

Climate change – is the UK preparing for flooding & water scarcity?

Adaptation Sub-Committee
Progress Report 2012

Lord Krebs Kt FRS
11 July 2012

Extreme weather is likely to become more common as a result of climate change



Flooding in Hebden (Summer 2012)

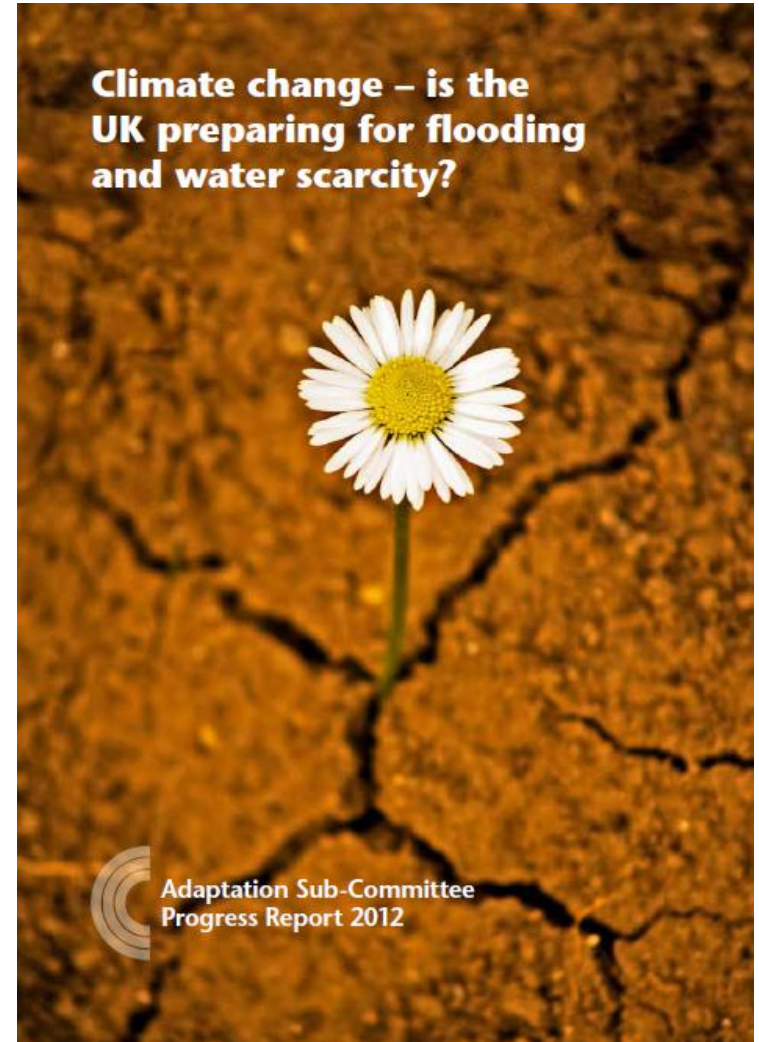


Drought in East Anglia (Spring 2012)

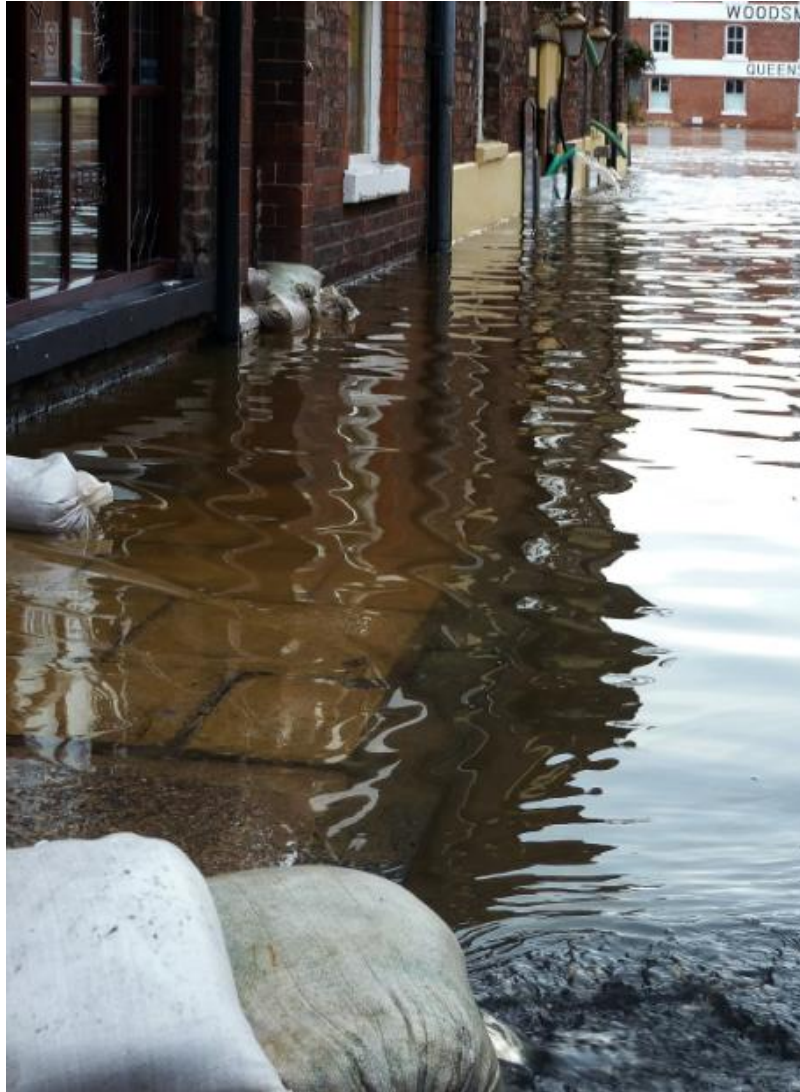


ASC Progress Report 2012

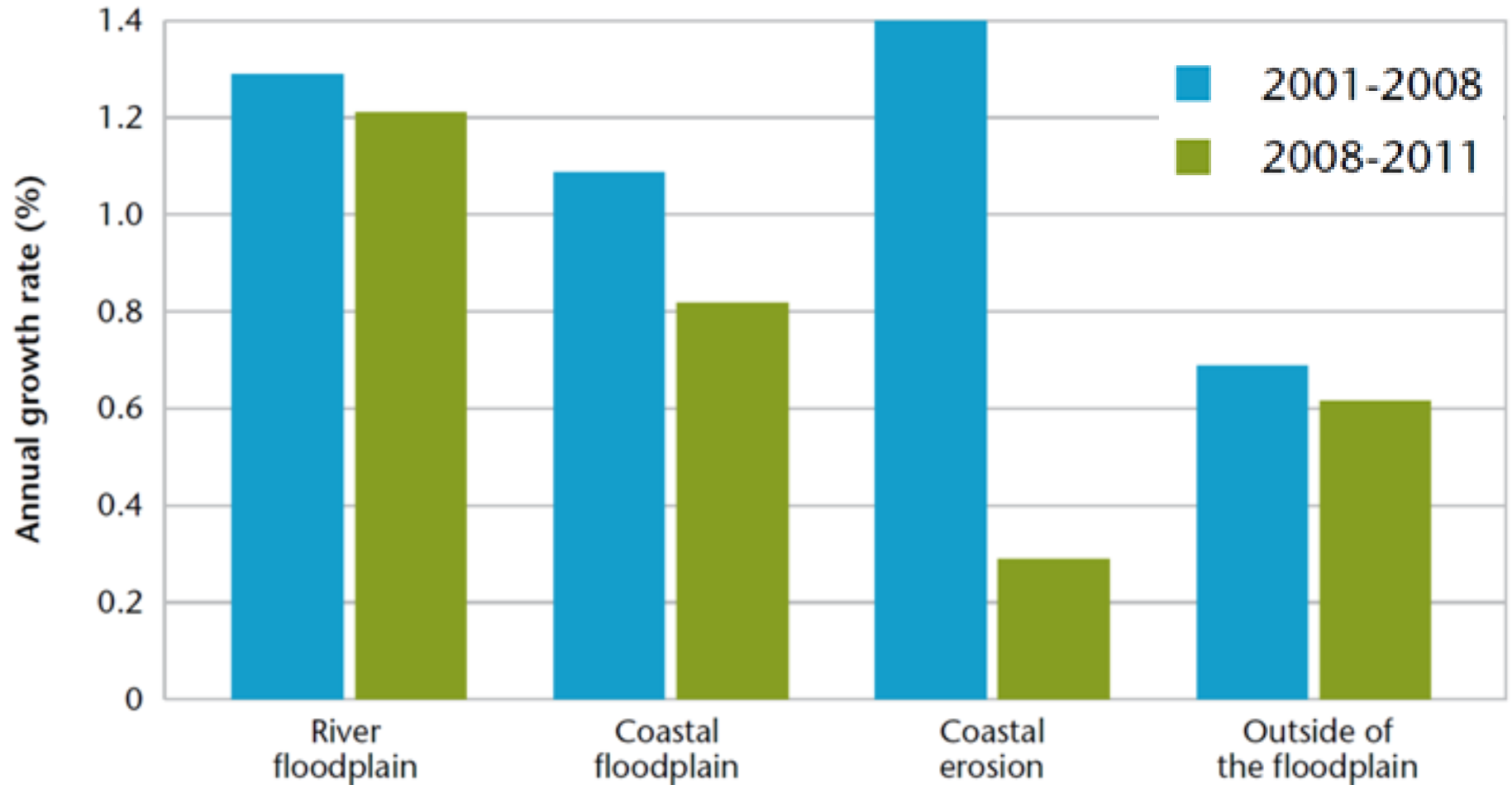
- Measuring progress using the ASC adaptation assessment toolkit
- Focus on flooding and water scarcity
- Recommendations for Government



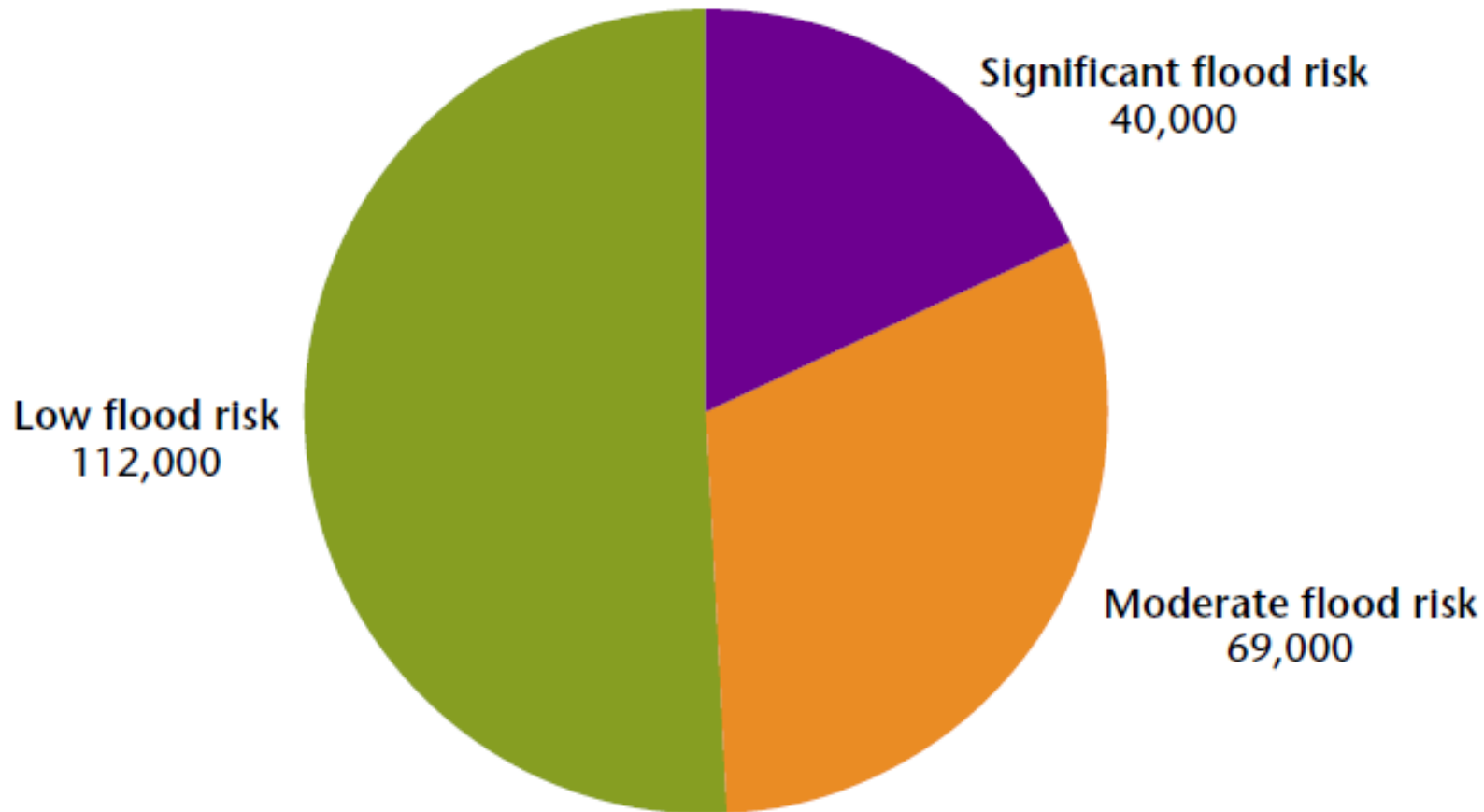
Flooding



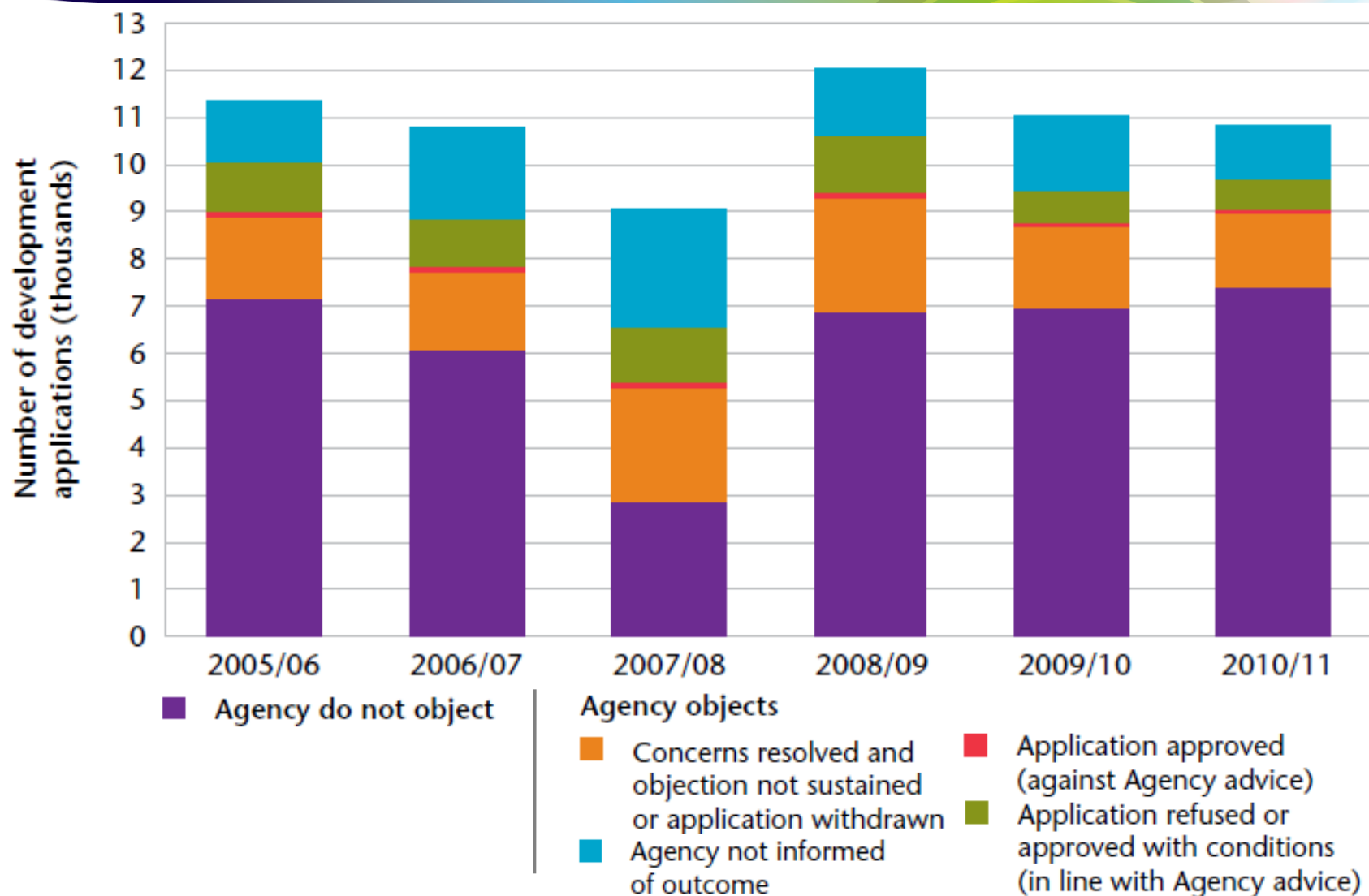
Development in the floodplain grew at a faster rate than elsewhere in England over the past 10 years



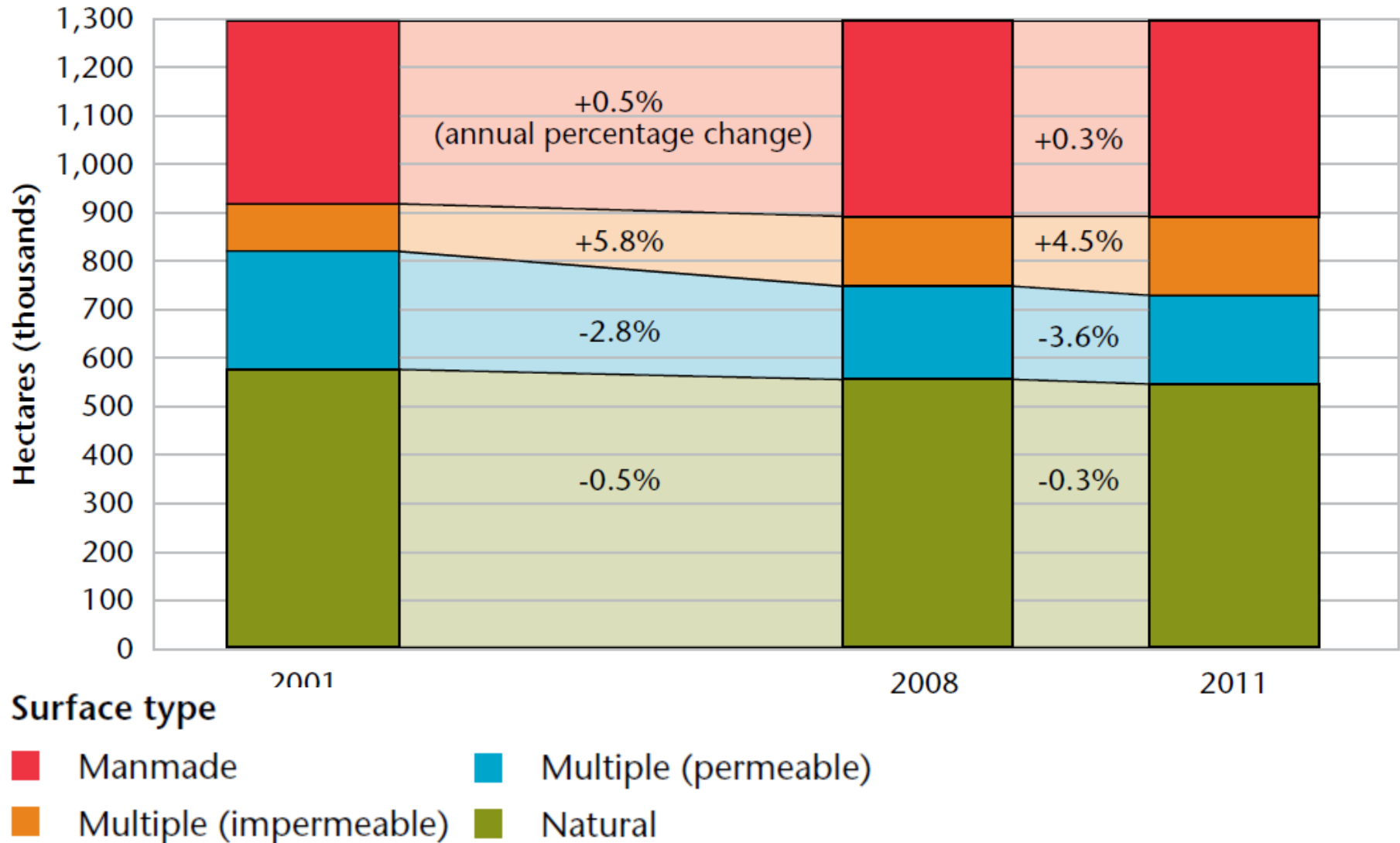
Over the last ten years, most floodplain development has been in areas protected by flood defences, but one-fifth has been in areas not protected



Floodplain development: generally designed to be resilient but EA not informed of outcome of one third of applications to which it objected

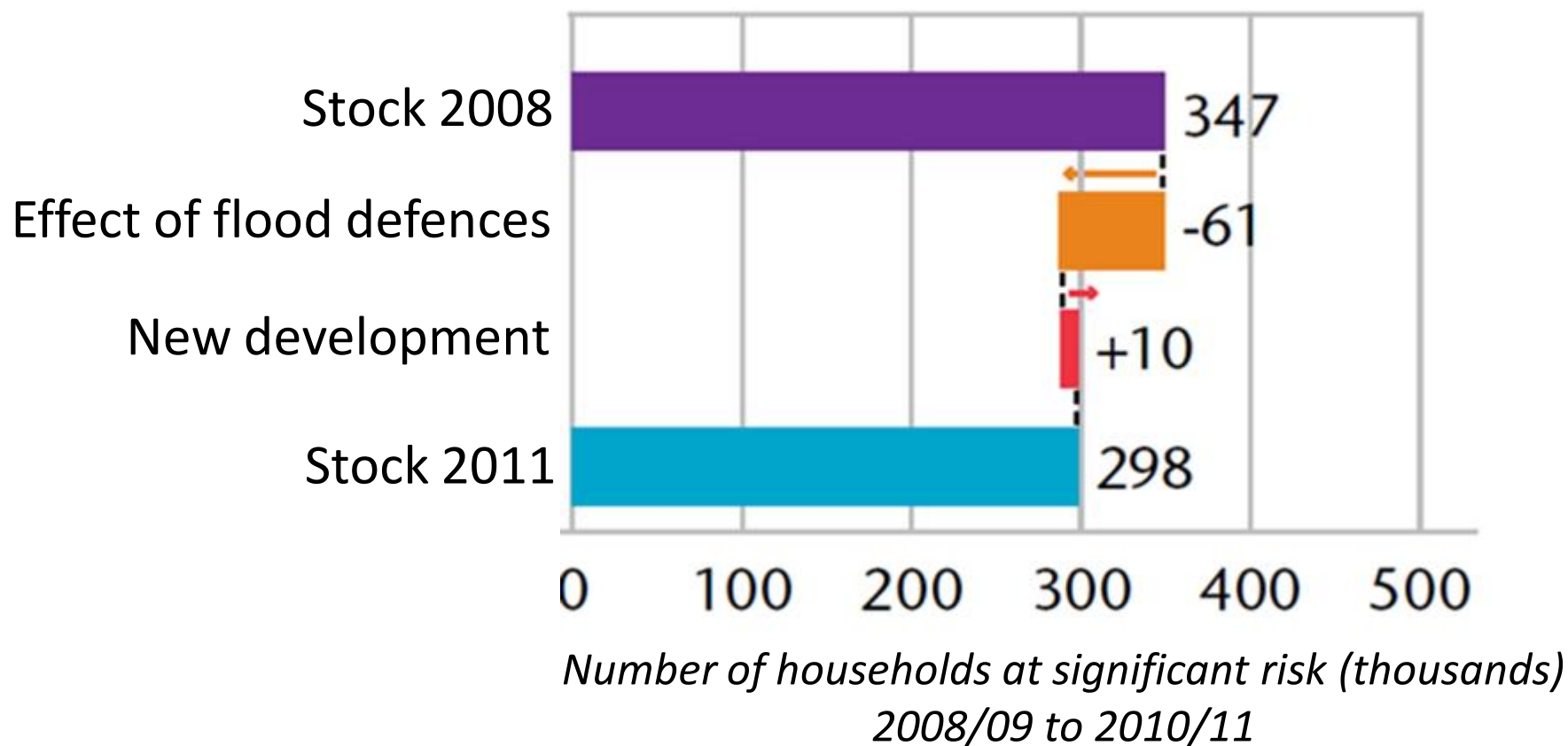


Area of hard surfacing increased in England's towns and cities over the past 10 years

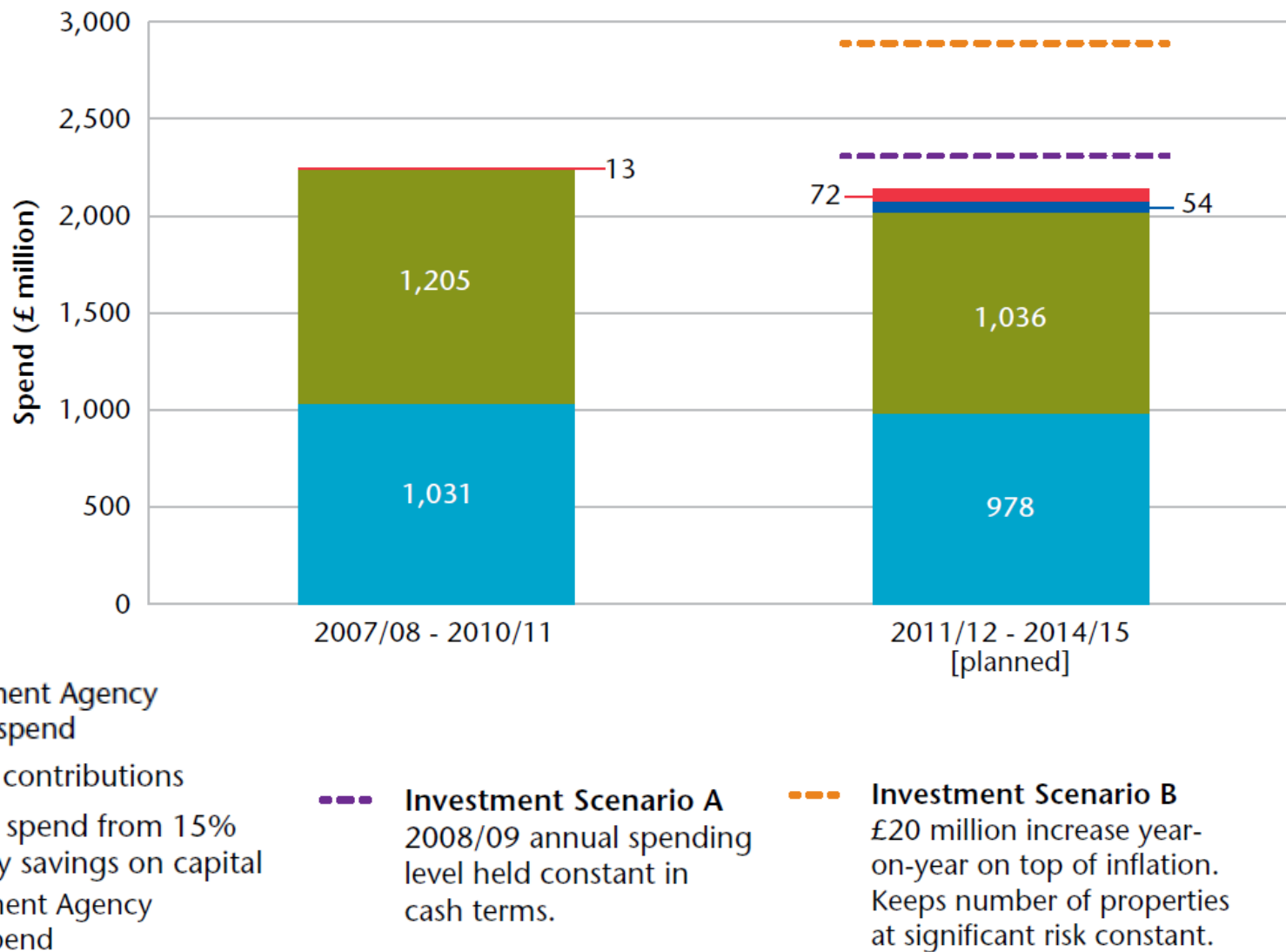


Government and local authorities should ensure more robust and transparent implementation of planning policy in relation to development in areas at risk of flooding

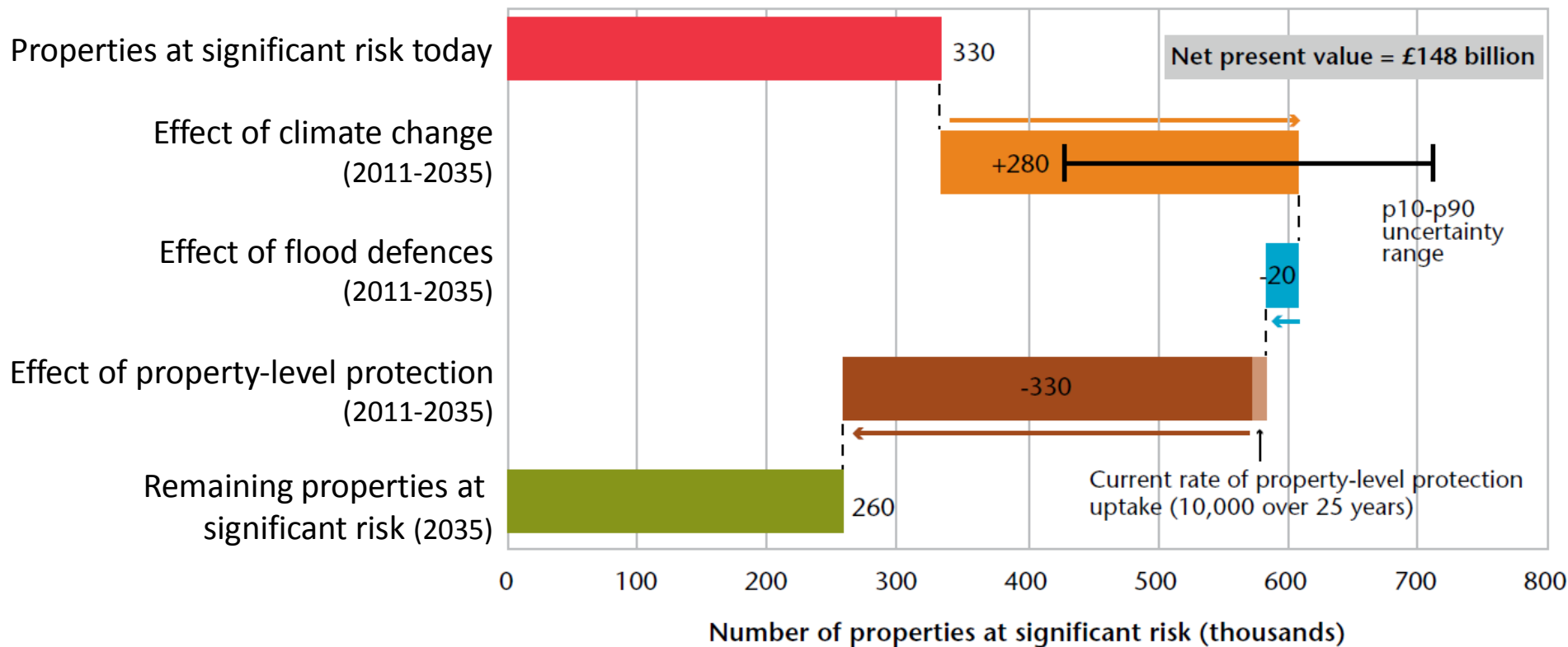
Investment in flood defences has reduced number of households at risk, including those at significant risk



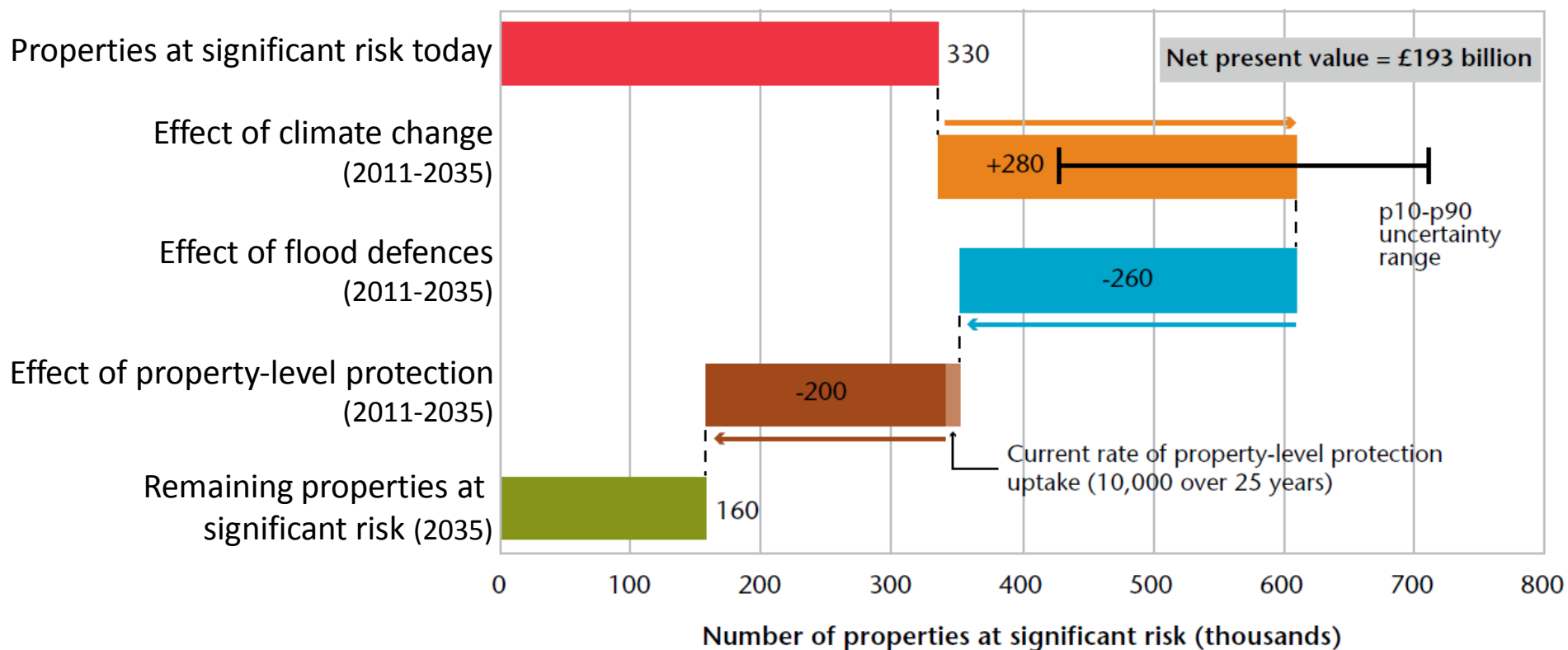
Funding allocated in current spending review has fallen by 12% compared to last 4 years (in real terms)



Property-level protection could benefit around 330,000 properties under a constrained investment scenario



Increasing investment in flood defences and property-level protection could lead to a four-fold reduction in risk by 2035, compared to no additional action



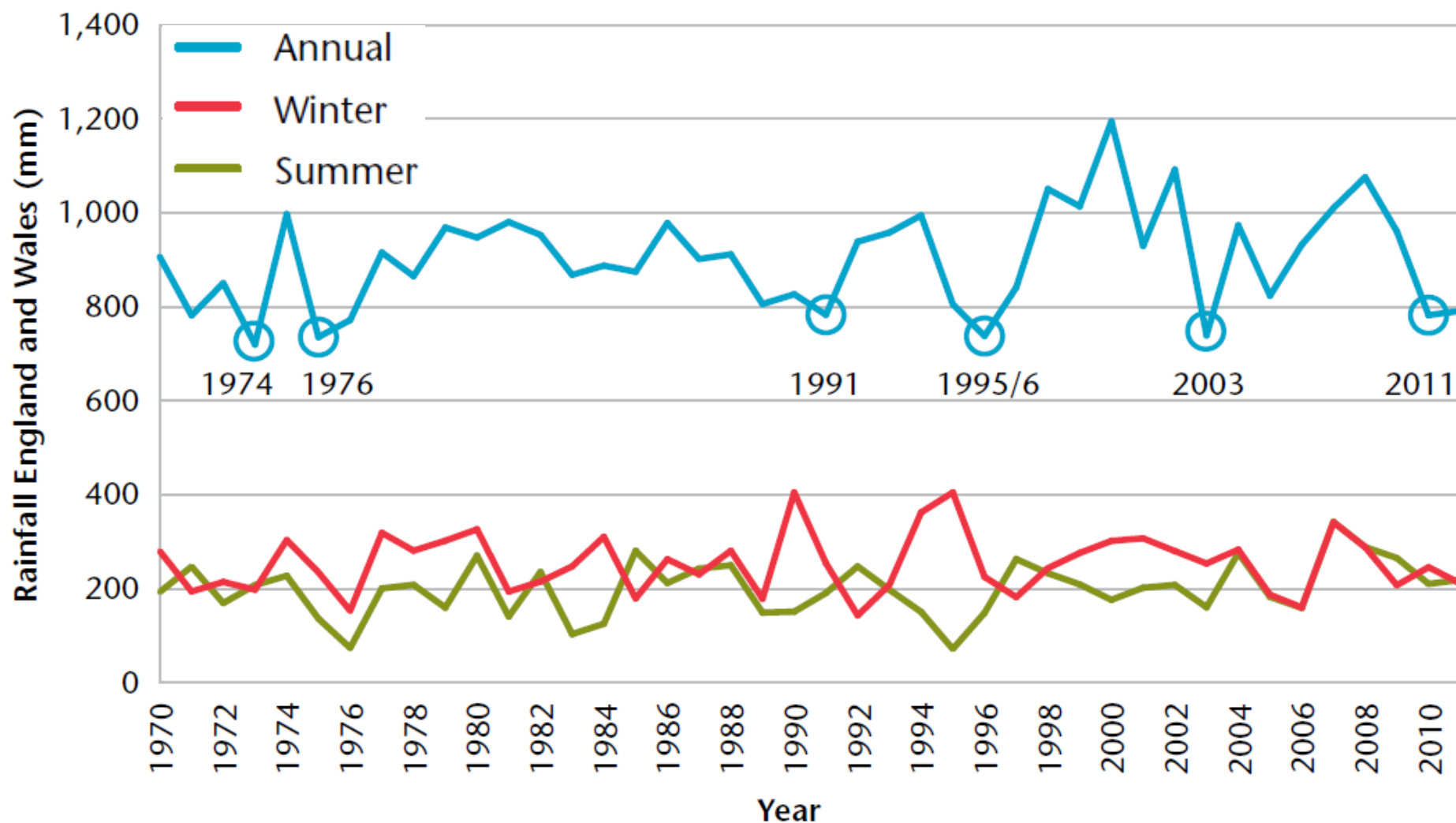
The Government should support sustained and increased investment in flood defences from public or private sources;

or in the absence of this identify ways to manage the social and economic consequences of more frequent flooding.

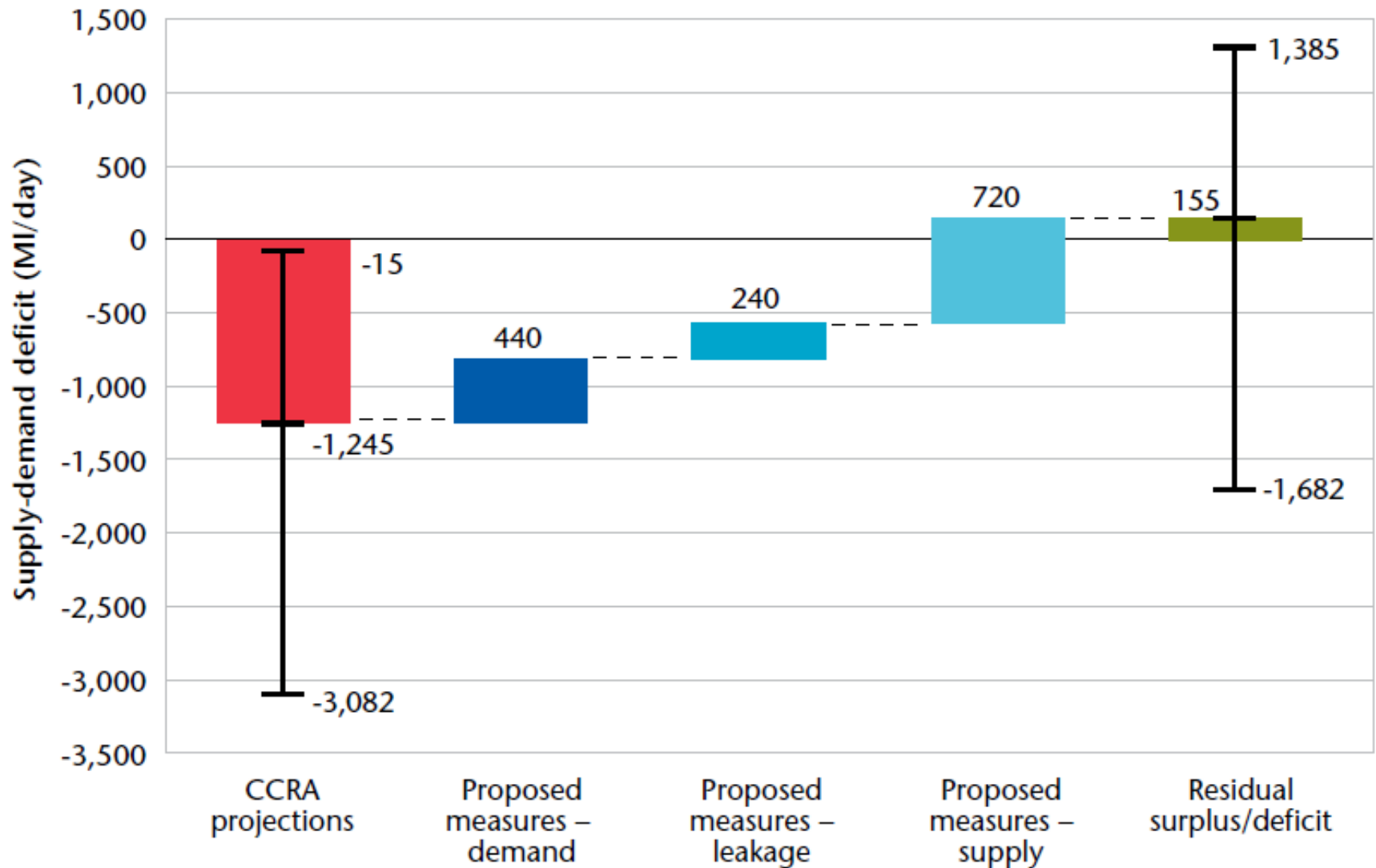
Water scarcity



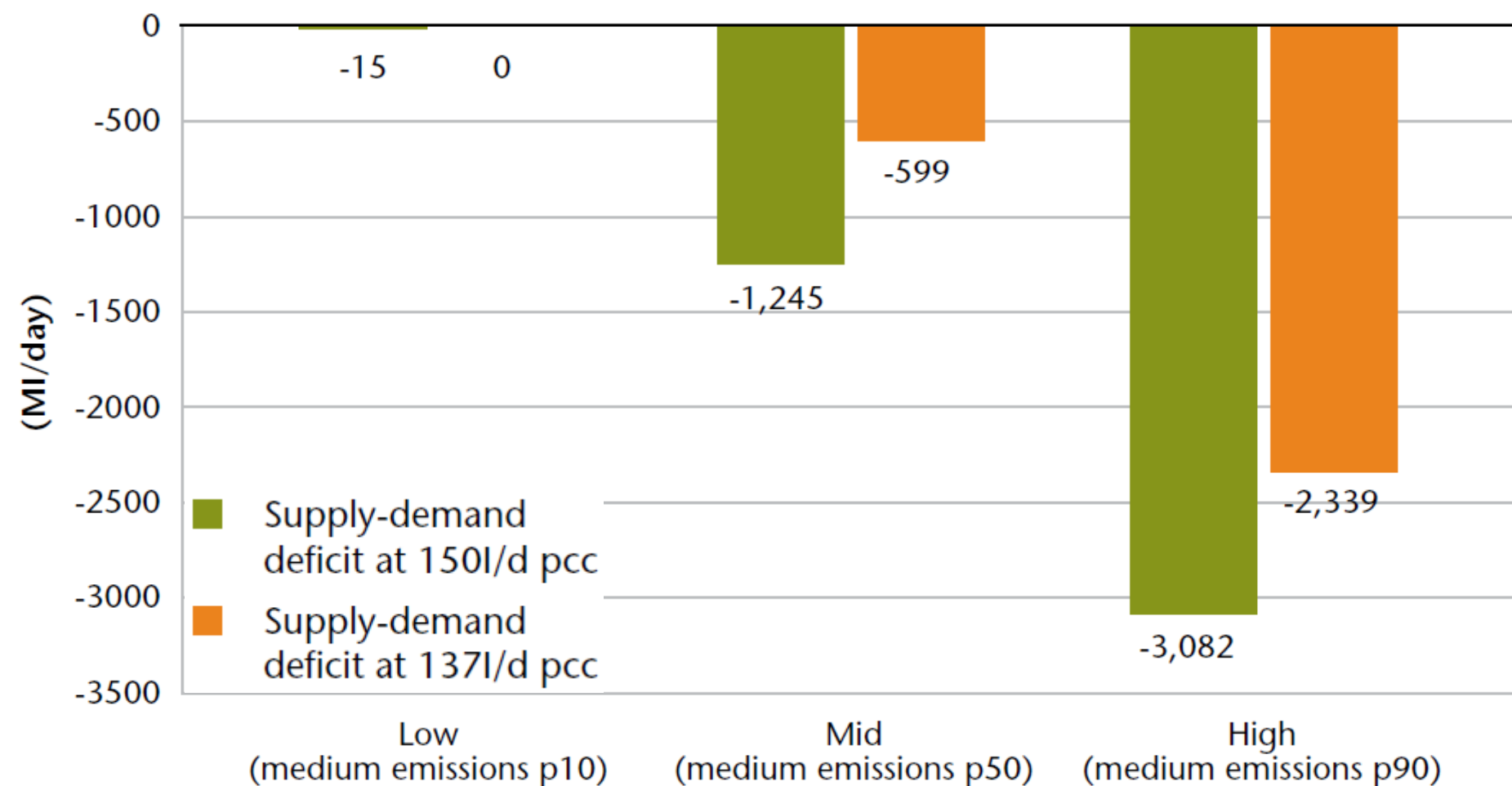
Droughts have occurred on average once every 7 years during the past four decades: they could become more frequent in the future



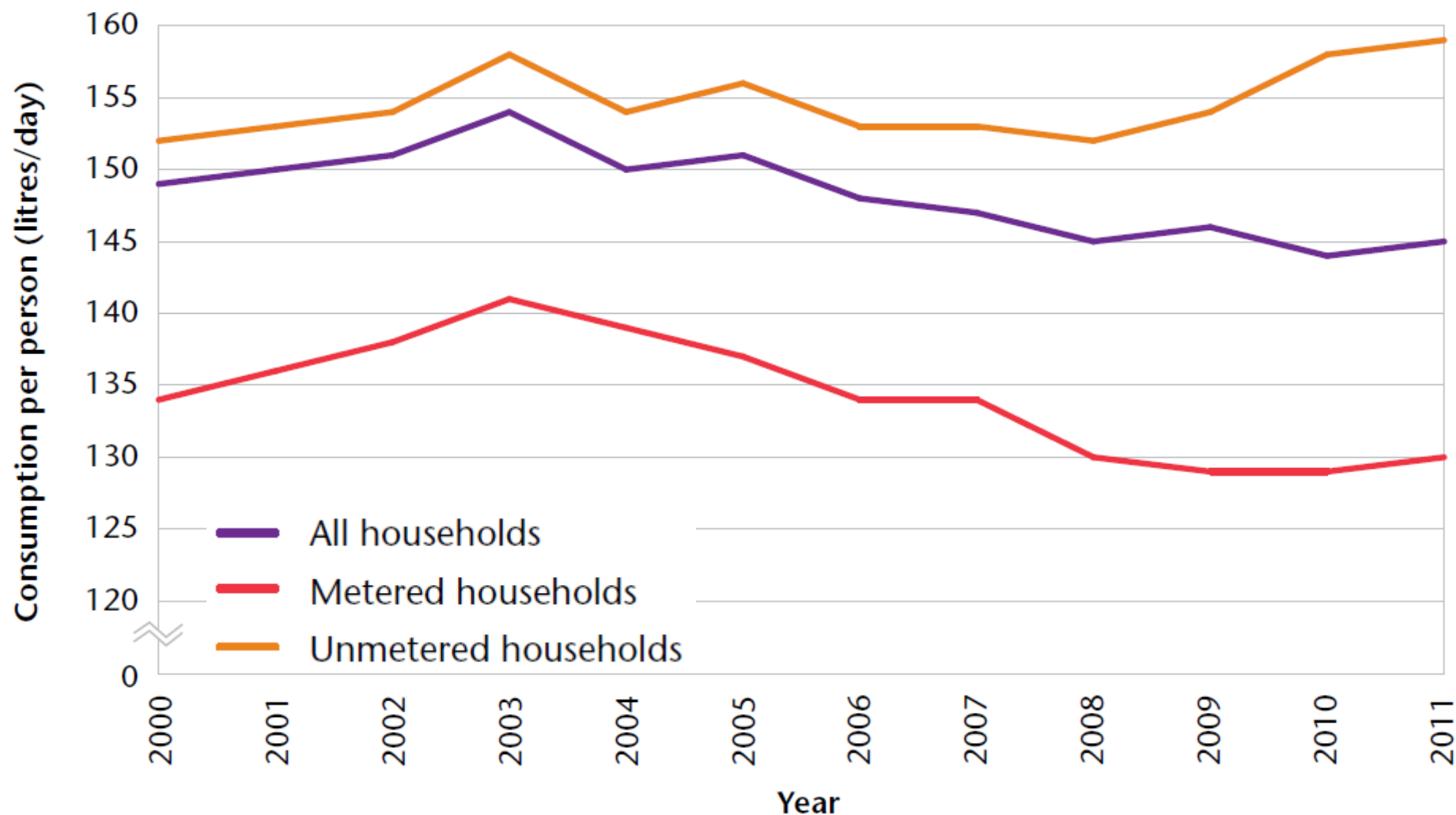
Water companies tend to focus their efforts on measures to improve supply, with the remainder on reducing consumer demand or limiting leakage



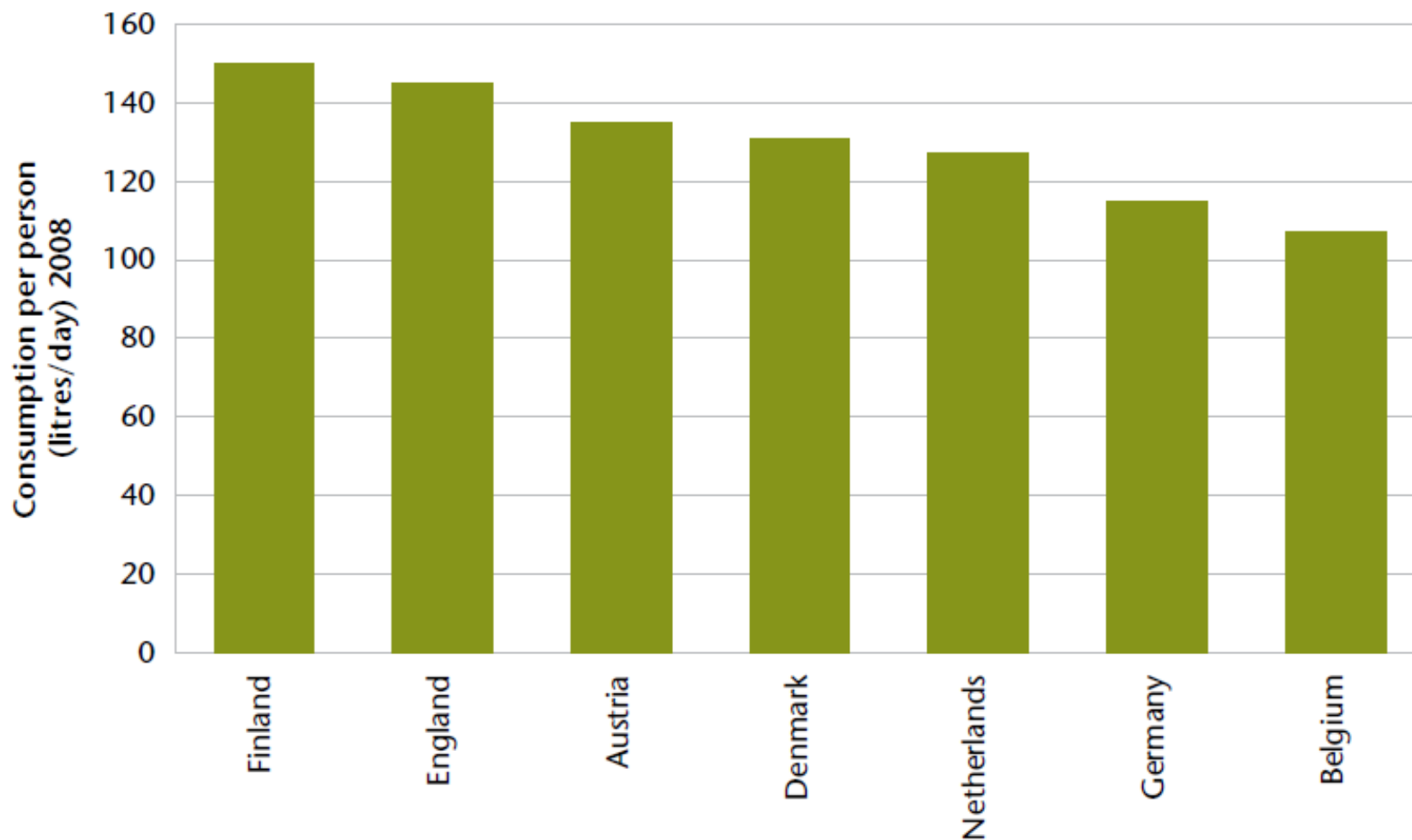
Reducing household water consumption by ~13 l/p/day could deal with half of the deficit under the medium emissions scenario



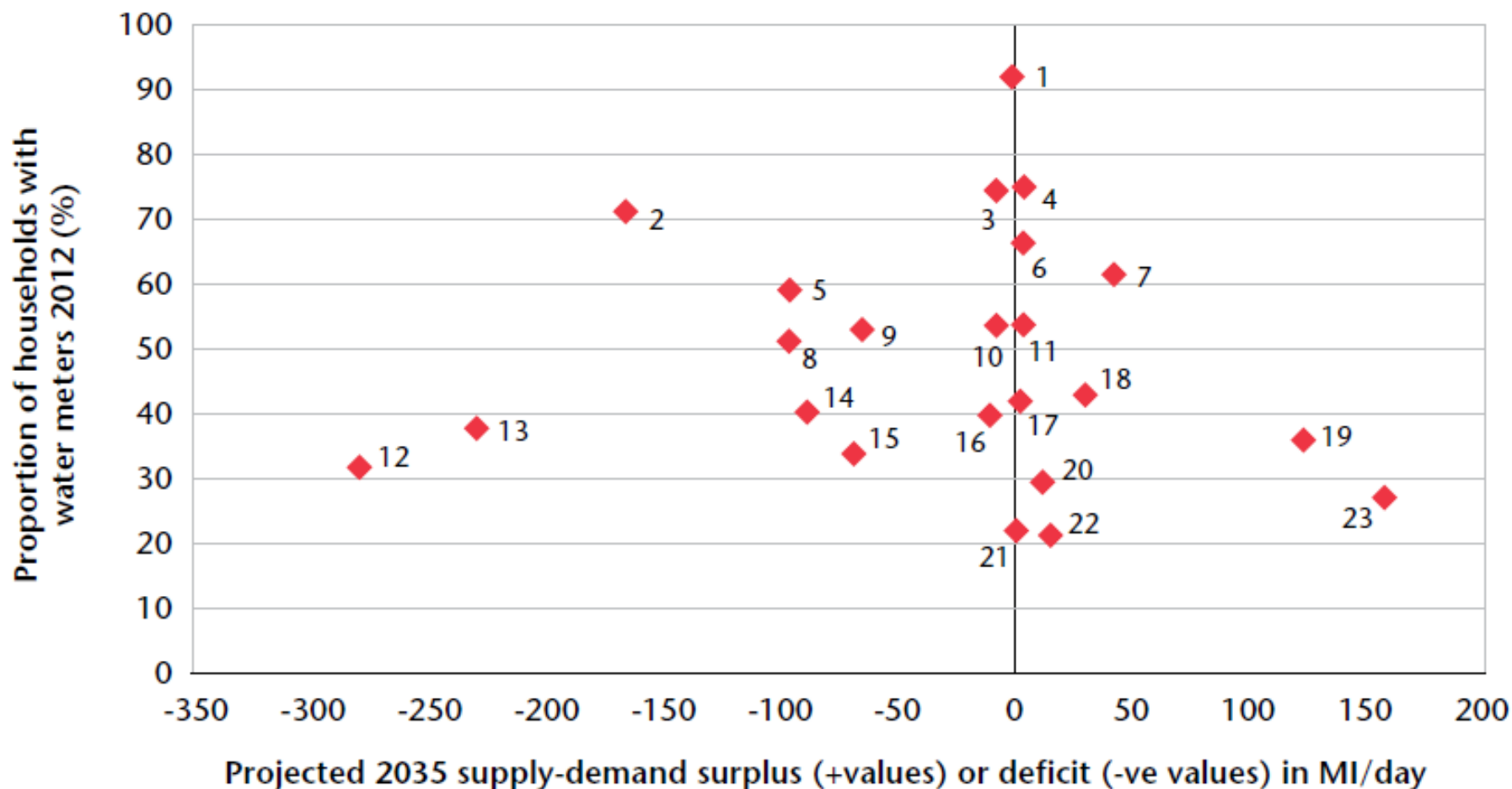
Water consumption per person continues to fall; this rate needs to be maintained in future



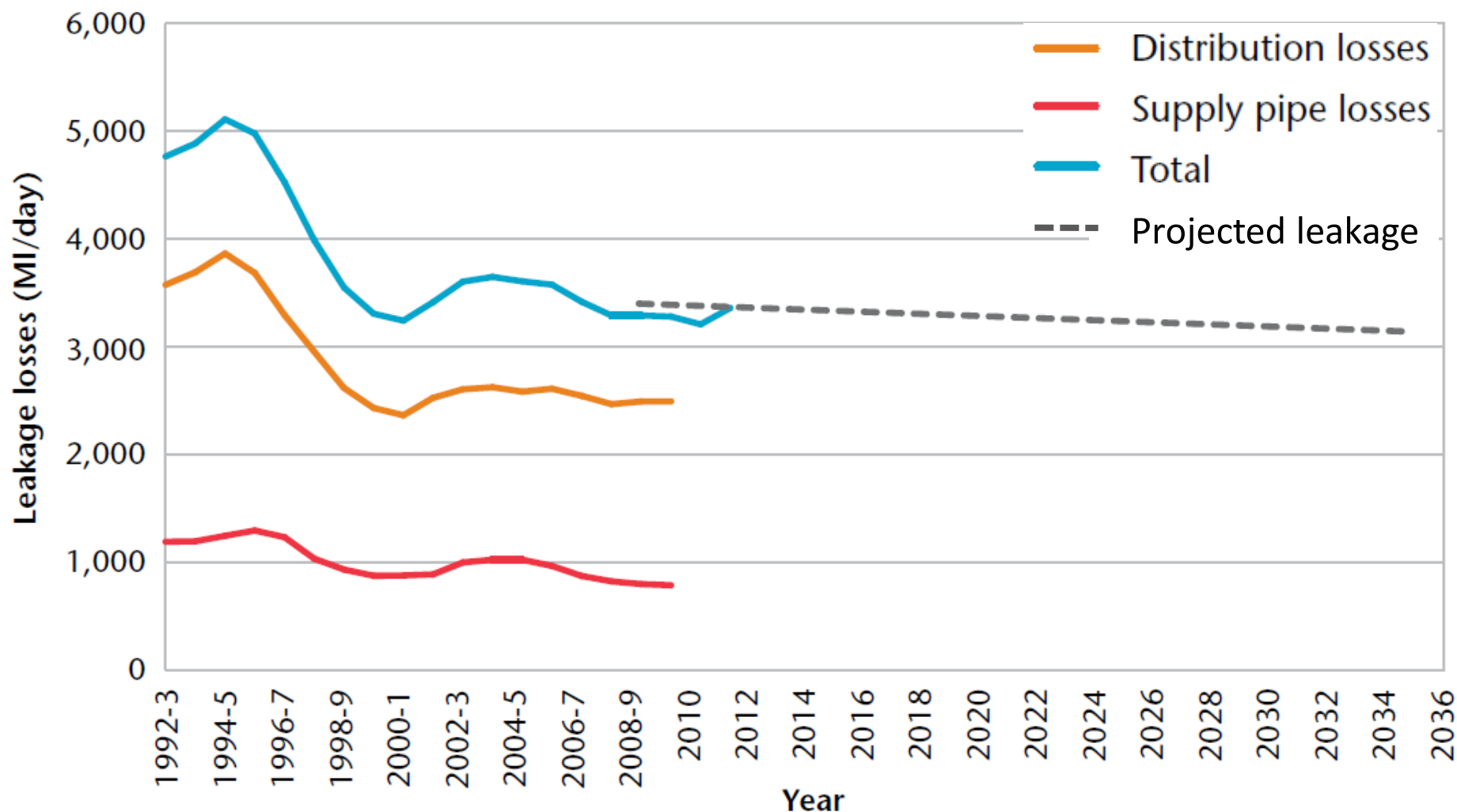
Experience of other countries suggests lower per person consumption is achievable



Metering should be targeted at areas most at risk from climate change, however this is currently not happening



Leakage rates fell sharply in the 1990s, but have since levelled off. With climate change further reductions may be economic



The Government and water companies should take further steps to increase efficiency in water use, including through water metering and pricing.

Adaptation Sub-Committee

<http://www.theccc.org.uk>

