



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT ON 21 APRIL 1982

The dry weather of the past weeks means that deficits are now above average in all areas, and the first full bulletin of the 1982-83 season will be published next week on Wednesday 28 April 1982.

In the commentary which accompanied the final bulletin of the 1981-82 season attention was drawn to the slow thaw affecting the whole of Great Britain and by the end of the last season (20 January 1982) only a few areas were still reporting appreciable amounts of snow cover. The mild weather continued with variable rainfall and only occasional reports of sleet or snow until the middle of February. There was a dry cold spell from the 18th to the 23rd February but the weather became unsettled again during the last week of the month and the mostly wet weather continued into March. Mid-March was a mixture of sunshine and showers which sometimes merged into longer periods of rain over Scotland with sleet or snow over high ground. Some of the showers, especially in the south, were heavy with hail at times and thunder was reported over London and East Anglia. The period from the 22nd to 28th March was predominantly dry over all parts of Great Britain with the exception of northern Scotland but at the end of March and beginning of April there was a return to sunny periods with showers. Northern and north western Scotland have continued to have variable weather but most other parts of the country have had a dry, mostly sunny spell which has lasted since the 8th April.

Although all areas returned to field capacity under grass, parts of East Anglia and eastern England maintained deficits under deep rooted vegetation throughout the winter.

As stated in the last bulletin of the 1981-82 season MORECS was intended to replace the fortnightly issue of the ESMD bulletin which could only continue if customers who preferred the ESMD alternative were prepared to meet the economic costs of producing it. Unfortunately we have not received sufficient customers for us to continue publication of the ESMD bulletin beyond this present season. Therefore the 1982-83 season will be the last. We would like to thank our customers for their support through the years and will be pleased to advise them on which options of MORECS might best suit their needs when the bulletin ends.

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT ON 21 APR 1982

River Area	Areal land use	Change during the week ending 09 GMT on	
	Estimated S.M.D. mm	21 Apr 82 mm	14 Apr 82 mm
Northumbrian	23.9	+ 12.2	+ 8.2
Yorkshire	27.2	+ 13.9	+ 8.7
Trent	20.1	+ 13.0	+ 5.9
Lincolnshire	36.1	+ 14.0	+ 10.6
Welland and Nene	30.6	+ 14.6	+ 9.2
Great Ouse	24.6	+ 10.3	+ 10.1
Norfolk and Suffolk	44.8	+ 18.5	+ 19.3
Essex	40.2	+ 18.4	+ 12.3
Lee Division	20.7	+ 13.8	+ 6.5
Thames Conservancy	22.5	+ 14.0	+ 8.5
London Area	22.2	+ 14.1	+ 8.1
Kent	26.3	+ 15.6	+ 7.6
Sussex	23.3	+ 15.4	+ 7.6
Hampshire	23.6	+ 15.0	+ 8.6
Isle of Wight	23.4	+ 14.8	+ 8.6
Upper Thames	21.8	+ 13.8	+ 8.0
Avon and Dorset	24.1	+ 15.4	+ 8.7
Devon	26.7	+ 16.3	+ 10.4
Cornwall	26.8	+ 15.9	+ 10.9
Somerset	27.1	+ 16.3	+ 10.8
Bristol Avon	24.6	+ 14.7	+ 9.9
Severn	20.8	+ 13.4	+ 7.4
Wye	21.1	+ 13.6	+ 7.5
Usk	22.6	+ 14.0	+ 8.6
Glamorgan	23.1	+ 14.1	+ 9.0
South West Wales	22.7	+ 13.6	+ 9.1
Gwynedd	21.0	+ 13.2	+ 7.8
Dee and Clwyd	20.1	+ 13.2	+ 6.9
Mersey and Weaver	20.2	+ 13.9	+ 5.2
Lancashire	22.0	+ 13.8	+ 8.2
Cumbria	20.3	+ 12.4	+ 7.9

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