Adapting to a changing climate – is planning policy addressing future flood risk?

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Committee on Climate Change

Flooding: Fears, Facts and the Future

6th February 2015

The Adaptation Sub-Committee

Statutory roles:

- **To provide independent, expert advice** on climate threats and opportunities
- **To report to Parliament on progress** towards adaptation

Prof Lord John Krebs (chair)

Prof Sam Fankhauser

Prof Jim Hall

Prof Dame Anne Johnson

Prof Martin Parry

Sir Graham Wynne

Climate change is likely to change the pattern and severity of extreme weather

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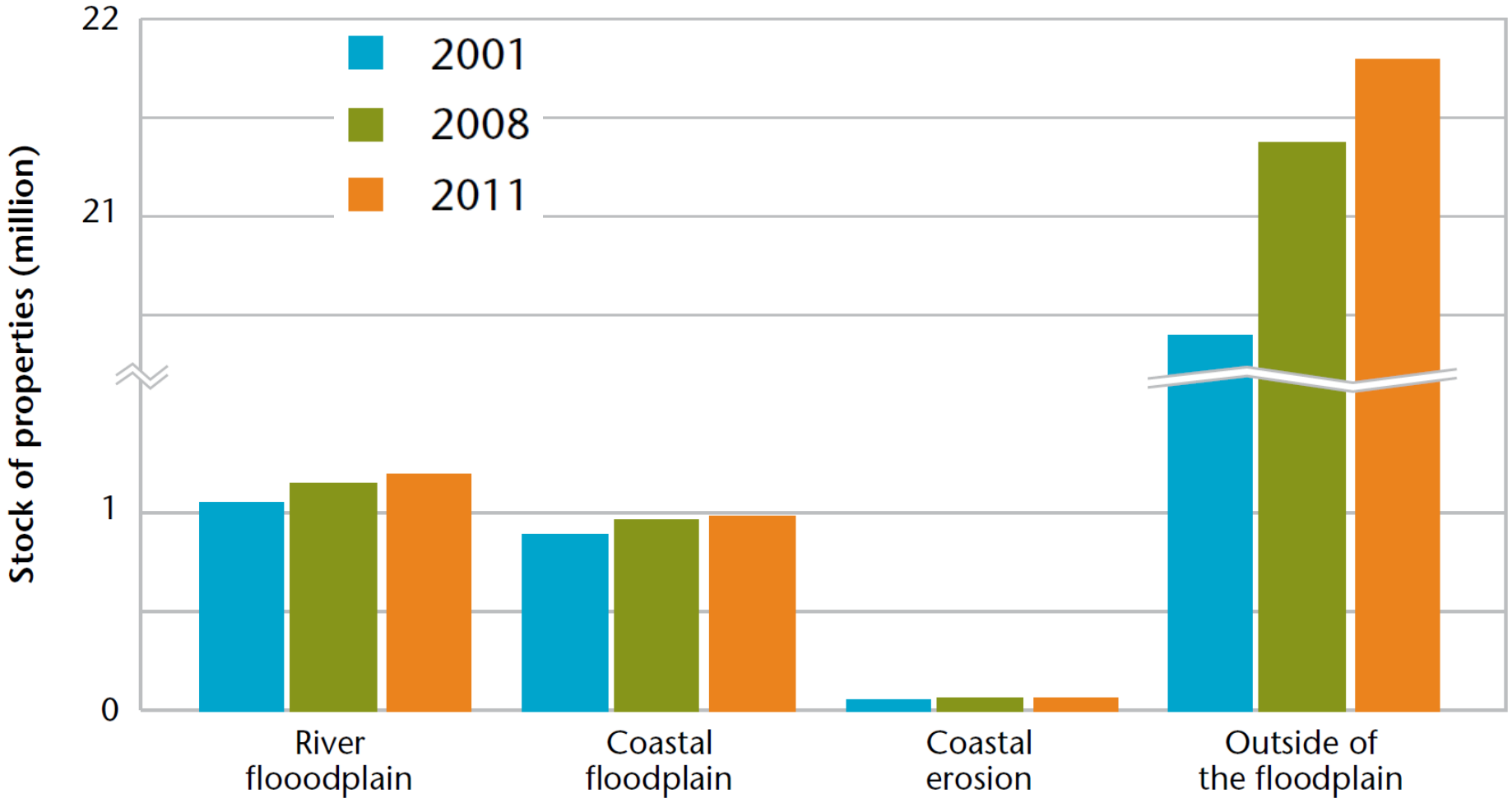
Current return periods for climate hazards in the National Risk Register, and how they could change by 2050s

1-in-200 to 1-in-50 annual chance	1-in-50 to 1-in-2 annual chance	1-in-2 or greater annual chance
Coastal flooding (2013-type surge event) →		
Inland flooding (1-in-100 year event) →		
	Heavy snow	
	Heatwave (2003-type event) →	
	Storms and gales	
Severe drought →		

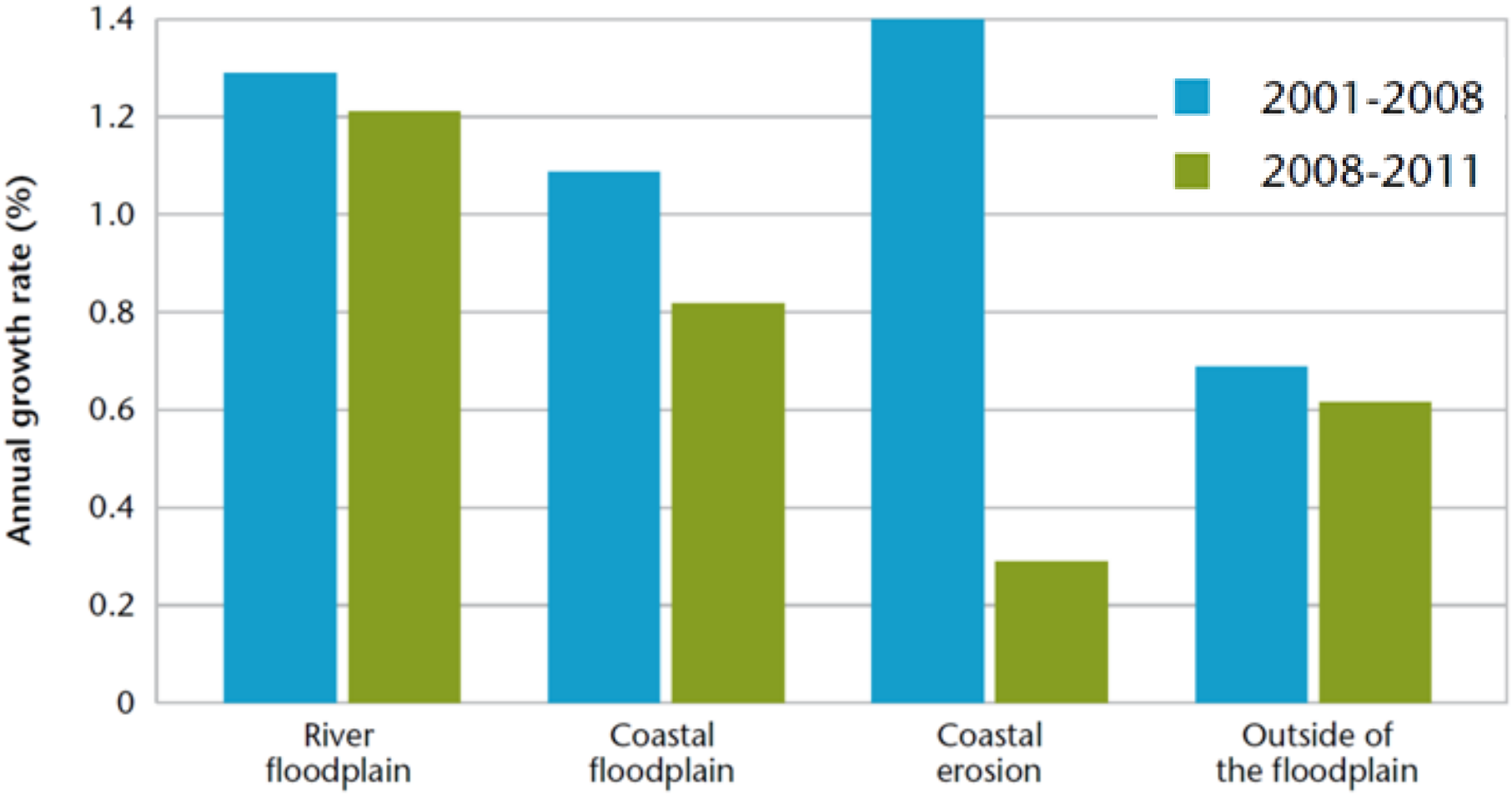
Sources: 2012 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, Charpentier (2011), Met Office

DEVELOPMENT IN FLOOD RISK AREAS

Number of properties on floodplain increased by 214,000 between 2001 and 2011

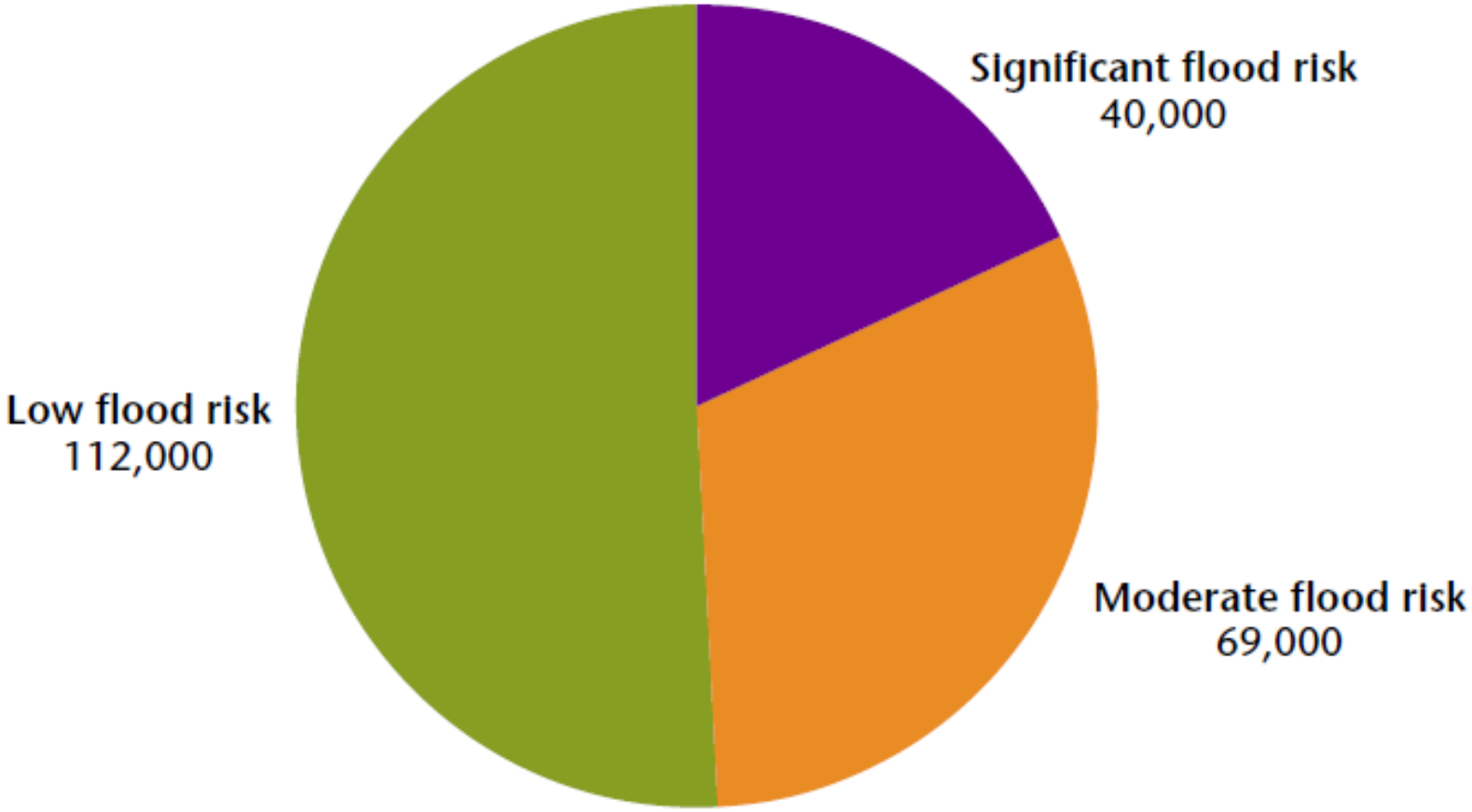


Annual rate of development has been higher on floodplain than outside it



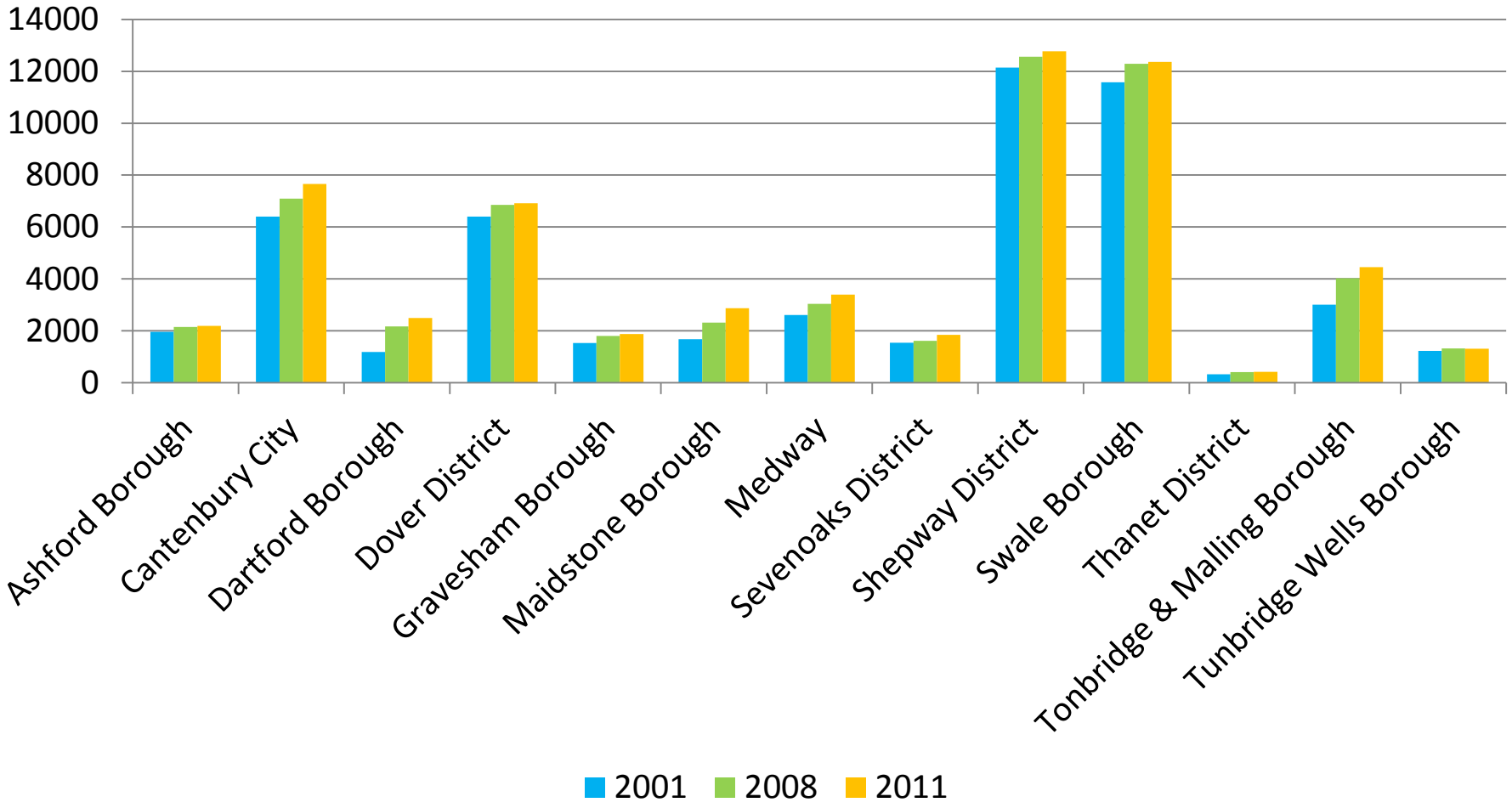
One-fifth of all floodplain development in areas of significant flood risk

Increase in number of properties in flood risk areas, 2001 to 2011

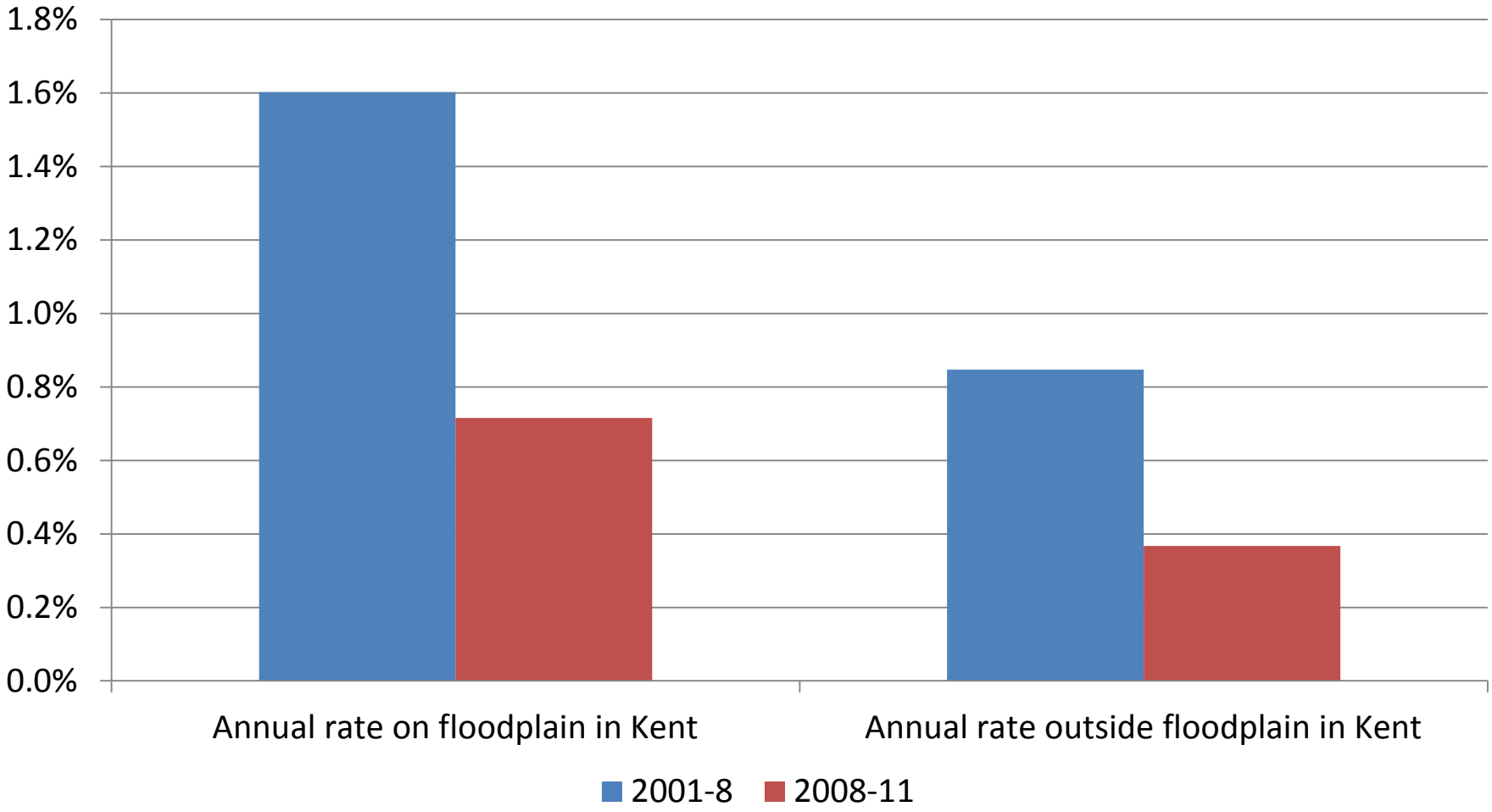


Source: ASC (2012)

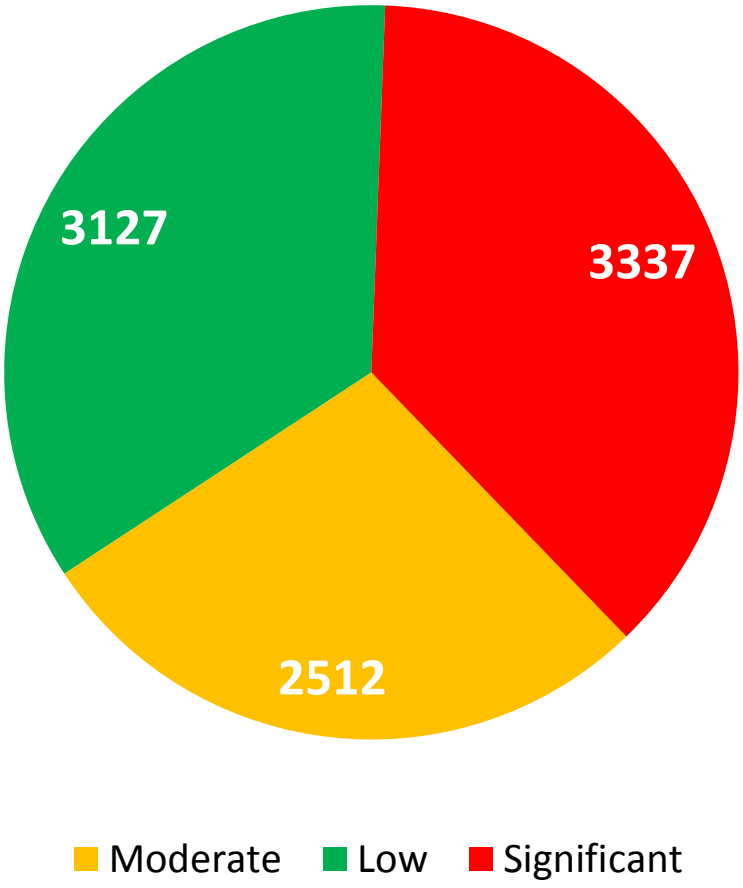
Number of properties on floodplain increased by 9,000 across Kent



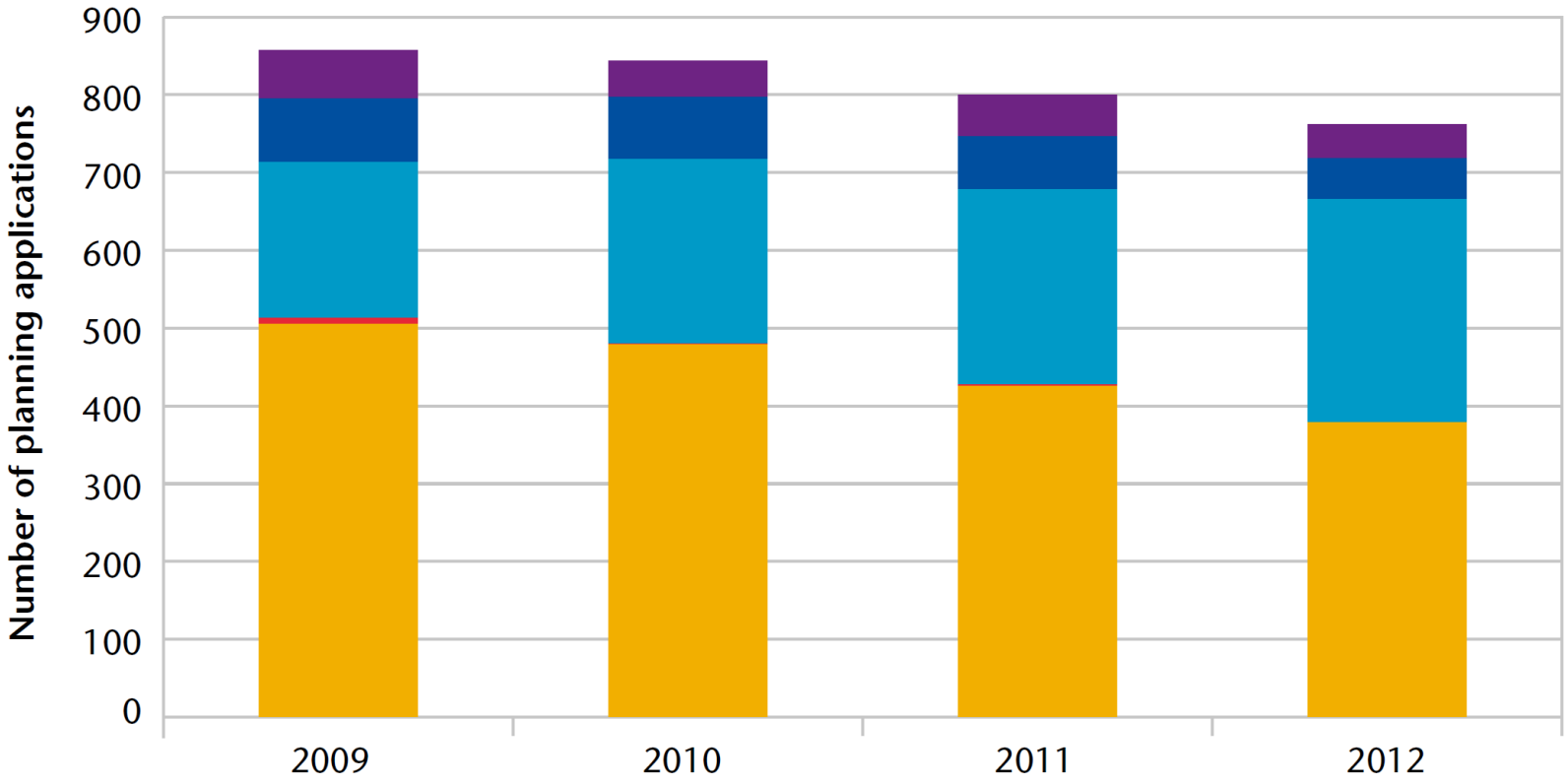
Annual rate of development higher on floodplain than outside it, in line with rest of England



However, a higher proportion (37%) of floodplain development was in areas of significant risk

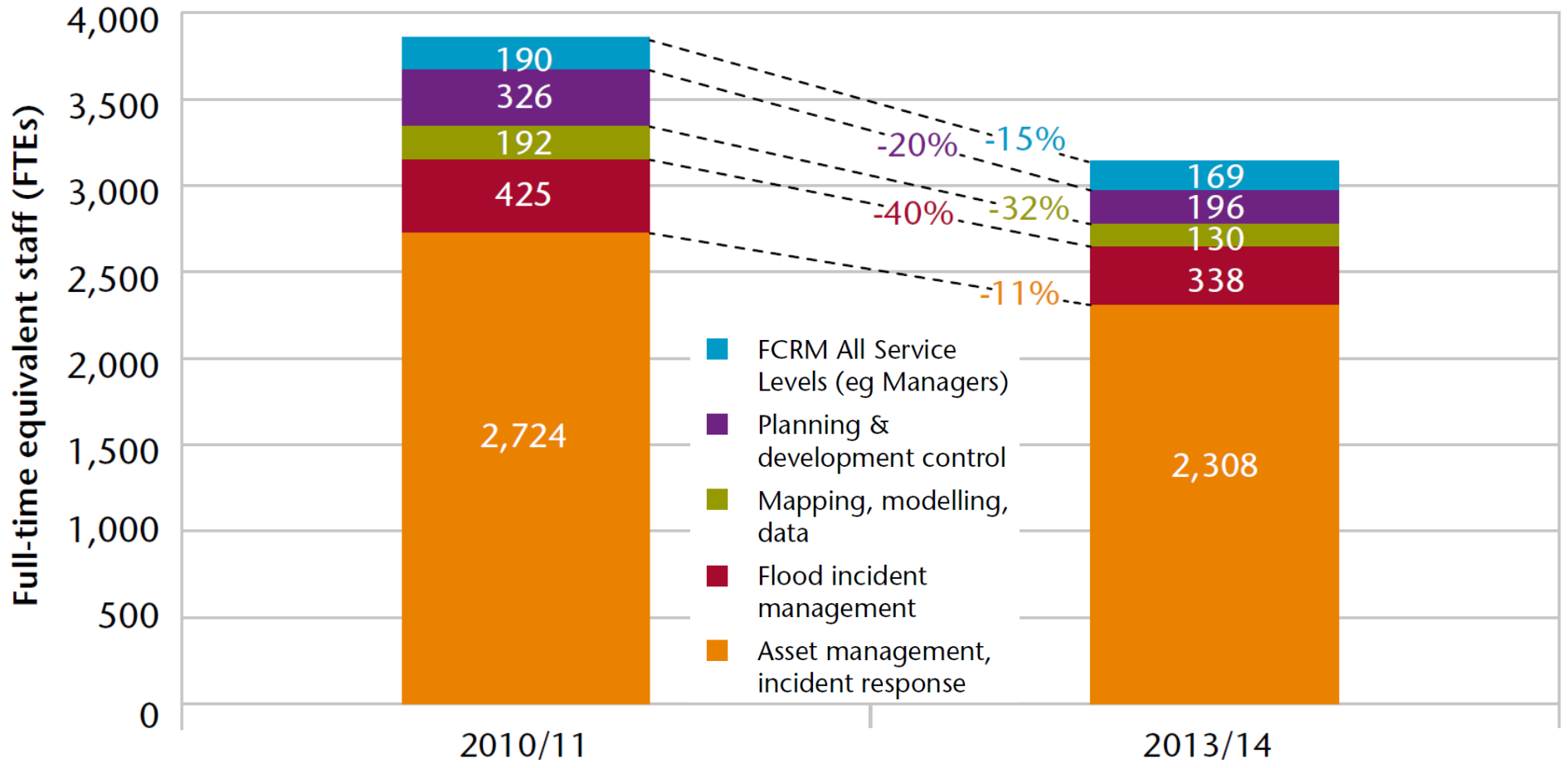


Environment Agency advice is followed in almost all cases where specific advice is provided



Source: AMEC (2014) for the ASC

40% decrease in Agency staff advising on development



Over one-third of planning applications on the floodplain did not adequately assess flood risk

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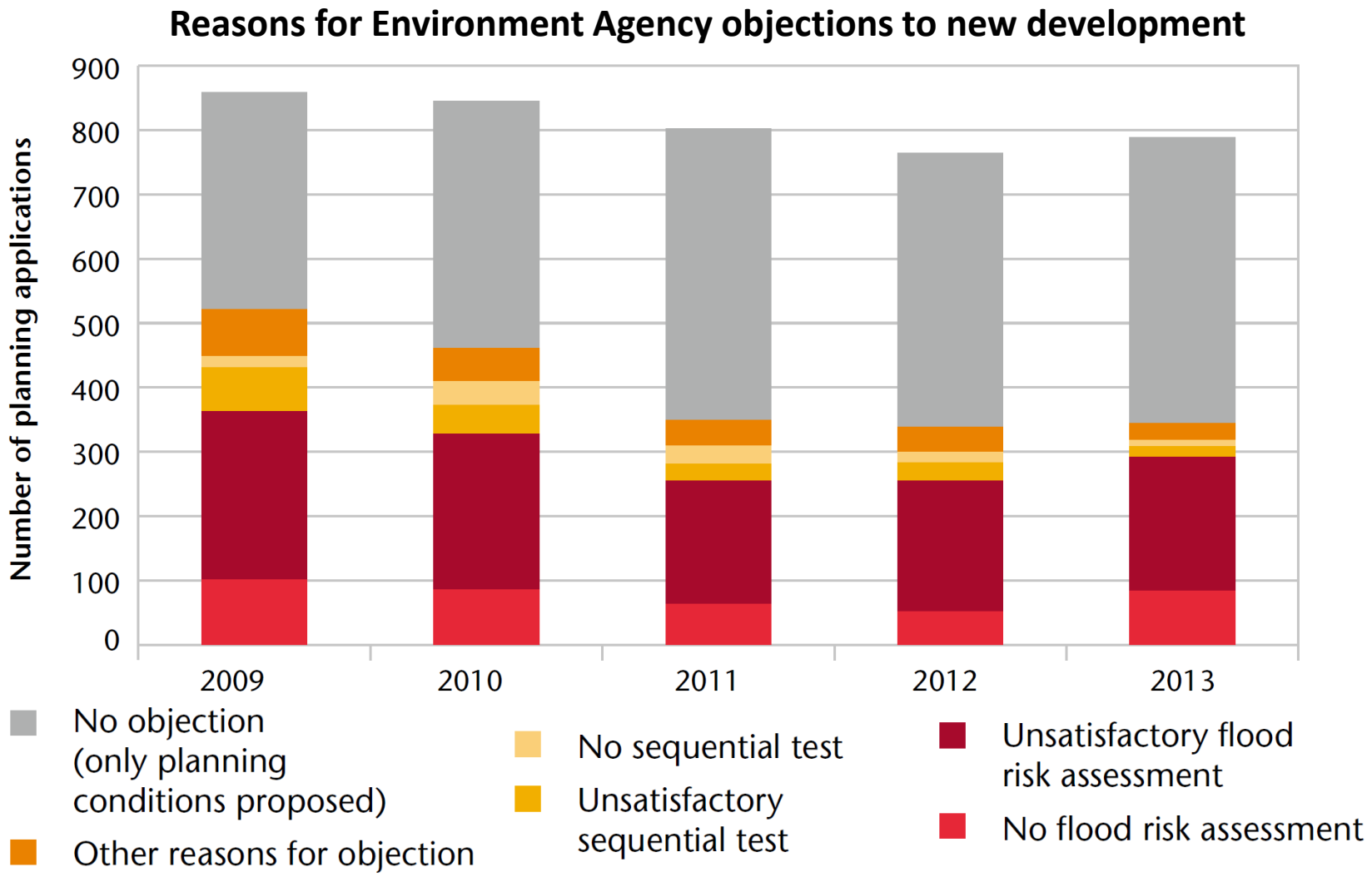

Source: AMEC (2014) for the ASC

Natural and permeable surfaces in urban areas are gradually being lost

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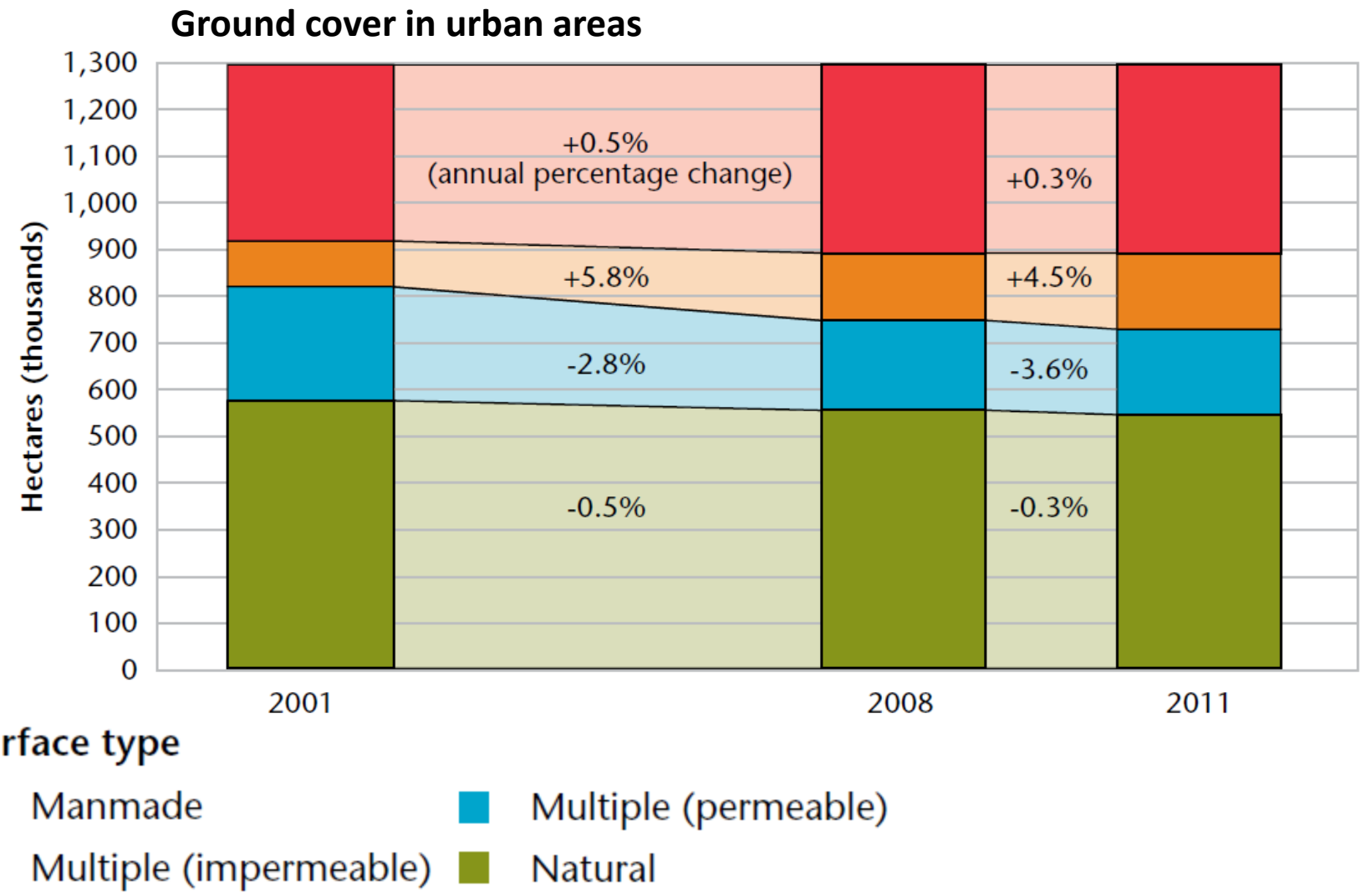
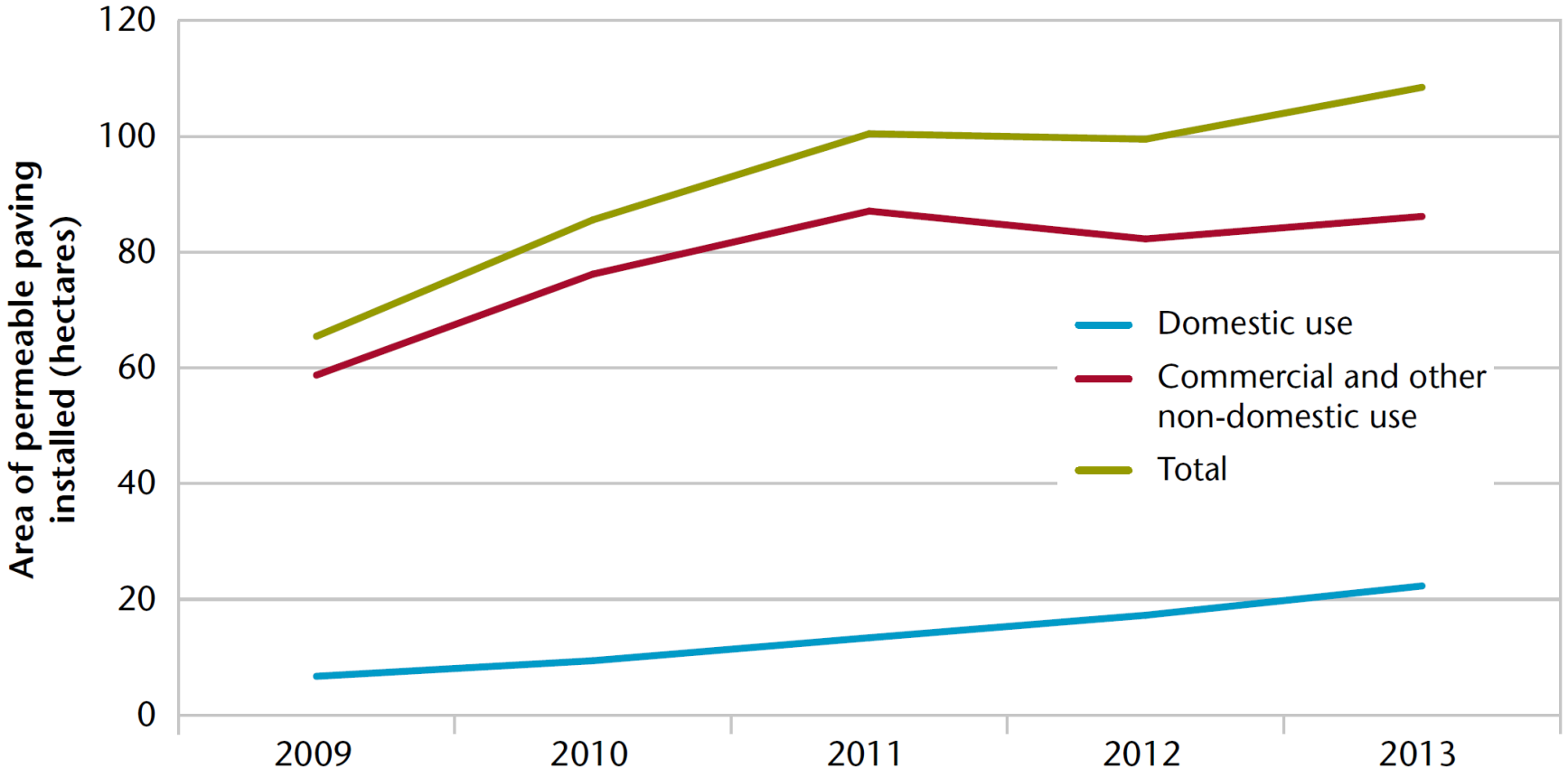


Source: ASC (2012)

Permeable paving has increased slowly, but 90% of hard surfaces remain impermeable



Key messages

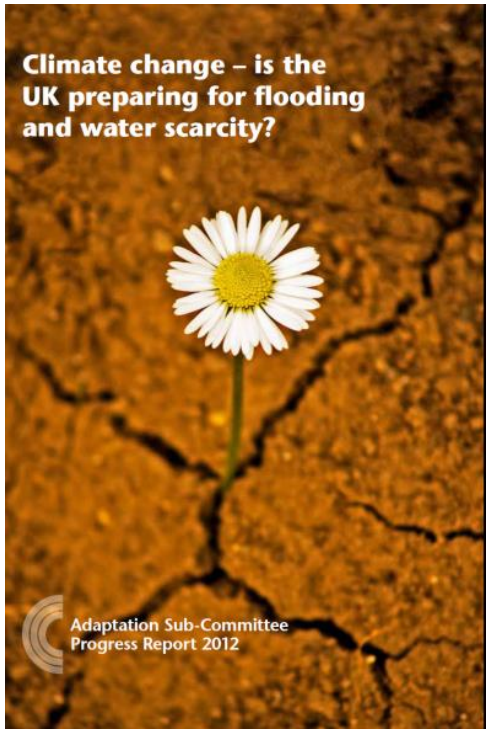
- New development on the floodplain continues, some of which is in areas of significant risk, and is increasing the reliance on flood defences..

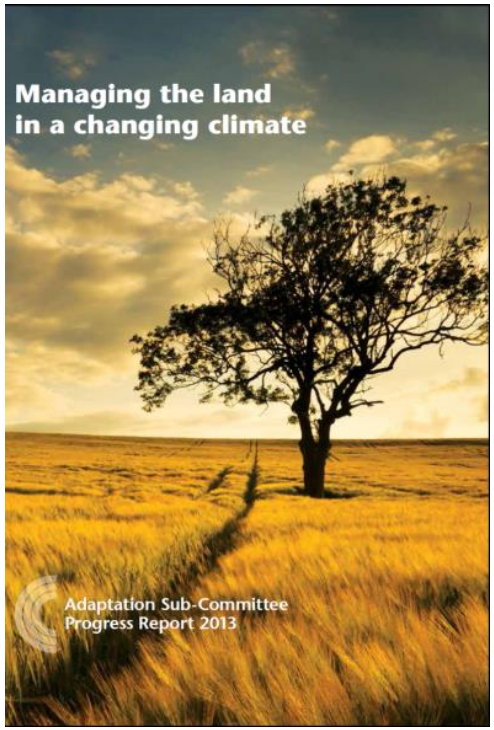
- Major development in flood risk areas appears to be proceeding, or is refused, in line with EA advice. However specific advice is not provided on thousands of minor planning applications in the floodplain each year.

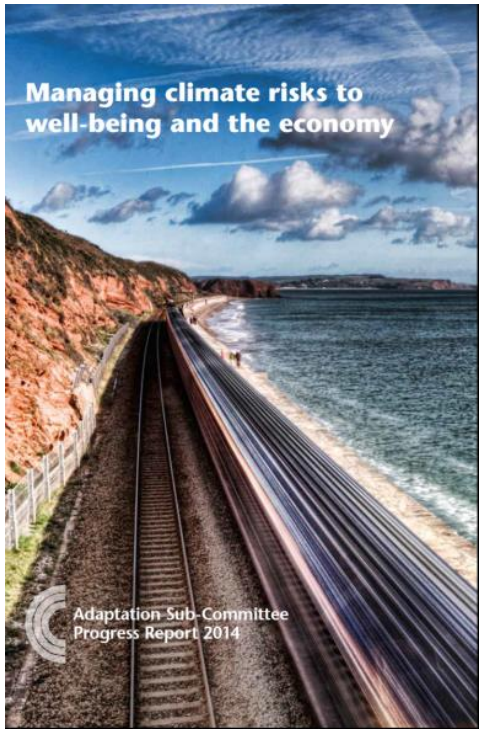
- Key recommendations made by the 2008 Pitt Review to require sustainable drainage in new development remain outstanding and need to be taken forward urgently.

For further information

- Reports available at: http://www.theccc.org.uk/publications/







- June 2015: First statutory report to Parliament on adaptation progress
- July 2016: 2nd UK Climate Change Risk Assessment - Evidence Report

Adaptation Sub-Committee

http://www.theccc.org.uk

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