



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT 17 DECEMBER 1975

Apart from 20 and 21 November (and 22nd over England and Wales only), Great Britain had widespread rainfall from the last issue (20 November 1975) up to 2 December. From then on, England, Wales, southern and eastern Scotland have been mainly dry with only small amounts of precipitation falling mainly on the 12th. The largest reported falls were 26 mm (Benbecula) on 22 November, 26 mm (Culdrose) on 23rd, 25 mm (Cape Wrath) on 26th, 25 mm (St Mawgan and Hartland Point) on 28th, 24 mm (Machrihanish) on 30th and 47 mm (Squires Gate) on 1 December.

Up to 2 December, deficits over England and the coastal areas of Wales and eastern Scotland continued to decrease. The last two weeks, however, have produced little change due to low evaporation and low rainfall. The largest deficits are still to be found mainly in parts of Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. A maximum composite value of SMD (91 mm) has been calculated for Finningley (Notts). With the exception of areas at field capacity and the south-east, England has deficits which are well above average for mid-December.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION: £7.50 per season (post free)

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

AT 09 GMT ON 17 DECEMBER 1975

RIVER AREA	ESTIMATED	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON			
	AREAL	17 DEC 1975	10 DEC 1975	3 DEC 1975	26 NOV 1975
	S.M.D.				
	MM	MM	MM	MM	MM
Northumbrian	17.5	+ 0.6	+ 0.4	- 4.7	- 1.4
Yorkshire	35.8	- 0.7	+ 0.5	- 20.2	- 2.7
Trent	49.7	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	- 25.7	- 3.3
Lincolnshire	68.2	- 2.5	+ 0.5	- 27.9	- 2.5
Welland and Nene	67.6	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	- 23.1	- 2.9
Great Ouse	53.7	+ 0.7	+ 0.5	- 19.0	- 3.9
Norfolk and Suffolk	27.7	0.0	+ 0.1	- 10.2	- 3.6
Essex	35.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	- 11.5	- 4.4
Lee Division	27.7	- 1.0	+ 0.5	- 15.3	- 3.6
Thames Conservancy	33.3	- 1.3	+ 0.5	- 22.1	- 4.6
London Area	13.6	- 0.9	+ 0.5	- 12.4	- 2.6
Kent	5.1	- 1.0	+ 0.4	- 9.4	- 2.8
Sussex	4.9	- 1.4	+ 0.4	- 14.2	- 3.3
Hampshire	15.0	- 1.4	+ 0.5	- 16.0	- 4.3
Isle of Wight	23.8	- 1.2	+ 0.5	- 20.8	- 3.9
Avon and Dorset	22.0	- 2.7	+ 0.5	- 22.6	- 4.8
Devon	13.2	+ 0.7	+ 0.4	- 11.0	- 6.3
Cornwall	0.0	- 0.7	+ 0.1	- 3.3	- 1.8
Somerset	20.3	- 2.3	+ 0.5	- 19.6	- 4.9
Bristol Avon	29.8	- 1.9	+ 0.5	- 28.0	- 5.6
Severn	47.4	+ 1.2	+ 0.5	- 22.5	- 4.1
Wye	21.3	+ 3.4	+ 0.4	- 16.1	- 3.1
Usk	3.1	- 0.1	+ 0.3	- 8.0	- 2.3
Glamorgan	2.4	- 0.4	+ 0.3	- 4.9	- 3.7
South West Wales	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1	- 2.6	- 4.1
Gwynedd	5.0	- 0.4	0.0	- 6.5	- 5.1
Dee and Clwyd	14.7	+ 0.6	0.0	- 8.8	- 4.1
Mersey and Weaver	16.6	+ 0.2	0.0	- 16.8	- 5.0
Lancashire	0.7	- 0.5	+ 0.1	- 3.0	- 0.5
Cumbria	0.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.4

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



