



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT ON 29 SEPTEMBER 1982

Scotland, especially in the north, has been unsettled for most of September and the last fortnight has seen little change to this general pattern. The rest of Great Britain was under the influence of high pressure to the south of the country at the beginning of the period and this resulted in dry sunny weather over most areas.

The dry weather continued in most southern areas until 19th although scattered thunderstorms drifted north from France on 17th and 18th to affect the extreme south. On 18th a cold front brought rain to northern areas as it slowly progressed south. This front eventually became stationary over central areas before returning north on 19th, as a complex frontal system. An unsettled westerly airstream then became established and persisted for the rest of the period. Thunderstorms occurred on several days, in the unstable air, between the frontal systems which moved across the area.

We have not yet received any reports of heavy falls for short durations, but among the heavy falls so far received for the 24 hour 09-09 GMT rainfall day are the following:

- 47 mm fell at Brynammon (South Wales) on the 19th
- 51 mm fell at Penmain (South Wales) on the 19th
- 40 mm fell at Milford Haven (South Wales) on the 20th
- 41 mm fell at Cilfynydd (South Wales) on the 22nd
- 41 mm fell at Benbecula (Western Isles) on the 24th
- 43 mm fell at Eskmeals (Lake District) on the 24th
- 43 mm fell at Snaefell (Isle of Man) on the 27th

The wettest day generally over Great Britain during the last fortnight was the 24th with a general value of 13.8 mm over England and Wales and 22.5 mm over Scotland.

The east coastal strip of England north of the Wash and the extreme Southeast had less than average rainfall. All other parts of Great Britain had near or more than normal. Individual reports ranged from 41% of average at Tynemouth to 311% of average at Milford Haven.

Areal deficits have decreased in all areas where they existed a fortnight ago and large areas in the west are now at field capacity. In spite of this, most eastern river board areas of England and Wales still have above average deficits.

FHA

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Issued 30 September 1982

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT ON 29 SEP 1982

RIVER AREA	*AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED S.M.D. mm	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON	
		29 Sep 82	22 Sep 82
NORTHUMBRIAN	69.0 (43)	- 0.2	- 0.5
YORKSHIRE	62.9 (51)	- 8.5	- 6.3
TRENT	48.7 (55)	- 11.1	- 15.1
LINCOLNSHIRE	90.8 (80)	- 6.4	- 10.3
WELLAND AND NENE	87.4 (74)	- 10.1	- 13.8
GREAT OUSE	89.2 (78)	- 18.5	- 12.3
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK	105.7 (87)	- 4.5	- 9.3
ESSEX	103.6 (92)	- 20.8	- 4.5
LEE DIVISION	92.8 (78)	- 17.1	- 2.8
THAMES CONSERVANCY	82.0 (71)	- 18.8	- 4.4
LONDON AREA	94.8 (84)	- 18.5	- 4.3
KENT	108.0 (80)	- 18.7	- 3.4
SUSSEX	81.6 (70)	- 28.6	- 5.8
HAMPSHIRE	68.8 (74)	- 27.8	- 2.2
ISLE OF WIGHT	85.6 -	- 20.8	- 1.1
UPPER THAMES	90.7 -	- 23.8	- 5.9
AVON AND DORSET	66.8 (54)	- 29.7	- 2.1
DEVON	38.3 (51)	- 32.8	- 3.1
CORNWALL	10.3 (30)	- 23.8	- 8.4
SOMERSET	48.4 (46)	- 31.0	+ 0.6
BRISTOL AVON	67.1 (52)	- 29.1	- 4.4
SEVERN	49.7 (52)	- 23.7	- 13.6
WYE	23.4 (31)	- 43.4	- 13.4
USK	20.2 (26)	- 35.2	- 12.6
GLAMORGAN	21.7 -	- 30.1	- 10.7
SOUTH WEST WALES	2.0 (18)	- 31.2	- 22.1
GWYNEDD	13.0 (17)	- 24.6	- 16.1
DEE AND CLWYD	30.4 (37)	- 15.4	- 13.9
MERSEY AND WEAVER	33.0 (33)	- 12.3	- 15.6
LANCASHIRE	1.3 (21)	- 6.2	- 16.4
CUMBRIA	4.2 (25)	- 24.0	- 4.6

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

* Where available, the approximate average values of SMD for areal land use, for the time of year, are given in brackets.



