



METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

AT 0900 ON 12 JULY 1978

Following the issue of the previous bulletin (29 June 1978), weather became generally unsettled, mainly cool with frequent rainfall. The rainfall was generally small in amount but there were important exceptions. On 29 June, as a slow moving trough cleared eastern Britain, heavy rain, thundery in character, fell in an area extending from west of London through the east Midlands to Lincolnshire; amounts were particularly large in south Lincolnshire, with 74 mm being recorded a little to the north of Boston and 50 mm over a large area. Further heavy rain, exceeding 15 mm, even at lowland stations, occurred in north-west England on 1 July. Up to 2 July, amounts of rainfall had been generally smaller over Scotland than over England and Wales but on 3rd heavy rain fell over a wide area of north-east Scotland with more than 80 mm reported on the Cairngorms. There was further heavy rainfall on 4th in the Aberdeen area and also in the Vale of York and north-east England; thunderstorms were reported on that day in south-east England and the east Midlands but amounts were not generally large. The period from the 5th was somewhat drier, particularly over Scotland and, latterly, warmer but amounts exceeded 10 mm in the London area on 8th and 25 mm (with values perhaps exceeding 50 mm on the Moors) on 10th in south-west England, where a front had become stationary.

Over the fortnight rainfall was about 20 per cent above average over England and Wales but, despite the heavy rain of 3 July, amounts over Scotland were about 30 per cent below average, continuing the remarkable spell of dry weather which has persisted from early April over Scotland generally.

Areal mean deficits (for the former River Authority areas) were below average for the time of year in eastern England with the lowest values 51 and 48 per cent in Lincolnshire and Norfolk and Suffolk respectively. Areal values in the west were generally above average except for Dee and Clwyd and Mersey and Weaver. Areal values for RPB areas were above average generally but were below average for the North East and about average for the Tay.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION: £15.00 per season (post free)

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ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.)

AT 09 GMT ON 12 JULY 1978

River Area	Estimated Areal	Change during the Week Ending 09 GMT on	
	S.M.D. MM	12 July 1978 MM	12 July 1978 MM
Northumbrian	61.5	+ 13.3	- 16.5
Yorkshire	62.0	+ 15.3	- 14.0
Trent	53.0	+ 10.0	- 12.4
Lincolnshire	39.9	+ 10.4	- 22.3
Welland and Nene	52.1	+ 8.6	- 13.9
Great Ouse	56.1	+ 7.5	- 7.7
Norfolk and Suffolk	42.6	+ 8.3	- 13.4
Essex	75.7	+ 8.3	- 5.9
Lee Division	66.7	+ 8.0	- 2.5
Thames Conservancy	74.0	+ 5.8	- 0.1
London Area	89.0	+ 5.9	+ 1.0
Kent	84.8	+ 4.7	- 0.1
Sussex	87.2	+ 3.5	+ 2.9
Hampshire	78.3	+ 4.9	+ 0.6
Isle of Wight	98.3	+ 3.5	+ 4.8
Upper Thames	85.0	+ 9.3	- 1.1
Avon and Dorset	93.5	+ 5.7	- 0.6
Devon	63.1	- 11.7	- 3.0
Cornwall	55.3	- 13.5	- 7.9
Somerset	84.2	- 1.6	- 0.9
Bristol Avon	90.3	+ 5.2	+ 1.4
Severn	72.7	+ 10.8	- 2.9
Wye	71.8	+ 9.1	- 2.6
Usk	58.4	+ 1.7	- 7.5
Glamorgan	47.1	- 8.6	- 11.5
South West Wales	64.2	- 7.3	- 8.6
Gwynedd	46.2	+ 5.7	- 11.5
Dee and Clwyd	39.8	+ 9.6	- 9.3
Mersey and Weaver	46.0	+ 9.7	- 13.9
Lancashire	48.2	+ 19.2	- 20.8
Cumbria	63.4	+ 15.1	- 14.9

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



