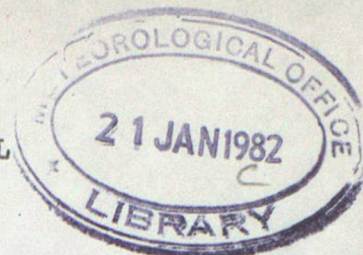


METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL

EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT ON 20 JANUARY 1982



During the first week (6th-12th January) of the period covered by this commentary the whole country was under the influence of very cold air which brought snow and arctic conditions to nearly all areas. The second week has seen a slow thaw everywhere and only a few areas are now reporting appreciable amounts of snow cover.

Outbreaks of sleet or snow reached Cornwall around mid-day on the 7th and moved slowly east during the afternoon becoming heavy with drifting as the easterly wind increased. During the evening the snow moved quickly into South Wales and the rest of southwest England and had reached most areas as far north as southern Scotland by mid-day on the 8th. Lincolnshire and the eastern part of Norfolk and Suffolk escaped the snow. Ilfracombe reported 50 mm of rain (or rainfall equivalent of snow) on the 8th and Wales and much of England had persistent snow heavy at times on the 9th. There were snow showers in Scotland and the north of England on the 9th and the southwest of England reported rain at first turning to snow later.

The period from the 10th to the 15th was mostly dry although there was some rain or sleet reported from the north and northwest of Scotland during this period.

Over the weekend of the 15th the thaw started in the south and spread northwards, small amounts of rain were reported over southwest England on the 16th and there was also rain over southwest England, South Wales and western Scotland on the 18th with up to 10 mm being reported in places. The 19th saw more widespread rain although amounts were again mostly less than 10 mm.

Most places reported considerably less than the average rainfall (or rainfall equivalent) during the last fortnight, less than 10% in parts of East Anglia and Lincolnshire, but many places were unable to make measurements during the most severe days of snow. Brawdy (189%) and Shawbury (164%) were the only locations which actually reported more than average rainfall.

This will be the last bulletin of the 1981-82 season. The map showing ESMD over short rooted vegetation has not been issued this week.

As most customers are now aware Meteorological Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System Bulletin (MORECS) is issued weekly.

MORECS was intended to be more informative and to replace the fortnightly issue of the ESMD Bulletin. The latter can only continue if those customers who still prefer the ESMD alternative are prepared to meet the economic costs of production. Currently these are around £50 per season per customer.

Order Forms for the ESMD Bulletin 1982-83 season will reflect this fact when they are made available in due course. Order Forms for the MORECS Bulletin will be made available at the same time.

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT ON 20 JANUARY 1982

RIVER AREA	AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED S.M.D. MM	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON	
		20 JAN 82 MM	13 JAN 82 MM
NORTHUMBRIAN	1.5	- 0.3	+ 0.7
YORKSHIRE	9.7	+ 1.8	+ 0.1
TRENT	6.2	- 0.5	+ 0.4
LINCOLNSHIRE	41.4	+ 0.5	+ 0.7
WELLAND AND NENE	22.1	+ 0.6	+ 1.7
GREAT OUSE	18.0	+ 4.7	+ 1.9
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK	27.3	+ 3.4	+ 1.7
ESSEX	24.4	+ 5.8	- 0.1
LEE DIVISION	2.7	+ 0.4	- 0.1
THAMES CONSERVANCY	1.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
LONDON AREA	0.8	+ 0.4	+ 0.4
KENT	4.6	+ 1.2	+ 0.1
SUSSEX	0.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.2
HAMPSHIRE	0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.3
ISLE OF WIGHT	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2
UPPER THAMES	2.0	0.0	+ 0.6
AVON AND DORSET	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
DEVON	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
CORNWALL	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
SOMERSET	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
BRISTOL AVON	0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
SEVERN	0.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2
WYE	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2
USK	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2
GLAMORGAN	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2
SOUTH WEST WALES	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
GWYNEDD	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
DEE AND CLWYD	0.1	- 0.3	+ 0.4
MERSEY AND WEAVER	0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
LANCASHIRE	0.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
CUMBRIA	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3

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

