

Writing the Future



Afterwards

Last visit: Earth year 2006. Eco-system in crisis. Potential conflict between inhabitants fleeing rising water levels or food source failures and those in privileged positions. Sixth mass extinction (attributable to alpha species) continuing. This visit: Earth year 2019. Alpha species aware of existential threat, continuing to spiral towards its own demise via destruction of its biosphere. Option A: wait 30 Earth years. Potential resistance to colonisation will be weaker but increased degradation of eco-system will hamper adaptation for our needs. B: Colonise immediately. Risk more casualties but encounter less environmental degradation. Potential for non-alpha inhabitants to welcome us. Recommendation: B.

Liz Wells, 2019