

Afterword

Windmills of New Amsterdam

For some reason I cannot easily explain, I seem to gravitate naturally towards writing 3000-word short stories. Almost all of the stories in the Four Square Less One collection are around this length. This story, however, is twice that length, and it seemed to take forever to produce. Perhaps this is because of the complexity of the interrelated ideas I am trying to explore.

The central thesis behind this story – that humankind will have to revert to a much more primitive form of existence, and with a hugely reduced population level, if it is to survive on this planet – seems such an obvious one that I am surprised there has not been more fictional writings on the subject. But perhaps it is not inevitable, or maybe people just do not want to face up to such a prospect. Or is it just that it is more fun to write on other topics?