

Planning for climate resilience

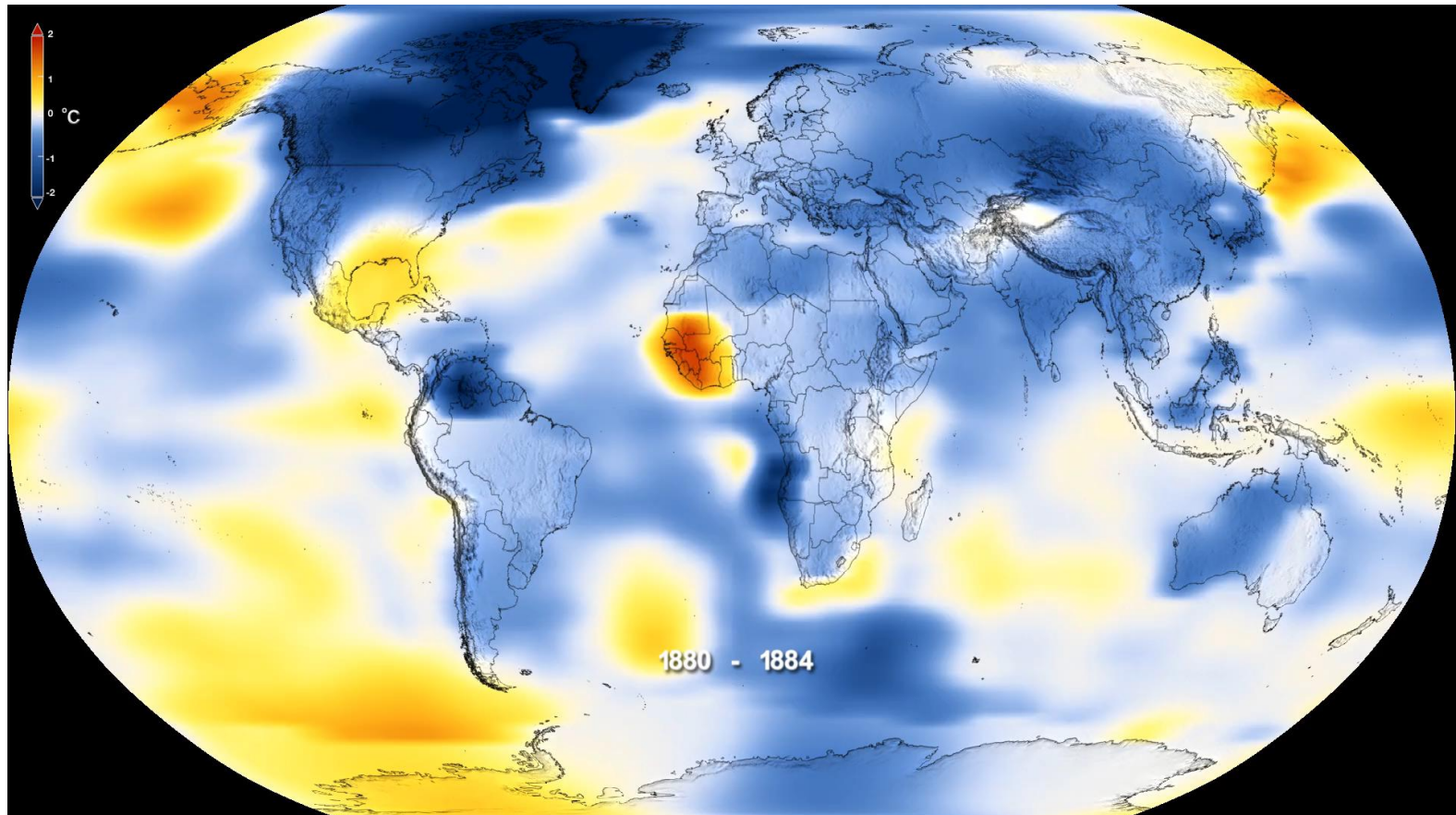
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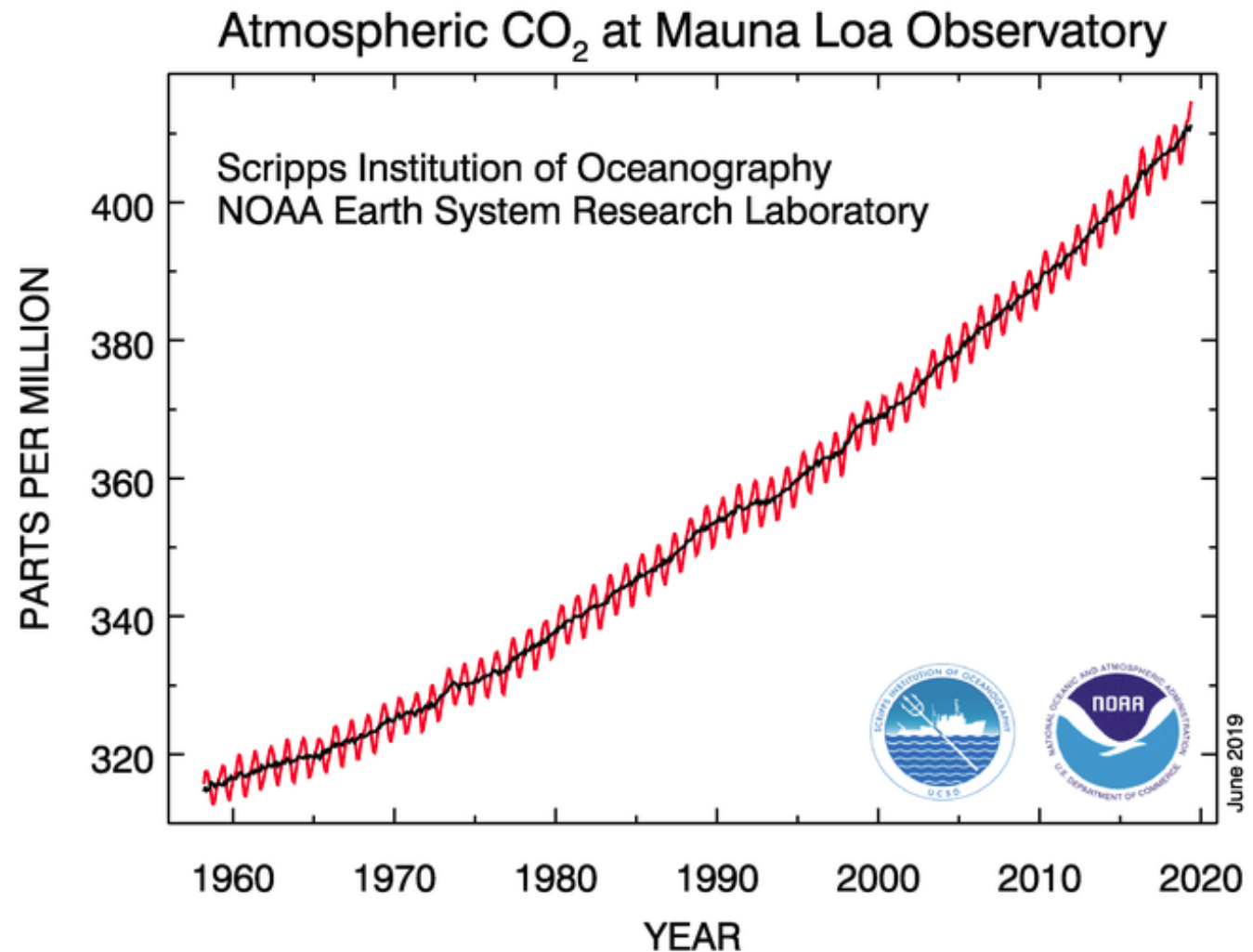
The challenge

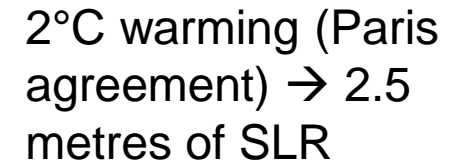
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4 years – a long time in politics and policy

- UK Government – “net zero” by 2050
- 65% of district, county, unitary and metropolitan councils now declared a climate emergency
- But, climate impacts hitting harder and sooner than climate assessments indicated event a decade ago





4°C warming → 6.5 metres of SLR from the Antarctic alone

Even moderate climate warming has **incredibly serious consequences** for humanity – and these **consequences grow exponentially** as the temperature rises.

Climate impact and planning



Research for **Climate Change Risk Assessment 2** showed the number of people in England exposed to a 1:75 year river/coast flood event:

- **750,000 people** currently exposed;
- **4,200,000 people** exposed in 2080 in a 4 °C global temperature rise scenario.
- **950,000 people** exposed in 2080 in a 2 °C global temperature rise scenario where adaptation responses in England are enhanced.

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/progress-in-preparing-for-climate-change-2019-progress-report-to-parliament/>

Updated Environment Agency flood risk allowances. In the south east, we should be planning for at least 1.6m of sea level rise by 2125.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>



The adaptation challenge

People, place and space

Successful adaptation requires thinking about the diversity of people and communities and their differing needs. We must also understand the way places work and the actions needed ranging from individual building design to large-scale coastal flood defence.

Time

The specific challenge for planning is to think about **how these issues will play out over the lifespan of development** (usually a minimum of 100 years) and to **consider future climate impacts**, for example how sea level will continue to rise after 2100. Our response now will lock us into certain irreversible pathways.

This implies new ways of thinking and working. Time is running out for us to begin building resilience, so we need immediate, radical action.



Why planning matters

The power of planning

- 385,200 planning permissions were granted in year ending June 2019.
- 213,600 new build completions in year ending March 2019.
- There are 1 million unbuilt homes in the pipeline which have planning permission (Local Government Association, Feb 2020).
- In 2019, there were 6,000 applications for major housing developments, and 39,000 applications for minor housing developments.

Vital role of the local plan

The plan-led system

Local plans are the key way to secure resilience for new and existing development.

Year 1

Year 5

Evidence
gathering

Issues
and
options

Consultation
with EA and
public

Draft
plan

Consultation

Submission
of plan to
PINS

Adoption

Monitoring
and
Review

Development management



For major housing development (>10 units) this usually takes 16 weeks.

Constant reform

	Pre-2004 Pre-2004	Post-2004 Post-2004	Post-2010 Introduced by 2011 Localism Act	Post-2018 Changes introduced by 2017 Neighbourhood Planning Act and 2018 draft NPPF
NATIONAL	Planning policy guidance notes	Planning policy statements	National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance	National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance
REGIONAL	Regional planning guidance	Regional spatial strategy		
	London Plan: Spatial Development Strategy	London Plan: Spatial Development Strategy	London Plan: Spatial Development Strategy	London Plan: Spatial Development Strategy
COUNTY	Structure Plan		Duty to Cooperate	Duty to Cooperate Strategic priorities Development plan document
LOCAL	Local Plan	Local development framework	Local Plan	Local Plan
NEIGHBOURHOOD	Village/Parish Plan	Village/Parish Plan	Neighbourhood development plan Village/Parish Plan	Neighbourhood development plan Village/Parish Plan

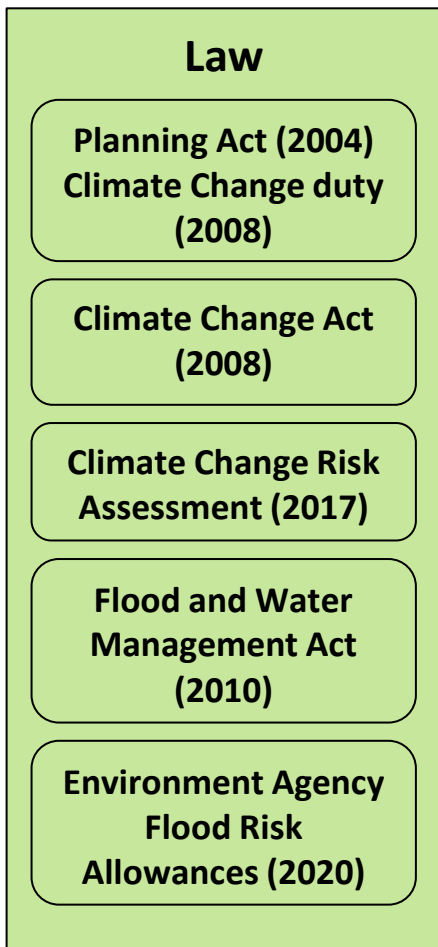


2020

**Planning
White Paper**

Development planning frameworks in England since 2004.

Key law and policy



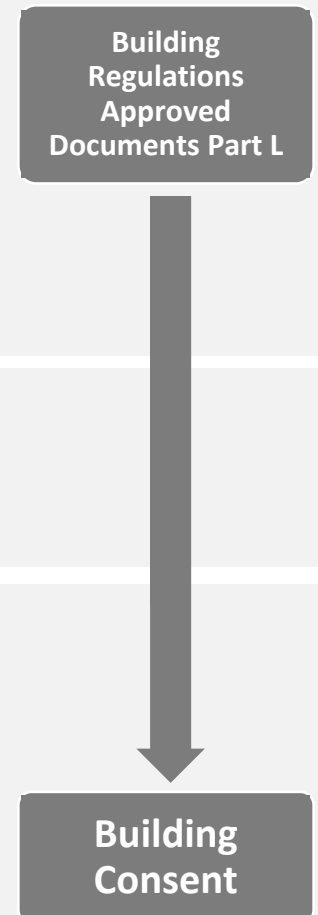
LOCAL REGIONAL NATIONAL

Local Planning Authorities
GLA (London), Combined Authorities
MHCLG

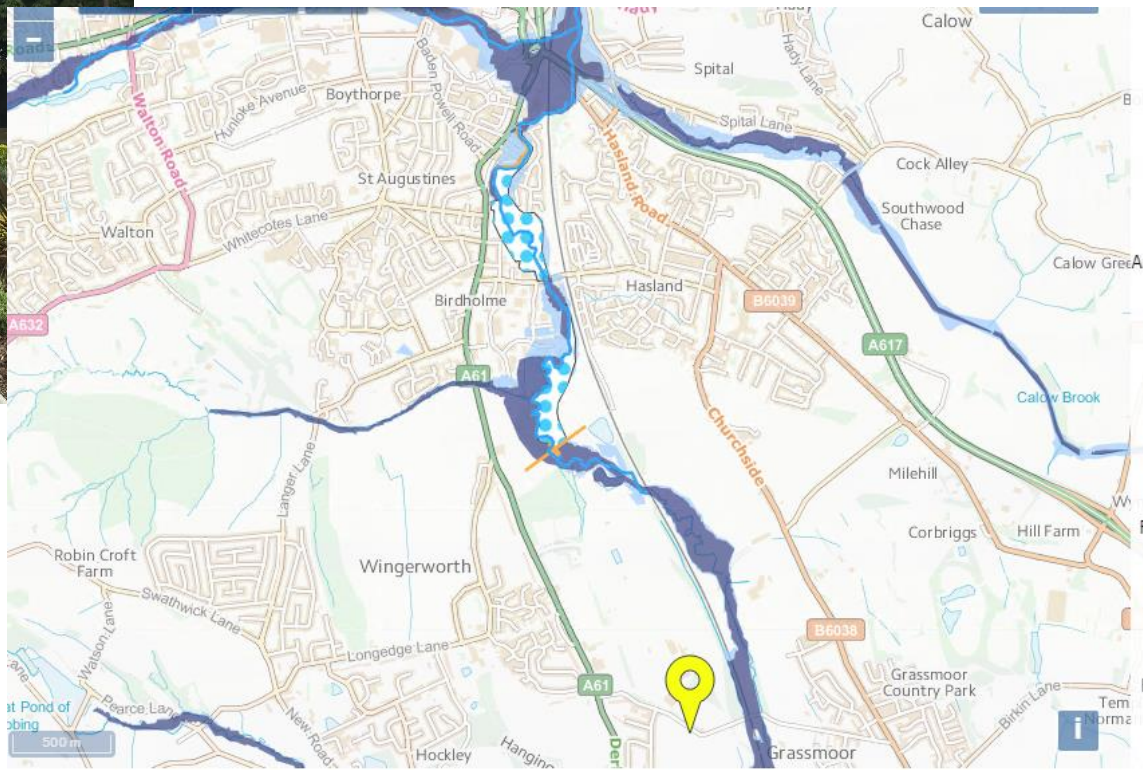
Town and Country Planning



Building Regulations



Impact of new development on resilience



Future outcomes



What we need to do

There is major gap between the theory of how we plan and delivery on ground.

Chronic lack of local authority skills and capacity



Investment in training and upskilling local authority staff and members

Government emphasis on housing numbers of priority for planning



Bespoke guidance on effective delivery of current government system – and understanding that adaptation measures can deliver on other critical policy areas such as public health

Out of date local plans based existing, rather than future, risk levels



Greater understanding of risks now and in the future, and the transfer of this data into local plans