

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE
ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

AT 0900 GMT ON 10 AUGUST 1977

Between the issue of the previous bulletin (27 July 1977) and 3 August the weather over England and Wales was mainly dry apart from well scattered showers on 27 July and the period 1st to 3 August. On 4th it became generally unsettled and remained so in most places until 9th, when dry weather returned to all areas. The wettest day was 6 August. Over Scotland the weather reported here started generally dry. However unsettled weather in the north of Scotland from 29th to 31 July had extended to all areas of Scotland by 1 August and persisted until 5th, with some of the rain being heavy and thundery. For the rest of the period (5th to 9 August) it was generally dry. The wettest day was 4 August. Falls of 15mm or more occurred at Binbrook and Cranwell, Lincolnshire (21mm) on 2nd, Wick (16mm) on 3rd, Eskdalemuir, Dumfries (33mm) on 4th, Stansted, Essex (15mm) on 5th and Heathrow Airport (20mm) on 6 August.

Throughout the period deficits over most of England and Wales have continued to increase, more especially during the first week and over South West England. However as a result of rainfall during the second week, deficits decreased over East Anglia and the London area. In Scotland little change in deficits has occurred. Over the whole of England and Wales composite land use deficits are above average for the time of year, ranging from approximately 10mm above average over East Anglia to 50mm above average over South West Wales. The largest deficits are at Lowestoft (118 and 127mm respectively, for both short rooted vegetation and composite land use). The smallest composite deficits (about 7mm) are in North West Scotland.

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Issued 11 August 1977



ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.)

AT 09 GMT ON 10 AUG 1977

River Area	Estimated Areal	Change during the Week Ending 09 GMT on	
	S.M.D. MM	10 AUG 77 MM	3 AUG 77 MM
Northumbrian	99.4	+ 7.0	+ 7.4
Yorkshire	98.6	+ 7.8	+ 6.8
Trent	103.9	+ 5.2	+ 7.9
Lincolnshire	114.1	+ 2.9	+ 1.3
Welland and Nene	101.1	- 2.3	+ 5.6
Great Ouse	100.8	- 6.0	+ 9.2
Norfolk and Suffolk	111.3	- 2.9	+ 8.2
Essex	113.3	- 3.1	+ 7.5
Lee Division	104.9	- 5.9	+ 7.3
Thames Conservancy	102.1	- 0.9	+ 8.8
London Area	104.0	- 3.7	+ 7.5
Kent	111.8	+ 3.8	+ 5.7
Sussex	114.5	+ 6.4	+ 7.1
Hampshire	105.1	+ 4.1	+ 9.4
Isle of Wight	119.2	+ 3.9	+ 5.7
Upper Thames	95.4	+ 1.1	+ 11.3
Avon and Dorset	101.4	+ 4.6	+ 10.7
Devon	101.6	+ 6.5	+ 10.2
Cornwall	92.3	+ 8.2	+ 15.2
Somerset	106.9	+ 5.2	+ 9.3
Bristol Avon	105.3	+ 3.9	+ 9.8
Severn	96.5	+ 3.0	+ 10.2
Wye	99.7	+ 3.7	+ 9.2
Usk	95.2	+ 3.7	+ 10.8
Glamorgan	95.6	+ 3.7	+ 10.2
South West Wales	98.2	+ 2.9	+ 8.2
Gwynedd	85.5	+ 1.9	+ 9.7
Dee and Clwyd	85.7	+ 1.4	+ 9.4
Mersey and Weaver	91.2	+ 6.7	+ 10.3
Lancashire	78.2	+ 5.5	+ 10.3
Cumbria	93.2	+ 2.6	+ 5.8

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

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