



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL

EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 ON 24 JUNE 1981

The long unsettled spell, extending from the days of severe wintry weather about 24-26 April, came to an end for most of Britain on 10 June. The 10th was a day of general rainfall over most of the country but heaviest falls were confined to hilly western districts from Outer Hebrides, through Southern Uplands, Lake District, west Wales to southwest England: more than 30 mm was recorded on Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor. There were several days with quite small amounts of rain subsequently in northern Britain and heavier rain fell in northern Scotland on 12th-13th and in Snowdonia on 14th. In the south, many places recorded almost a fortnight without measurable rainfall but the dry spell was brought to an end by overnight rain on 23rd-24th in southeast England: in Kent and Sussex amounts exceeded 10 mm.

Average rainfall for the fortnight was exceeded in extreme western Scotland, Lake District, Snowdon, south Devon. Less than half the average occurred on Tyneside and the Vale of York, the southern half of Wales, most of the English midlands and the London area.

Since the end of the long unsettled spell, mean deficits over River Divisions have been increasing much more rapidly than the average seasonal increase but they are still very much below the average for the time of year over all Divisions. In River Divisions of Wales and northwest England, soils are still not as dry as in mid-April of this year. Even in Scotland, the only River Purification Board area with mean deficits greater than average was North East.

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT ON 24 JUN 1981

RIVER AREA	AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED S.M.D. MM	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON	
		24 JUN 81 MM	17 JUN 81 MM
NORTHUMBRIAN	45.3	+13.2	+ 5.2
YORKSHIRE	41.9	+10.2	+ 5.9
TRENT	33.7	+12.2	+ 5.9
LINCOLNSHIRE	49.9	+11.7	+13.4
WELLAND AND NENE	42.0	+12.6	+13.0
GREAT OUSE	41.7	+12.5	+12.2
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK	48.2	+11.2	+12.8
ESSEX	52.6	+13.2	+10.2
LEE DIVISION	42.1	+13.6	+10.2
THAMES CONSERVANCY	38.4	+14.1	+10.7
LONDON AREA	43.2	+13.9	+11.4
KENT	47.7	+ 9.3	+13.7
SUSSEX	36.4	+10.3	+11.8
HAMPSHIRE	35.2	+14.2	+ 9.5
ISLE OF WIGHT	42.3	+14.7	+13.0
UPPER THAMES	36.4	+14.2	+11.1
AVON AND DORSET	33.5	+15.3	+ 8.3
DEVON	30.6	+17.6	+ 6.0
CORNWALL	31.1	+19.2	+ 7.6
SOMERSET	32.0	+17.1	+ 6.0
BRISTOL AVON	32.9	+15.5	+ 8.7
SEVERN	32.6	+13.8	+ 8.5
WYE	27.4	+15.0	+ 7.1
USK	27.8	+16.3	+ 7.8
GLAMORGAN	27.5	+16.5	+ 5.6
SOUTH WEST WALES	22.5	+14.8	+ 2.4
GWYNEDD	21.6	+13.9	- 0.9
DEE AND CLWYD	23.4	+13.0	- 0.7
MERSEY AND WEAVER	22.4	+11.6	- 2.6
LANCASHIRE	15.0	+12.5	- 1.7
CUMBRIA	17.0	+13.1	+ 1.6

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



