

Water Scarcity Report

30th September 2021



HEADLINES

No changes in water scarcity level since last week.

Much of south-west Scotland, the Tweed, Caithness, and the Ythan catchment in the north-east remain at Moderate Scarcity.

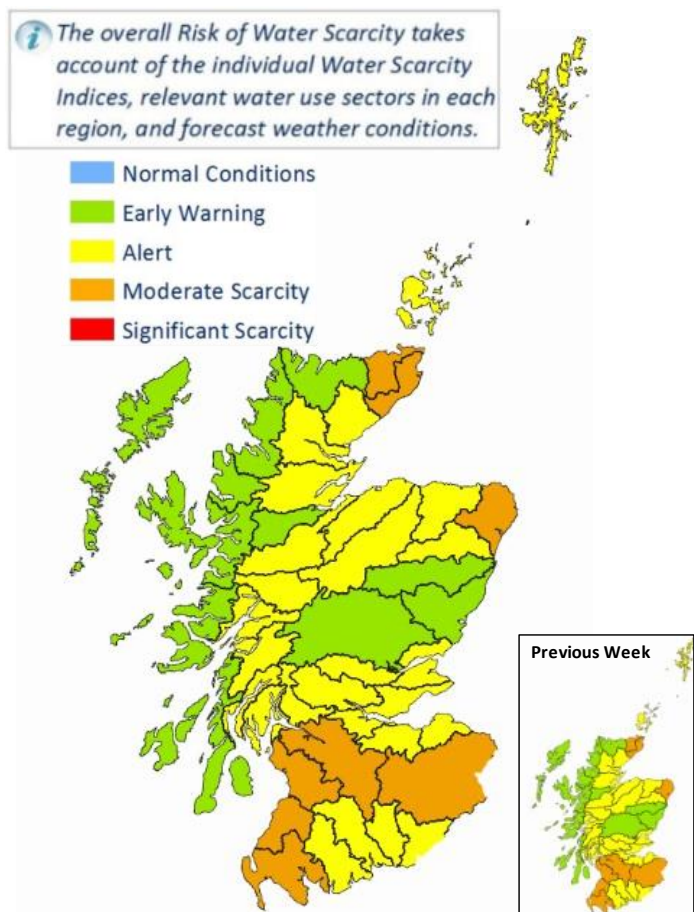
Most of south, central, and north-east Scotland remains at Alert.

Above average rainfall is required to see long-term recovery as a significant rainfall deficit has built up over the summer.

Situation Summary

Much of south-west Scotland, the Tweed, Caithness, and the Ythan catchment in the north-east remain at Moderate Scarcity. Many other areas across the country remain at Alert. In these areas, dry ground conditions are widespread and recent river levels remain very low in some catchments. Furthermore, groundwater levels are still continuing to fall, with some areas approaching very low levels for this time of year.

Recent widespread rain across the country has resulted in some temporary recovery in river levels in some



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The areas shown in this map represent major river catchments. Details on how levels are set and actions required can be found in SEPA's National Water Scarcity Plan.

catchments. More rain is forecast over the next few days. If sustained, this rainfall is likely to lead to some recovery in water scarcity level in affected areas but could lead to localised flooding in the north-west and north-east. In many areas, though, significant rainfall deficits have built up this summer which will take a long time to offset, despite any temporary flooding.

SEPA is monitoring the situation closely and coordinating steps to manage water resources in line with Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan which is available on SEPA's website: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/>.

You can help us by reporting any evidence you see of water scarcity. For details of information that would be useful to us and where to send it see: [Water scarcity in your area | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#).

Advice for water users

Scottish Water are asking customers to use water wisely in and around their homes. More information can be found on the Scottish Water website <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/Your-Home/Save-Water>

Farmers and Managers of golf courses irrigating in the Alert and Moderate areas are urged, especially if taking water from burns and small rivers, to:

- Only irrigate when, and only as much as, absolutely necessary.
- Make sure irrigation equipment isn't leaking.
- Try to irrigate at night to reduce evaporation losses.
- Explore how you and your neighbours in the same river catchment could avoid irrigating at the same time.
- Consider whether you could switch to using groundwater rather than river water if conditions worsen. If you would need a new borehole to do this, your local SEPA office will be able to help and advise.

For the most up to date advice please see: [Advice for abstractors](#).

Water abstractors with concerns about meeting licence conditions or wishing to discuss contingency measures should get in touch at the following e-mail address

WaterScarcity@sepa.org.uk

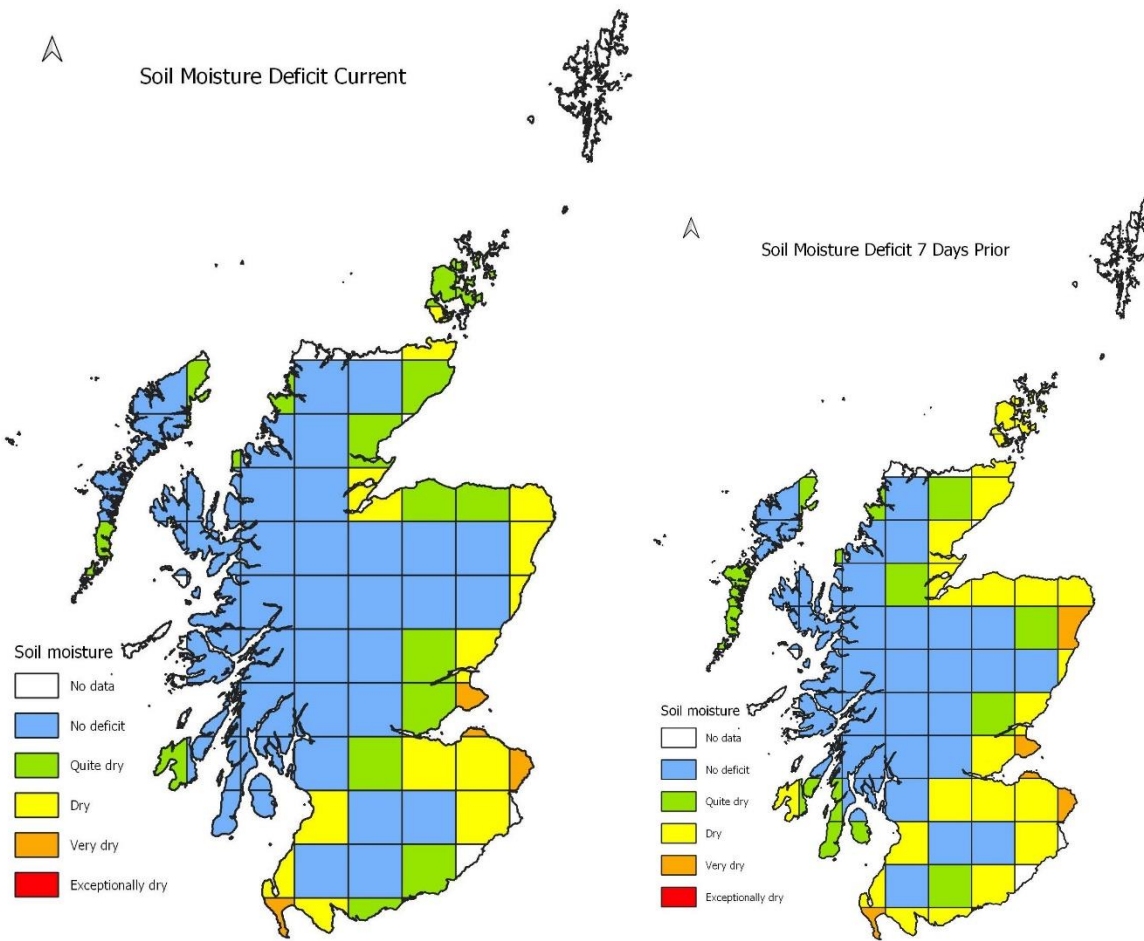
Weather forecast (29/09/21)

The heaviest rain will be in the west on Friday. A deep low is expected to push north-east into the North Sea later on Saturday and could bring the heaviest rain to the east. Further rain or showers are expected to be focussed in the west on Sunday and early next week.

Current forecasts suggest showers or longer spells of rain, heavy at times, in many areas will persist into early October.

At a seasonal timescale, models suggest that Autumn is more likely to be dry than wet, with more than double the chance of higher-than-average temperatures.

Further details are available in the following figures:

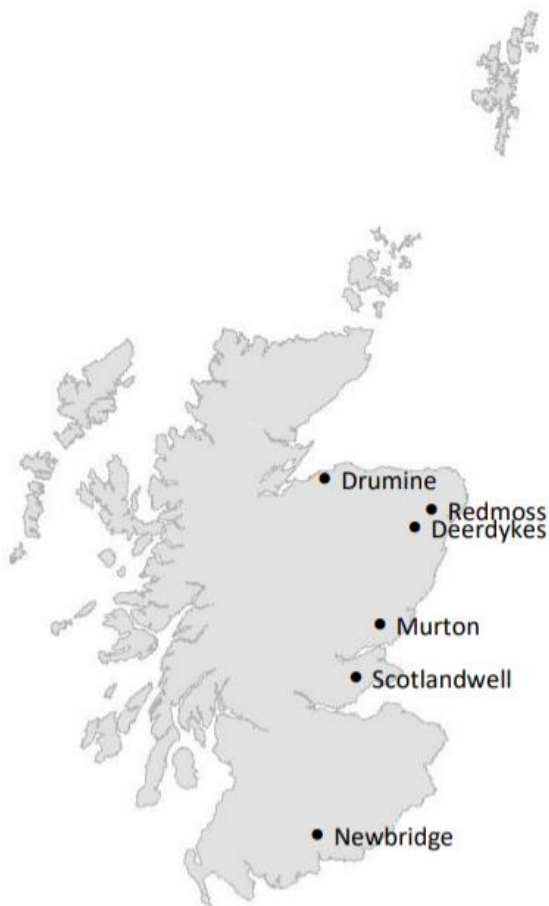


These maps depict the current latest Soil Moisture Deficit (29th September 2021) and seven days prior for comparison. Based on the MORECS data obtained from the Met Office.



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.



28th September 2021

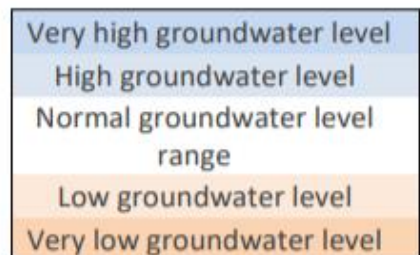
Groundwater levels in the north-east and some parts of the east are now low for the time of year and continuing to fall.

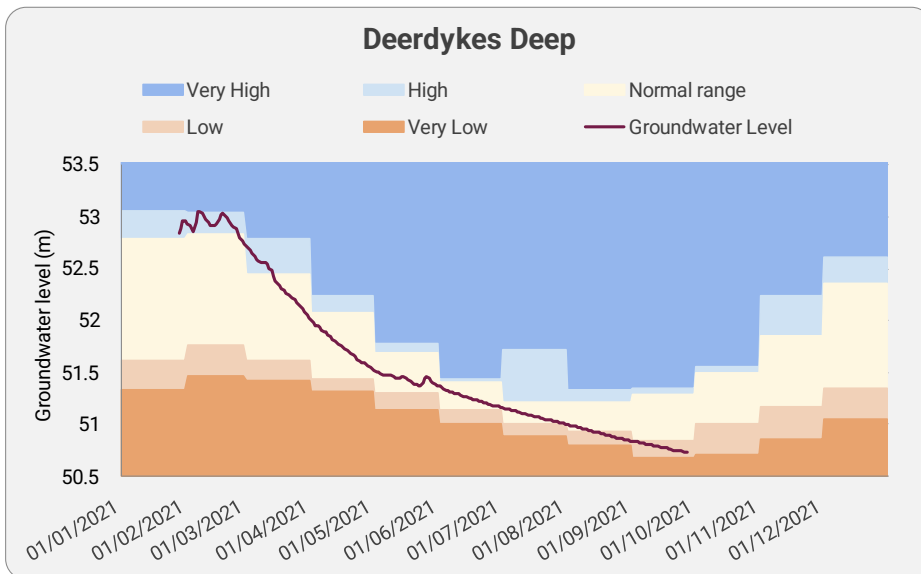
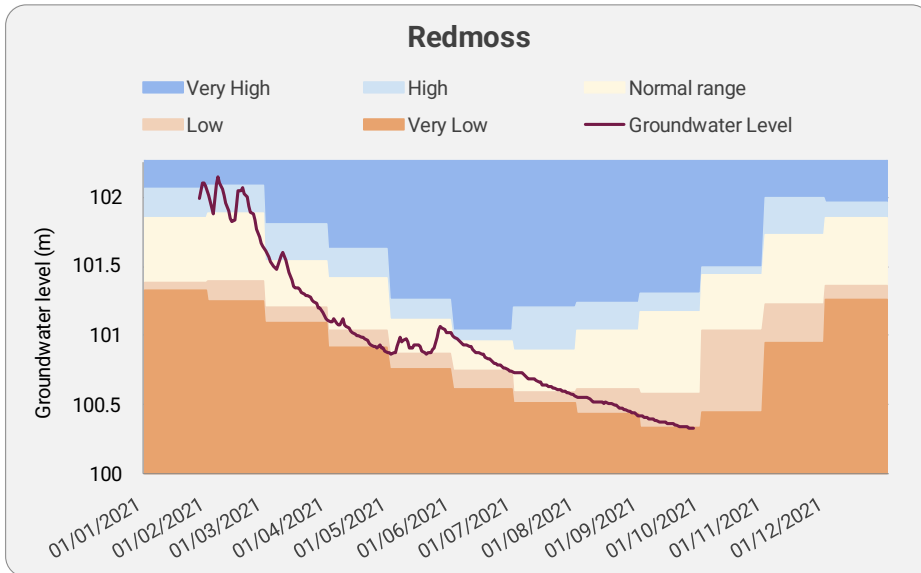
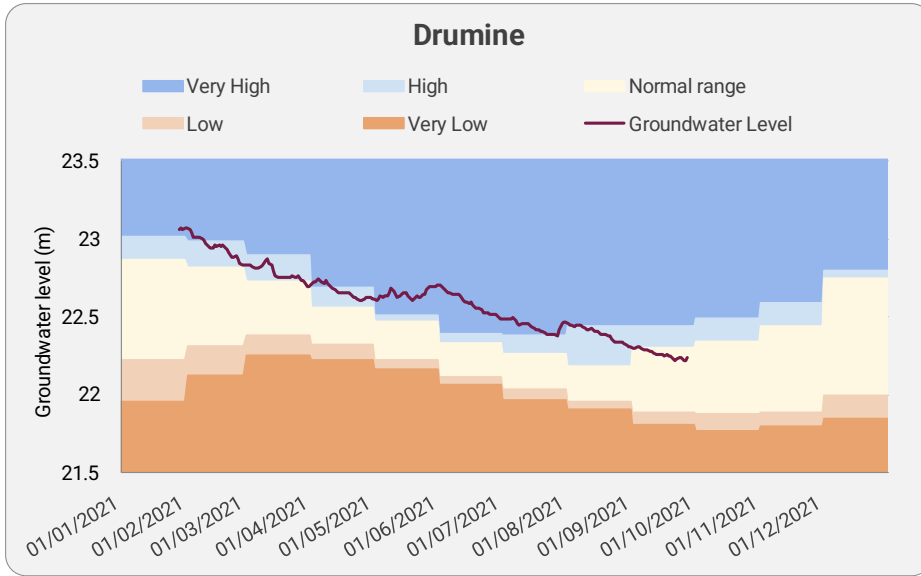
Groundwater levels in other areas are also falling but remain within the normal range for the time of year.

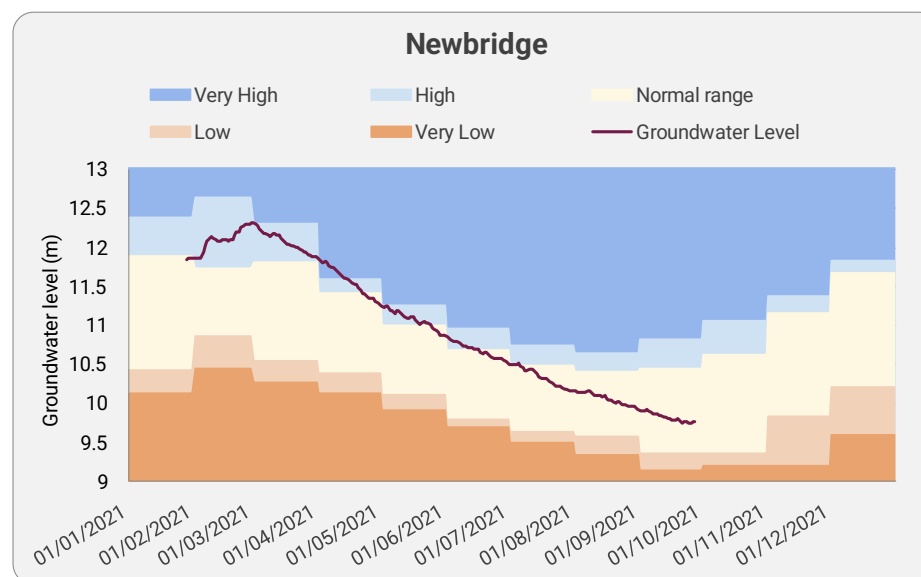
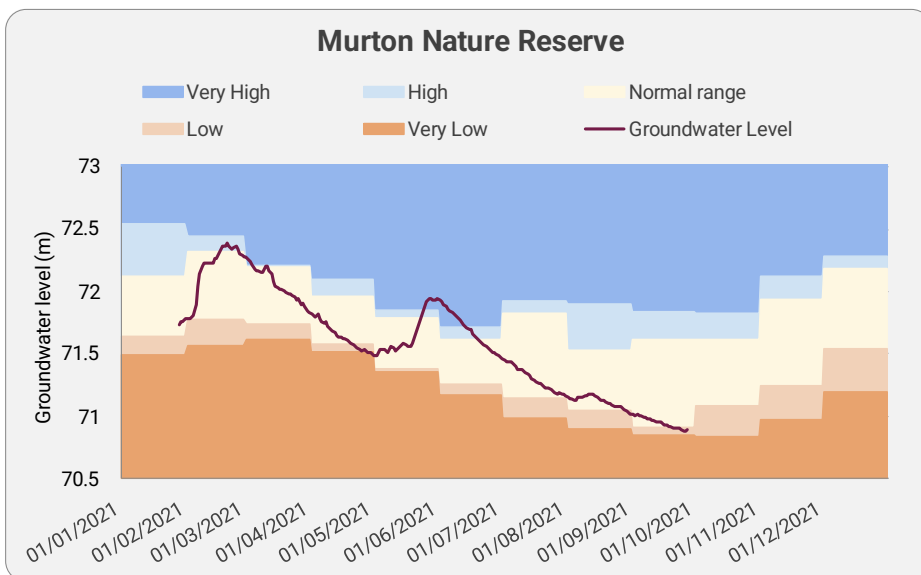
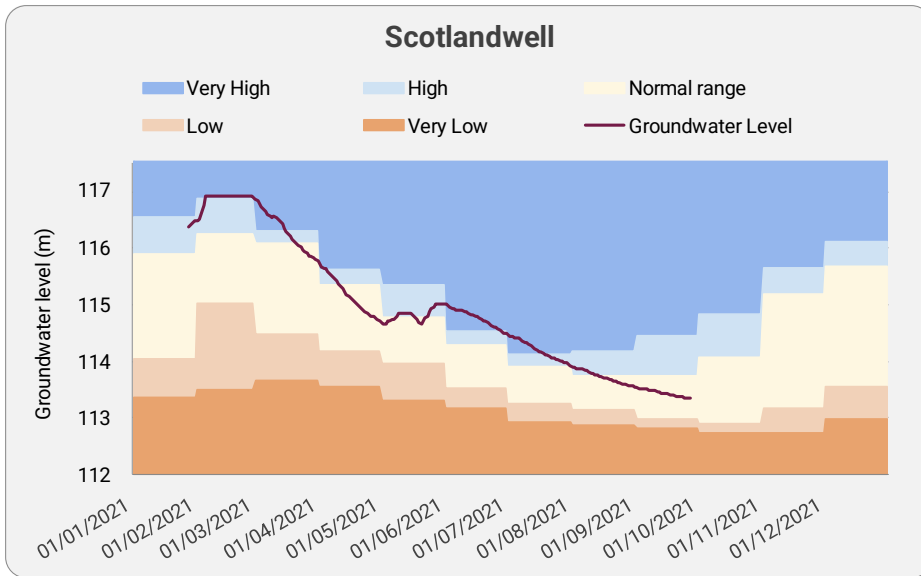
We have up to date data for 11 groundwater level monitoring sites, spread across the east and south-west of the country, giving a good picture of the current situation.

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.







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

www.sepa.org.uk

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