



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL

EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1981

Heavy rainfall occurred on the day the previous commentary was prepared (19 August). Rainfall was general throughout the country on that day and amounts were quite large in many western districts from northwest Scotland to southwest England and also over the Southern Uplands and Pennines: more than 20 mm was recorded over the Grampians, over the mountains between Loch Lomond and Ben Nevis, the Pennines and in Snowdonia. Rainfall amounts for the remainder of the fortnight were mainly insignificant and many places in Southern Britain were without rain.

It was a dry fortnight everywhere. Only in Kent was half the average exceeded. Less than 10 per cent of average occurred in Cornwall, Wessex, the Isle of Wight and north-east England and less than 5 per cent of average was recorded in the Vale of York and in the Central Lowlands.

Following the heavy rainfall of early August, deficits are still low over Cheshire and south Lancashire but over most of England, Wales and eastern Scotland, deficits are high for the time of year. Mean deficits for areal land use are above the seasonal average over all River Divisions and River Purification Board areas, the highest excesses being for South West Wales (66 mm), North East RPB (49 mm), Tay RPB (49 mm), Wye (55 mm), Usk (53 mm). Lowest excesses were London (1 mm), Kent (7 mm), Essex (8 mm), Lee (9 mm).

Director-General  
Meteorological Office, Met O 8c  
London Road  
Bracknell  
Berkshire  
RG12 2SZ

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (SMD) AT 09 GMT ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1981

RIVER AREA	AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED SMD MM	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON	
		2 SEP 81 MM	26 AUG 81 MM
Northumbrian	98.8	+5.2	+5.4
Yorkshire	93.4	+8.9	+9.8
Trent	97.0	+8.5	+4.5
Lincolnshire	117.3	+6.6	+7.0
Welland and Nene	113.2	+5.6	+5.0
Great Ouse	110.7	+5.8	+3.8
Norfolk and Suffolk	114.2	+5.9	+3.3
Essex	111.5	+5.4	+3.3
Lee Division	101.0	+7.5	+5.7
Thames Conservancy	106.2	+6.3	+5.5
London Area	100.0	+8.1	+8.5
Kent	103.6	+7.1	+1.8
Sussex	101.0	+6.4	+3.7
Hampshire	103.6	+6.0	+5.5
Isle of Wight	113.5	+10.4	+12.7
Upper Thames	109.9	+5.5	+5.4
Avon and Dorset	105.6	+5.4	+5.1
Devon	92.3	+7.7	+0.8
Cornwall	93.9	+7.4	+2.7
Somerset	101.6	+6.7	+3.9
Bristol Avon	107.4	+5.5	+4.3
Severn	102.0	+7.1	+3.8
Wye	105.4	+5.7	+2.4
Usk	97.1	+7.0	+0.4
Glamorgan	88.1	+9.1	-1.8
South West Wales	95.2	+7.8	-1.2
Gwynedd	73.9	+8.4	-4.1
Dee and Clwyd	72.5	+10.6	-2.6
Mersey and Weaver	61.7	+13.3	+2.0
Lancashire	39.9	+14.1	-0.3
Cumbria	55.7	+9.7	+4.0

N.B. Apart from normal changes these differences also reflect retrospective adjustments after receipt of additional data.







