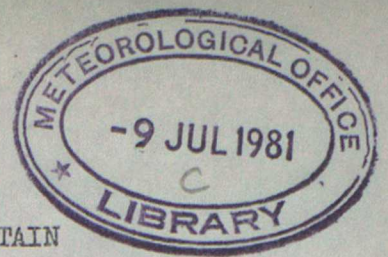


METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

AT 0900 ON 8 JULY 1981



The settled mainly dry spell mentioned in the previous bulletin continued into the last week of June in many parts of Britain. However, rain fell in the first three days of the fortnight over Scotland, northern and eastern England and although amounts were generally small, coastal regions of East Anglia, Kent and East Sussex had daily totals exceeding 10 mm with Manston near Margate recording 62.5 mm over the 3 day period. The first week of July was more unsettled over Scotland, northern and southwestern England with rain falling generally over these areas on 2nd, 3rd and 5th. Daily amounts were mainly less than 10 mm but there were some local heavy falls especially on 5 July; Blackpool Airport recorded 27.1 mm. Mainly dry weather predominated throughout the period over much of the Midlands and Central Southern England with many places recording a fortnightly total of less than 2 mm.

Almost the whole of Britain received less than average rainfall for the fortnight and less than 20 per cent occurred over much of south-western England, Central Southern England and the Midlands. The average was exceeded over the extreme northeast of Scotland, the Scottish island of Tiree, the Blackpool area, Kent and East Sussex. In marked contrast to the generally low rainfall, more than three times the average occurred in the Margate area.

With the exception of northwestern Scotland and east Kent, soil moisture deficits have again increased steadily. However, the majority of the River Divisions of England and Wales have deficits which are still below the average for this time of the year. The average has just been reached in the Divisions of Northumbria, Yorkshire, Trent, Lincolnshire and South West Wales.

Director-General  
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Issued 9 July 1981

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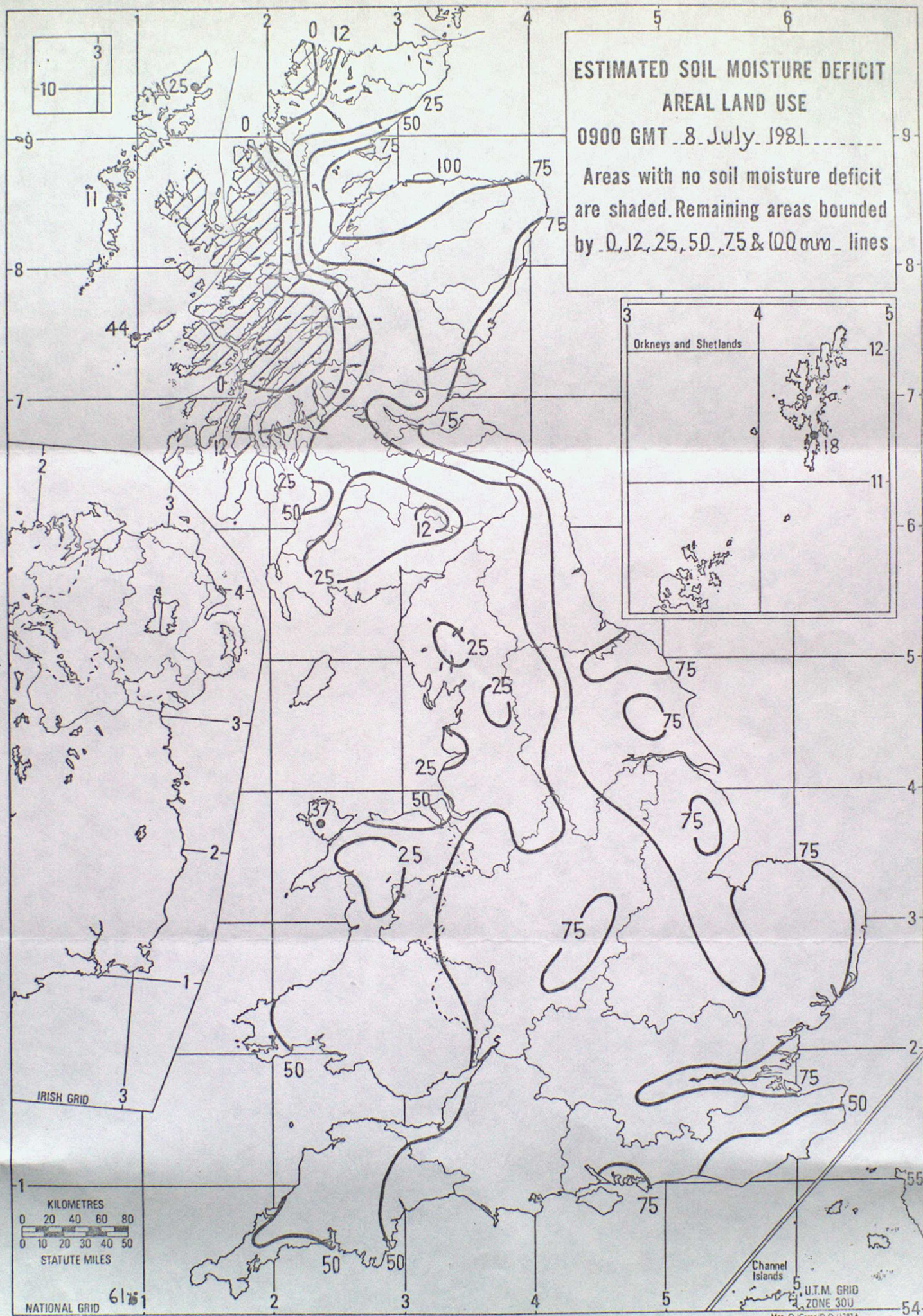


ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT ON 8 JULY 1981

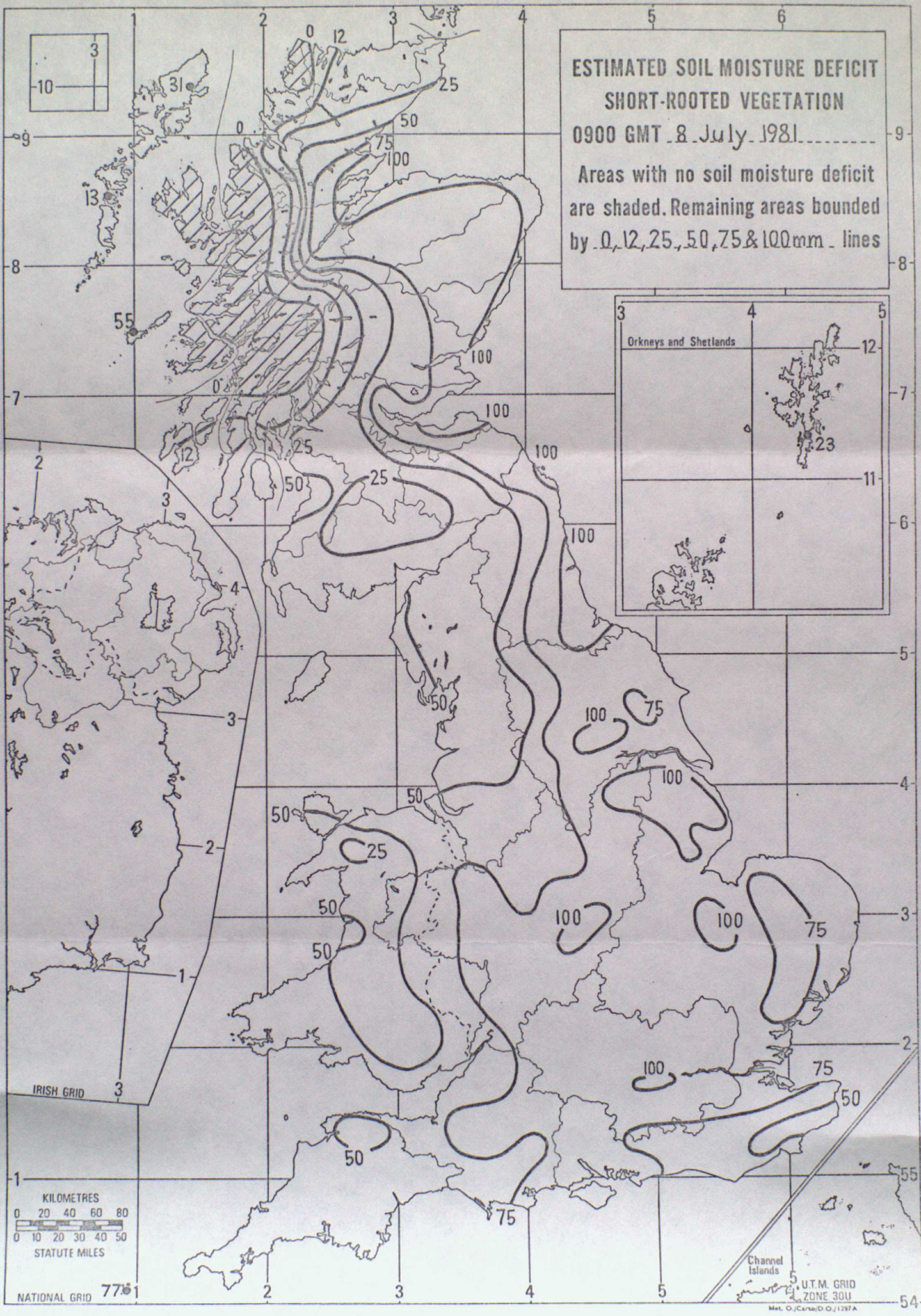
RIVER AREA	AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED S.M.D. MM	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON	
		8 JUL 81 MM	1 JUL 81 MM
NORTHUMBRIAN	66.7	+ 8.1	+13.3
YORKSHIRE	68.2	+15.1	+11.2
TRENT	65.8	+18.2	+13.9
LINCOLNSHIRE	79.1	+17.8	+11.4
WELLAND AND NENE	73.9	+18.8	+13.1
GREAT OUSE	70.7	+18.5	+10.5
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK	66.5	+17.2	+ 1.1
ESSEX	74.3	+19.9	+ 1.8
LEE DIVISION	69.7	+19.4	+ 8.2
THAMES CONSERVANCY	66.9	+15.9	+12.6
LONDON AREA	71.1	+17.2	+10.7
KENT	52.2	+18.0	-13.5
SUSSEX	53.8	+16.8	+ 0.6
HAMPSHIRE	65.1	+15.6	+14.3
ISLE OF WIGHT	76.5	+16.0	+18.2
UPPER THAMES	64.5	+13.3	+14.8
AVON AND DORSET	62.2	+14.1	+14.6
DEVON	50.0	+ 7.2	+12.2
CORNWALL	50.7	+ 4.9	+14.7
SOMERSET	55.5	+10.7	+12.8
BRISTOL AVON	60.5	+13.1	+14.5
SEVERN	59.6	+12.8	+14.2
WYE	48.3	+ 7.8	+13.1
USK	42.2	+ 2.5	+11.9
GLAMORGAN	40.0	+ 1.5	+11.0
SOUTH WEST WALES	42.5	+ 6.3	+13.7
GWYNEDD	35.7	+ 0.6	+13.5
DEE AND CLWYD	38.7	+ 1.7	+13.6
MERSEY AND WEAVER	47.2	+11.7	+13.1
LANCASHIRE	31.9	+ 1.8	+15.1
CUMBRIA	34.8	+ 4.2	+13.6

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



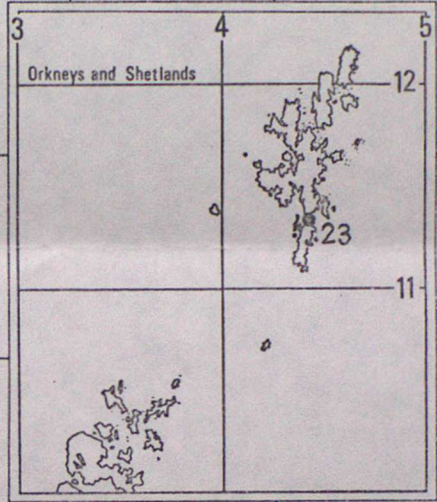






**ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT  
SHORT-ROOTED VEGETATION**  
0900 GMT 8 July 1981

Areas with no soil moisture deficit  
are shaded. Remaining areas bounded  
by 0, 12, 25, 50, 75 & 100 mm lines



NATIONAL GRID 7761

Channel Islands  
U.T.M. GRID  
ZONE 30U  
Met. O.J. Carto/D.O. 11297A