



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT ON 15 MAY 1974

Since the issue of the last bulletin (17 April 1974) the dry spell continued until 27 April over much of the country. Rain fell over most of England and Wales on 27 April and over most of Scotland on 28 April. It was generally the driest April over Scotland since records began in 1879 and generally the driest over England and Wales since 1957. So far the May rainfall has been well above average in South-West England but below average over Scotland and much of Eastern England. Thunderstorms were reported in South-East England on 1 May and in parts of Scotland on 10 May.

Above average evaporation and very low rainfall have combined to produce deficits in Scotland which are extremely high for this time of year. Apart from Cornwall and South Devon, the deficits over England and Wales resemble those of an average end-of-June situation. Short rooted deficits exceed 75 mm over most of East Anglia, Lincolnshire, East Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, London and low lying districts of North-West England.

NB. The map using the "Composite Land Use" is still based on deficits calculated as set out in the explanatory notes.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION: £4.00 per season (post free)

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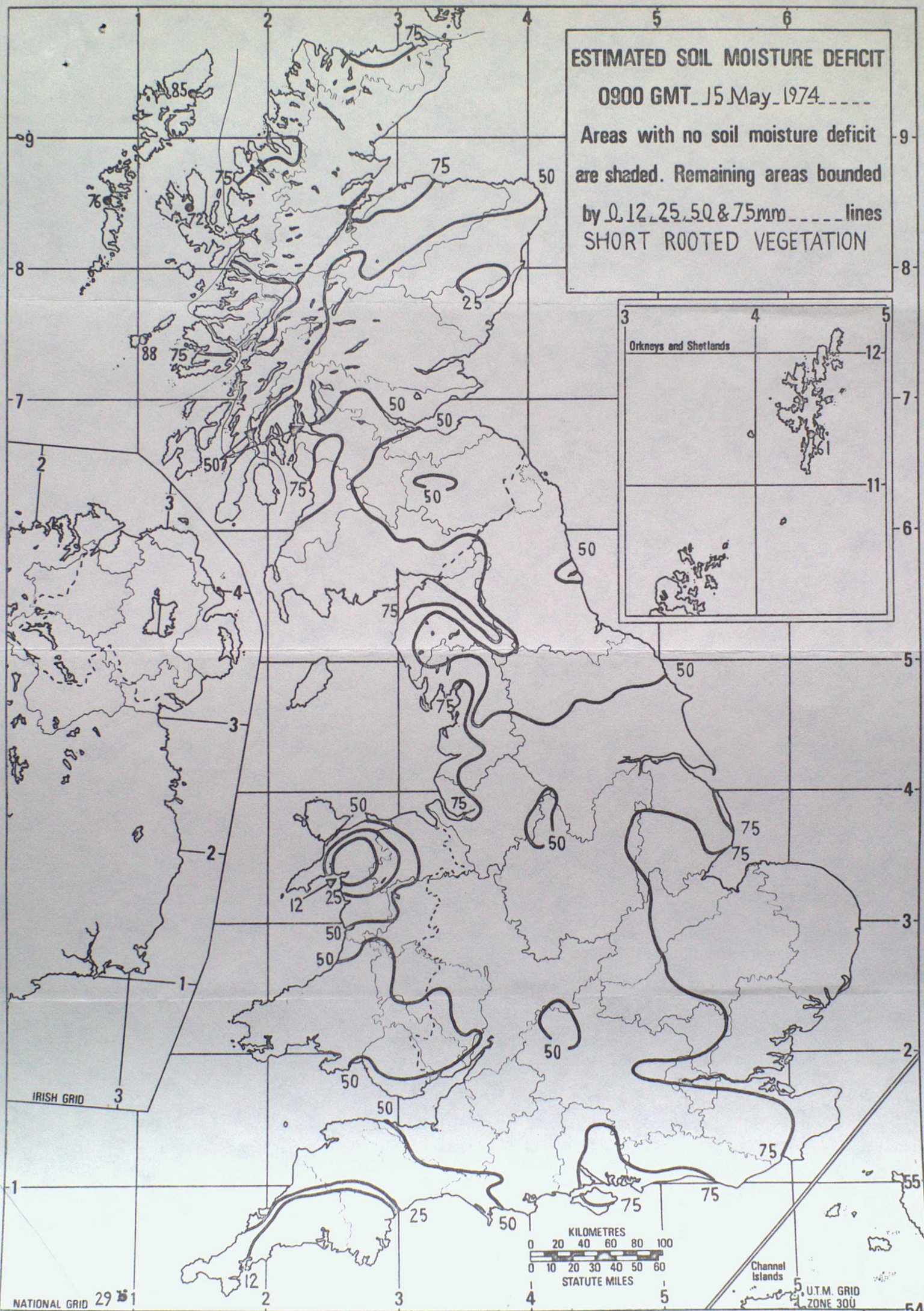
Issued on 16 May 1974

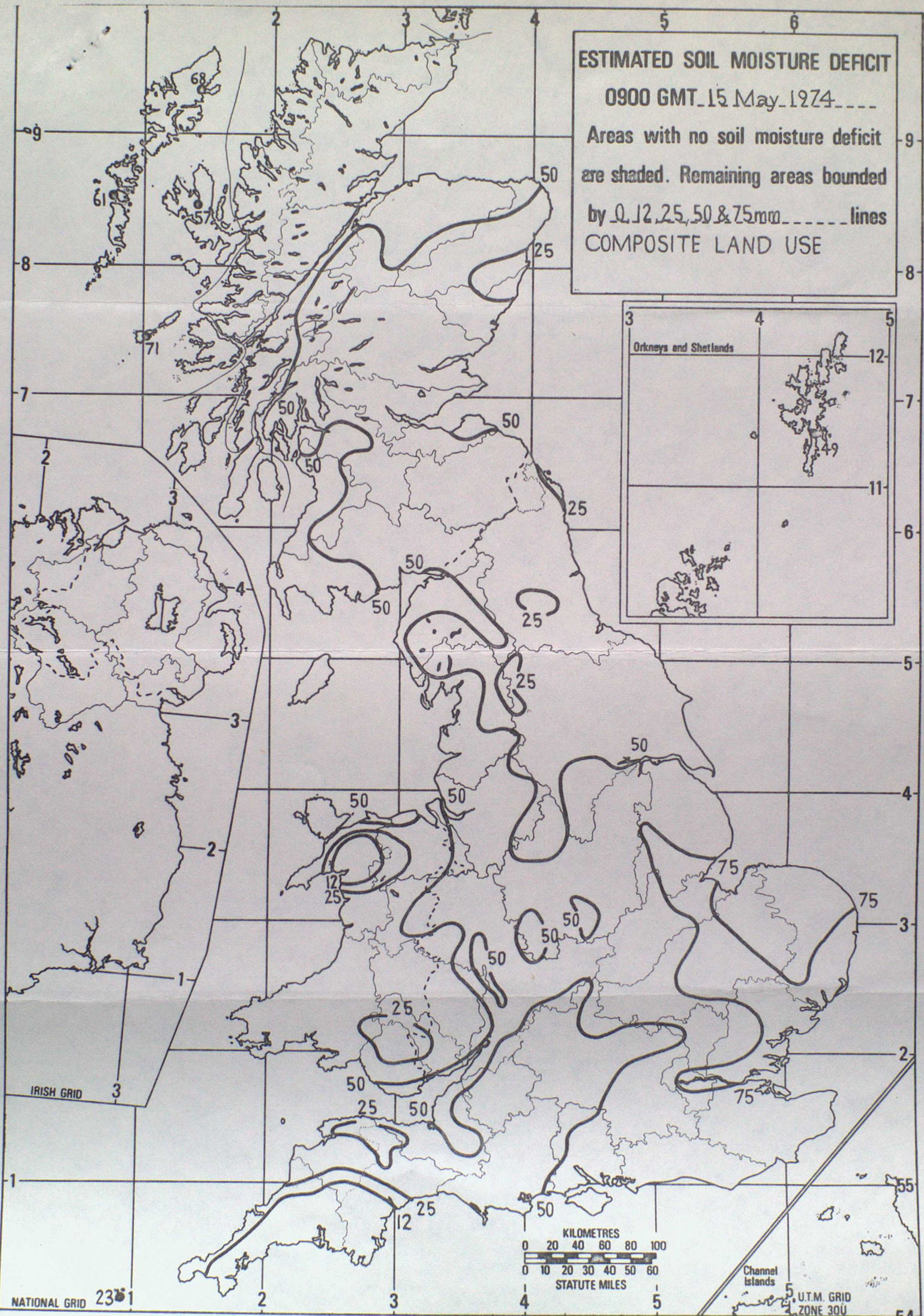
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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (SMD) AT 09 GMT ON 15 MAY 1974

River Authority Area	Estimated Areal SMD MM	Change During the Week Ending 09 GMT On		
		15 May 74 MM	8 May 74 MM	1 May 74 MM
Northumbrian	35.2	- 0.1	+ 4.9	+ 2.3
Yorkshire	41.7	+ 9.7	+ 2.0	+ 8.5
Trent	51.2	+ 9.0	+ 4.2	+ 7.8
Lincolnshire	67.3	+ 10.8	+ 8.4	+ 10.8
Welland and Nene	67.3	+ 11.4	+ 6.5	+ 7.5
Great Ouse	65.7	+ 9.7	+ 6.6	+ 6.5
East Suffolk and Norfolk	69.5	+ 10.3	+ 9.4	+ 7.5
Essex	80.2	+ 12.7	+ 9.0	+ 5.1
Lee Conservancy	62.8	+ 11.1	+ 7.3	+ 3.0
Thames Conservancy	51.9	+ 5.2	+ 5.4	+ 5.1
London Area	64.8	+ 9.2	+ 8.6	+ 4.1
Kent	63.4	+ 9.0	+ 9.6	+ 0.4
Sussex	57.0	+ 5.8	+ 5.9	+ 1.1
Hampshire	52.4	+ 3.1	+ 2.0	+ 6.1
Isle of Wight	64.2	+ 13.5	+ 1.6	+ 8.0
Avon and Dorset	40.6	- 3.4	+ 1.8	+ 5.5
Devon	24.2	- 8.3	- 7.2	+ 7.6
Cornwall	13.5	- 10.7	- 15.7	+ 5.1
Somerset	39.2	- 5.0	+ 1.3	+ 7.8
Bristol Avon	46.9	- 2.6	+ 5.8	+ 8.3
Severn	49.6	+ 3.9	+ 4.3	+ 8.7
Wye	43.7	- 1.3	+ 4.2	+ 8.8
Usk	36.7	- 6.2	+ 2.1	+ 7.6
Glamorgan	36.5	- 6.4	+ 0.5	+ 7.1
South West Wales	36.7	- 5.9	+ 2.6	+ 8.0
Gwynedd	36.6	- 5.5	- 4.8	+ 11.5
Dee and Clwyd	39.6	- 1.9	- 3.5	+ 10.8
Mersey and Weaver	50.0	+ 9.4	- 1.8	+ 10.3
Lancashire	55.4	+ 7.8	+ 0.4	+ 11.9
Cumberland	52.4	- 0.4	+ 7.1	+ 8.3

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



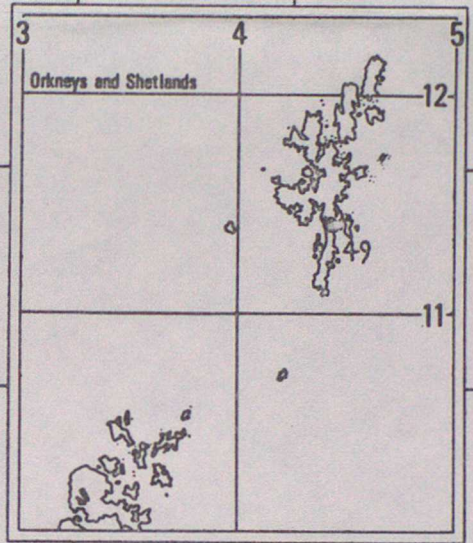


ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT

0900 GMT 15 May 1974----

Areas with no soil moisture deficit
are shaded. Remaining areas bounded

by 0, 12, 25, 50 & 75mm-----lines
COMPOSITE LAND USE



IRISH GRID

NATIONAL GRID 23 1

KILOMETRES
0 20 40 60 80 100
0 10 20 30 40 50 60
STATUTE MILES

Channel
Islands

U.T.M. GRID
ZONE 30U