AM

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

AT 0900 ON 13 MAY 1981

Following the severe wintry weather of 23-26 April 1981, generally quieter conditions prevailed but the fortnight since the day of the previous issue of the bulletin (30 April) has by no means been settled. Rainfall has occurred throughout the country on many days; amounts have usually been small but some days of heavy rainfall have occurred, particularly in western districts. More than 12 mm was recorded on the Moors of southwest England on 1 May and the southwest peninsula experienced heavy rainfall also on 3 and 9 May: on the latter occasion more than 20 mm was recorded over the higher ground. On the 9th, the rainfall spread across most of southern England but the distribution of heavier falls was erratic: amounts exceeded 12 mm quite widely from Cornwall to the shores of the Thames estuary but much smaller amounts were also recorded over this region. Although northern Britain was generally drier than the south, heavy rainfall (more than 10 mm) did occur in the Western Isles on 2nd and 3rd, North Wales on 2nd-4th, west Scotland and East Anglia on 7th. Rainfall was thundery in character from 7th to 9th.

Less than half the average rainfall for the fortnight was recorded in Lewis and extreme northwest Scotland. The average was exceeded in extreme western Scotland, over the Borders, in Snowdonia and Fylde, over the Lincoln Edge, and over the east Midlands, East Anglia and southern England. More than twice the average was recorded in south Cornwall and Essex.

Notable features of the maps are the generally low deficits over England and Wales, and the high deficits in Central Lowlands and eastern Scotland, reflecting the drier spring in Scotland.

Mean deficits for areal land use over the River Divisions, after rising to above seasonal average in the dry first three weeks of April, fell to near zero in the very wet wintry weather of 23-26 April and have only just begun to increase slowly now and, in some divisions, they are still not increasing. Deficits over all divisions are well below average for mid-May, the greatest relative short falls being in Welland and Nene, Great Ouse, Norfolk and Suffolk. In Norfolk and Suffolk the mean values were the lowest on record for mid-May. In Scotland, on the other hand, mean deficits over River Purification Board areas were above average for all areas except Solway and Clyde and were more than twice the average in North East.

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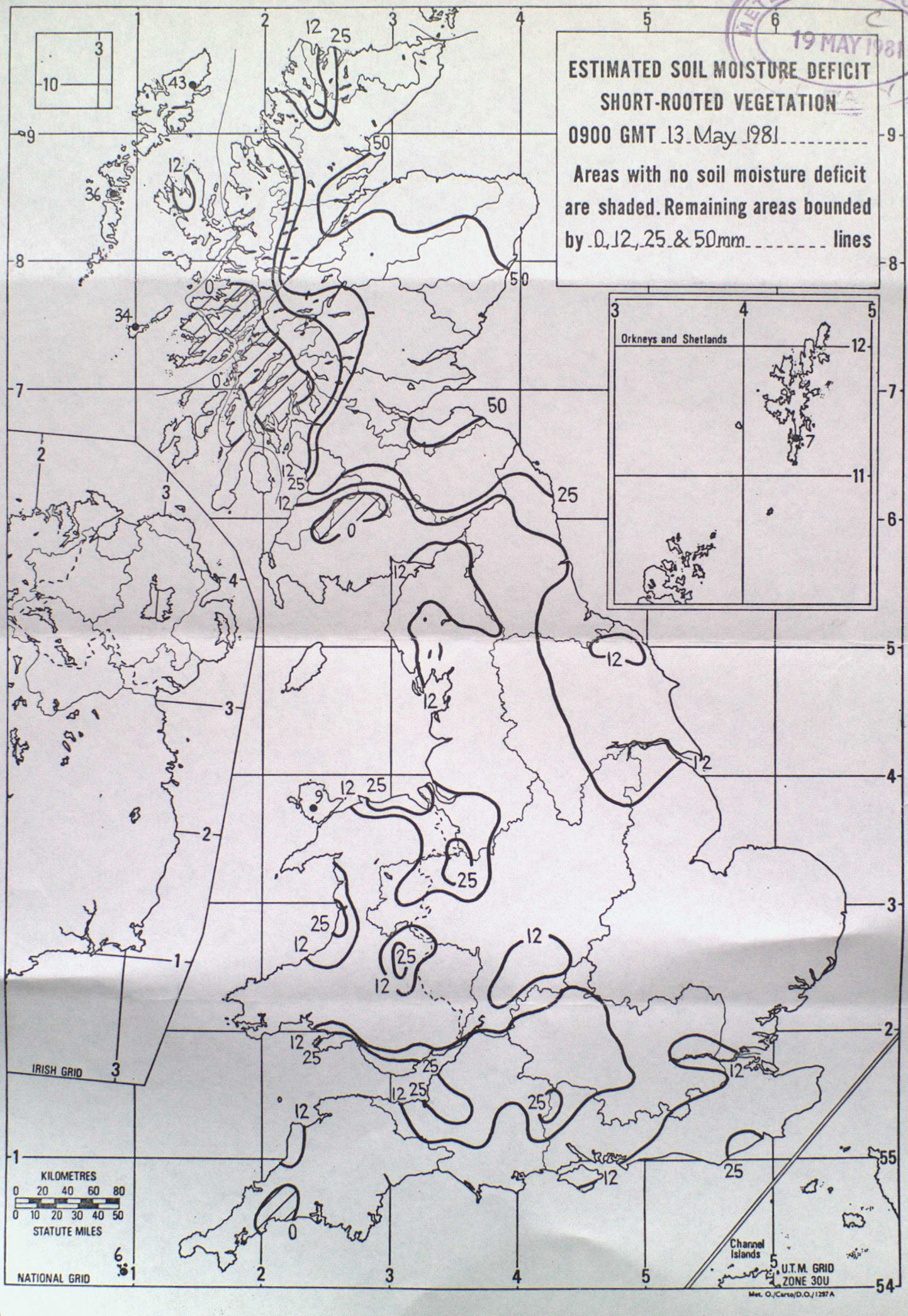
ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT ON 13 MAY 1981

RIVER AREA	AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED S.M.D. MM	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON 13 MAY 81 MM	6 MAY 81 MM
Northumbrian	13.6	0.0	+ 3.2
Yorkshire	9.3	+ 4.5	+ 2.5
Trent	6.2	+ 4.9	+ 0.4
Lincolnshire	8.7	+ 5.1	+ 2.6
Welland and Nene	5.9	+ 3.8	+ 0.6
Great Ouse	7.8	+ 3.5	+ 0.6
Norfolk and Suffolk	6.0	+ 4.2	+ 0.9
Essex	14.4	- 0.2	+ 1.4
Lee Division	10.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
Thames Conservancy	9.6	+ 3.9	+ 0.4
London Area	13.5	- 0.8	+ 1.0
Kent	20.1	- 0.3	+ 2.0
Sussex	13.6	+ 0.9	- 0.2
Hampshire	7.7	+ 4.6	- 1.7
Isle of Wight	7.5	- 1.1	- 1.8
Upper Thames	14.4	+ 7.1	+ 0.6
Avon and Dorset	13.8	+ 5.7	- 1.2
Devon	6.9	+ 2.5	- 2.9
Cornwall	6.0	+ 1.5	- 6.9
Somerset	13.6	+ 3.1	- 1.2
Bristol Avon	15.6	+ 4.2	- 1.1
Severn	10.0	+ 5.6	- 2.6
Wye	11.0	+ 5.3	- 5.9
Usk	11.6	+ 3.8	- 4.6
Glamorgan	19.6	+ 3.4	- 3.9
South West Wales	15.9	+ 5.6	- 6.1
Gwynedd	13.4	+ 6.9	- 3.1
Dee and Clwyd	12.4	+ 2.7	- 3.7
Mersey and Weaver	9.4	+ 3.3	- 2.5
Lancashire	4.8	+ 1.7	- 4.1
Cumbria	9.2	+ 1.8	- 2.3

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



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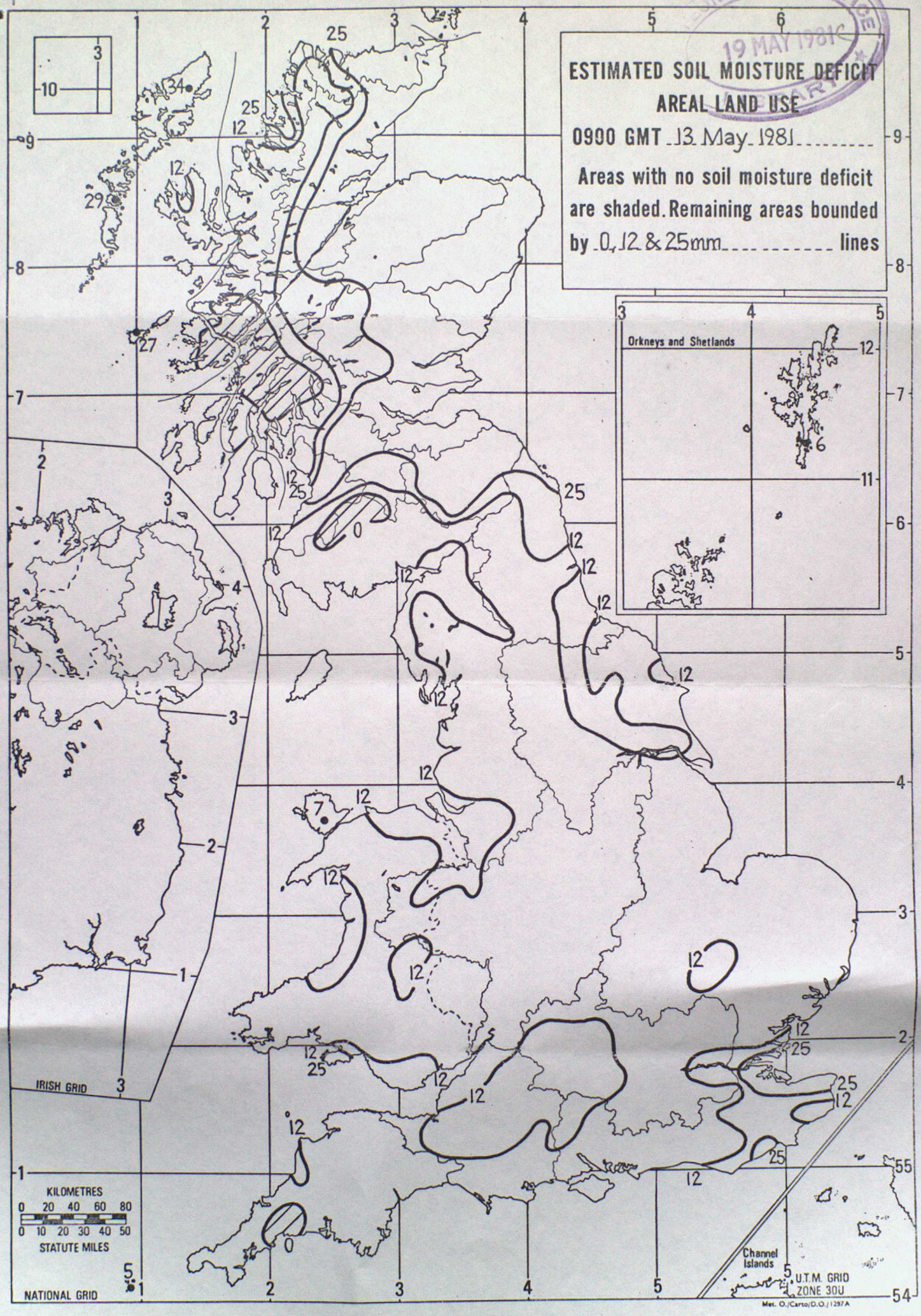

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