

AQA Geography GCSE

Somerset Levels Floods

Case Study Flashcards

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What are the Somerset Levels?



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An area of low-lying coastal plains and wetlands in the south-west UK, located in the county of Somerset.



When was the last severe flooding event
on the Somerset Levels?



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The winter of 2013-2014.



What were the 3 main causes of the Somerset Levels floods?



What were the 3 main causes of the Somerset Levels floods?

High rainfall levels due to many depressions from the Atlantic.

High tides causing higher river levels.

Lack of dredging reduced river capacity.



How much rain fell in January and February, and how high above average rainfall was this?



How much rain fell in January and February, and how high above average rainfall was this?

350mm (100mm above average).



How many homes were flooded?



How many homes were flooded?

Over 600.



How many farms had to be evacuated?



How many farms had to be evacuated?

16.



Why were some people left stranded?



Why were some people left stranded?

Some villages, such as Moorland and Muchelney, were completely cut off by flood water.



What was the estimated cost of damage?



What was the estimated cost of damage?

Over £10 million.



How was agricultural land affected?



How was agricultural land affected?

A lot of agricultural land was flooded - over 14,000 ha of agricultural land was underwater for 3-4 weeks.



How many livestock had to be evacuated
from farms?



How many livestock had to be evacuated from farms?

Over 1000.



How were transport links affected?



How were transport links affected?

Many roads were flooded and inaccessible, and the Bristol to Taunton railway line was closed at Bridgwater.



How did the floods affect the environment?



How did the floods affect the environment?

Floodwater transported sewage, chemicals and debris to other areas and affected the Levels ecosystems.



How was stagnant water dealt with after the floods?



How was stagnant water dealt with after the floods?

Water had to be reoxygenated before being pumped back into rivers.



How did warnings limit the effects of the floods?



How did warnings limit the effects of the floods?

Weather and flood warnings communicated to residents that there was a danger to life and they should evacuate.



How did temporary flood defences help to manage the floods?



How did temporary flood defences help to manage the floods?

Temporary barriers and sandbags helped limit flood water reaching homes to a certain extent.



What is the 20-year plan that aims to manage and reduce flood risk in Somerset called?



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The Somerset Levels & Moors Flood Action Plan.



How had dredging helped manage the Somerset Levels future flood risk?



How had dredging helped manage the Somerset Levels future flood risk?

8km of the River Tone and River Parratt have been dredged, removing 130,000 cubic metres of silt. This has increased the rivers' capacities.



How has drainage and drainage management been improved after the Somerset Levels floods?



How has drainage and drainage management been improved after the Somerset Levels floods?

Culverts have been added under roads and some roads have been raised.

Sustainable Drainage Systems guidance for those developing in urban areas.



How is Somerset better preparing for higher sea levels and tides contributing to flood risk?



How is Somerset better preparing for higher sea levels and tides contributing to flood risk?

A tidal barrier will be built at Bridgwater by 2024.



How many homes and businesses would the Bridgwater tidal barrier potentially protect?



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11,300 homes and 1,500 businesses.



What body was set up after the floods to ensure the maintenance and improvement of river management?



What body was set up after the floods to ensure the maintenance and improvement of river management?

The Somerset Rivers Authority.



How has the Somerset Rivers Authority helped increase community and business resilience?



How has the Somerset Rivers Authority helped increase community and business resilience?

Providing information and support (guides, grants, websites etc.) to communities and businesses to lower the risk of future flood events.

