

# Project Britannia: Just Transition & Jobs

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*Protecting North Sea Workers and Coastal Communities — Prepared by: David Waugh*

## 1. The Human Origin: From Coal to Carbon-Free

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Project Britannia began with Dave Waugh, a retired gas engineer who witnessed the 1980s coal mine closures. Having seen friends lose livelihoods and communities lose identities, Dave recognized a parallel threat facing the North Sea workforce. Britannia ensures history does not repeat itself in Aberdeen, Teesside, and the Humber.

**The 1980s Lesson:** When mines closed, towns were hollowed out and expertise vanished. Dave is determined that the North Sea transition will be a just transition that protects workers, not abandons them.

## 2. Protecting the North Sea Legacy

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The UK has approximately 470 platforms nearing end-of-life. Behind these are thousands of workers with "DNA-level" offshore knowledge.

**The Risk:** A "cliff-edge" decommissioning that exports skills and hollows out coastal towns.

**The Solution:** Repurposing assets into Hydrogen-Nuclear hubs provides a 40-year extension to offshore careers, transitioning "Oil & Gas" workers into "Green Hydrogen" pioneers using the same platforms and skills.

## 3. The "Skills Passport" Initiative

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A formal framework recognizing existing certifications (BOSIET, NVQs) and providing bridge-training for SMR maintenance and electrolysis.

- **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):** Credits existing safety/technical certifications.
- **Bridge Training:** Short courses (3-6 months) on SMR and hydrogen systems.
- **Career Pathways:** Clear progression to green hydrogen leadership.

## 4. Regional Economic Impact

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**Aberdeen:** Transitions from "Oil Capital" to "Global Hydrogen Operations Center," protecting thousands of supply chain jobs.

**Tees Port & Humber:** Subsea pipelines connect platforms to industrial heartlands, supporting carbon-free manufacturing in steel, chemicals, and cement.

## 5. Preventing the 1980s Repeat

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Dave Waugh's experience drives Britannia's urgency. The 1980s closures were a human tragedy; Britannia promises that no worker or community will be left behind.

## 6. Jobs by the Numbers

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- **Offshore Operations:** 2,000–3,000 direct jobs.
- **Supply Chain:** 5,000–7,000 jobs in manufacturing and logistics.
- **Onshore Infrastructure:** 3,000–5,000 jobs in distribution.
- **Training & Education:** 500–1,000 jobs.

**Total Estimated Impact:** 10,000–16,000 jobs supported or created.

## 7. A Vision from the Ground Up

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*"We have the platforms. We have the people. We have the technology. Let's use them to save the planet—and save our communities at the same time." — Dave Waugh*

# Who Loses If We Get This Wrong?

## Visual Risk Cards Grid

At-Risk Sector	Number at Risk	What They Do	Specific Risk	✓ Britannia Fix
Gas Safe Engineers	120,000+	Heating installers	Shrinking markets	Repurposing for hydrogen safety
Offshore Workers	Tens of thousands	Crews, subsea, ROV	Decommissioning losses	Retaining offshore roles
Fabrication Yards	Thousands	Aberdeen, Teesside, etc.	Reduced demand	New hydrogen infrastructure work
Logistics & Marine	Thousands	Vessel/port operators	Decline in support	New hydrogen logistics needs
Consultancies	Thousands	Process/safety authors	Loss of contracts	Sustained demand for H2 projects
Inspection & NDT	Thousands	Integrity specialists	Fewer platforms	Ongoing H2 infrastructure roles
Pipeline Ops	Thousands	NTS/integrity teams	Decommissioning	Repurposing extends pipeline use
OEMs & Supply	Thousands	Boiler/valve makers	Declining gas demand	Hydrogen-compatible demand
Training Providers	Hundreds	Colleges/bodies	Reduced enrolments	"Gas Safe to Hydrogen Safe"

## Knock-On Effects

- Domestic installers and retailers face reduced demand.
- Insurance and inspection services see market contraction.
- Local high streets (pubs, shops) suffer economic decline.
- Housing markets in offshore hubs weaken.

### The Decommissioning Trap

Decommissioning without repurposing creates a terminal industry — a short boom followed by a cliff edge. Project Britannia offers decades of work instead, anchoring sustainable energy jobs.

## Political and Social Stakes

- Regional decline and skills exodus.
- Loss of industrial capability and political backlash.

### How Britannia Mitigates These Risks

- Repurposed platforms → offshore jobs retained.
- Hydrogen pipelines/appliances → Gas Safe skills reused.
- Port fabrication → new build and maintenance work.
- Regional anchoring → keeps Aberdeen, Teesside, Humber as energy capitals.