



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

AT 0900 GMT ON 26 MAY 1976

Since the last issue (13 May 1976), Great Britain experienced unsettled weather but it was dry over much of England and Wales on 13th, 14th, 16th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd and over Scotland on 23rd and 25th. Scattered thunderstorms occurred on 11th, 12th, 15th, 18th but these were mainly confined to east and south-east England on 20th. The largest reported falls of rain were at Eskdalemuir (18mm) on 11th, Carlisle (24mm) on 12th, Cape Wrath and Eskdalemuir (14mm) on 15th, Abbotsinch (23mm) on 16th, Stornoway (17mm) on 17th, Liverpool airport (18mm) on 19th, Macrihanish (25mm) on 21st, Manchester airport (13mm) on 24th, Kilnsea and Leeming (19mm) on 25th.

Rainfall since the last issue has brought field capacity to north Wales, the Pennines and north-west England, southern Scotland and the south-west Highlands. In East Anglia, south and south-east England, however, deficits have increased quite quickly. The largest deficits are still to be found in the east Midlands (118mm and 128mm under short rooted vegetation and composite land use respectively at Wittering). Composite values in the east Midlands are the highest for this time of year since records began in 1941 and range from 60 to 80 mm greater than average for the end of May. Except for areas which are near to or at field capacity, deficits are mostly above average and increase away from average towards the south and east. Much of England to the south-east of a line drawn between the Wash and south-west Devon have short-rooted deficits above 100mm. As deficits increase, short rooted vegetation in this region have increasing difficulty in extracting soil moisture.

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Apply to: Director-General
Meteorological Office, Met O 8c
London Road
Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 2SZ

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Issued on 27 May 1976

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

AT 09 GMT ON 26 MAY 1976

River Area	Estimated Areal	Change during the Week Ending 09 GMT	
	S.M.D. MM	26 May 1976 MM	19 May 1976 MM
Northumbrian	23.9	- 0.9	- 1.2
Yorkshire	35.7	- 4.1	+ 6.5
Trent	54.5	- 0.5	+ 8.4
Lincolnshire	90.7	+ 1.4	+ 9.7
Welland and Nene	104.8	+ 2.0	+ 9.4
Great Ouse	105.2	+ 1.9	+ 10.7
Norfolk and Suffolk	90.7	+ 2.5	+ 12.6
Essex	112.8	+ 4.1	+ 11.4
Lee Division	102.0	+ 3.2	+ 10.7
Thames Conservancy	97.6	+ 0.7	+ 11.0
London Area	99.5	+ 2.5	+ 11.4
Kent	98.5	+ 3.8	+ 11.3
Sussex	96.0	+ 4.7	+ 12.3
Hampshire	94.4	+ 5.1	+ 13.3
Isle of Wight	111.6	+ 5.5	+ 11.5
Avon and Dorset	89.3	+ 4.6	+ 11.3
Devon	73.1	+ 4.2	+ 6.1
Cornwall	61.7	+ 6.2	+ 3.3
Somerset	79.9	+ 2.7	+ 9.6
Bristol Avon	81.9	+ 0.9	+ 9.3
Severn	60.0	- 7.4	+ 5.8
Wye	52.9	- 6.3	+ 6.0
Usk	48.1	- 7.9	+ 5.6
Glamorgan	42.5	- 9.0	+ 4.0
South West Wales	35.6	- 2.0	- 2.0
Gwynedd	21.1	- 4.5	- 1.4
Dee and Clwyd	13.8	- 9.7	- 1.1
Mersey and Weaver	11.2	- 11.4	+ 3.6
Lancashire	6.4	- 4.9	+ 0.2
Cumbrian	0.0	- 10.8	- 9.5

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



