

Water Scarcity Situation Report

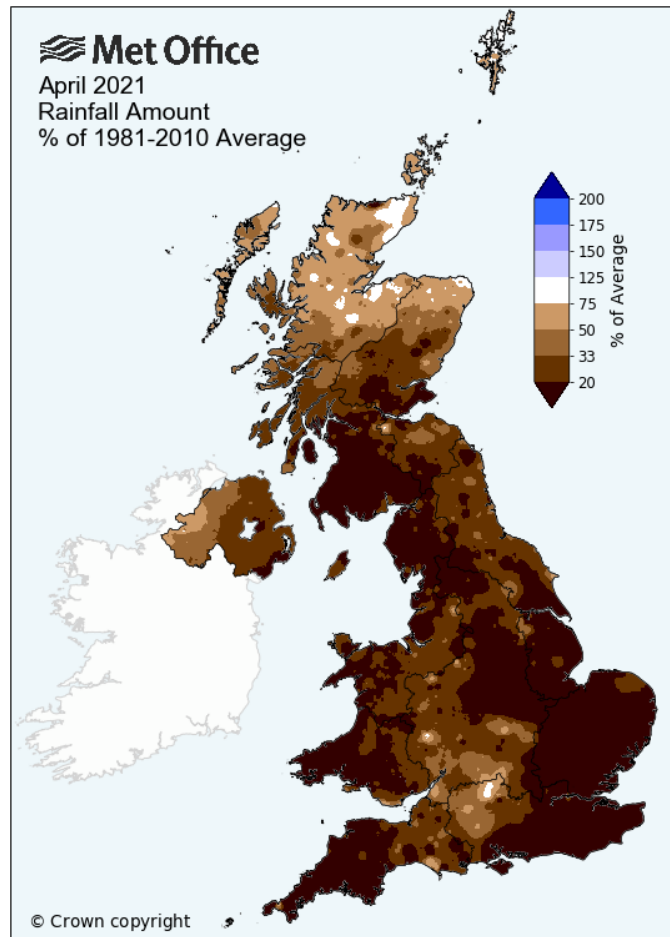
12 May 2021

CURRENT SITUATION

The risk of impacts from water scarcity are currently normal.

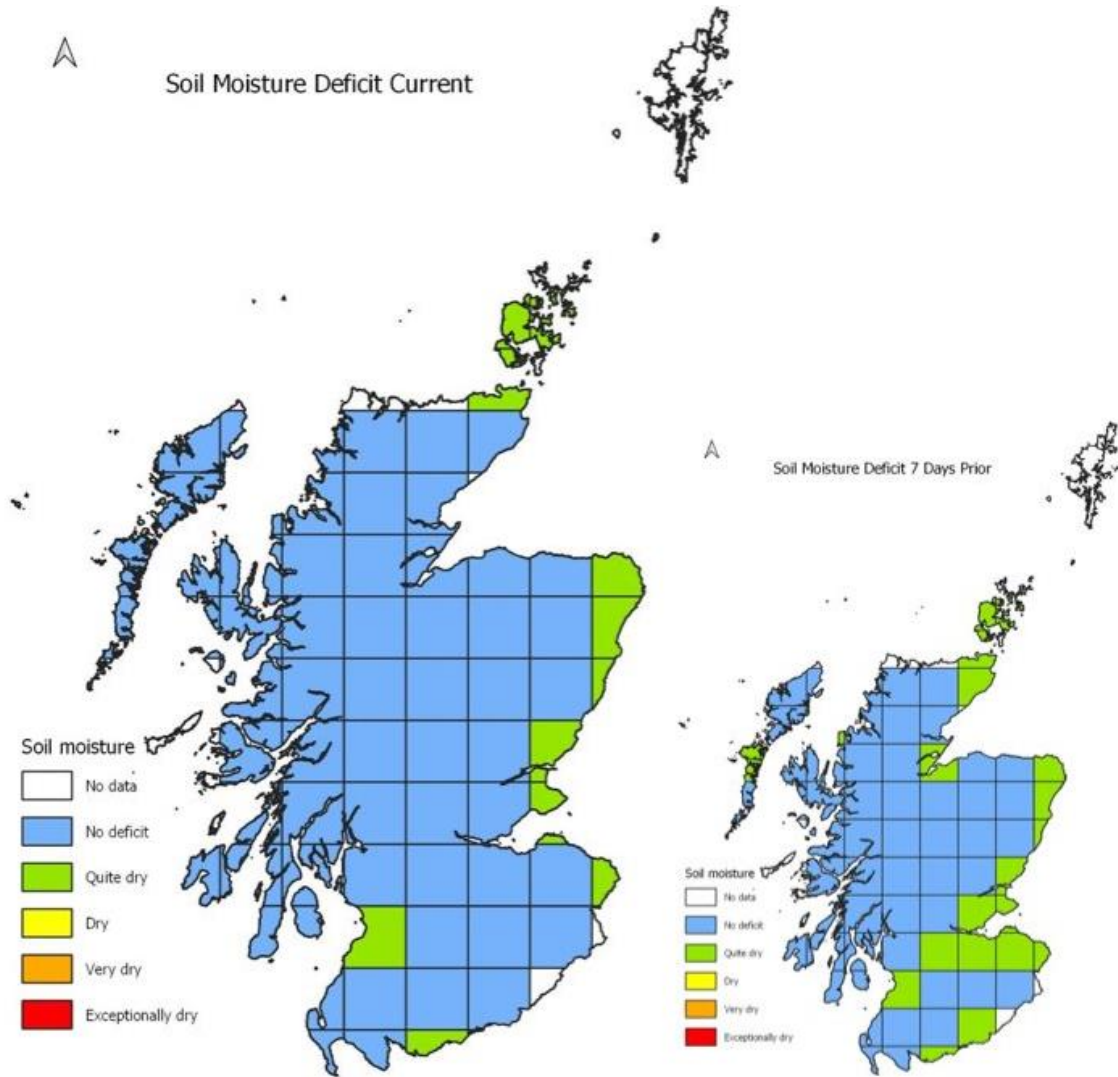
Situation Summary

Scotland experienced an extremely dry April. There was less than a third of the normal monthly rainfall across most of the southern half of the country. This caused water levels to fall rapidly and ground conditions became increasingly dry. However, the April rainfall deficit has been partly balanced by wet weather across the country in early May. Ground conditions have broadly recovered, with low or no soil moisture deficit across most regions. Some east coast and south west catchments and Orkney remain quite dry though. Groundwater levels have risen or levelled at all of SEPA's monitored sites. Levels are all within the normal or high range for the time of year. Given the high rainfall deficit in April, conditions could deteriorate quickly if a period of prolonged dry weather returns. SEPA will continue to monitor the situation closely.



Forecast

Further showers are forecast in the short term, but rainfall totals are expected to be much lower than in the first half of May. The longer term forecast for the UK suggests that there is a lower likelihood of dry conditions over the next 3 months.

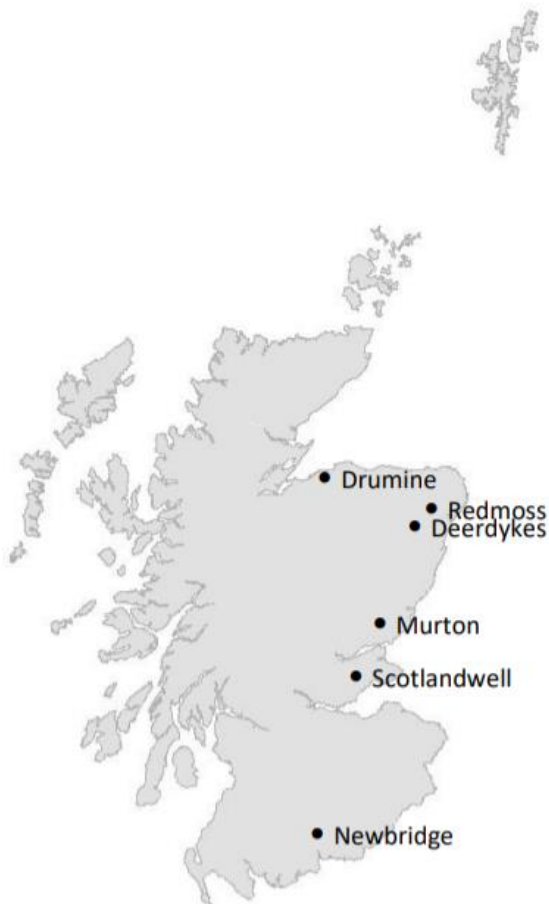


These maps depict the current latest Soil Moisture Deficit (11th May 2021) and 7 days prior for comparison. Based on the MORECS data obtained from the Met Office.



Natural water storage situation

In each river catchment there is some degree of water storage, which can maintain river flows even when it is not raining. This natural water storage is mainly held in lochs and groundwater. When natural storage has been depleted it will take a lot of rainfall for levels to recover.



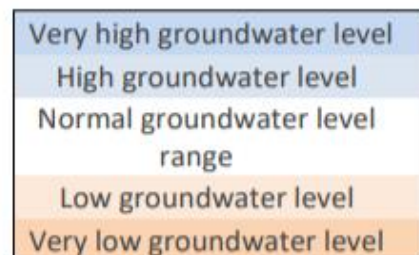
11th May 2021

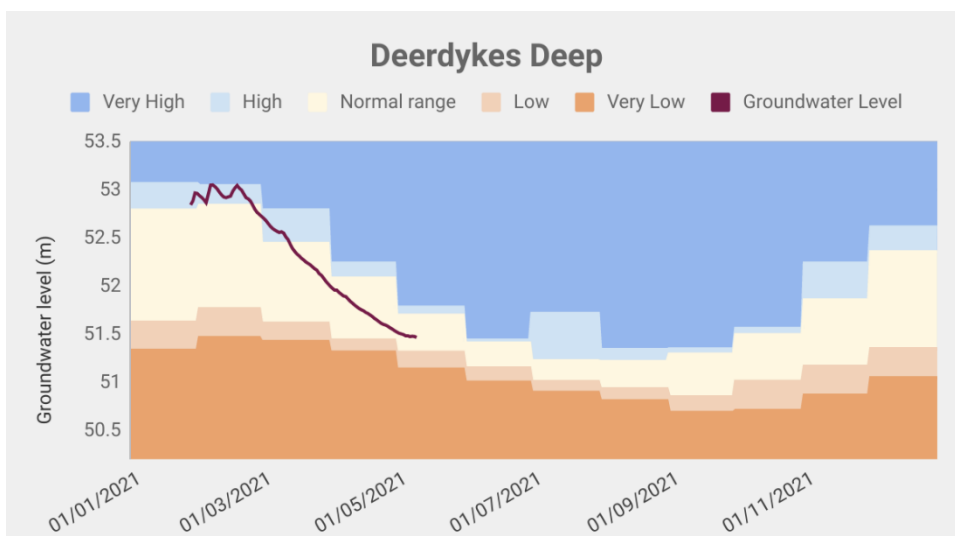
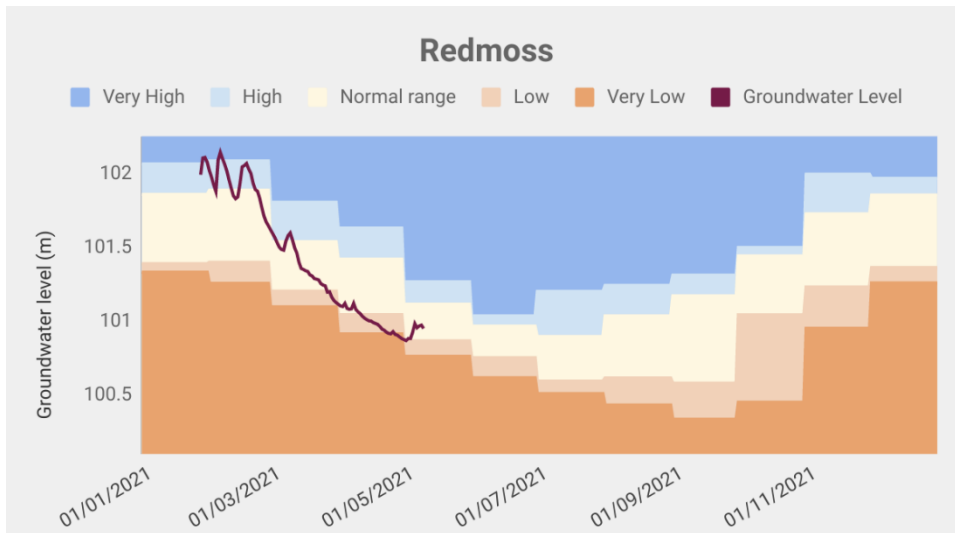
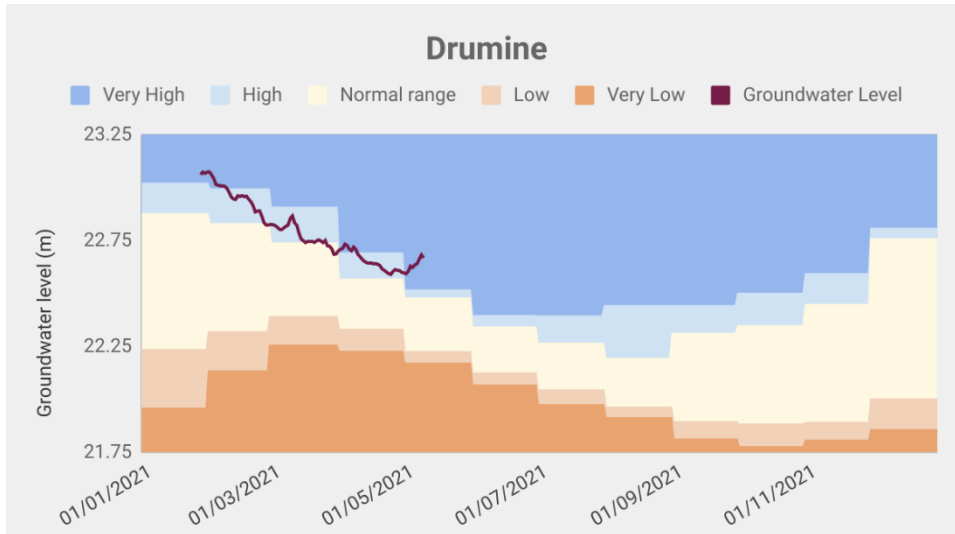
Groundwater levels are all within the normal range for the time of year. Towards the end of April levels at sites in Angus and Aberdeenshire had fallen to relatively low level but have since shown some recovery following rainfall in early May.

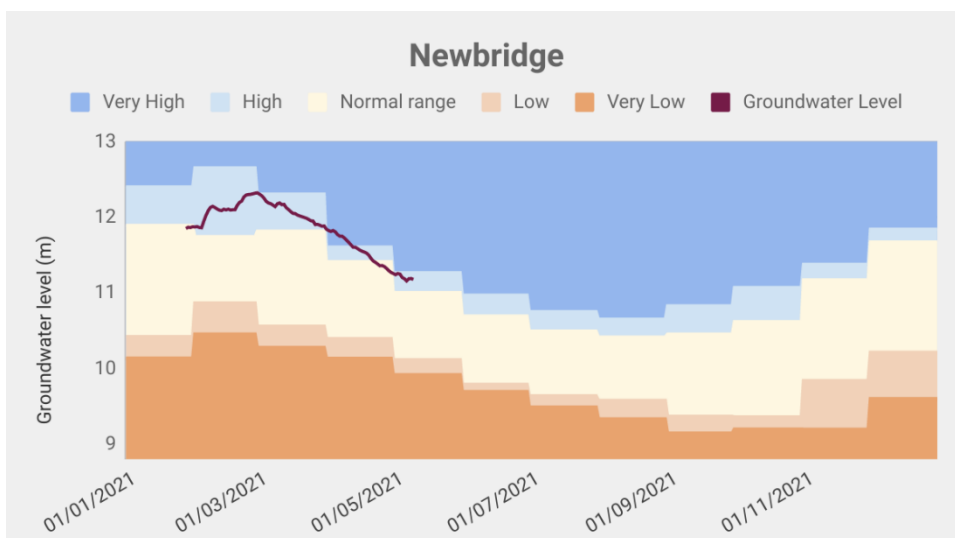
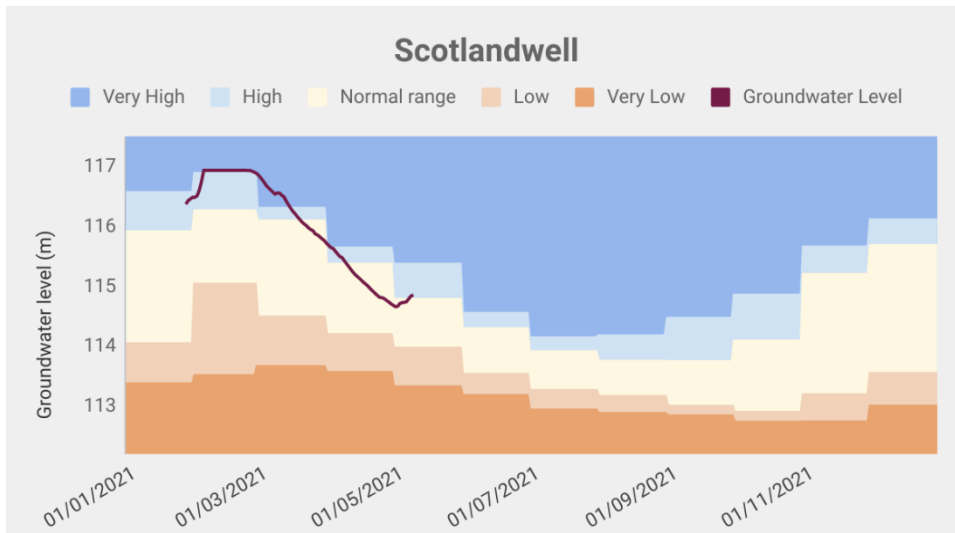
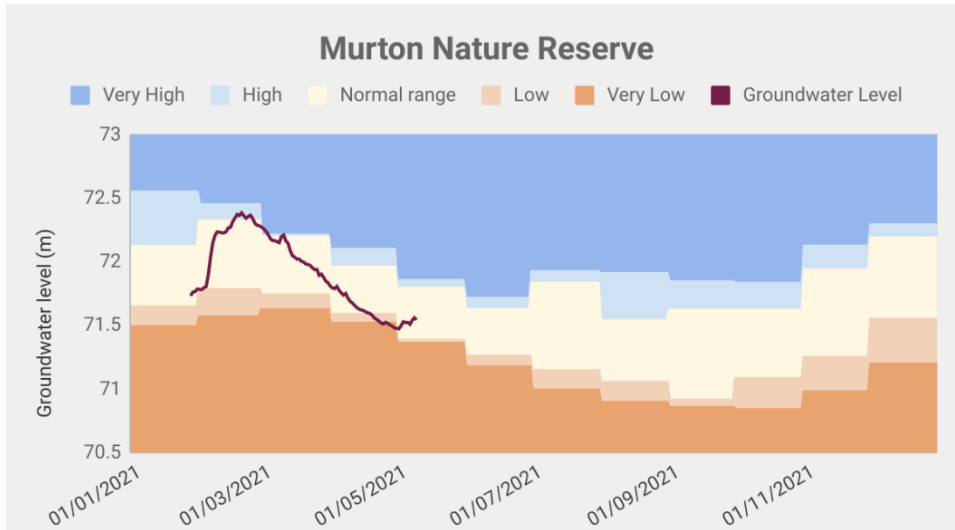
We have up to date data for 11 groundwater level monitoring sites, spread across the east and south-west of the country, giving a good picture of the current situation.

Loch level data is not currently available.

The following charts show the trend in groundwater level (GWL) since start of the year at selected monitoring sites (see map above). The black line shows the recorded groundwater level. This is plotted over level trend bands, which are based on the long-term record of mean monthly level values.







For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language please either contact SEPA by telephone on 03000 99 66 99 or by email to equalities@sepa.org.uk

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL) the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter enabling you to communicate with us using sign language.

<http://contactscotland-bsl.org/>

www.sepa.org.uk

Strathallan House, Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4TZ