetation
- Baseline air / water quality



SOCIAL

- Loss of habitation
- Poverty
- Displacement
- Conflict
- Age and gender



RESILIENCY

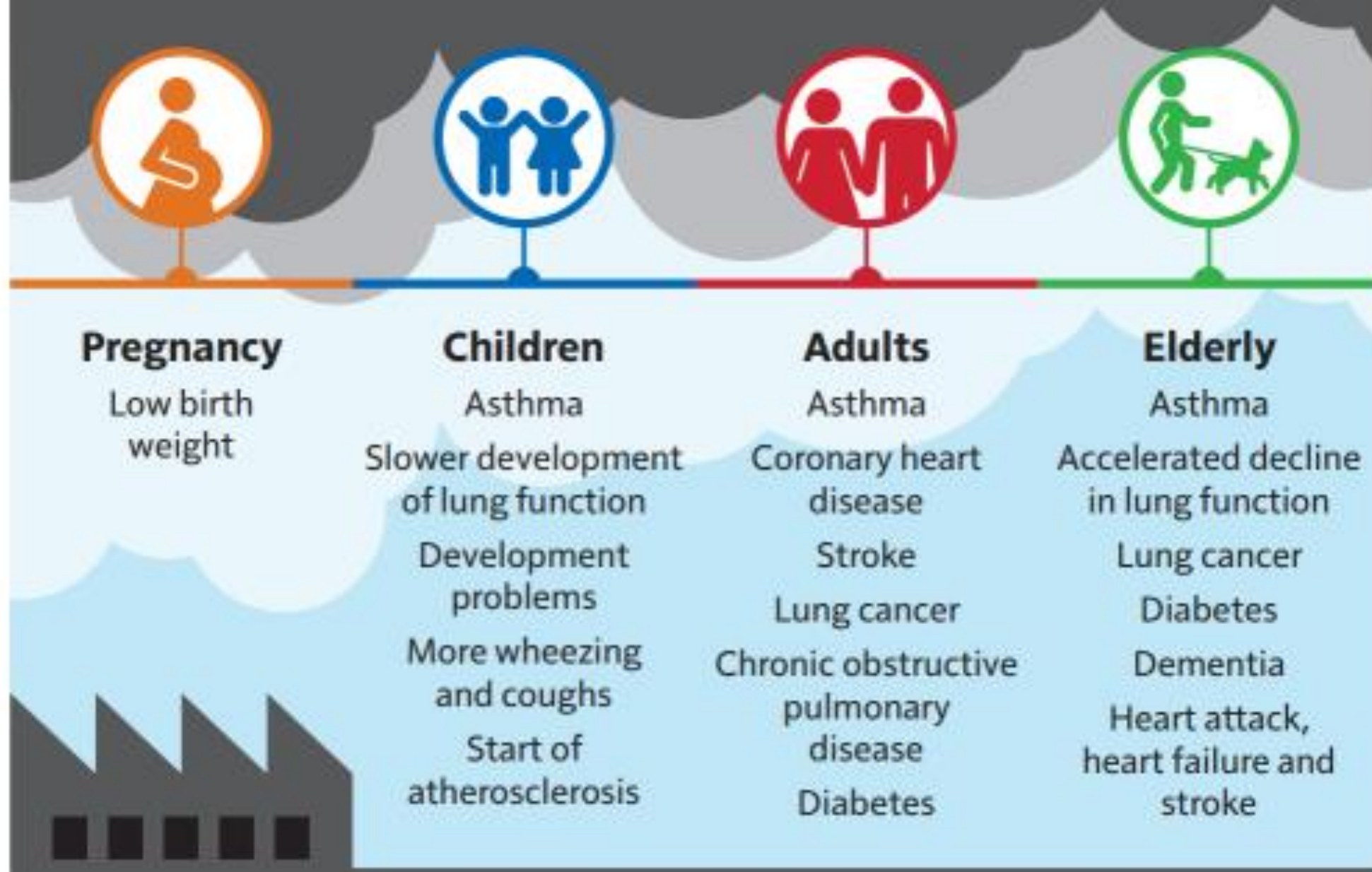
- Early-warning system
- Socioeconomic status
- Health and nutrition
- Primary health care

Air Quality

- The emissions and gases that are warming our planet are also polluting our air and are toxic to our bodies. Each year in the UK around 40,000 deaths are attributable to exposure to outdoor air pollution, but [air pollution](#) also causes harm to people across all stages of life. There is no recognised safe level of emissions.
- [Estimates](#) show that up to 43,000 people a year are dying in the UK because of air pollution, and that it could cost as much as £18.6 billion by 2035.
- The burden of poor air quality is highest in our most disadvantaged communities
- Transport is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK
- Fewer emissions means better air quality, which in turn leads to improvements in physical and mental health.

Air quality decreases during times of hot temperatures because the heat and sunlight interact with the particulate matter in the air it and increase concentrations of ground level ozone.

The health impacts associated with poor air quality also need to be considered in the context of extreme heat. Drought and extreme heat can also result in more frequent wildfires which will also contribute to declining air quality.










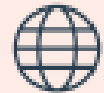


























- Reducing emissions will improve the quality of the air we breathe, reducing ill health at every stage of life

Air Quality and Aeroallergens

- Increase in frequency of episodes of high air pollution caused by weather patterns such as heatwaves
- Increases in pollen, affecting hay fever symptoms
- UK climate projections indicate that conditions increasing wildfire risk will become more common

1. [Potential impact of climate change on emerging vector-borne and other infections in the UK](#)
2. [Climate change and UK wildfire. POSTnote 603](#)
3. [Critical review of health](#)

4. [Impacts of wildfire smoke exposure. WMO statement on the state of the global climate in 2017 \(WMO-No. 1212\). Geneva: World Meteorological Organization; 2018.](#)

AIR POLLUTANT / GHG	LIFETIME/ SCALE	CLIMATE IMPACT	HEALTH/ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS	
Carbon Dioxide				 Lifetime in Atmos- phere = days/weeks Impact Scale=lo- cal/regional
Fluorinated Gases (F-gases)				 Lifetime in Atmos- phere= years Impact Scale=global
Methane (CH ₄) Nitrogen Oxides				 Warm-
Nitrogen Oxides				 Cooling
Nitrous Oxides				 Human Health
Particulate Matter				 Ecosystem
Sulphur Dioxide				 No direct impact on human health or ecosystems*
Tropospheric Ozone (O ₃)				*No direct impact implies the substance in question either does not directly cause human health or ecosystem impacts or it does not go through a chemical process to create a substance that directly impacts human health and ecosystems
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)/ Carbon Monoxide				

Extreme Heat

- 1. High temperatures are a threat to health and wellbeing. Severe heat compromises the body's ability to regulate temperature and can disrupt sleep, it impairs cognitive performance and can lead to heat exhaustion and heatstroke.
- 2. Some people are at higher risk of the health consequences associated with heat. This includes people with chronic conditions, children, older people, and people living in built up cities.
- 3. We need to plan ahead and be prepared for all scenarios that are heat related and understand how we build on the things that make a difference that we can do now and keep people well.
- 4. We need climate resilient communities including more green spaces and vegetation to reduce urban heat islands and provide cool places and shade for people.
- 5. We need to consider early warning systems, working with partners across the health and care system to communicate with our communities about the risk of heat.
- 6. We need to ensure that heat is considered as part of retrofits, particularly in the social housing sector, as well as being considered in the design and building of new homes.

Increased temperatures – increasing risks

- In 2022 we experienced the warmest single temperature in the UK with York reaching 40C
- 2023 was the warmest year on record with the average global temperature being 1.45C above the pre-industrial average
 - This was a large margin of difference, and was also the warmest ten-year period on record
- Extreme heat has an economic impact, reducing our ability to work particularly in some sectors
- Our bodies have to work harder to keep our core temperature down
 - Regulation of temperature is compromised, disruption to sleep, cognitive performance, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, increased hospital admission for mental illness and cardiovascular mortality

While everybody is at risk from the health consequences of heat, there are certain factors that increase an individual's risk during a heatwave. These include:

- older age: especially those over 75 years old, or those living on their own and who are socially isolated, or those living in a care home
- chronic and severe illness: including heart or lung conditions, diabetes, renal insufficiency, Parkinson's disease or severe mental illness
- inability to adapt behaviour to keep cool: babies and the very young, having a disability, being bed bound, having Alzheimer's disease
- environmental factors and overexposure: living in a top floor flat, being homeless, activities or jobs that are in hot places or outdoors and include high levels of physical exertion.

Fuel Poverty

- ‘The fossil fuel industry is built on harm, violence, and pollution across the entire lifecycle, killing millions of people each year. In the UK, there have been record numbers of people in fuel poverty in recent winters and record profits for energy companies.’ ([BMJ](#))
- Energy price rises since 2003 have meant that more people are now experiencing fuel poverty. In 2022, an estimated 13.4% of households (3.26 million people) were in fuel poverty in England, under the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency metric. We need to address the way we generate electricity, and heat and power our homes as this affects us all, but mostly those on the lowest incomes.
- Before the cost of living crisis (2021) 13.1% of households in Yorkshire and Humber were living in fuel poverty. Around a half of adults say that they find it difficult to pay their energy bills. We know that the answer to this is a move away from fossil fuels towards cleaner, affordable energy. But it also means better insulated homes. Nobody wants to pay for warmth, only for it to leak out of poorly insulated buildings.
- Living in a cold home that is difficult or expensive to heat increases the risk of exposure to cold and is associated with a variety of [health impacts](#), especially for children, older people, and those with pre-existing conditions. Improved thermal efficiency will reduce energy bills and will reduce people’s exposure to cold homes. As our homes account for around [15%](#) of our total carbon emissions, improved energy efficiency will also benefit the planet.

The direct and indirect health effects of winter weather

The human body responds in several different ways to exposure to cold weather, even at temperatures that might be considered relatively mild:

4 to 8°C



Direct effects:

- heart attack
- stroke
- respiratory disease
- influenza
- falls and injuries
- hypothermia

Indirect effects:

- snow and ice may cause disruption to healthcare services
- cold homes and fuel poverty are linked with poor mental health and social isolation
- reduced education and employment success
- carbon monoxide poisoning

Emerging Infections

1. The distribution of vector such as mosquitoes and ticks is changing across Europe and within the UK; the reasons are complex but climate change plays a key role.
2. Changing vector patterns may see the emergence of diseases transmitted by vectors not previously seen in the UK.
3. In the short term we need to prepare and adapt to the risks posed by changing vector patterns includes developing and establishing surveillance strategies, including citizen science; raising public awareness.
4. Longer term policies will be needed to control any vector borne disease, including vaccine development.
5. An important element in reducing the incidence of vector-borne diseases is behavioural change. This includes helping people know how to protect themselves and their communities from mosquitoes, ticks, bugs, flies and other vectors.
6. Community based approaches will be essential in ensuring all communities have the support and capacity to reduce their risk of exposure to vector borne diseases.

Vector borne diseases

- Vector-borne diseases are human illnesses caused by parasites, viruses and bacteria that are transmitted by vectors.
- Every year there are more than 700,000 deaths globally from diseases such as malaria, dengue, schistosomiasis, human African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, Chagas disease, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis and onchocerciasis.
- It is likely that vectors (ticks and mosquitoes) will spread within the United Kingdom due to warmer summers, wetter springs and milder winters by the 2080s
- Climate change adaptation strategies such as those to mitigate flooding and sea level rise may have more effect on vector-borne disease exposure than the direct effects of climate change.

Tick-borne disease

- We have 20 native species of tick
 - Of most concern to human health, the *Ixodes ricinus* (sheep/deer tick), is a vector of Lyme borreliosis to humans, and Tick-borne encephalitis virus, more common in continental Europe.
 - Warmer springs associated with climate change and land use change can lead to increased tick numbers.



Mosquito-borne disease

- The Asian Tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, is a vector of dengue virus, and has also been the primary vector of chikungunya virus in recent outbreaks.
 - *Aedes albopictus* has not been reported in the UK, but recent climate modelling by ECDC predicts further establishment of this species across Europe, including the UK.

Antimicrobial Resistance

- A dual threat: Climate change and antimicrobial resistance
- 1.27 million people died from antibiotic resistant bacterial infections in 2019
- The climate crisis is worsening this threat, for example, increased rainfall, heat and humidity are increasing the spread of vector-borne diseases
- Temperature is intimately linked with bacterial processes and infections
- [The 2023 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change](#), reports how our climate has become more suitable for disease transmission.
- A 10C increase in daily minimum temperature has been shown to increase antibiotic resistance to three common pathogens

<https://wellcome.org/news/climate-change-antimicrobial-resistance>

Mental Health

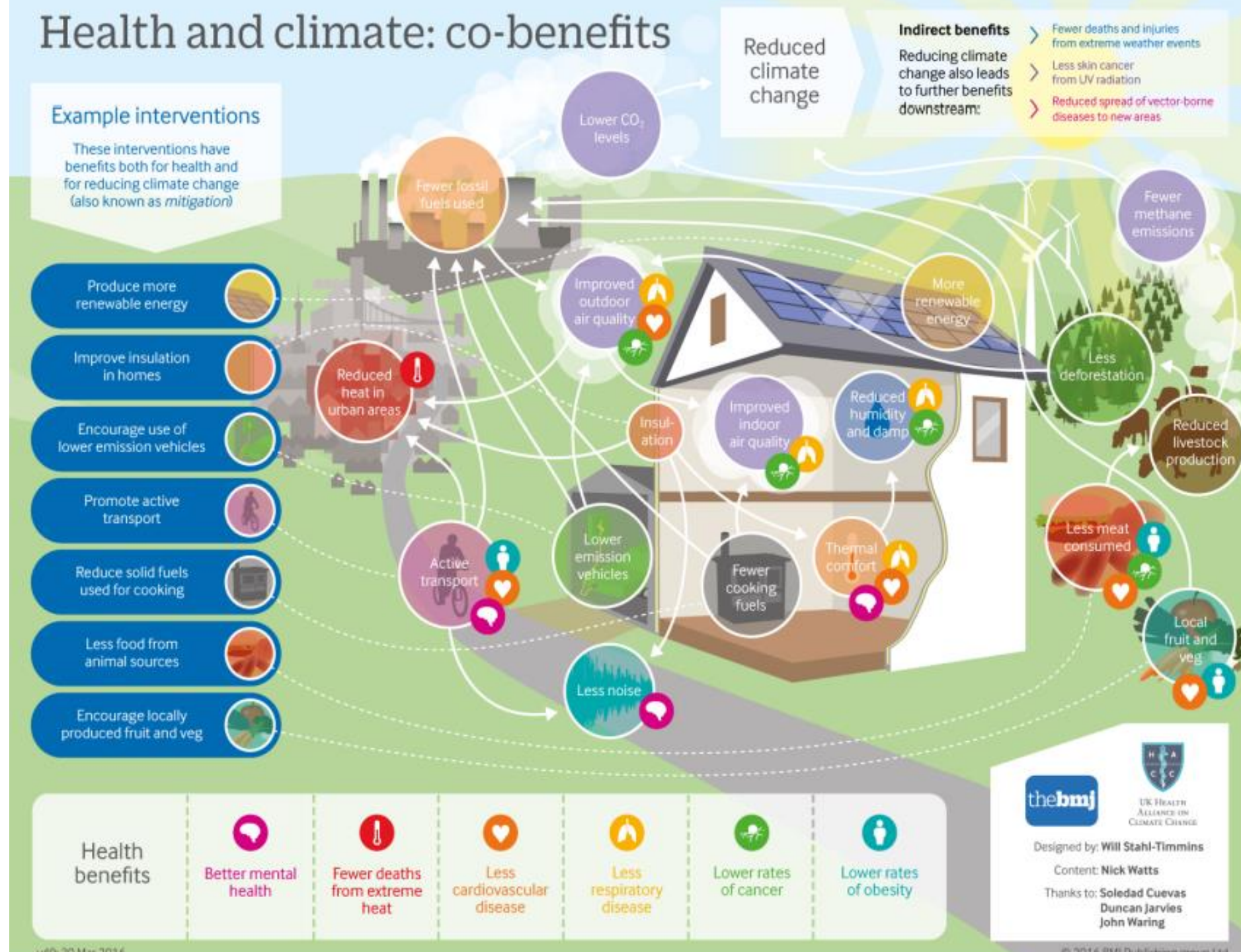
- IPCC report shows that rapidly increasing climate change poses a rising threat to mental health and psychosocial wellbeing
 - Mental health impacts include stress reactions, stress-related physical health problems, mental health conditions, strained social relationships, helplessness, fear and grief, suicidal behaviour
 - Mental health exposure pathways include loss of personally important places, loss of autonomy and control, pollution
- Impacts unequally distributed within certain groups depending on socioeconomic status, gender, and age
- Climate Despair
 - climate action can be damaging to mental health (scale of the problem) or can be empowering. We need to acknowledge that this is a crisis response!

Younger people are prone to climate related negative mental health because of their increased awareness of the climate emergency and a lack of support to help manage their concerns. The climate crisis is already playing into the life decisions of young people, some of whom are opting out of higher education or choosing not to have children.



1. Mental health and climate change: policy brief <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240045125>
2. "Not about us without us" - the feelings and hopes of climate-concerned young people around the world - <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36165749/>
3. Hope, Health, and the Climate Crisis <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667278222000049>

The health and climate co-benefits mean that tackling climate change represents one of the best opportunities to improve the region's health



Mitigation versus adaptation

Adaptation and Mitigation

- **Mitigation** means making the impacts of climate change less severe by preventing or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Mitigation is achieved by:
 - reducing the sources of these gases, for example by phasing out fossil fuels and increasing clean and renewable energy sources;
 - enhancing the storage of greenhouse gases, for example by increasing the size of forests or through carbon capture.
- **In short, mitigation is a human intervention that reduces the sources of greenhouse gas emissions and/or enhances the sinks.**
- **Adaptation** means anticipating and preparing communities for the adverse effects of climate change, and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. Protecting people now saves more lives and reduces risks moving forward. It makes financial sense. The longer we wait, the more the costs will escalate. In short, adaptation can be seen as the process of adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change.

We must do both – mitigate and adapt – at the same time.

Adaptation - preparing

- Adaptation seeks to reduce the risks posed by climate change. Further warming is now unavoidable and adaptation will be needed to deal with the climatic changes which are now inevitable.
- 'adaptation is sometimes known as resilience. Adaptation is how we adjust and implement measures to adjust to the changing climate and our response to increasing frequency and severity of weather events. Resilience is the ambition, adaptation is the method.'
- In May 2023 researchers reported that there is now a 66% chance we will pass the 1.5C global warming threshold between now and 2027. The impact of this for our communities in Yorkshire and the Humber means:
 - More heatwaves
 - More frequent flooding
 - Declining air quality (exacerbated by extreme heat)
 - Changing vector profiles and infectious diseases
 - Disrupted food and drinking water supply chains
 - Further biodiversity and habitat loss
 - Migration as a result of displaced populations (nationally and globally)
- We need to prepare for these impacts now.

Mitigation

- **We need to rapidly phase our fossil fuels**
- **We need a greener and fairer approach to transport**
- **We need affordable, safe and energy efficient homes**
- **We need access to affordable, healthy and sustainably produced food**
- **We need to value biodiversity to protect health**

Adaptation

- **We need to prepare for increased temperatures and more heatwaves**
- **We need to prepare for periods of extreme rainfall and more flooding**
- **We need to prepare for disrupted food supplies and food insecurity**
- **We need to prepare for changing vector patterns and infectious disease**
- **We need to prepare for changing the way in which we deliver our services**

Community centred and equity in all policies

The role of the VCSE sector and communities

Core role

- VCSE sector play a core role in climate change
 - Playing your own part in reducing fossil fuel use, changing practices for better, challenge and advocacy
 - Protecting communities and those you support
 - Raising awareness of the challenges, opportunities and working together
 - Supporting other organisations, including Local Authority
 - Identifying at risk individuals and supporting access to support

Preparing

- Business continuity plans
- Changing approaches to delivery of services for the future
- Mitigation and adaptation
- Net Zero ambitions, applying for funding
- Just transition and climate justice
- Advocacy
- Motivating communities and groups where your relationships are strongest
- Trusted voices

Preparing for Heat



- <https://lcat.uk/> - Local Climate Adaptation Tool
 - Can help to understand impact of temperatures in area
- Climate resilient communities
 - Need to develop, including more green space and vegetation to reduce urban heat islands and provide cool places and shade for people
 - <https://www.treesforstreets.org/>
- Early warning systems
 - Working together to share key messages and communicate with communities about the risk and how to prepare
 - Sign up to Met Office Weather Warnings and [UKHSA Adverse Weather Alerts](#)
- Adaptation of properties
 - Need to become more energy efficient (retrofitting) and **also** consider heat
- Understand the impact of heat on working practices
 - Business Impact Assessments, management plans, risk assessments, changing ways of doing things, varying hours etc.
- Identify who is at risk in our communities / who are we working with
 - Particular groups that we work with may be at greater risk of health impacts and hospitalisation
 - We cannot wait for extreme weather before we take action and we must plan and put in place preventative measures now
 - Core group at risk includes Homeless populations

Summary

- ❑ Climate change will affect the people you work with
- ❑ Climate change will affect you, your staff, and your organisation
- ❑ Changing weather patterns
- ❑ Government policy
- ❑ Role to reduce own impact
- ❑ Reaching others and Support
- ❑ Lots of benefits



- “...tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century.”

- *Health and climate change: policy responses to protect public health*, Watts et al, 2015, The Lancet

Thank you

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Ecotherapy at St Nicks



Ecotherapy is the name we give to a series of free groups and activities which promote mental and physical wellbeing by building connections with nature and the outdoors. At St Nicks we offer a wonderful variety of [group and activities](#) which are underpinned by [one-to one mentoring support](#).

"Walking through the gates of St Nicks is like walking into an oasis of acceptance and support. It brings a sense of calm and peace that only nature can provide."



For York's Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector

Vaccination Capacity Building: The VCSE Sector Way

Ruth Ralph - Grants Coordinator York, CVS



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10 October 2024

Vaccinations and climate change

- Introduction
- Aims of the Vaccination Capacity Building Programme
- Organisations involved
- Communities reached
- Engagement methods and numbers

Overall engagement 14,595

- Key themes on vaccination hesitancy / barriers
- Learning
- Value of the VCSE Sector



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Social Prescribing in York – Case studies

Abbie Myers – Social Prescriber, York, CVS



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Round Table Discussion / Exercise

Scenarios:

- Extreme Heat
- Fuel Poverty
- Air Quality and health impacts
- Antimicrobial Resistance and Emerging Infections

Group Discussions:



- What is the VCSE sector already doing/delivering in this area?
- What roles and strengths could the VCSE sector bring in terms of mitigating and supporting people to adapt to the health consequences of this scenario?
- What would the VCSE sector need to enable this work?
- What's next?



Climate Change, Health and the role of the VCSE Sector

10 October, 10am – 12noon, Priory Street Centre

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Thank you and Close