

# Climate change, flood risk & policy setting: tales from the UK

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## Key themes

- The impact of events
- How science can influence
- The importance of nationally consistent data
- The importance of nationally consistent methods
- How data, policy and legislation are linked



# Towyn, 26 February, 1990



# 1991, National Sea Defence Survey



TABLE OF ALLOWANCES		
Region	Tectonic or Isostatic Change mm/Year	IPCC Sea Level Change – “Business as Usual, Best Estimate”
	– Upward Movement of Land + Downward Movement of Land	1990 – 2030 180mm 4.5mm/Year Combined Effect of Climate Change & Tectonic Change
Anglian	1.5	6.0
Northumbria	–0.5	4.0
North West	–0.5	4.0
Severn Trent	0.5	5.0
Southern	1.5	6.0
South West	0.5	5.0
Thames	1.5	6.0
Wessex	0.5	5.0
Welsh	0.5	5.0
Yorkshire	0.5	5.0

Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3



# 1992 – 95, National Coastal Flood Risk Assessment

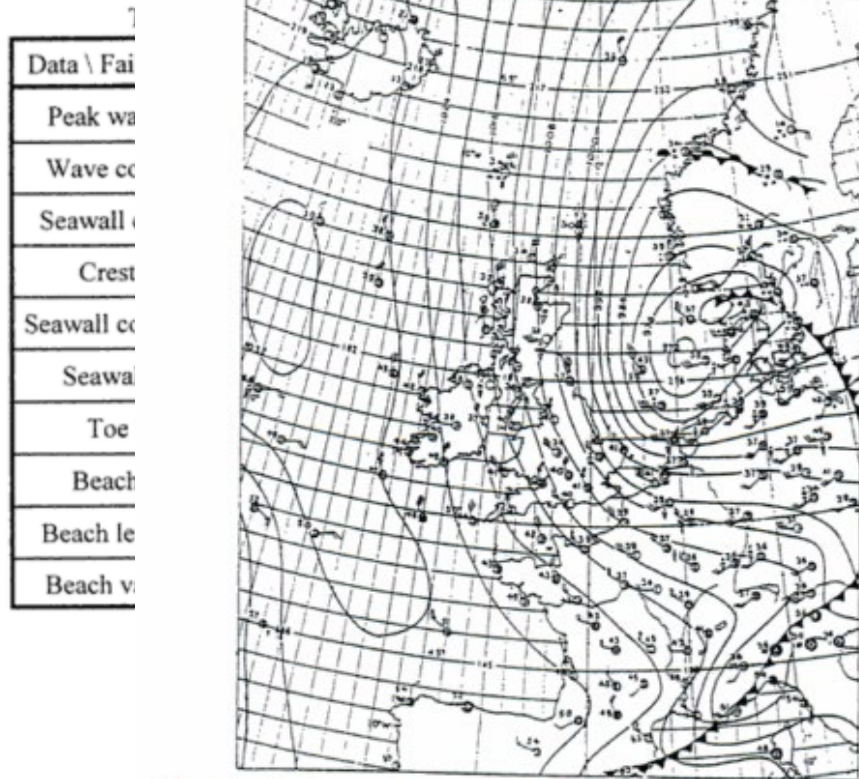


Figure 3: Surface pressure chart for 1800hours GMT January 31 1953.

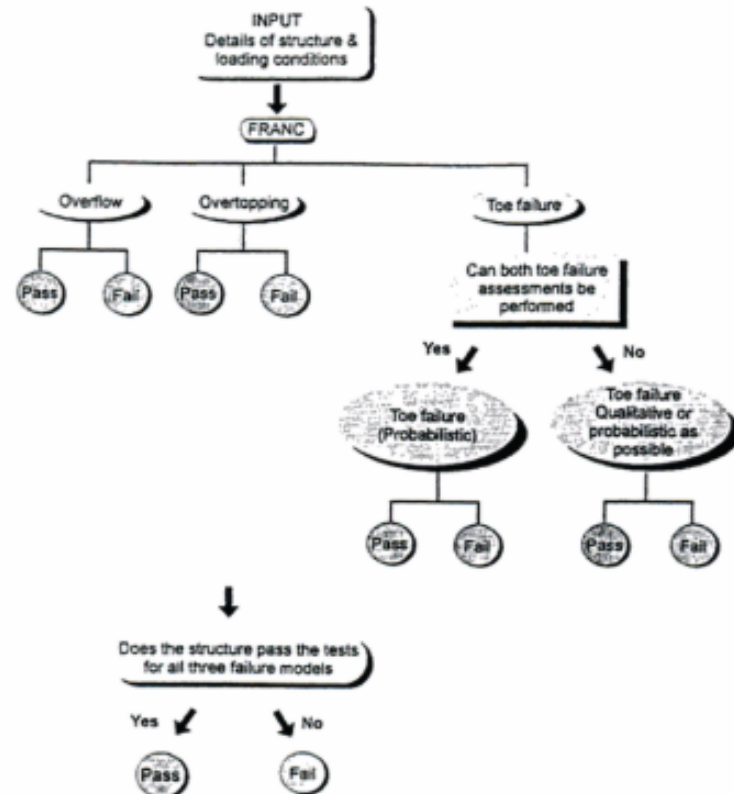


Figure 2: Decision tree for the risk assessment methodology.



# Coast Protection Survey of England, 1993 - 94





# 1997, Spending Review



- Coastal property counts & probability bands
- Coarse fluvial floodplains and urban extents



# 2000, Comprehensive Spending Review

**Table 1 Summary of property at risk and estimated annual damages for England and Wales (AAD= Annual Average Damage)**

England and Wales	Sea/Tidal Flooding	Coastal Erosion	Total
Total assets in risk areas:			
Residential properties (Nr)	1 026 000	113 000	1 139 000
Commercial/Ind properties (Nr)	74 000	9 000	83 000
Agricultural land (ha)	432 000	5 000	437 000
Capital value of assets (£m)	133 300	7 700	141 000
<b>Damages</b>	<b>£ millions/year</b>		
Do nothing damages:			
Property damage/loss	1 527.7	84.0	1 611.7
Agricultural losses	107.7	0.3	108.0
Traffic disruption	1.8		1.8
Total	1 637.2	84.3	1 721.5
AAD – current defences			
Property damage/loss	210.4	16.3	226.7
Agricultural losses	52.4	0.3	52.7
Total	262.8	16.6	279.4
Benefit of current defences	1374.4	67.7	1442.1

More time & data ☺

- Regional data fluvial on standards of protection
- National Address data
  - Residential
  - Non-residential

Annual Average Damage calculations:

- Property damage
- Agricultural losses
- Traffic disruption

+ Write-off values





# 2001, Climate Change & Wales

Region	Current AAD (£ million)	Predicted AAD		% of current AAD	
		10% Flood Flow Increase	20% Flood Flow Increase	10% flood flow increase	20% flood flow increase
Anglian	£55.02	£78.16	£111.70	142	203
Midlands	£50.23	£69.04	£98.52	137	196
North East	£47.29	£90.81	£111.70	192	236
North West	£19.22	£34.03	£45.05	177	234
Thames	£201.26	£213.83	£227.18	106	113
Southern	£15.51	£19.65	£25.71	127	166
South West	£28.90	£35.49	£44.06	123	152

Table 4.2 Predicted increase in AAD for fluvial flood areas (£ million)

Re-run:

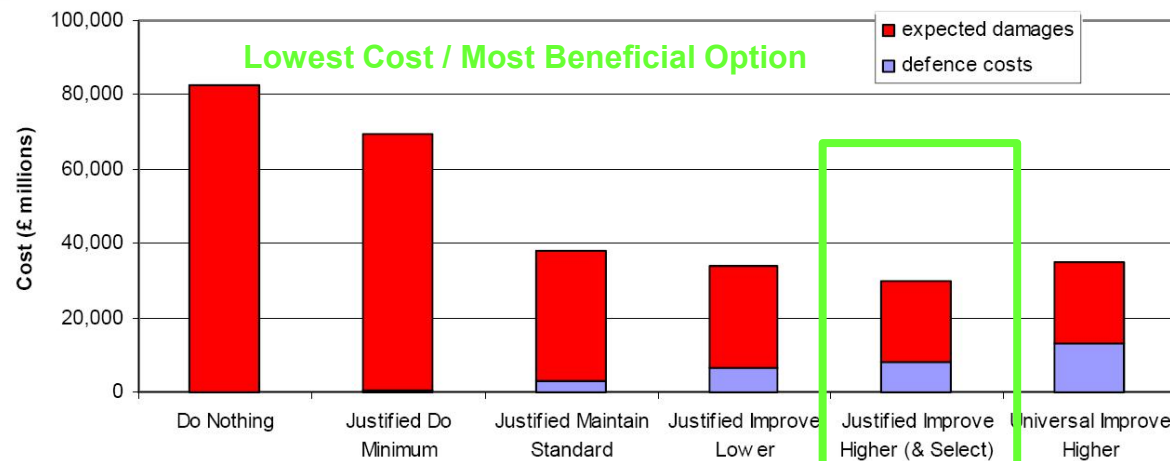
- Add in Wales
- To assess climate change impacts  
“Standard of Protection” adjusted for:
  - peak flood flow increase
  - sea level rise



# 2004, CSR National Scenarios & Benefits

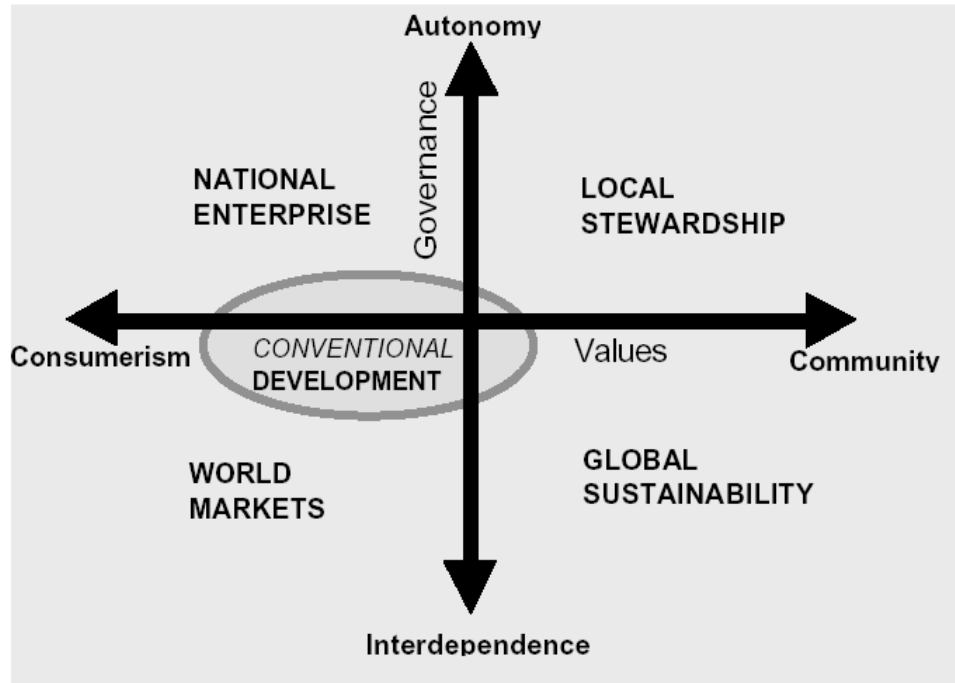
Table 3 Expected costs and damages (£ billion) for different investment scenarios

	Do Nothing	Justified Do Minimum	Justified Maintain Current	Justified Improve Lower	Justified Improve Higher	Universal Improve Higher
PV100 flood defence cost	-	0.4	3.1	6.7	7.9	13.0
PV100 flood damages	82.7	68.9	35.2	27.2	22.1	21.8
Total PV100 flood costs	82.7	69.3	38.3	33.9	30.0	34.8





# 2004, Foresight Study – climate change scenario testing



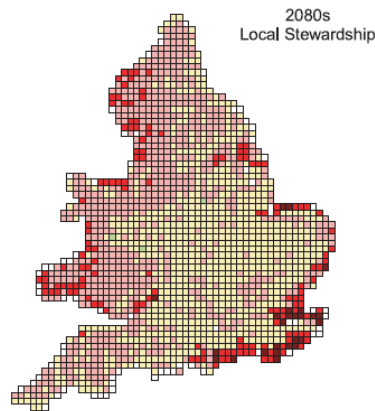
Four Foresight Futures for 2080  
(from UK Climate Impact Programme)

Input Variables:

- CO<sup>2</sup> Emissions
- Socio-economic development
- Pathways & receptors in floodplain
  - Demographics
  - Defence performance
  - Assets at risk

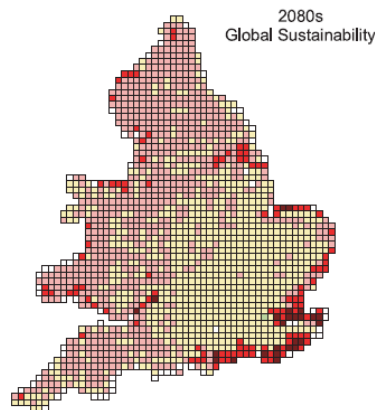
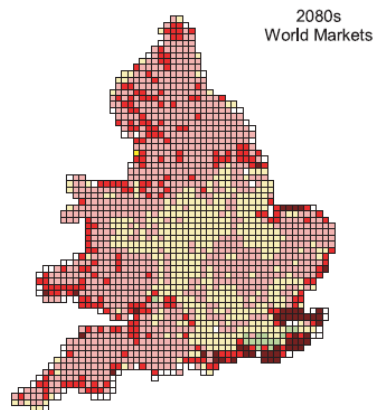
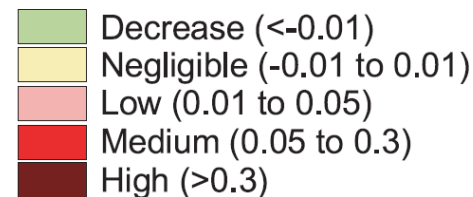


# Relative Change 2000 – 2080s



## Change in flood probability from 2000

2080s Foresight scenarios  
Change from present day (2002)

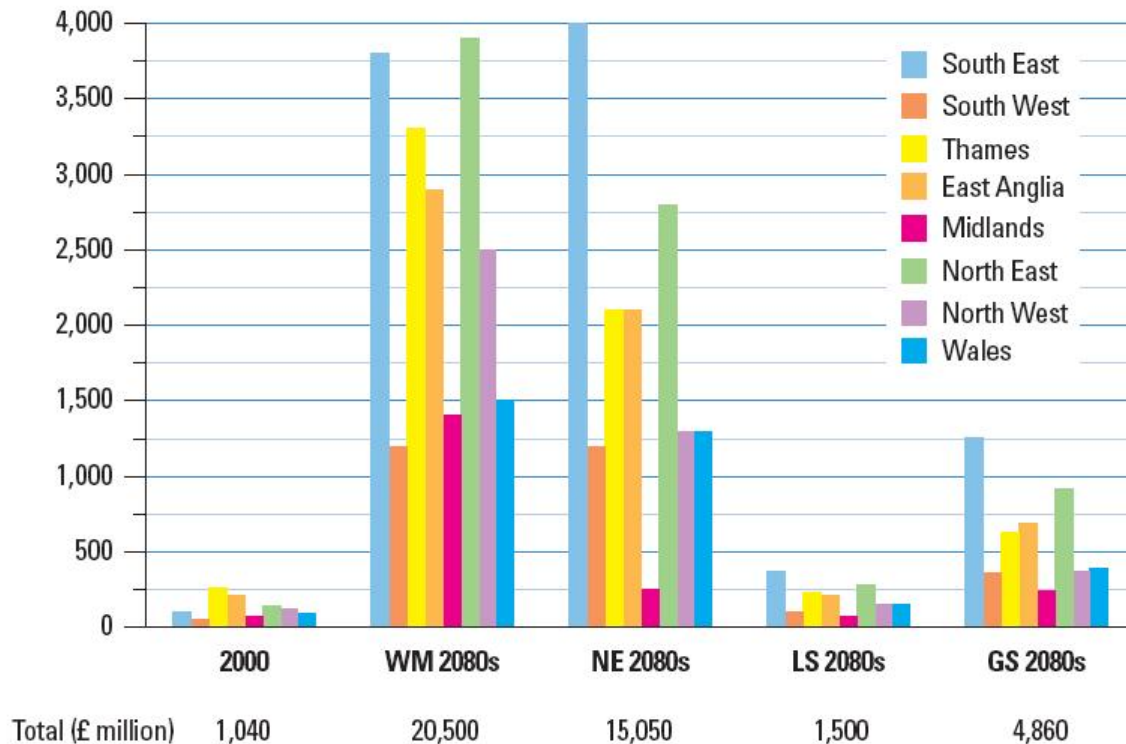






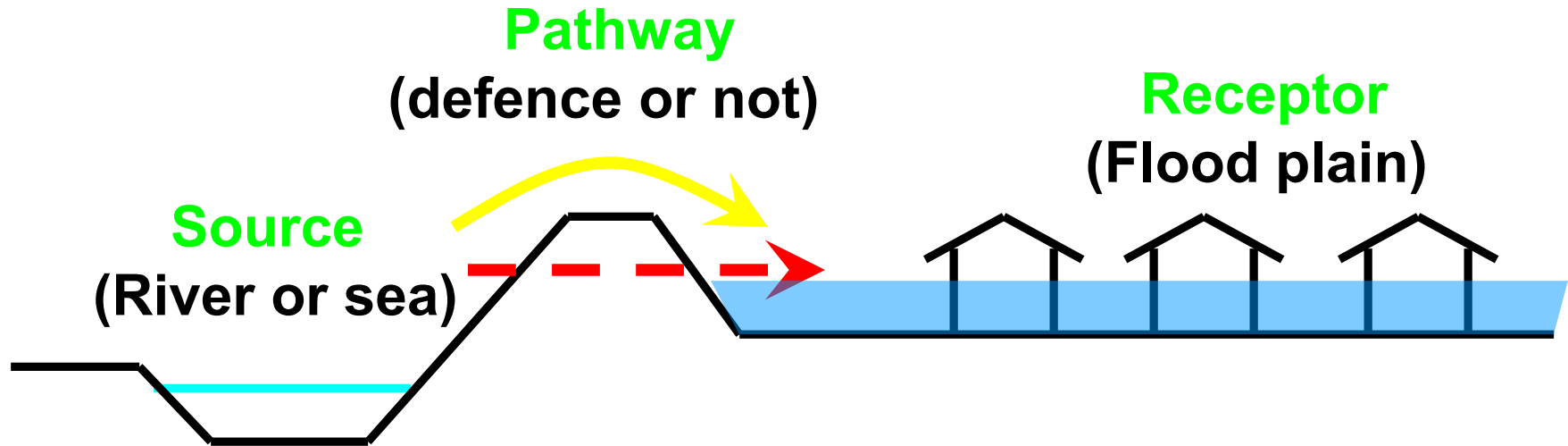
# Risk Increases - Economic Damage

Chart 4.4 All Foresight Futures: Expected Annual Damage (£ million) – residential and commercial





# Flood Risk 101 – modelled objects



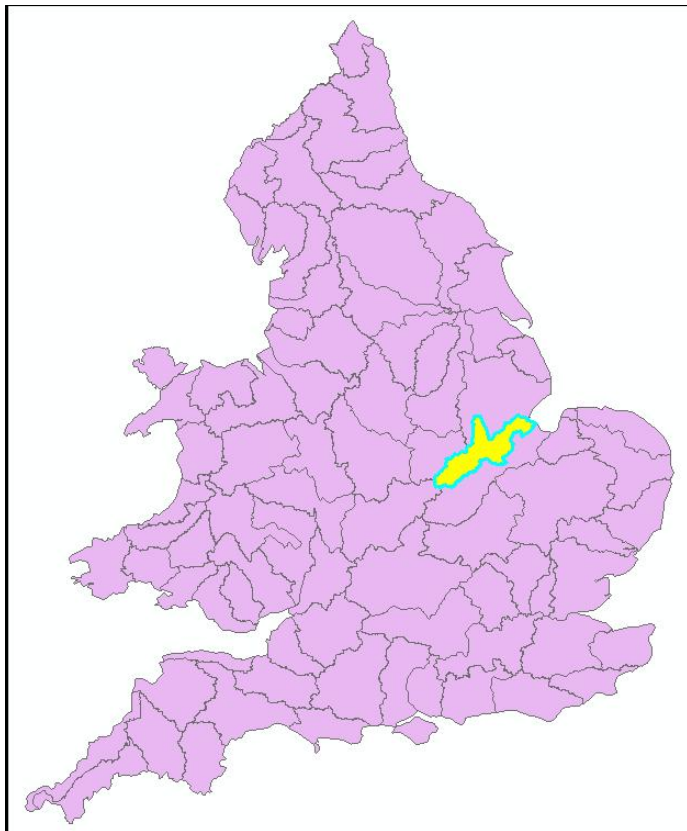
$$\text{Risk} = f (\text{Likelihood} \times \text{Consequence})$$



# 2004, Supporting National Geodata

- Source
  - Wave & water level
  - Flood level
  - National river network
- Pathway
  - National Flood & Coast Defence Database
  - National ifSAR (& local Lidar) DTM
- Receptor
  - Properties – National Property Data Set
  - Population – Census & Office National Statistics
  - Agricultural – Land classification & Agric. census
  - Cultural & Heritage sites
  - Infrastructure – Ordnance Survey topographic data

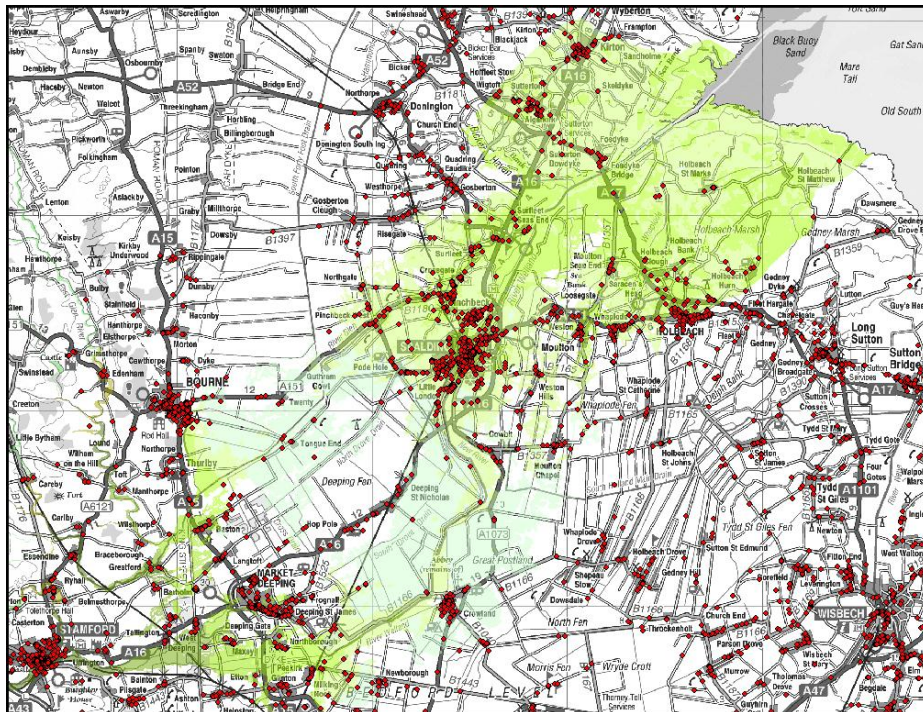
# National Flood Risk Assessment



- **National Assessment**
  - England
  - Wales
- **Projects run**
  - 2004
  - 2005
  - 2006
  - 2008 - onwards
- **Model run based on 85 individual catchments**
  - fluvial
  - coastal
  - tidal

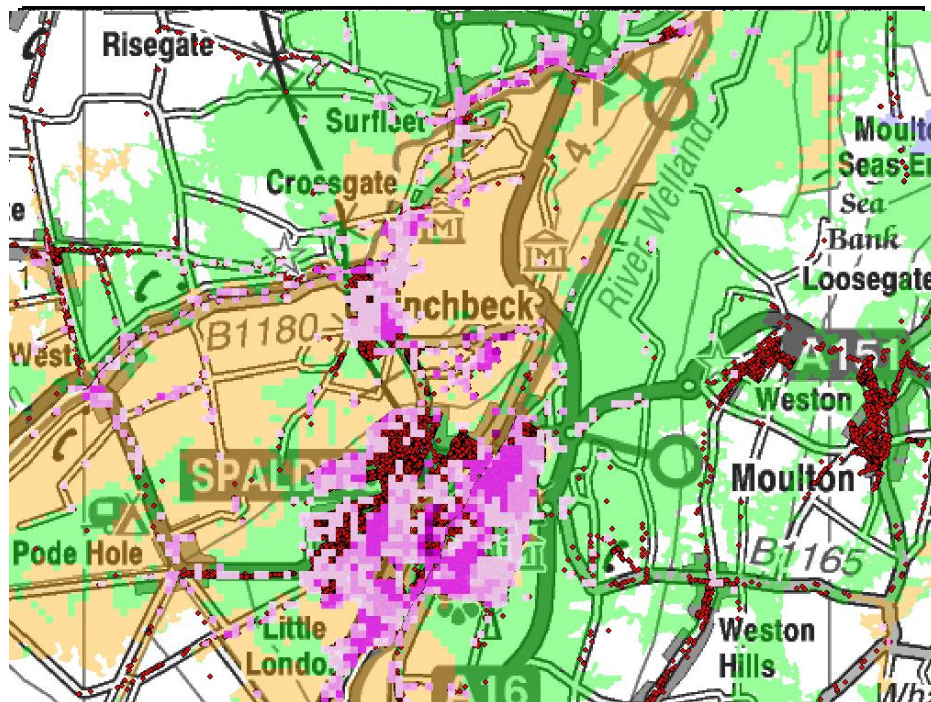


# Glen & Welland - Input Data Sets



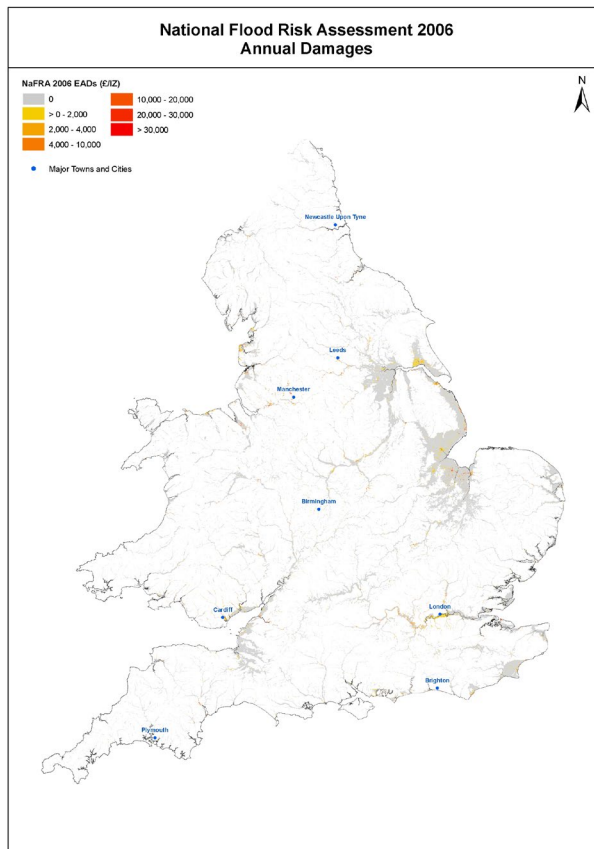
- **Water levels**
- **Defences**
  - Type
  - Condition
  - Crest level
- **Terrain model**
- **Risk receptors**
  - Property
  - People
  - Infrastructure
  - Environment
  - Heritage & culture

# Output Model Results



- Flood Likelihood
  - Probability
  - Category
- Risk
  - Probability X Consequence
- Economic Damage

# National Output Model Results



- **Flood Likelihood**
  - Probability
  - Category
- **Risk**
  - Probability X Consequence
- **Economic Damage**

# By2009:

- Floodplains of England & Wales:

- 11 % of land
- 1.7 million ha
- 2.6 million properties
- 4.6 million people
- £221 bn asset value at risk
  
- > 40,000 km of river channel
- 27,500 km of defences
- £240 m spent in 2001
- £350 m spent in 2003/4
- £650 m spent in 2007/8
- £800 m by 2010



With Surface Water:

- 5.5 million properties
- 1 in 6





# 2007 Floods



- *June + July, 2007:* 13 Dead; 7,000 rescued; 50,000 properties flooded; £3 billion insured losses



## Pitt Review – some key recommendations

- Establishing a [cabinet committee](#) to address the [risk](#) of [flooding](#).
- Adopting a long-term approach to [flood risk management](#), with priority given to adaptation and [mitigation](#)
- Establishing a National [Resilience](#) Forum to facilitate emergency [planning](#) at a national level.
- A presumption against [building](#) in high [flood risk areas](#).
- Action to ensure the [resilience](#) of critical [infrastructure](#) such as [power](#), [water](#) and [transport](#) (in particular dams and reservoirs).
- A wider brief for the [Environment Agency](#), taking a national overview of all [flood risk](#).
- A '[step](#) change' in the [quality](#) of [flood](#) warnings
- Providing better information, awareness and advice.
- Removing the automatic right to connect [surface water drainage](#) from new [developments](#) to the [sewerage](#) system.
- [Local authorities](#) leading on the [management](#) of local [flood risk](#).

**[https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Pitt\\_Review\\_Lessons\\_learned\\_from\\_the\\_2007\\_floods](https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Pitt_Review_Lessons_learned_from_the_2007_floods)**



## Pitt Review – some recommendations (5/92)

- 16: Local Authorities should collate and map the main flood risk management and drainage assets (over and underground), including a record of their ownership and condition.
- 17: All relevant organisations should have a duty to share information and cooperate with local authorities and the Environment Agency to facilitate the management of flood risk.
- 51: Relevant government departments and the Environment Agency should work with infrastructure operators to identify the vulnerability and risk of assets to flooding and a summary of the analysis should be published in Sector Resilience Plans.
- 55: The Government should strengthen and enforce the duty on Category 2 responders to share information on the risks to their infrastructure assets, enabling more effective emergency planning within Local Resilience Forums
- 90: All upper tier local authorities should establish Oversight and Scrutiny Committees to review work by public sector bodies and essential service providers in order to manage flood risk, underpinned by a legal requirement to cooperate and share information.



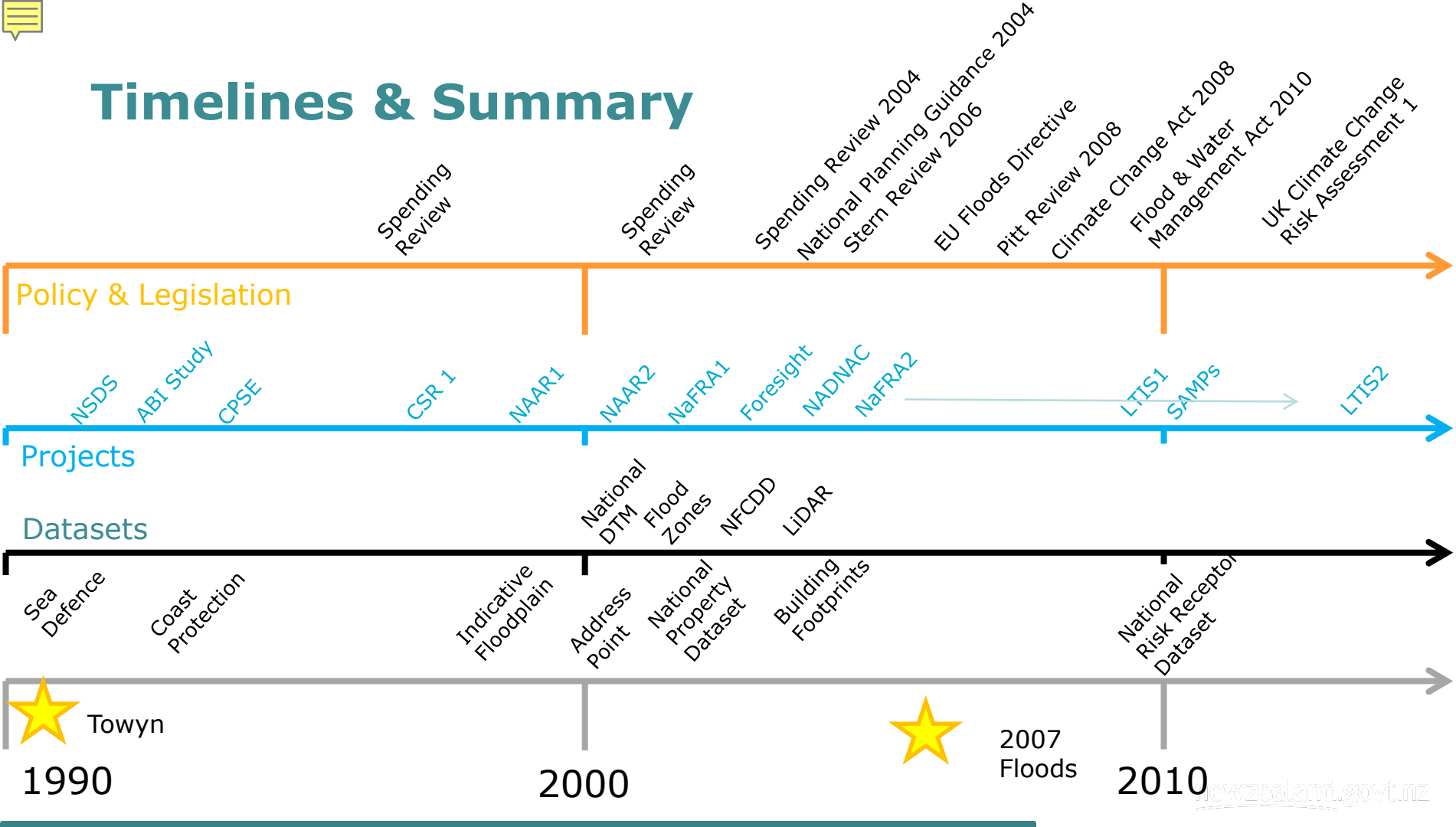
## Post-2007

- Pitt Review: recommendations accepted
- 2007 EU Floods Directive
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010
  - Clear leadership & responsibilities
  - Need for Local Flood Risk Assessments
  - 5-year review cycle



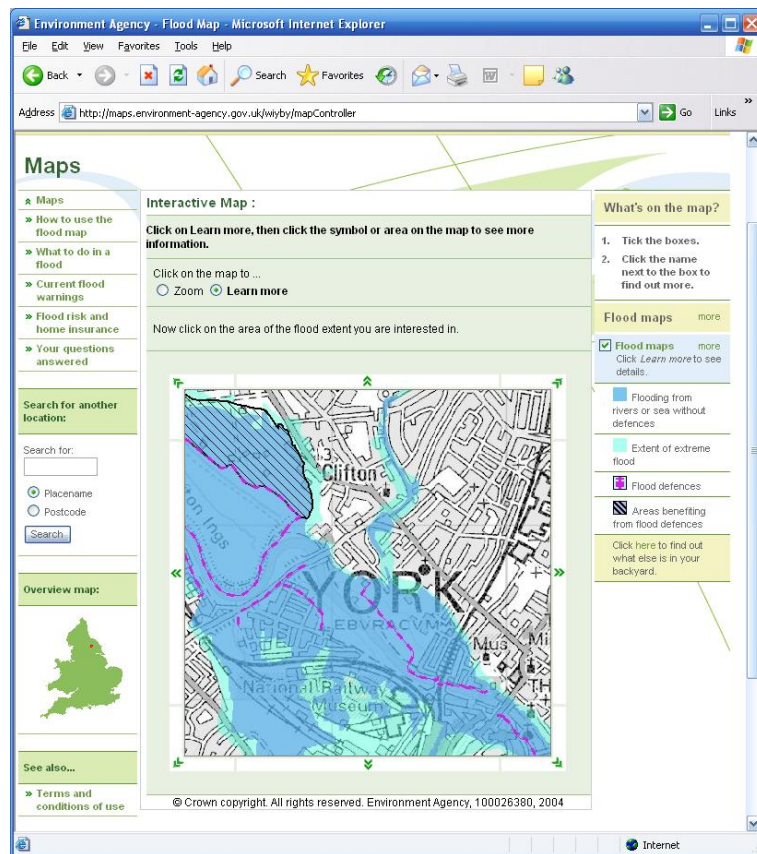


# Timelines & Summary



# What does national risk assessment deliver?

- Disseminate information  
(Government, insurers, public)
- Develop benefit / cost cases for national investment strategy
- Scenario testing to inform policy
  - Consistent data & method = rapid development
  - Possible interventions
  - Climate change impacts
- Improved data



# Thank you

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