



Improved Resilience Through Good Emergency Planning

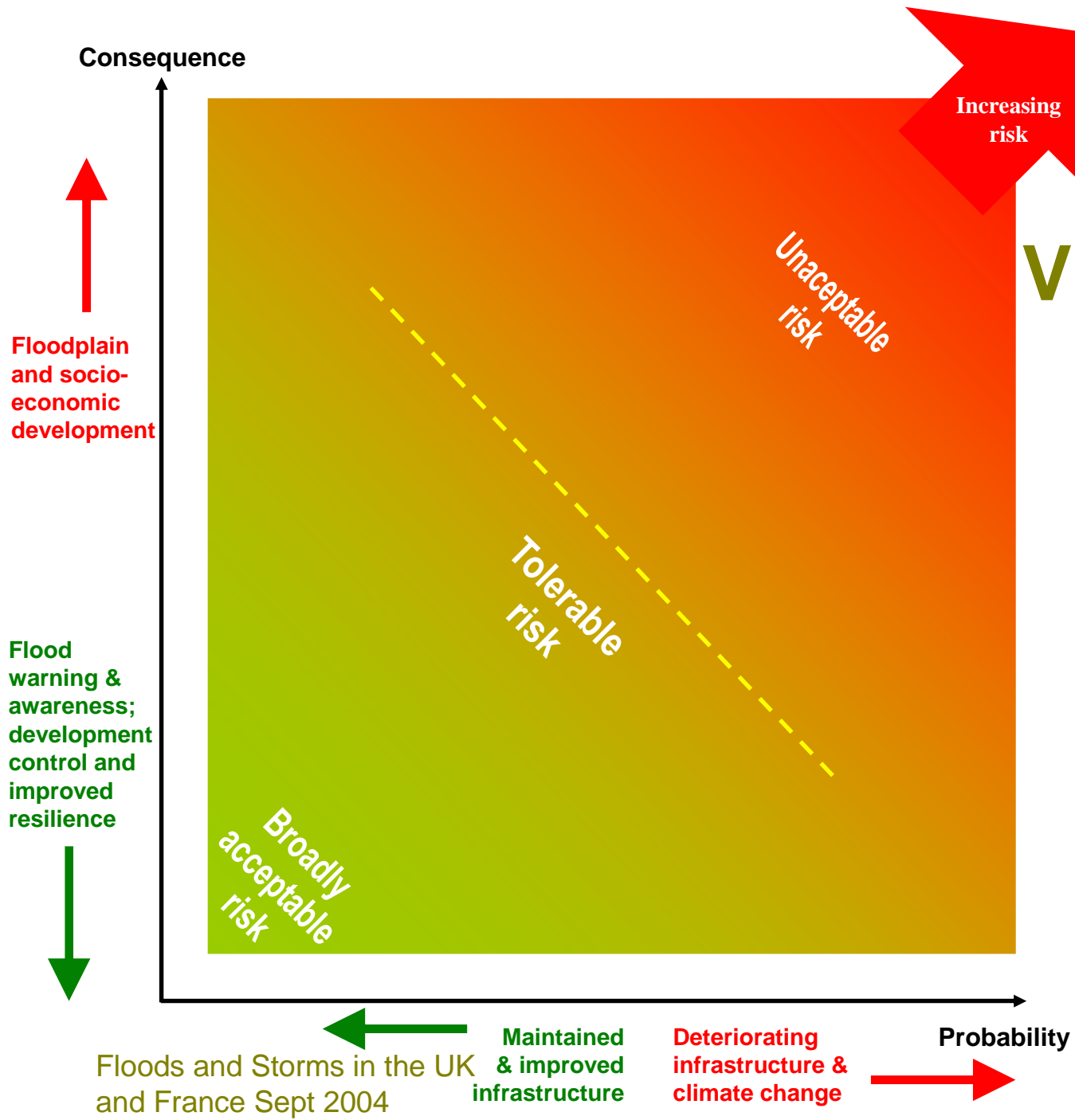
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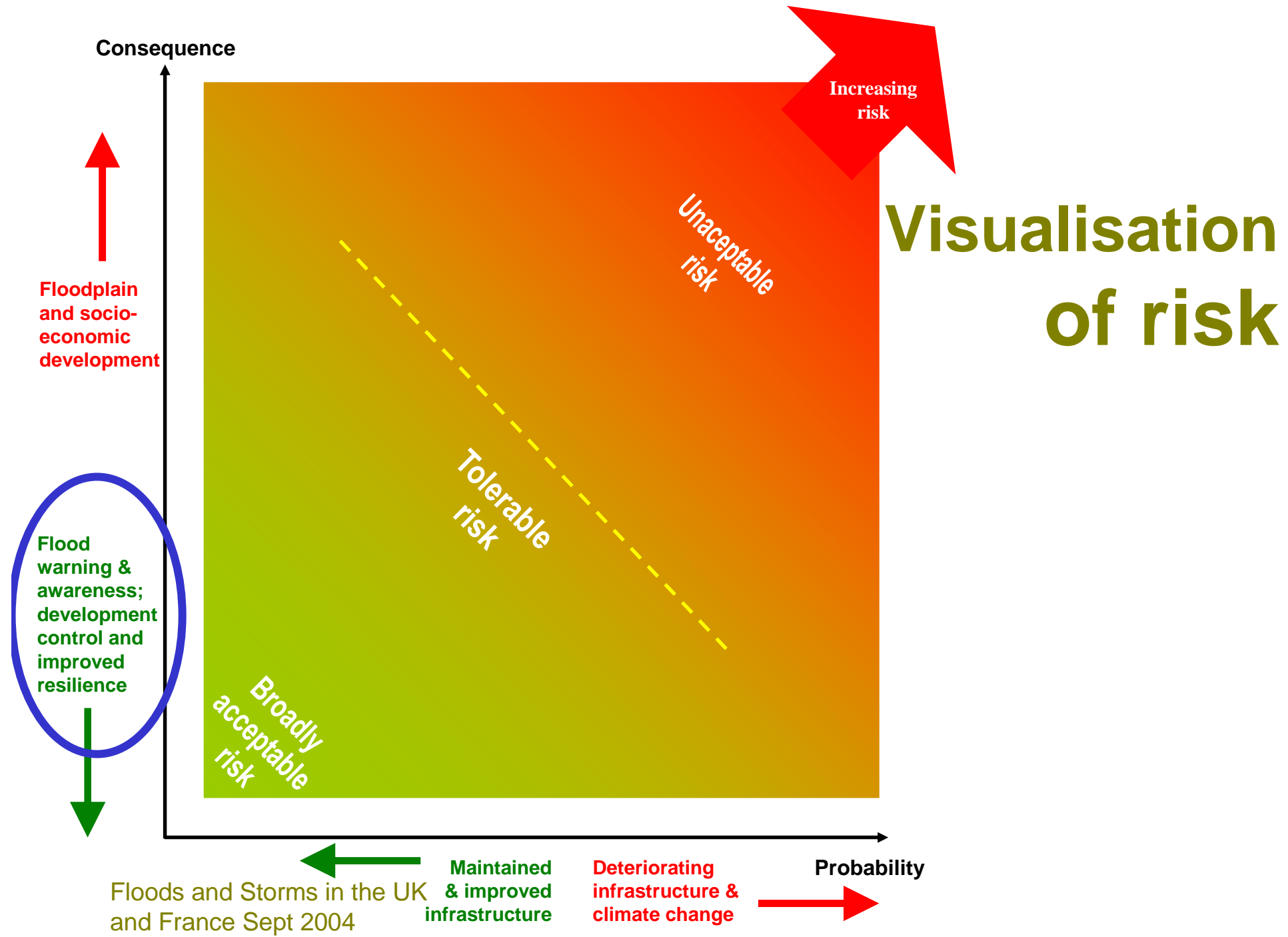
Floods and Storms in the UK
and France Sept 2004

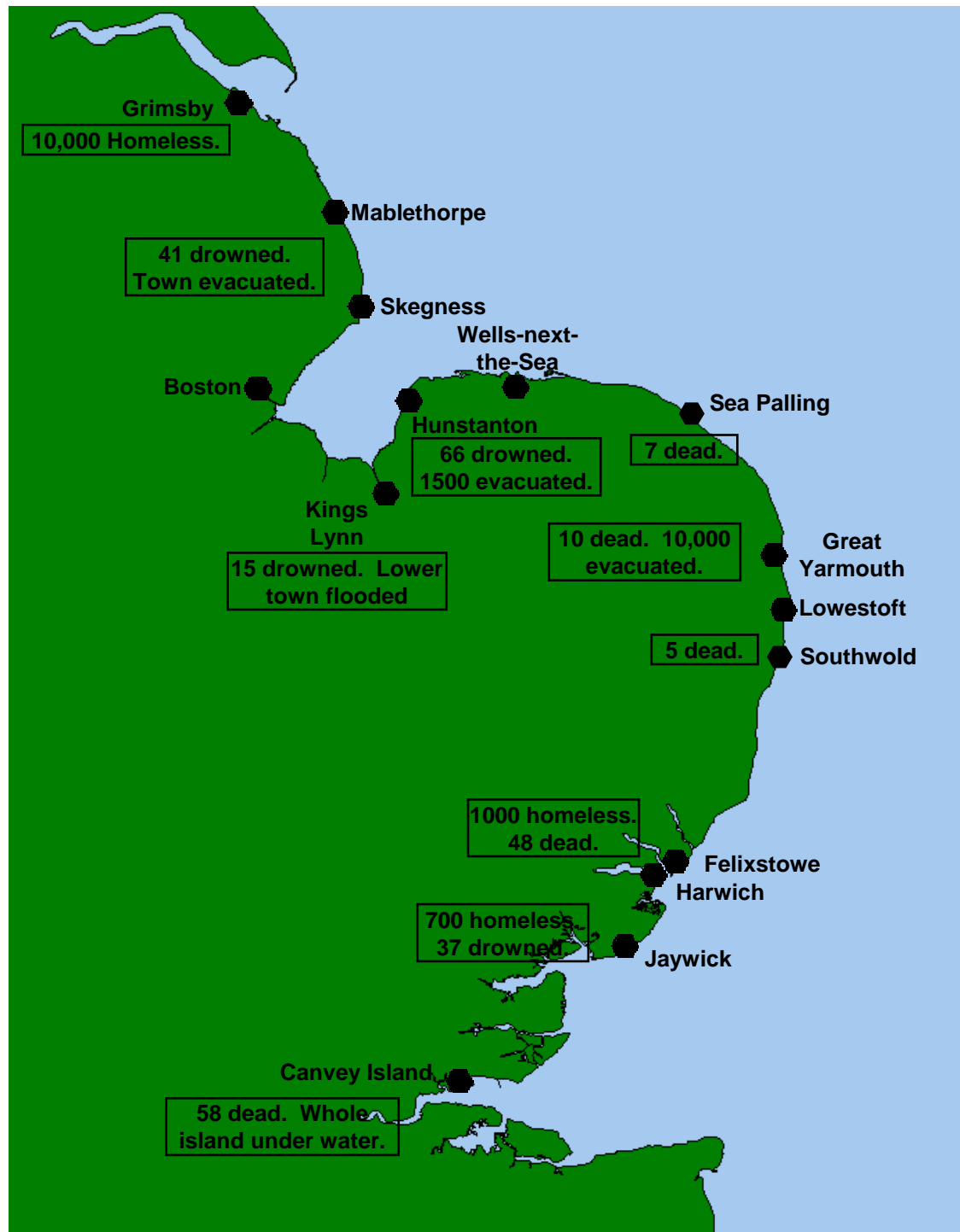
Summary

- With reference to a number of major floods I intend to review the lessons learnt
- In the light of these lessons I will consider the changes made to improve resilience
- Consider where are we now; can we do more to improve resilience

Visualisation of risk







IMPACT OF 1953 FLOODS

- Defences overwhelmed with over 1200 breaches
- Over 300 people died.
- 25,000 properties flooded.
- 32,000 people evacuated.
- 160,000 acres land flooded
- Major infrastructure damaged.
- Major emergency response
- Damage estimated at £50m(1953 prices)



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY



A Major Lesson From 1953

- If you cannot stop the flood it is important to inform the population of the risk so that they may take avoiding or preparatory action
- Important that the authorities are aware of the impending doom so that preparations can be made
- Response based on formal Government inquiry



Will it Happen Again ?

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A Qualified YES

- We must recognise man's limitations in the face of natural disasters
- we can manage the risk of flooding but not the inevitability of a flood event
- in the face of the inevitable how can we mitigate the impact
- Flood warning a key instrument in mitigating flood risk

Spring 1998 Flood

- No lives lost
- But despite flood warning public not really prepared for such trauma
- Not aware of flood risk
- Did not understand then current flood warning system
- Authorities not prepared for a flood

Concerted Response

- Improve flood warning
- Research to ensure wide understanding
- Improve awareness of flood risk both in terms of geography-flood risk mapping
- and impact
- Improve authority response

Response-Revised Flood Warnings



The 4-staged Flood Warning Service

Flood Watch	Flood Warning	Severe Flood Warning	All Clear
“Flooding is possible . Be aware! Be prepared! Watch out!	“Flooding of homes, businesses and main roads is expected . Act now!	“ Severe flooding is expected . Imminent danger to life and property. Act now!”	“There are no Flood watches or warnings currently in force in the area”



TO SLEEP EASIER AT NIGHT, FILL YOUR PILLOWCASE WITH SAND.

If you live in a flood plain, you're more at risk from flooding than from fire. Although you can't always stop a flood, there are steps you can take - making sandbags, for example - which will mean you're better prepared should the worst happen.

Block up. If you hear a flood warning, block doorways and airbricks with floodboards or sandbags. Get sandbags from builders' merchants or make your own using plastic bags or old pillowcases.

Call up. Call Floodline (available 24 hours a day) for advice on how to protect your home. It also gives full details of the flood warning service provided by the Environment Agency in your area.

Move up. Move important belongings like photograph albums to safety. Move your car to higher ground, if it's safe to do so.

Check up. Check your buildings and contents insurance will cover you. Check you know where to turn off your gas and electricity. Check you have a first aid kit and rubber gloves. Check local TV and radio for flood warnings.

Wise up. Nearly 2 million homes and businesses are at risk from flooding. Autumn 2000 saw the worst floods in living memory. You may have escaped last year, this year you might not be so fortunate.

Floodline
 FLOODLINE YOU CAN'T PREVENT IT YOU CAN'T REPAIR FOR IT. 0845 988 1188

Public Awareness Campaign

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Autumn 2000 Flood

- A big test worst flood for probably 400 years
- 5 or 6 deaths but not really related to the flood itself
- Good flood warnings using new system
- Problem remains with public perception of flood risk particularly at extreme boundary
- Inter-agency working could have been better
- Forward planning to be improved

And The Latest Test

- Exercise Triton held to test our flood resilience in the face of many changes
- A major East Coast flood event
- Tested all authorities

Reflections

- A major flood is possible and will cause widespread disruption
- Forward planning pays dividends
- Our system works
- What about evacuation procedures; do they represent a risk

Alert to New Ideas



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