

THE PATH TO COP26

1760-1820
Industrial Revolution starts in Britain and spreads west.

1896
A Swedish scientist links the burning of fossil fuels with a warming effect.

1900s
Industrial growth continues with periods of accelerated warming.

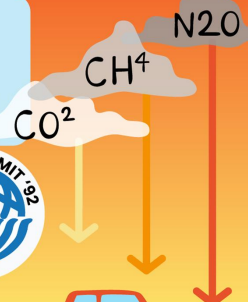
1912
Early pioneer Charles Rothschild forms the precursor to The Wildlife Trusts to protect important UK wildlife sites.

1963
The UK bans whaling.

1949
Gained first legal protection for wildlife sites in the UK with the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act.

1988
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is established and produce a report linking human activity and greenhouse gas emissions.

1992
The Rio Earth Summit brings together 179 countries to look at the impact of human activity on the environment.



1840-1880
Wetlands are drained to make way for housing and farming.

1910
Insect extinctions hit a high in England.

1920-1970
The UK becomes increasingly urbanised and farming intensifies.

1981
The Wildlife & Countryside Act is passed and continues to protect wildlife today.

1994
The United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is created and acknowledges human-induced climate change.

2015
At COP21, the Paris Agreement sets a universal and legally binding target to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C and no more than 2°C.

2011
Otters return to every UK county after significant conservation effort.

2009
At COP15 in Copenhagen, countries agree to limit temperature rise by 2°C but fail to set any legally binding targets.

2008
The UK Climate Change Act commits the UK Government to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

1990-2010
There is a 53% increase in the area of crops treated with pesticides.

1997
At COP3, the Kyoto Protocol sets the first legally binding targets for developed countries to reduce emissions.

1996-2015
Birds on the Red List for Conservation Concern increases from 36 species to 67.



2019
UK is the first country to set a target in law to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

2021
The IPCC publishes an updated report that states "human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land".



2021
The UK hosts its biggest ever summit, COP26, and must increase international commitments to achieving a temperature rise limited to 1.5°C.

2030
Countries have rapidly cut emissions and nature is recovering across at least 30% of our land and seas, helping to limit warming by 1.5°C.

2050
The UK reaches net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

