

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AND POTENTIAL

· EVAPOTRANSPIRATION OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 ON 28 OCTOBER 1981

The most notable feature of the weather over the last fortnight was a frontal system which moved south during the 18th and 19th giving general values of 13.7 mm in Scotland on the 18th and 16.5 mm in England and Wales on the 19th. Mainly small amounts of rain fell from the 20th to 23rd but 28 mm occurred at Cromer on the 20th with more than 20 mm on the North York Moors and over southwest England. More widespread rain fell on the 24th with a general value of 11.2 mm over England and Wales and point rainfalls of 20 mm at Liverpool, 30 mm at Manchester and more than 25 mm once again fell over the moors of southwest England. Most places had rain or showers on the 25th with isolated thunderstorms being reported from the Welsh coast and the London area. Amounts of rain on the 26th and 27th were mainly less than 10 mm but there were reports of rainfall up to 20 mm in upland areas of Scotland and northern England.

Rainfall for the fortnight was more than average over England and Wales, with the exception of the extreme north, and more than twice the average rainfall was reported over the coasts of north Cornwall and north Pembroke. Large areas of central Scotland, on the other hand, had less than 50% of the average with only 9% of average being reported from Leuchars. In Scotland only the extreme north-west had more than the average rainfall.

Over all river divisions of England and Wales, mean deficits for areal land use are lower than they were a fortnight ago, although deficits have increased during the last week in the Thames Conservancy, Lee, London and Great Ouse areas. Mean deficits for all areas are now below the seasonal average. The greatest departure from average is over Sussex division where soils everywhere are virtually at capacity.

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT on 28 OCTOBER 1981

RIVER AREA	AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED S.M.D. MM	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON	
		28 OCT 81 MM	21 OCT 81 MM
NORTHUMBRIAN	20.6	- 7.3	+ 2.4
YORKSHIRE	26.0	- 9.0	- 1.7
TRENT	25.5	- 3.3	- 7.6
LINCOLNSHIRE	73.6	- 4.2	- 4.9
WELLAND AND NENE	49.3	- 2.7	- 8.5
GREAT OUSE	50.7	+ 1.3	-13.4
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK	54.9	- 6.9	-19.0
ESSEX	60.9	- 3.5	-17.3
LEE DIVISION	40.5	+ 5.2	-17.1
THAMES CONSERVANCY	25.7	+ 1.4	-12.4
LONDON AREA	23.3	+ 2.6	-11.2
KENT	19.0	- 2.8	-14.4
SUSSEX	1.0	- 1.1	- 6.8
HAMPSHIRE	8.9	- 2.4	- 8.3
ISLE OF WIGHT	21.5	- 1.8	- 4.8
UPPER THAMES	28.1	- 1.3	- 7.4
AVON AND DORSET	10.8	- 1.5	- 8.1
DEVON	5.6	- 1.0	- 6.0
CORNWALL	0.0	0.0	- 1.7
SOMERSET	12.2	- 2.0	- 7.8
BRISTOL AVON	14.3	- 1.5	- 9.2
SEVERN	14.6	- 2.7	- 8.1
WYE	3.9	- 1.5	- 1.7
USK	0.0	0.0	- 0.7
GLAMORGAN	0.0	0.0	- 0.7
SOUTH WEST WALES	0.0	0.0	- 0.6
GWYNEDD	0.2	- 1.6	- 1.1
DEE AND CLWYD	1.5	- 3.7	- 6.1
MERSEY AND WEAVER	1.5	- 2.4	- 3.8
LANCASHIRE	0.0	0.0	- 0.1
CUMBRIA	0.1	- 0.4	+ 0.2

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



