

Causes

Physical

- Prolonged rain and tidal surges
- Powerful jet stream drove low-pressure systems and their storms across the Atlantic
- 12 major storms between mid-December 2013 and mid-February 2014

Human

- River Parret has not been dredged for 20 years and was blocked.
 - It used to happen every 5 years costing £4m.
 - The river could have been wider and deeper.
 - Farmers had warned the government it was required.
- Building on the floodplain, some below sea level

Impacts

Social

- 600 homes affected
- Villages cut off e.g. Muchelney
- Roads inaccessible so journey times increased

Economic

- Cost to Somerset between £82m and £147m
- Livestock had to be moved or sold
- Businesses lost trade

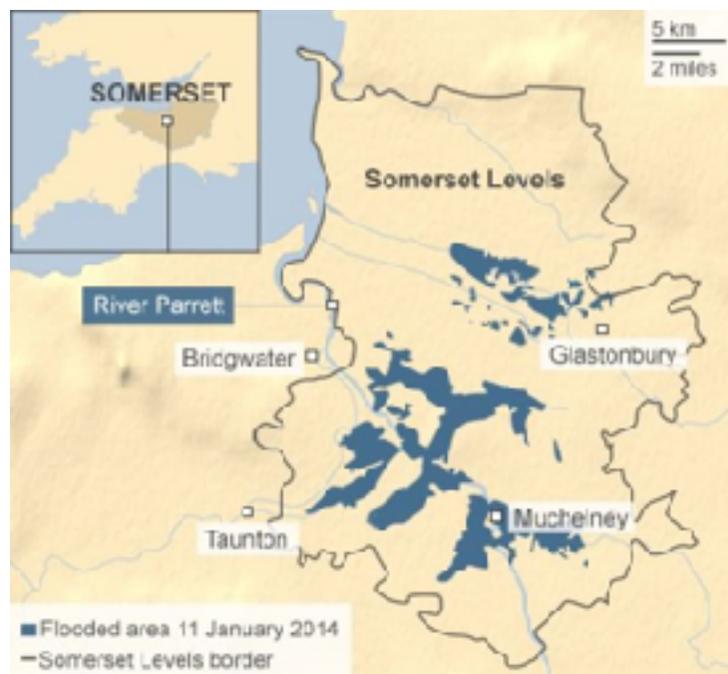
Environmental

- Nearly 7000 hectares agricultural land under water for over a month
- Natural England said there was little impact on the wildlife



Somerset Levels

January 2014
65million m³ floodwater covered 65km²



Landscape

- Previously covered by sea but drained in the 17th century for agriculture
- Channels built to drain the marshes
- Romans built tidal flood defences
- Vulnerable to both tidal flooding and storm

National Management

Government 20-year flood plan

- Dredge more of the River Parret and River Thames
- Repair damaged flood banks
- Raise the road to Muchelney
- Permanent pumps
- Build a total barrier, similar to the Thames Barrier

Local Management

Environment Agency

- 62 pumps working 24 hours a day removed 1.5m tonnes of water
- Pumps borrowed from the Netherlands

Emergency Support

- Royal marines helped cut off villages
- Police increased patrols

Defences

- Nearly 50 defences in need of repair, including embankments, pumps and coastal defences

Future

- Dredging in river Parret occurred after the flood
- Farmers will be paid to store flood water
- Attempts to reduce run-off from housing developments