

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAINSOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT AT 0900 GMT ON 5 JANUARY 1983

Unsettled weather continued to affect northern and western areas of Great Britain during the last fortnight, but increasing pressure to the south of the British Isles brought dry weather to many southern and eastern parts of England during the first part of the period. This in turn gave way at the very beginning of the new year to a more mobile westerly airstream which brought frontal systems back over southern areas. There have been reports during these last few days of strong winds and heavy rain which have caused considerable damage and flooding in some places. During the first few days of the period there were several reports of snow especially over high ground in the north and west but small amounts were reported as far south as Sussex and Kent on 23rd although these soon turned to rain as milder air moved in from the west. There was also some wintry precipitation over Scotland on 1st and 2nd of January.

The wettest day over Scotland was the rainfall day of 2nd January 1983 with a general value of 14.4 mm and over England and Wales it was 3rd January with a general value of 13.4 mm, rainfall values of over 50 mm were recorded over the moors of south western England and high ground in South Wales for the 24 hour 09-09 GMT rainfall day of the 3rd.

During the two week period covered by this bulletin, extreme west Wales, southern England and eastern areas of England and Scotland have generally had less than average rainfall, while western areas have had near or more than average. Individual reports so far received range from 25% of average for the period at Manston in Kent to 214% of average at Glasgow Airport.

The provisional general value of rainfall over England and Wales for December 1982 was 97 mm which is 107% of the 1941-70 average for December, while the provisional general value for December 1982 over Scotland is 177 mm which is 113% of the average.

The provisional general value of rainfall over Scotland for the 5 month period from August to December 1982 is 949 mm this would make it the wettest similar period since records began in 1869.

A provisional general value for England and Wales for the whole of 1982 is 964 mm which would make it 106% of the 1941-70 annual average rainfall while for Scotland the provisional general value for 1982 is 1630 mm or 114% of the 1941-70 Annual Average. General values using more data will, of course, be calculated later.

All deficits where they exist are now under long rooted vegetation, and as these are now small and continue to decrease steadily this will be the last bulletin issued.

We would like to thank all the subscribers who have supported the Estimated Soil Moisture Deficit bulletin during its twenty year span and would remind you that the Meteorological Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System (MORECS) will continue to be published at weekly intervals. Explanatory leaflets and price lists for MORECS will be set out sometime in February.

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5 January 1983

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT (S.M.D.) AT 09 GMT ON 5 JAN 1983

RIVER AREA	AREAL LAND USE ESTIMATED S.M.D. mm	CHANGE DURING THE WEEK ENDING 09 GMT ON	
		5 JAN 83 mm	29 DEC 82 mm
NORTHUMBRIAN	4.3	- 0.8	- 0.8
YORKSHIRE	2.0	- 0.5	- 0.1
TRENT	2.1	- 1.1	- 0.3
LINCOLNSHIRE	6.3	- 3.2	- 1.5
WELLAND AND NENE	4.4	- 2.0	- 0.7
GREAT OUSE	1.7	- 1.5	- 0.2
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK	1.0	- 1.1	+ 0.4
ESSEX	2.4	- 1.4	+ 0.3
LEE DIVISION	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
THAMES CONSERVANCY	0.2	- 0.6	+ 0.2
LONDON AREA	0.0	- 0.4	+ 0.4
KENT	0.6	- 0.5	+ 0.3
SUSSEX	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
HAMPSHIRE	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
ISLE OF WIGHT	0.0	- 0.3	+ 0.3
UPPER THAMES	0.6	- 1.0	+ 0.1
AVON AND DORSET	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
DEVON	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
CORNWALL	0.0	0.0	0.0
SOMERSET	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
BRISTOL AVON	0.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
SEVERN	0.5	- 0.3	0.0
WYE	0.0	0.0	0.0
USK	0.0	0.0	0.0
GLAMORGAN	0.0	0.0	0.0
SOUTH WEST WALES	0.0	0.0	0.0
GWYNEDD	0.0	0.0	0.0
DEE AND CLWYD	0.0	0.0	0.0
MERSEY AND WEAVER	0.0	0.0	0.0
LANCASHIRE	0.0	0.0	0.0
CUMBRIA	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

