



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL

EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1982

The mobile westerly airstream which dominated the country at the end of the last period has been gradually modified during the period of this Bulletin by an increase in pressure to the south of the British Isles which has tended to back the general direction of the airstream and to track the frontal systems further North. This has led to a continuation of the unsettled weather in Scotland and northern England and occasionally to some western districts, but has brought periods of warm dry sunny weather to the rest of the country, especially during the last week. However there were two wetter days during the period when on the 5th and 6th unstable air ahead of cold fronts brought showers and thunderstorms, especially in the southeast, 39 mm was reported at Cromer and 30 mm at Coltishall Met Office for the 24 hour 09-09 GMT rainfall day of the 5th. On the other hand some places in the south, for example Plymouth, Portland Bill and Stansted had less than 1mm total for the whole 14 day period.

England and Wales, with the exception of Eastern Norfolk, where the storms occurred on the 5th had less than the average rainfall for the period while most of Scotland with the exception of the South west had near or more than the normal rainfall. Individual reports so far received range from 2% of average at Plymouth and Stansted airport to 217% of average at Cape Wrath.

Areal deficits have generally increased over England and Wales during the last fortnight, while eastern parts of Scotland have deficits similar or lower than those of a fortnight ago. Western Scotland has generally remained at field capacity over high ground, while those places with deficits a fortnight ago now have lower values, Benbecula which had a deficit of 60mm at the beginning of the period has had 111 mm of rain over the last 14 days and has returned to field capacity.

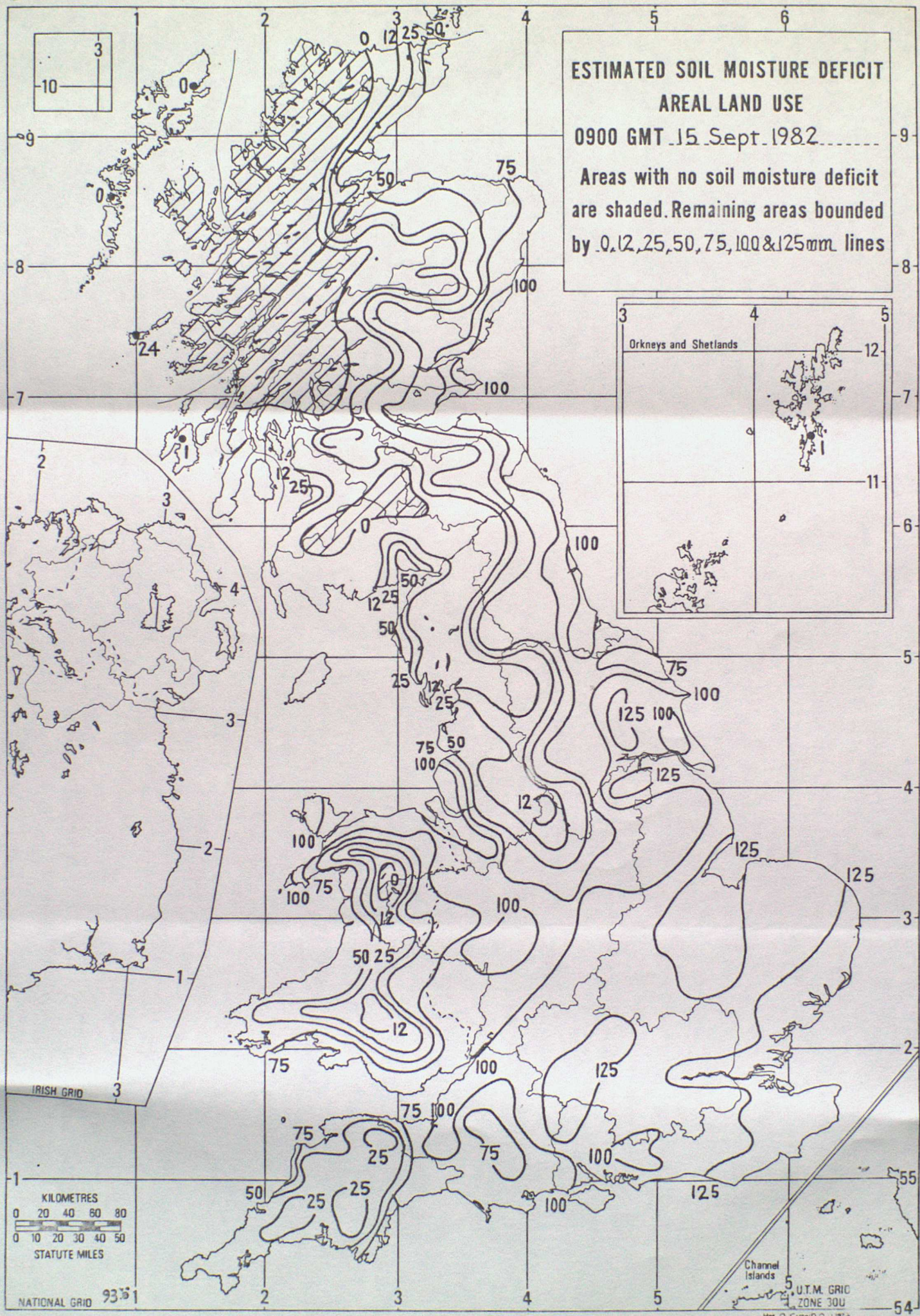
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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT ON 15 SEP 1982

RIVER AREA	* AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED S.M.D.		CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON	
	MM		15 SEP 82 MM	8 SEP 82 MM
NORTHUMBRIAN	69.7	(48)	+ 9.8	- 2.1
YORKSHIRE	77.7	(57)	+ 10.4	+ 2.4
TRENT	74.9	(59)	+ 12.1	+ 3.7
LINCOLNSHIRE	107.5	(83)	+ 11.8	+ 3.0
WELLAND AND NENE	111.3	(80)	+ 7.3	+ 3.4
GREAT OUSE	120.0	(82)	+ 5.4	+ 0.8
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK	119.5	(92)	+ 8.8	- 5.6
ESSEX	128.9	(99)	+ 3.5	+ 0.2
LEE DIVISION	112.7	(85)	+ 3.0	+ 2.6
THAMES CONSERVANCY	105.2	(81)	+ 4.1	+ 4.0
LONDON AREA	117.6	(93)	+ 3.4	+ 3.3
KENT	130.1	(89)	+ 4.3	+ 0.2
SUSSEX	116.0	(79)	+ 4.6	+ 3.1
HAMPSHIRE	98.8	(83)	+ 5.3	+ 6.1
ISLE OF WIGHT	107.5	-	+ 3.9	+ 4.3
UPPER THAMES	120.4	-	+ 4.3	+ 7.8
AVON AND DORSET	98.6	(67)	+ 6.0	+ 10.0
DEVON	74.2	(61)	+ 6.9	+ 8.0
CORNWALL	42.5	(40)	+ 6.7	+ 7.5
SOMERSET	78.8	(55)	+ 7.4	+ 7.2
BRISTOL AVON	100.6	(60)	+ 6.2	+ 7.6
SEVERN	87.0	(58)	+ 6.7	+ 4.8
WYE	80.2	(39)	+ 7.9	+ 5.6
USK	68.0	(34)	+ 8.6	+ 6.3
GLAMORGAN	62.5	-	+ 8.6	+ 8.2
SOUTH WEST WALES	55.3	(24)	+ 4.1	+ 4.9
GWYNEDD	53.7	(24)	+ 6.9	+ 2.6
DEE AND CLWYD	59.7	(45)	+ 12.8	+ 5.3
MERSEY AND WEAVER	60.9	(39)	+ 16.1	+ 1.1
LANCASHIRE	23.9	(27)	+ 9.1	+ 3.9
CUMBRIA	32.8	(33)	+ 4.6	+ 1.8

NB APART FROM NORMAL CHANGES THESE DIFFERENCES ALSO REFLECT RETROSPECTIVE ADJUSTMENTS AFTER RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL DATA.

*Where available, the approximate average values of S.M.D. for areal land use for the time of year are given in brackets.



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