



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT 12 MAY 1982

The predominantly dry weather, which was in evidence over most areas at the end of the period covered by the last Bulletin, slowly broke down, with precipitation reaching northern parts at the beginning of the present period and the southern half of the country by the beginning of May.

From the 1st to 6th May most of the precipitation fell as showers, although there were some longer periods of either rain or snow. Most of the snow fell over Scotland although there were reports of snow over high ground as far south as central England and coastal districts of southwest England had some sleet on the 5th. Some of the showers were heavy with hail and thunder being reported over southern England mainly on the 3rd, 4th and 5th May.

Dry weather again reached northern areas on the 7th May and southern parts by the 8th. Most parts have remained dry since then although some places have had the occasional shower and southwestern England had small amounts of rain on the last day of the period.

The wettest day in Scotland was the 2nd May which had a provisional general value of 19 mm with nearly 40 mm being recorded over the high ground of southwestern Scotland during the 09-09 GMT rainfall day.

The wettest day in England and Wales was the 5th May with a general value of 7 mm although most of the heaviest rainfall fell in the southern half of the area.

Cornwall and southeastern England with the exception of the south coast had near or above average rainfall. All other parts of England and Wales have had less than the normal rainfall during the last fortnight.

Scotland, with the exception of the eastern and southeastern coastal regions, had more than the average rainfall, (or rainfall equivalent of snow), with high ground over central and southwestern Scotland and an area in extreme northwestern Scotland having more than twice the average.

Despite the unsettled spell at the beginning of May mean deficits for areal land use over all the river divisions of England and Wales are now higher than they were a fortnight ago and all are above the seasonal average. The northwest of Scotland has deficits higher than they were a fortnight ago but the deficits have decreased over the rest of Scotland.

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT ON 12 MAY 1982

RIVER AREA	AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED S.M.D. MM	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON	
		12 MAY 1982	5 MAY 1982
NORTHUMBRIAN	50.9	+ 11.6	+ 1.0
YORKSHIRE	61.4	+ 16.8	+ 2.8
TRENT	56.3	+ 16.3	+ 5.5
LINCOLNSHIRE	77.3	+ 17.9	+ 9.6
WELLAND AND NENE	68.7	+ 15.8	+ 8.4
GREAT OUSE	60.6	+ 9.6	+ 7.5
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK	68.5	+ 3.8	+ 7.8
ESSEX	65.4	+ 4.2	+ 8.1
LEE DIVISION	47.4	+ 3.7	+ 6.7
THAMES CONSERVANCY	46.9	+ 5.5	+ 5.4
LONDON AREA	45.0	+ 2.6	+ 6.9
KENT	61.7	+ 9.3	+ 8.3
SUSSEX	50.8	+ 4.9	+ 8.5
HAMPSHIRE	47.9	+ 1.3	+ 9.4
ISLE OF WIGHT	46.9	+ 1.6	+ 7.7
UPPER THAMES	54.6	+ 13.8	+ 5.2
AVON AND DORSET	55.5	+ 8.4	+ 9.1
DEVON	52.3	+ 4.3	+ 6.1
CORNWALL	45.0	- 3.1	+ 4.5
SOMERSET	56.3	+ 6.3	+ 8.1
BRISTOL AVON	58.0	+ 10.2	+ 8.5
SEVERN	54.4	+ 12.5	+ 6.5
WYE	56.8	+ 13.9	+ 7.4
USK	57.2	+ 14.8	+ 5.3
GLAMORGAN	54.7	+ 14.7	+ 2.7
SOUTH WEST WALES	57.4	+ 15.3	+ 5.7
GWYNEDD	48.9	+ 12.6	+ 2.0
DEE AND CLWYD	48.6	+ 12.8	+ 1.9
MERSEY AND WEAVER	48.5	+ 15.2	- 1.1
LANCASHIRE	44.1	+ 13.2	- 5.6
CUMBRIA	38.7	+ 11.8	- 6.8

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



