

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

ESTIMATED SOIL MOISTURE DEFICIT OVER GREAT BRITAIN

AT 0900 ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1978



Following the publication of the last bulletin (30 August 1978), general rainfall occurred over most of Britain, except south-west England, on 31 August but amounts were mainly small. The period 1 to 4 September was dry in most places, although slight rainfall occurred here and there, particularly in Scotland. The 5th and 6th were days of general rainfall, midland and north-west England and south-west Scotland being especially wet on 5th; thunderstorms, mainly slight occurred in south-east England and East Anglia on 6th. The period from 7th was mainly dry over most of England and Wales with slight amounts of rain from place to place. Weather from 5th continued unsettled over Scotland and north-west England and some exceptionally heavy rain fell in the three days, 8th-10th, over western Scotland and north-west England. The 9th was the wettest day of the three and amounts exceeded 40 mm in areas surrounding Loch Linnhe, Loch Fyne and the Firth of Clyde; the area of heavy rainfall extended over the Plain of Ayr, the Glasgow area and across the Central Lowlands to the Firth of Forth. Extensive flooding occurred in parts of south-west Scotland. The 8th was probably the wettest day in the Lake District and on 10th, the area of heavy rain extended into the northern and central Pennines. Very heavy rain fell in northern Scotland on 12th, one of the wettest days of the year over Scotland generally.

Rainfall for the fortnight was below average over most of England and Wales and well below in parts of southern England. The average was exceeded generally in England north of the Vale of York and Fylde and over most of Scotland.

Over most river area of England and Wales deficits have increased in the fortnight, albeit slightly, and over many rivers deficits are now at the highest point for the year. Deficits, however, have decreased sharply over northern river areas, Northumbrian, Mersey and Weaver, Lancashire and Cumbria. Deficits are below average for the time of year over England, north of Mersey and Weaver to Norfolk and Suffolk (except for Trent, slightly above average); elsewhere, deficits are above average and well above in south-west England and most of Wales. Deficits have decreased sharply over all River Purification Board areas in the past fortnight; they are now about average in Solway, Highlands and Tweed generally and are below average elsewhere, particularly in Clyde and North East.

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

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

AT 09 GMT ON 13 SEP 1978

River Area	Estimated Areal	Change during the Week Ending 09 GMT on	
	S.M.D. MM	13 Sep 1978 MM	6 Sep 1978 MM
Northumbrian	36.8	- 8.7	- 11.5
Yorkshire	50.0	+ 2.6	- 6.3
Trent	62.3	+ 6.5	- 2.7
Lincolnshire	66.6	+ 8.3	+ 1.3
Welland and Nene	81.3	+ 9.6	+ 0.2
Great Ouse	88.9	+ 9.4	+ 1.9
Norfolk and Suffolk	81.8	+ 1.2	+ 2.4
Essex	114.2	+ 6.0	+ 1.3
Lee Division	105.6	+ 3.6	+ 1.3
Thames Conservancy	90.5	+ 3.1	+ 4.0
London Area	111.4	+ 4.6	+ 1.0
Kent	110.9	+ 2.9	+ 1.1
Sussex	103.1	- 3.1	+ 4.3
Hampshire	86.6	+ 5.4	+ 6.0
Isle of Wight	118.4	+ 3.4	+ 7.8
Upper Thames	85.5	+ 1.6	+ 4.7
Avon and Dorset	87.5	+ 7.1	+ 7.4
Devon	85.4	+ 3.6	+ 4.9
Cornwall	85.4	+ 4.1	+ 4.3
Somerset	83.1	+ 3.8	+ 6.1
Dristol Avon	92.1	+ 6.7	+ 5.3
Severn	72.9	+ 2.6	+ 3.4
Wye	83.6	+ 6.2	+ 4.7
Usk	67.3	+ 4.8	+ 4.4
Glamorgan	52.5	+ 2.7	+ 3.6
South West Wales	41.5	- 7.2	+ 7.1
Gwynedd	45.2	- 0.1	+ 4.7
Dee and Clwyd	41.2	- 5.7	+ 3.2
Mersey and Weaver	32.7	- 7.3	- 3.4
Lancashire	17.4	- 10.9	- 10.0
Cumbria	32.0	- 21.8	- 9.0

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

