



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

AT 0900 ON 30 APRIL 1980

The fortnight since the day of the last commentary (16 April) has been rather more unsettled than the earlier part of April in many places with frequent but generally small amounts of rain. The first week of the fortnight had general, but again mainly slight rain in northern Scotland, with the southern half of Britain mainly dry. In the second week the northern areas were generally drier than the south but in parts of south-west England and south-west Wales, the entire fortnight was rainfree. Precipitation occurred as snow in north-east Scotland on 18th-20th and in parts of East Anglia on 19th-21st.

Rainfall exceeded the average for the fortnight to the east of Inverness and was near the average on the North York Moors. More than 50 per cent of average was recorded in Shetland and north-east Scotland generally, east Kent, east Midlands and East Anglia. Less than 5 per cent of average occurred in Ayrshire and the Glasgow area, south-west England, most of Wales and north-west England.

Deficits have increased substantially in most areas (except North York Moors and Humberside) during the fortnight. Notable are high values in central and southern areas of Scotland and in hilly western districts of England and Wales. For short-rooted vegetation, values exceed 50 mm on the mountains of central and southern Wales and on the Moors of south-west England. Highest values (more than 60 mm) are found in the Vale of Taunton.

General values for areal land use exceeded average over all River Areas in England and Wales and over River Purification Board areas in Scotland. Values were more than twice the average in Wales, western areas of England and over all RPB areas except North East.

RATE OF SUBSCRIPTION: £22.73 per season (post free)

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

AT 09 GMT ON 30 APRIL 1980

| RIVER AREA          | AREAL LAND USE<br>ESTIMATED S.M.D.<br>MM | CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON |                   |
|---------------------|--|---|-------------------|
|                     |  | 30 APRIL 80<br>MM                       | 23 APRIL 80<br>MM |
| Northumbrian        | 30.8                                     | + 6.9                                   | + 8.9             |
| Yorkshire           | 30.9                                     | - 1.4                                   | + 10.9            |
| Trent               | 32.7                                     | + 1.9                                   | + 10.9            |
| Lincolnshire        | 33.9                                     | + 1.4                                   | + 11.1            |
| Welland and Nene    | 28.7                                     | + 0.6                                   | + 9.1             |
| Great Ouse          | 35.3                                     | + 2.3                                   | + 10.1            |
| Norfolk and Suffolk | 31.4                                     | + 3.7                                   | + 7.8             |
| Essex               | 41.5                                     | + 5.3                                   | + 9.4             |
| Lee Division        | 37.2                                     | + 4.7                                   | + 9.8             |
| Thames Conservancy  | 38.3                                     | + 4.4                                   | + 11.1            |
| London Area         | 39.7                                     | + 6.1                                   | + 9.6             |
| Kent                | 39.5                                     | + 4.2                                   | + 9.2             |
| Sussex              | 39.1                                     | + 4.3                                   | + 9.3             |
| Hampshire           | 40.4                                     | + 4.3                                   | + 12.1            |
| Isle of Wight       | 43.1                                     | + 5.2                                   | + 12.4            |
| Upper Thames        | 38.6                                     | + 4.7                                   | + 11.8            |
| Avon and Dorset     | 42.9                                     | + 6.2                                   | + 12.9            |
| Devon               | 43.9                                     | + 10.3                                  | + 13.0            |
| Cornwall            | 40.0                                     | + 12.9                                  | + 13.4            |
| Somerset            | 47.4                                     | + 10.0                                  | + 13.3            |
| Bristol Avon        | 44.3                                     | + 7.4                                   | + 12.8            |
| Severn              | 38.9                                     | + 5.3                                   | + 12.3            |
| Wye                 | 41.3                                     | + 8.0                                   | + 12.5            |
| Usk                 | 42.8                                     | + 9.2                                   | + 12.6            |
| Glamorgan           | 44.6                                     | + 11.3                                  | + 12.7            |
| South West Wales    | 39.4                                     | + 12.3                                  | + 12.4            |
| Gwynedd             | 38.2                                     | + 11.8                                  | + 11.6            |
| Dee and Clwyd       | 39.6                                     | + 11.9                                  | + 11.6            |
| Mersey and Weaver   | 30.8                                     | + 6.6                                   | + 8.9             |
| Lancashire          | 41.4                                     | + 10.9                                  | + 11.6            |
| Cumbria             | 36.3                                     | + 12.8                                  | + 11.0            |

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



