



Soil moisture on 31 March 2021 (see back page for explanatory comments).

Notes on period to 31 March 2021

After what has been a wet winter with above normal soil wetness, a period of dry weather has generally seen soil wetness return to levels normal for the time of year, but with some regional variability.

Provisional data for March indicated that precipitation was below average over most of England, Wales and the east coast of Scotland, with some areas recording less than half of the long-term average. Elsewhere precipitation was generally closer to average, but there was above average precipitation notably in north Wales, the Lake District and north-west Scotland.

During the last six weeks many sites across the UK have seen a return to normal levels of soil wetness after what was a very wet winter (e.g. Bickley Hall, Lullington Heath, North Wyke).

At some sites to the east of England the fall in soil moisture has been particularly rapid, and with a few days of dry and exceptionally warm weather at the end of the month, soil is drier than normal for the time of year, with significant soil moisture deficits developing (e.g. Hollin Hill, Riseholme, Rothamsted). Dry springs have been a feature of recent years and 2021 is, at present, following a similar pattern.

To the north and west at sites that have had above normal rainfall during March, soil wetness levels are above normal for the time of year (e.g. Fivemiletown, Hartwood Home), and this is also true of some sites in southern central England (e.g. Cardington, Waddesdon).

Network News

- Cosmic-ray neutron sensor faults at Easter Bush and Loddington.
- The site at Hollin Hill has now been recording data for 7 years.





