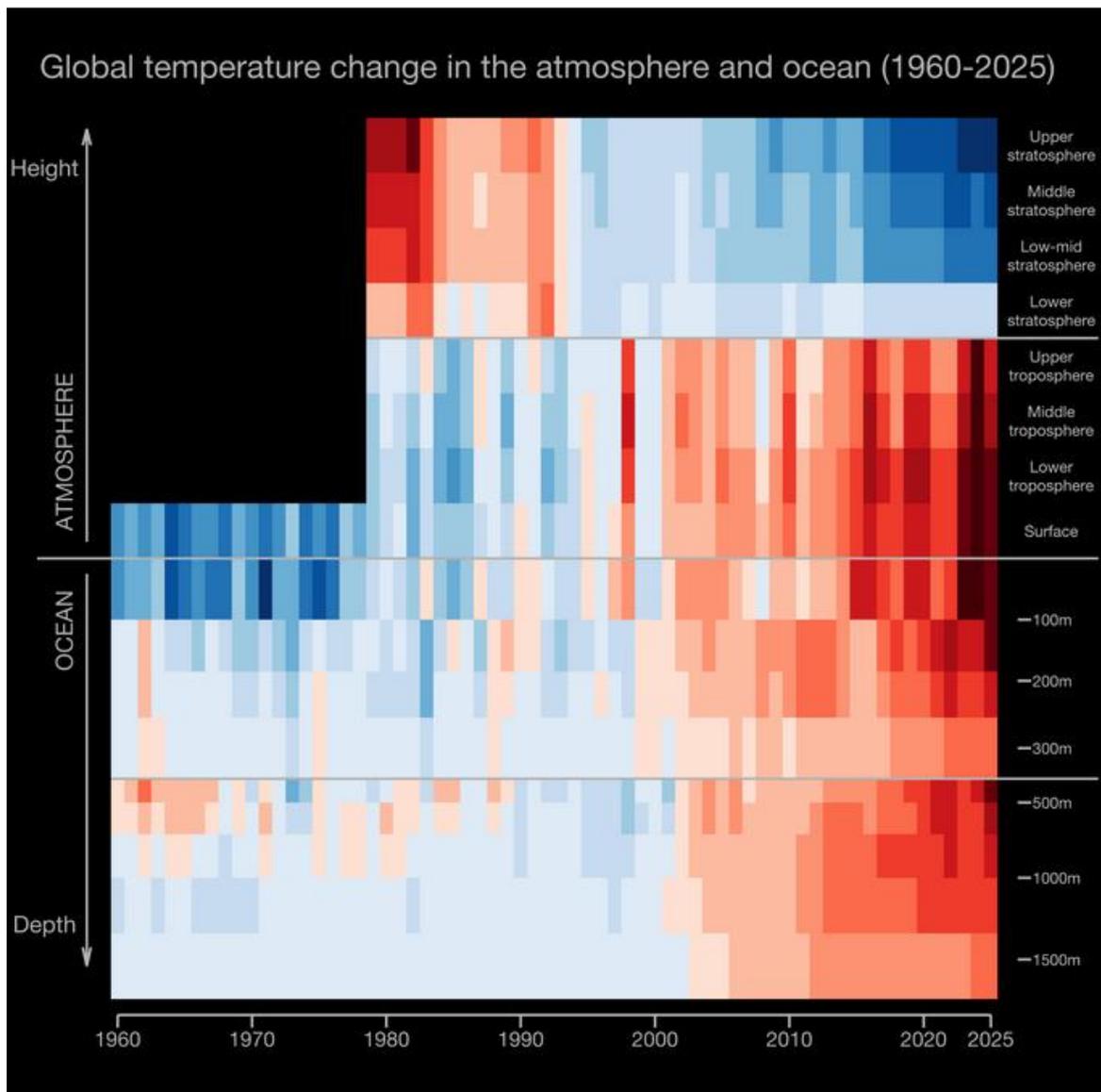


Thornhackett Environment Champion Report March 2026;

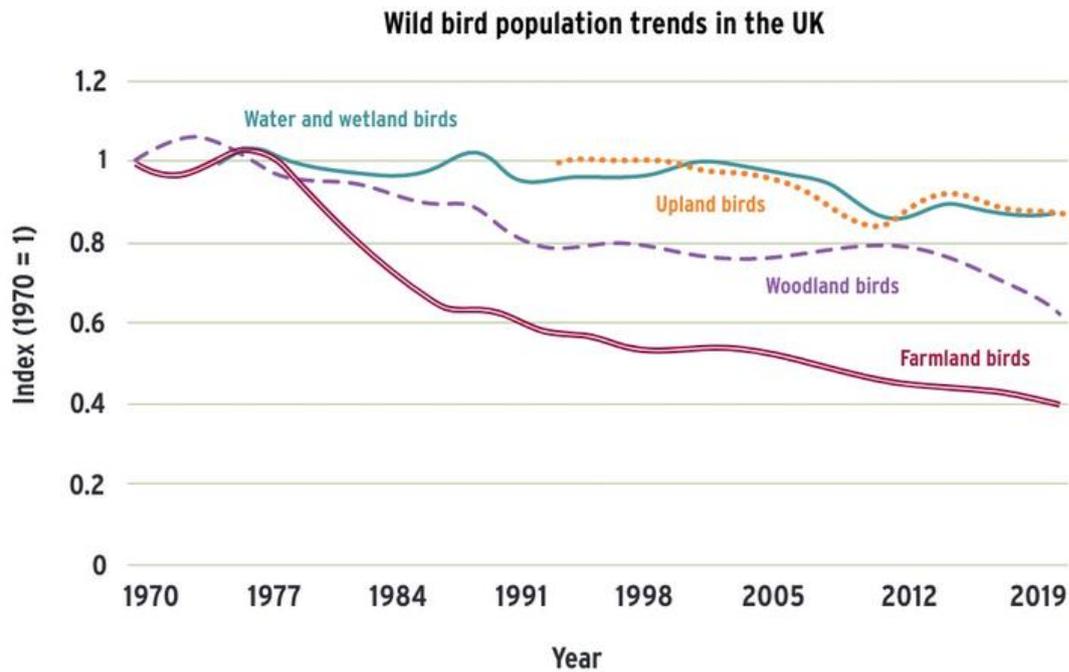
**What actions can Local Councils consider taking in order to reduce and mitigate the predicted effects of Climate Change and Environment Degradation. This is the first in a series of reports high-lighting some recommended actions.**

The following charts and images help to illustrate the current position :-

**1. Temperature bar chart above, indicating heat trapping in the atmosphere and 20 years of rising temperatures: Source Professor Ed Hawkins Reading University.**

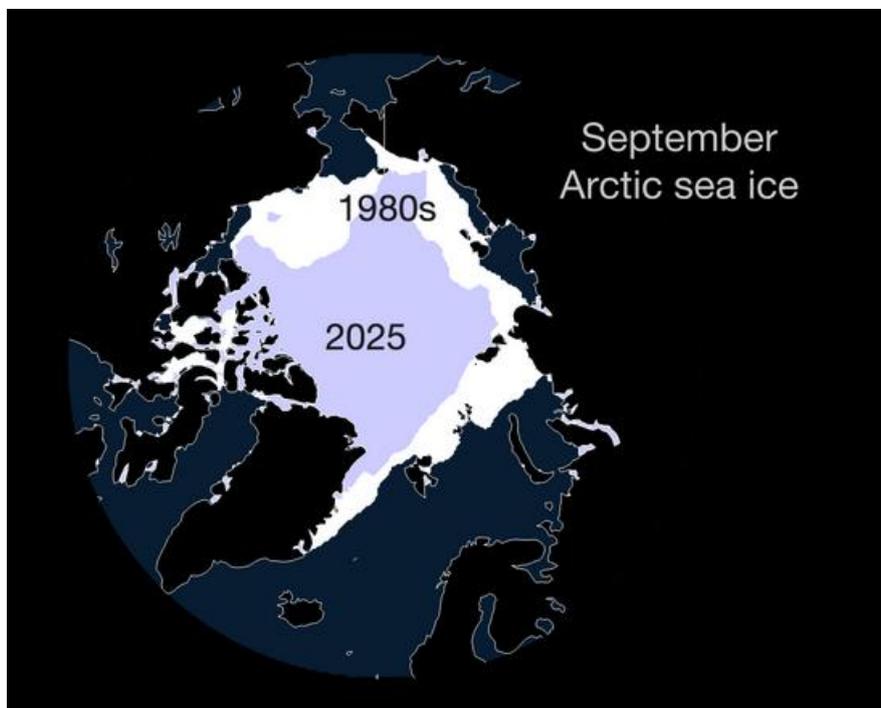


## 2. Change to Bird Populations: Source Defra BTO RSPB and others



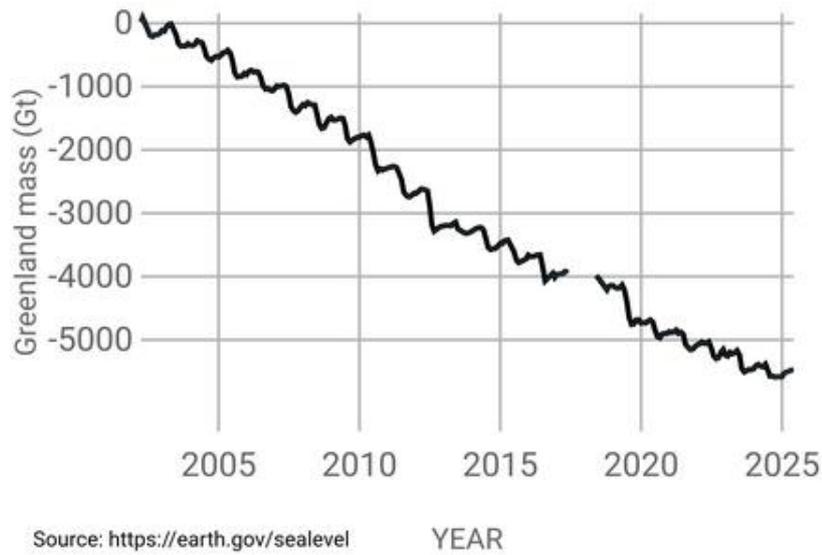
\*Sources: DEFRA (UK Government Statistic), BTO, RSPB and JNCC.

## 3. Changes to Sea Ice: Professor Ed Hawkins Reading University:-



Shrinkage of Arctic Sea Ice 1980s to 2025

#### 4. Changes in Greenland Ice sheet Mass



If the Greenland Ice Cap should melt completely, due to excessive temperature increases, sea level rises of up to 7m are predicted. In addition there are potential catastrophic consequences if the melting of this Ice disrupts or halts the Gulf Stream

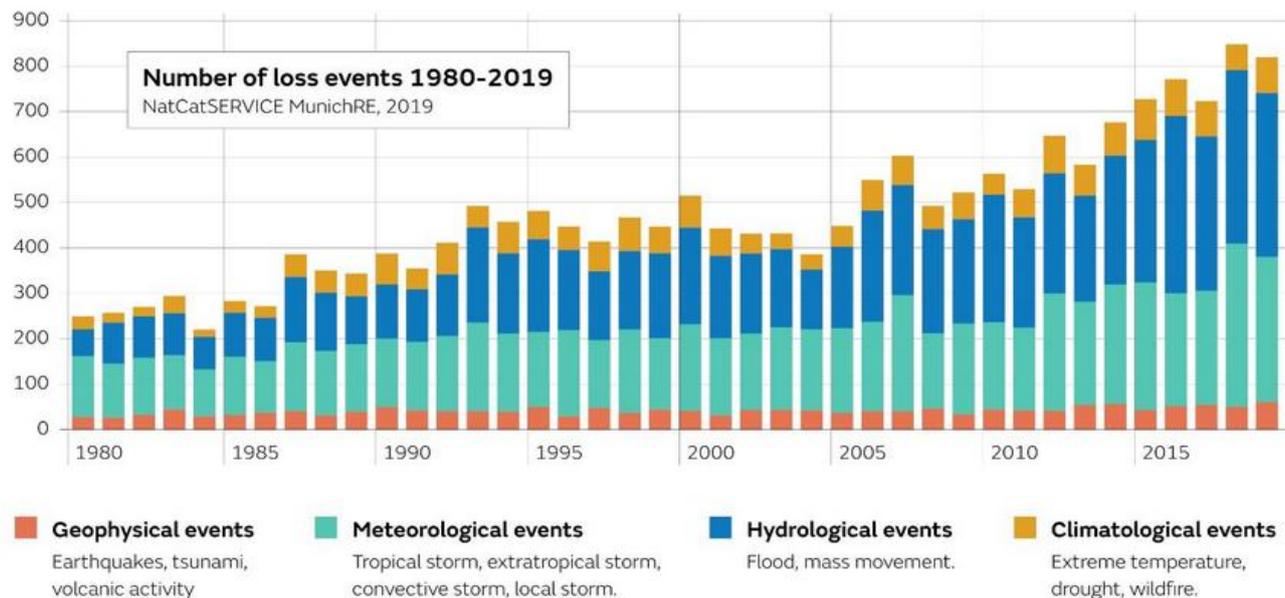
#### 5. Increases in Wildfires in the UK, 2025 being a record year with over 1,000 separate fires covering over 47,000 hectares



Forest cover in the UK is already seriously low at 13 to 14%, despite planting efforts which are negated by these fires.

**6. The Met office report on extreme weather events measured in rising levels of insurance claims up to 2019, the latest available data.**

**Met Office** Are extremes becoming more frequent?



Recent written reports to the PC have highlighted a number of environmental issues and offered some simple actions which could be taken at Parish level.

**Administration.**

We discussed at the last meeting establishing a regular “Environment” heading on the Agenda, and an Environment tab on the website. I hope these can now be actioned?

**Environmental Impact :** The Council could, upon renewal of contracts with it’s suppliers, consider what environmental impacts they may have in acting for the council.

The Council should familiarise themselves with the Statutory Duty on Biodiversity as set out in the Environment Act of 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>

**Temperature:**

Significant environmental problems globally are being caused by the earth’s surface, sea and atmosphere heating up. Whatever the cause it is surely beneficial to set in motion actions which will generate less warming?

The PC could help establish a community benefit group, to look at promoting bulk purchasing projects, for example solar panels or batteries. I would recommend an appropriate speaker is invited to the village hall.

This would require funding for a village hall booking and advertising.

## **Bird Populations**

The PC supports the proposal of Swift boxes in new planning applications, which is welcome when you consider the Defra chart above, showing decline in bird numbers. Further measures to protect habitats should be considered when future planning applications are received.

## **Pollution**

Pollution and contamination in our environment is another major problem. We have discussed in recent meetings the dangers of using Glyphosate. The PC should confirm in future, the actions that it is taking on this topic with its suppliers and tenants, and record the details under its new Environment heading.

Thank you

Ian Young, Environment Champion March 2026