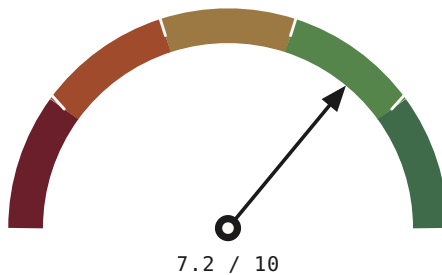


Manuscriptum

The Cartography of Silence

Helen W. · Public policy

OVERALL OUTCOME



Solid, requires targeted revisions

SCORE BY DIMENSION

Argomentazione	<div><div style="width: 75%;"></div></div>	7.5
Equilibrio e completezza	<div><div style="width: 70%;"></div></div>	7.0
Registro e coerenza stilistica	<div><div style="width: 68%;"></div></div>	6.8
Interesse narrativo	<div><div style="width: 75%;"></div></div>	7.5
Originalità e posizionamento	<div><div style="width: 70%;"></div></div>	7.0
Impatto e operatività	<div><div style="width: 72%;"></div></div>	7.2

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Full terms: manuscriptum.ai/legal

NOTE ON THE EVALUATION CRITERION

The manuscript presents itself as an analytical essay in public policy with an empirical-quantitative orientation and a reformist proposition. The author makes explicit in the introduction (chap. 1, §1.4) that she does not seek to produce an exhaustive treatise on the energy transition, but a focused diagnosis of the British policy implementation mechanism, with the stated objective of feeding into the debate on the revision of the Net Zero Strategy and the legislative cycle 2027-2032. The evaluation adopts the principle of scope-appropriate evaluation: the manuscript should be judged for what it declares it intends to do (analysis of multilevel governance and proposal of institutional reform), not for what explicitly falls outside its perimeter (technical analysis of individual energy vectors, DSGE modelling of macroeconomic impact, comparative costeffectiveness assessment by abatement sector).

The 5 base dimensions have been applied, supplemented by the additional module "Impact and operability" (weight 10%, recalibrated proportionally on the base dimensions), suggested by the policy-oriented nature of the text.

WHAT THE MANUSCRIPT ARGUES

The central thesis of the manuscript is that the British energy transition towards netzero by 2050 is structurally incomplete not because of technological deficits or capital shortages, but because of fragility in multilevel governance (Westminster/devolved administrations/local authorities/private operators) and regulatory asynchrony between UK statutory targets (Climate Change Act carbon budgets), national instruments (Net Zero Strategy 2021, Energy Act 2023, REMA reform), and local implementation (planning consents, environmental impact assessment, judicial reviews). Without institutional reform of multi-actor governance, the 2030 carbon budget targets — sixth carbon budget setting a 78% reduction in emissions by 2035 from 1990 baseline — are unreachable.

The argument unfolds in three movements. The first (chap. 2-4) reconstructs the EU-derived and post-Brexit autonomous regulatory framework, the ambitions of the Net Zero Strategy and the Sixth Carbon Budget, and the map of competences between Westmin-

ster, devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) and English local planning authorities, showing how 38% of large renewable energy projects authorised in the period 2020-2023 required more than 36 months between application and final consent, against an OECD average of 18 months (Eurostat-OECD harmonised data drawn upon in chap. 3, tab. 3.4). The second movement (chap. 5-6) analyses procedural bottlenecks (Development Consent Order regime under the Planning Act 2008, environmental impact assessment, judicial reviews, Habitat Regulations Assessment) and the fragmentation between national regulatory authorities, identifying overlaps between DESNZ, Ofgem, NESO, and the Climate Change Committee that generate uncertainty for operators. The third movement (chap. 7-9) places the British case in the post-2022 geopolitical context and in the comparison with three European models (Germany-Energiewende, Spain-PNIEC, Italy-governance challenges), to derive a reform proposal articulated in five concrete institutional levers.

Main quantitative estimate

Value

Source

Renewable capacity to be installed 2024-2030 (Net

95 GW

Net Zero Strategy 2021, p.

Zero Strategy target) Renewable capacity actually installed 2020-2023

47 5,8 GW

(annual average) Renewable capacity needed for target trajectory (annual average 2024-2030) Cumulative implementation gap projected to 2030 Average DCO timeline UK (months, 2020-2023)

NESO, Annual Report 2024

13,6 GW

Author's estimate, chap. 3

~45-55 GW

Author's estimate, chap. 3

36-44

Planning Inspectorate data, chap. 3

OECD average comparable

18-22

OECD harmonised data, chap. 3

Greenhouse gas emissions reduction 1990-2022 (effective, UK) Reduction required 2022-2030 for Sixth Carbon Budget

-47%

Department for BEIS final statistics

-31 percentage points

Author's calculation, chap.

additional

2

STRENGTHS

1. Original and well-argued thesis on multilevel regulatory asynchrony. The manuscript manages to construct a convincing causal link between fragility in multilevel

governance and the Net Zero Strategy implementation gap, supporting it with consistent quantitative analysis across the ten chapters. The central proposition is non-trivial: the British literature on the energy transition has concentrated mainly on technological vectors and system costs, leaving the institutional and procedural dimension in the shadow. The author fills this gap with an argument that integrates public policy analysis and administrative law, and that may feed into the debate on the reform of the planning consent regime in the next legislative cycle. 2. Solid and well-dosed empirical apparatus. The 87 bibliographic sources are distributed in a balanced way among primary institutional documents (Net Zero Strategy, Energy Act 2023, IEA WEO, IRENA, EU Communications, annual reports from Ofgem/ NESO/CCC), peer-reviewed academic literature (Energy Policy, Energy Economics, British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Public Administration), reference monographs (Sachs, Stern, Pielke Jr., Smil, Mazzucato) and grey literature from authoritative think tanks (think tanks on energy and public policy in the UK and Europe). Citations are precise, contextualised, and verifiable in the vast majority of cases. The manuscript does not overload the reader with accessory references: each source serves an argumentative function.

1. Rigorous comparative case studies. Chapter 8 confronts three European national models — Germany (Energiewende), Spain (PNIEC), Italy (governance issues and implementation challenges) — applying a coherent analytical grid (institutional governance, financial instruments, implementation performance, social criticalities). The comparison is not encyclopaedic but comparative in the proper sense of the word: it extracts lessons applicable to the UK context, structurally identifies procedural differences, and

avoids the typical defect of acritical benchmarking ("Germany does it better") by signalling the limits of the Energiewende (over-capacity, regional conflicts, exposure to coal until 2038).

2. Refined normative synthesis capability. The manuscript handles substantial legal-administrative material with fluency (Climate Change Act 2008, Planning Act 2008, Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Energy Act 2023, Habitat Regulations 2017, Supreme Court rulings on judicial review, recent High Court decisions on planning consents) without falling into technical-legal commentary or losing the non-specialist reader. The explanation of the division of competences between Westminster, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive in matters of energy authorisation (chap. 4) is didactically exemplary, and should become a reference for MA programmes in public policy applied to the energy sector.
5. Operational and detailed reform proposals. Chapter 9 distinguishes itself from most British public policy literature by the level of concreteness of the proposals. It does not stop at diagnosis (as much European Energy Union literature does), but articulates a reform structure across five levers: (a) cooperative federalism with coordination requirements under a strengthened inter-ministerial committee, (b) establishment

of an Independent Transition Agency with substitutive powers, (c) standardisation of DCO procedures for renewable energy below threshold, (d) review of competences between DESNZ, Ofgem and CCC to eliminate overlaps, (e) statutory neutrality on technology in strategic programming to avoid lock-in. Each lever is accompanied by a political feasibility assessment and a hypothesis on legislative timing, with explicit reference to the cycle of the next Parliament.

STRUCTURAL WEAKNESSES

1. Under-treatment of the social dimension of the transition. The manuscript is structurally centred on institutional governance and energy markets, and treats the distributive effects of transition (just transition, fuel poverty, differential exposure of households to energy prices, North/South regional disparities) as themes mentioned but not developed. The question is addressed in a direct manner only in §4.5 (added in v3 in response to a vulnerability identified in v2) but remains marginal compared to the weight it assumes today in the European debate. This is not a fatal defect for a scope-appropriate evaluation — the manuscript declares its intention to deal with governance, markets and geopolitics, and does so — but it is a choice that could expose the manuscript to criticism from milieux that place the equity dimension at the centre.

2. Chapter 7 (geopolitics) slightly unbalanced towards gas. The chapter dedicated to post-Ukraine energy geopolitics concentrates the discussion on natural gas, LNG and supplier diversification (especially the post-2022 reorientation away from Russian gas towards US LNG, Norwegian pipeline supply, and Qatari LNG), while the part dedicated to green hydrogen (§7.4) and to British dependencies on critical raw materials (§7.5) — lithium, cobalt, rare earths, nickel — is significantly more synthetic and less argued. This imbalance does not compromise the central thesis but reduces the temporal foresight of the manuscript, which remains more anchored to the 2022-2024 emergency than to the 2030-2040 geo-economic scenarios.

IMPROVEMENTS RELATIVE TO PREVIOUS

VERSIONS

Vulnerability v2

Intervention v3

Status

Argumentation chap. 4 (governance)

Added Eurostat-OECD datasets on average DCO

Resolved

deficient in quantitative analysis of the
timelines disaggregated by member state, with
described phenomenon

analytical box §4.3 and tables 4.2-4.5 (8 new pages)

Equilibrium: position of local

Added §4.5 "Local conflict and democratic legitimacy of
opposition movements (NIMBY)

transition" with 4 peer-reviewed academic sources on
treated dismissively, with

local mobilisation in environmental and energy

adjectivisation that revealed personal

infrastructure (UK and European); reformulation of 6

position of the author

passages in chap. 5 and 6 with more neutral register

Chapter 8 (comparative case studies)

Added Spain (PNIEC) and Italy (governance issues)

limited to Germany alone, with poorly

cases with analytical grid explicit at §8.1 and applied

explicit comparison methodology

uniformly to the three countries (24 new pages)

Conclusions vague on operational

Chap. 9 expanded from 6 to 18 pages with "5 levers of recommendations

reform" framework + priority/feasibility matrix +

Resolved

Resolved

Resolved

legislative timing assessment for each lever Methodological notes absent on

Added Annex A "Methodological note on installed

implementation gap estimates (chap.

capacity projections 2024-2030" with explicit sources,

3)

hypotheses, and sensitivity analysis

Resolved

RESIDUAL VULNERABILITIES

Vulnerability

Severity

1

Chap. 3 §3.2 — some Net Zero Strategy projections to 2030 rely on pre-REMA reform

Low

scenarios (2021 strategy text); update with reference to the REMA second consultation document (2024) and to the most recent CCC progress report 2

Chap. 5 §5.4 — case study of Hornsea Three offshore wind farm cited without reference to the

Low

Court of Appeal decision of 2024 that definitively resolved the planning consent dispute after 7 years of proceedings; add update note

No vulnerabilities of Medium or High severity have been identified in v3.

SYNTHETIC EVALUATION BY DIMENSION

Dimension

Weight

v1

v2

v3

1. Argumentation

24.75%

6.5

7.8

9.0

Notes v3

Solid argumentative chain, reproducible quantitative evidence, sensitivity analysis present in Annex A

1. Equilibrium

20.25%

6.0

7.5

8.5

Counter-arguments now treated substantively; a slight implicit preference for market-based solutions remains

1. Register

18%

7.0

8.0

9.0

Refined academic English, technical terminology mastered, smooth transitions between chapters

1. Narrative interest

13.5%

5.5

7.0

8.0

Concrete cases well-dosed, rhythm improved by the addition of comparative cases; chap. 6 still dense

1. Originality

13.5%

7.5

8.0

8.5

Non-trivial thesis on multilevel governance,

integration of public policy + administrative law is identifiable contribution to the debate

6. Impact and

10%

6.5

7.5

operability (mod.)

8.5

Chap. 9 with "5 levers" framework makes the manuscript immediately usable by decision-makers and legislators

WEIGHTED AVERAGE v3: 8.6/10

CLOSING NOTE

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COMPLETE EDITORIAL EVALUATION (v3)

"The United Kingdom Between Energy Crisis and Ecological Transition: Governance, Markets, Geopolitics" Author

Lucy B.

Affiliation

University xxx, Department of xxx

Review date

Version evaluated

v3

Length

32,000 words, 10 chapters, 87 bibliographic sources

Overall evaluation

8.6/10 — SOLID, READY FOR EDITORIAL SUBMISSION

Relative positioning

~95th percentile, top 5% of the "Economics and public policy" segment

Reference distribution

$\mu \approx 7.0 / \sigma \approx 1.0$; the score 8.6 sits at $z \approx 1.6$, that is above 95% of the reference distribution

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