

Water Scarcity Report

28th April 2022



An Early Warning of water scarcity impacts is in place for the southern half of Scotland.

The risk of impacts from water scarcity elsewhere remains Normal.

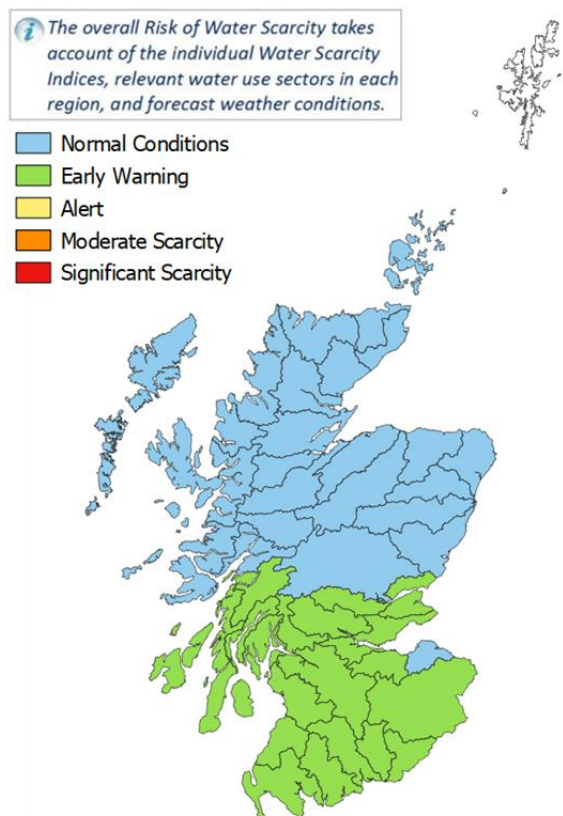
Situation Summary

March was dry, with only half of the long-term average monthly rainfall across Scotland.

As a result, river flows, soil moisture and groundwater storage levels show that many areas are at risk of water scarcity.

With continuing dry weather expected an Early Warning level has been placed across the southern half of the country.

Elsewhere, the level remains at Normal. Rainfall at the beginning of April in the north and north-east resulted in some recovery in these areas.



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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.

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

We advise water users, including those with private water supplies, to be aware of the potential risk of water scarcity this summer, and for businesses to plan ahead where possible. [Water scarcity - plan ahead and use water wisely \(sepa.org.uk\)](#)

Weather forecast (28/04/22)

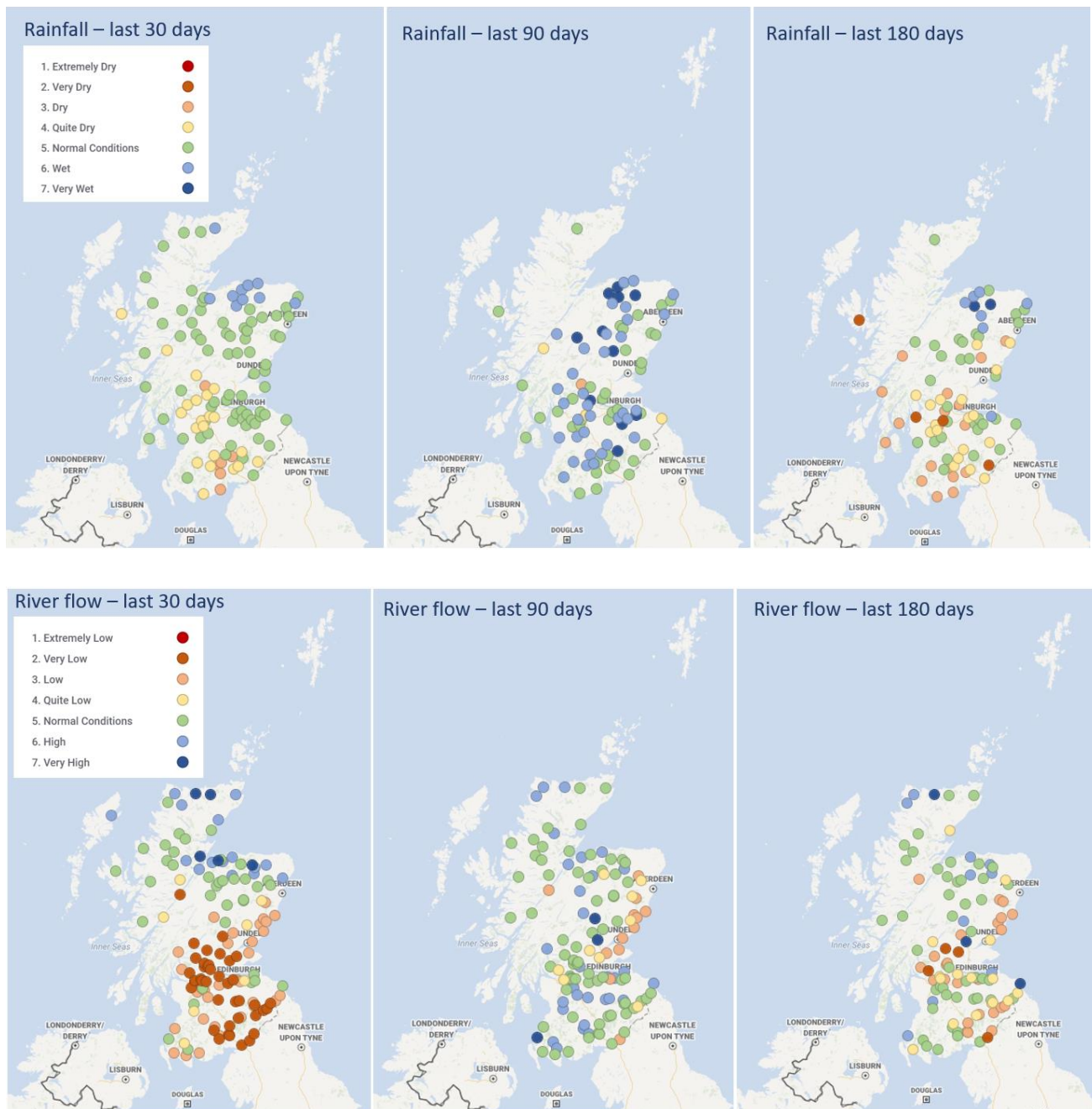
Remaining settled with some bright and mainly dry weather until the weekend. Rain will move in over the northwest on Saturday, heavy at times over NW Highlands, Western Isles and Argyll. This will clear southwards on Sunday.

At a seasonal timescale, models show a normal likelihood of wet and dry conditions over April to June, but there is more chance of higher-than-normal temperatures over this time.

Supporting information

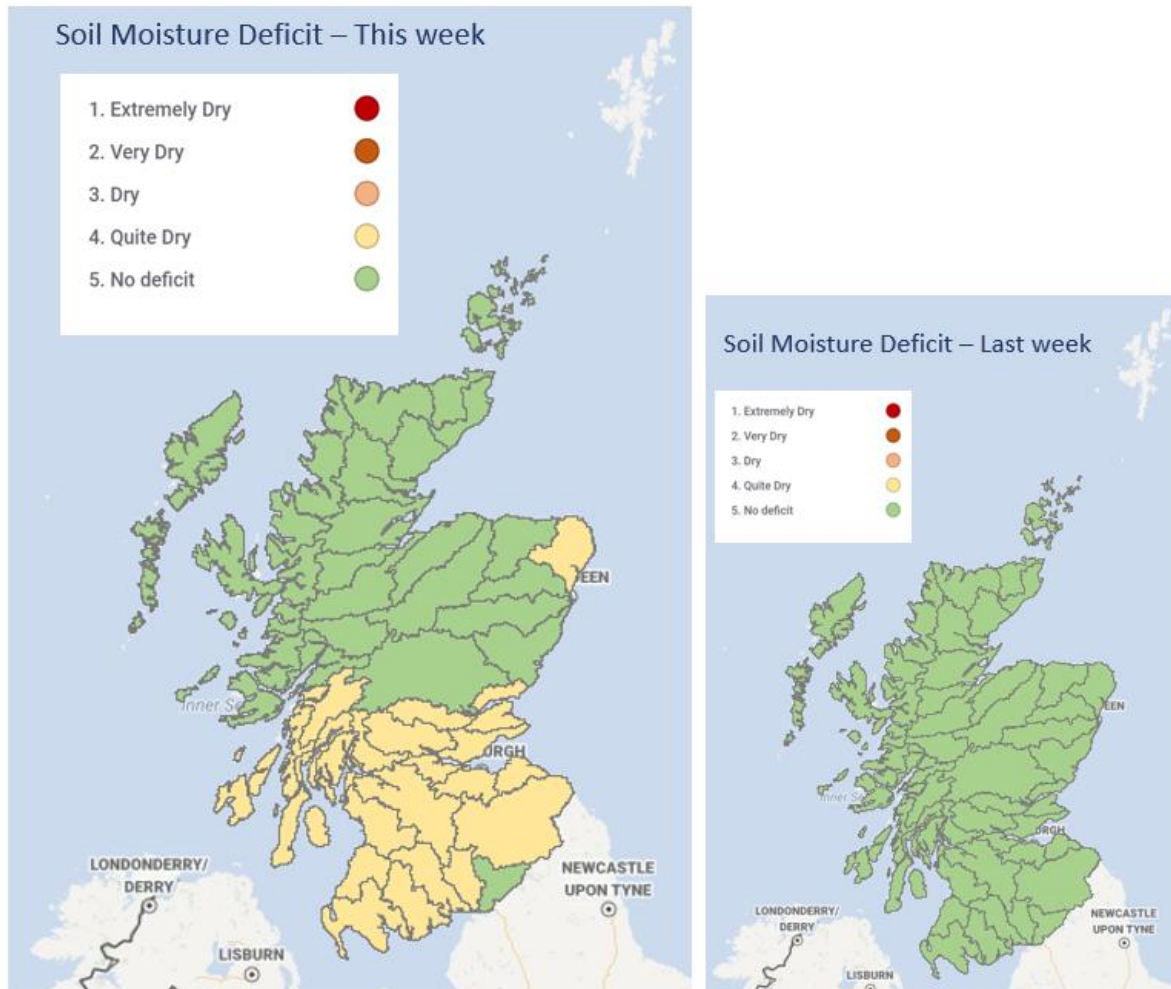
Rainfall and river flows:

These maps show rainfall (top row) and river flow (bottom row) relative to the long-term average, for this time of year, over 30 days, 90 days and 180 days. The 90-day indices reflect a wetter February but since then conditions have been drier. River flows have fallen particularly low, for this time of year, in central and southern Scotland.




Soil moisture deficit:

These maps show this week’s soil moisture deficit, alongside last weeks for comparison. This is obtained from the Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System (MORECS). In the last week soils have dried in central and southern Scotland.

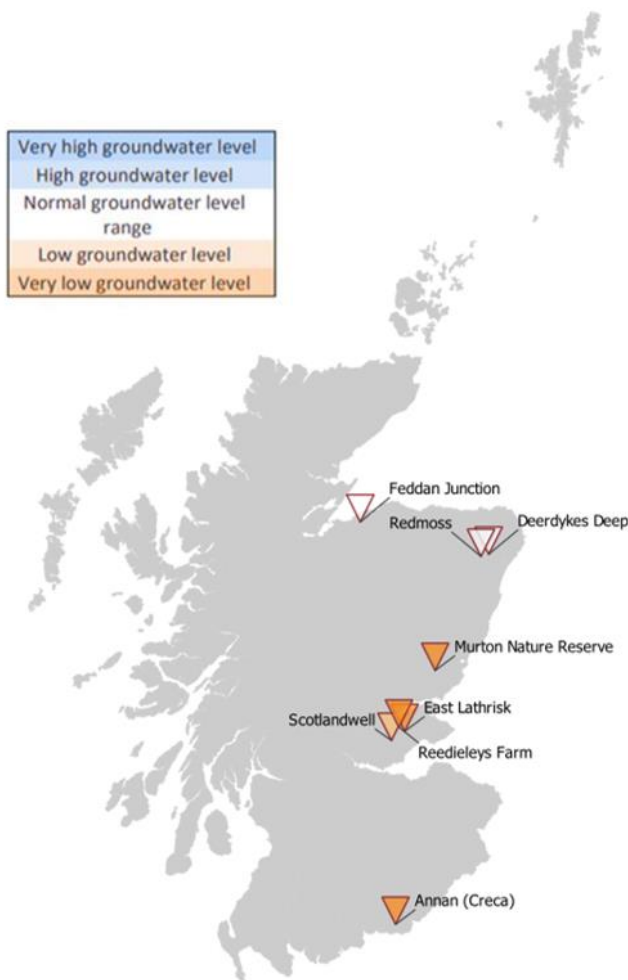


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Groundwater levels:

 **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.

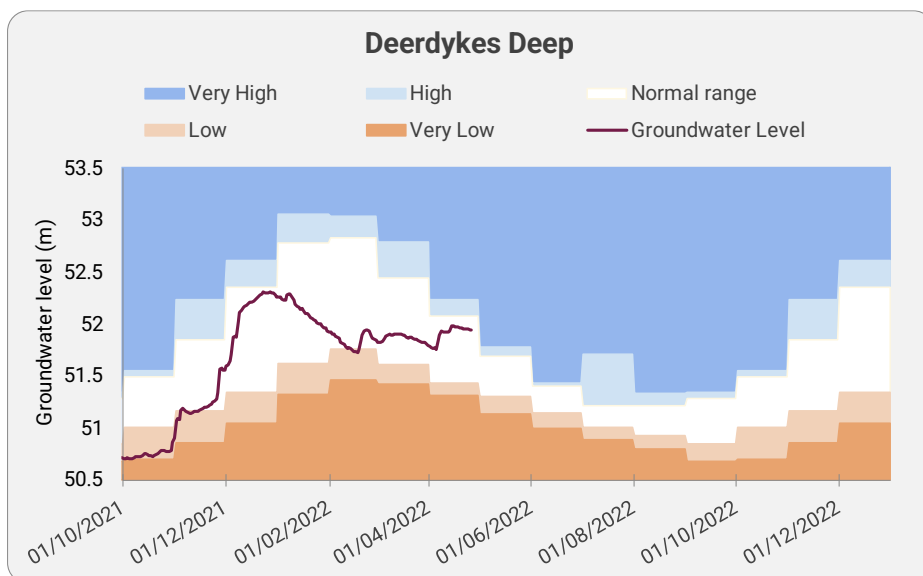
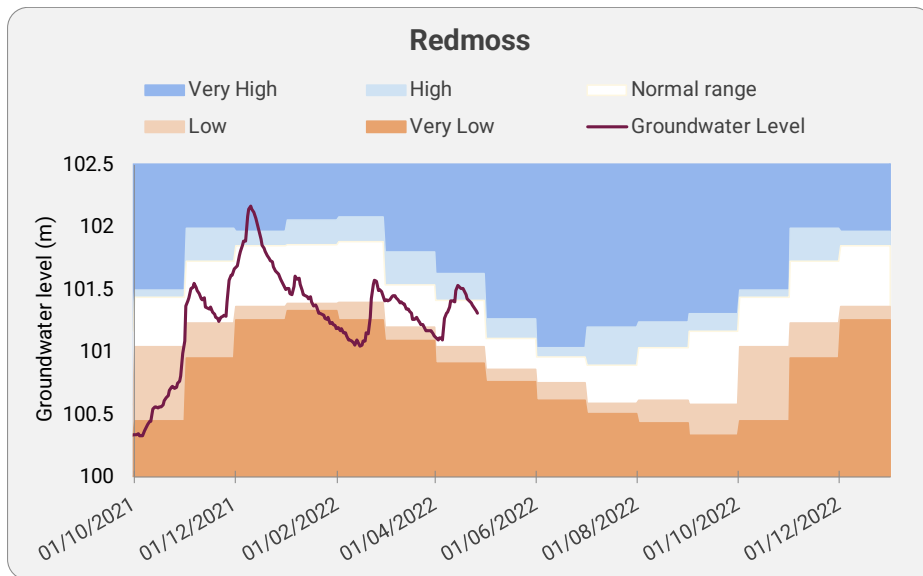
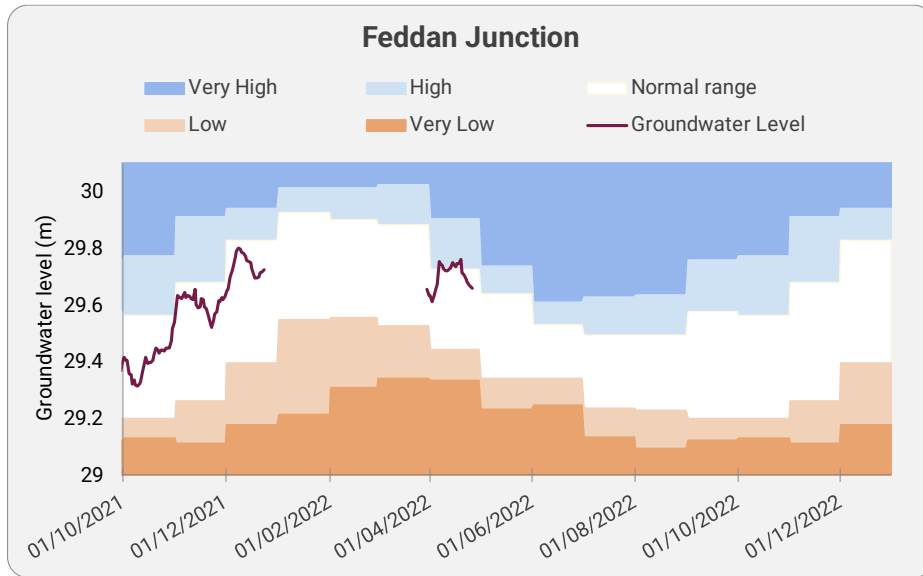


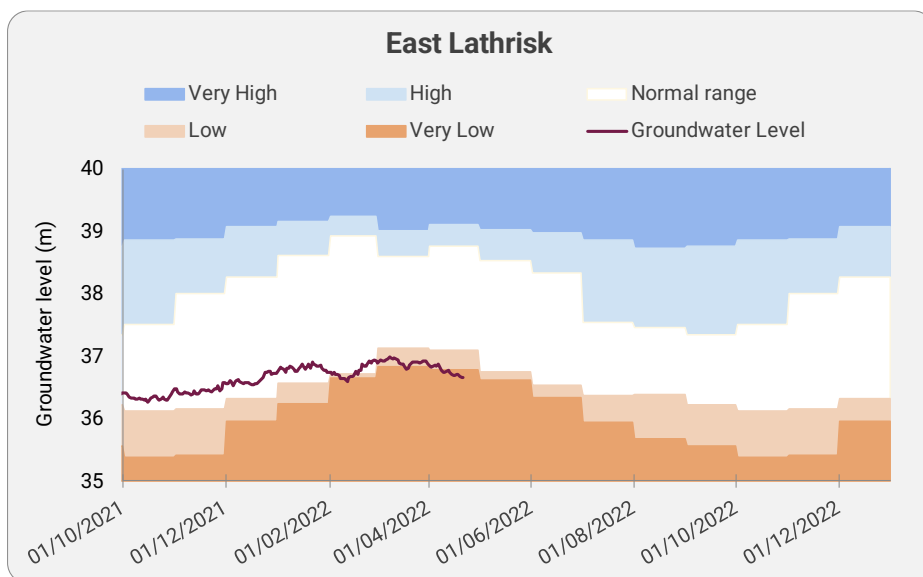
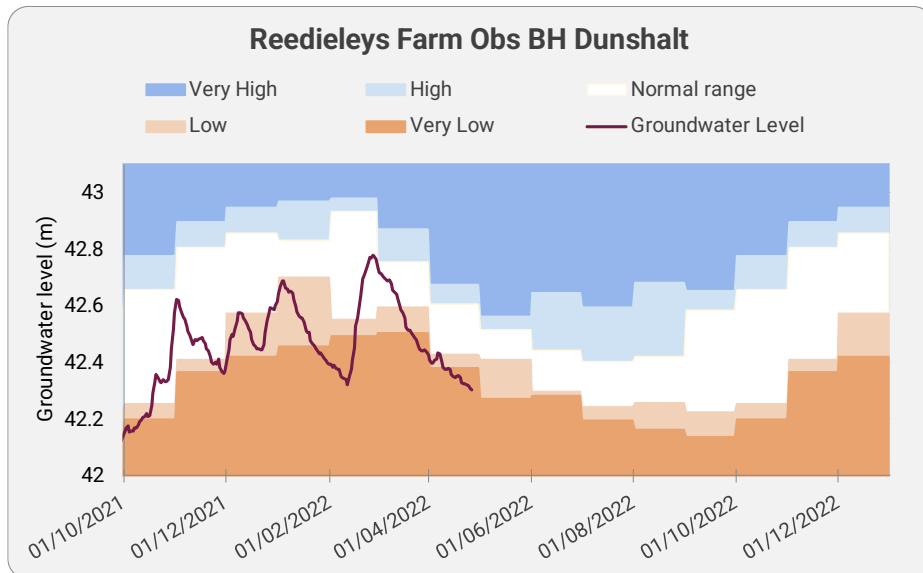
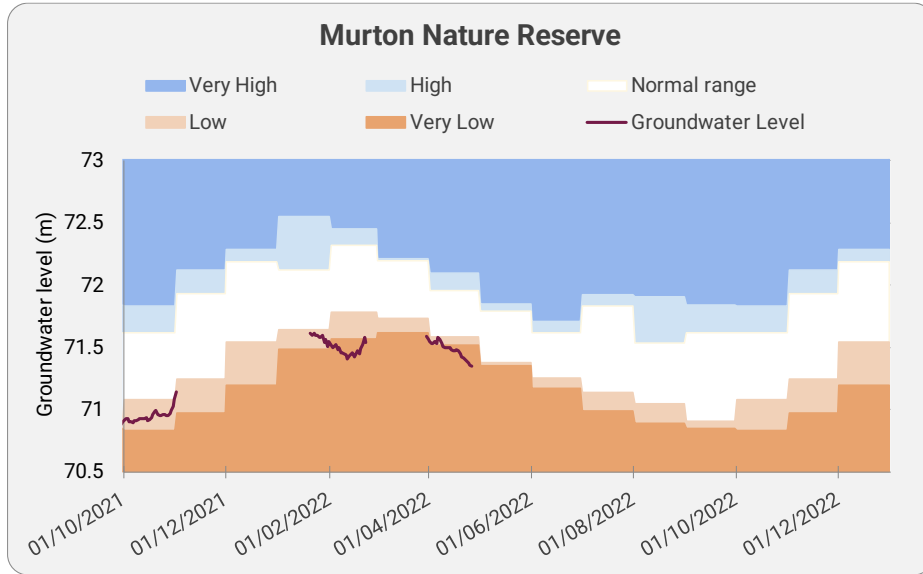
Groundwater levels at the monitoring sites in the east and south-west remain low for the time of year.

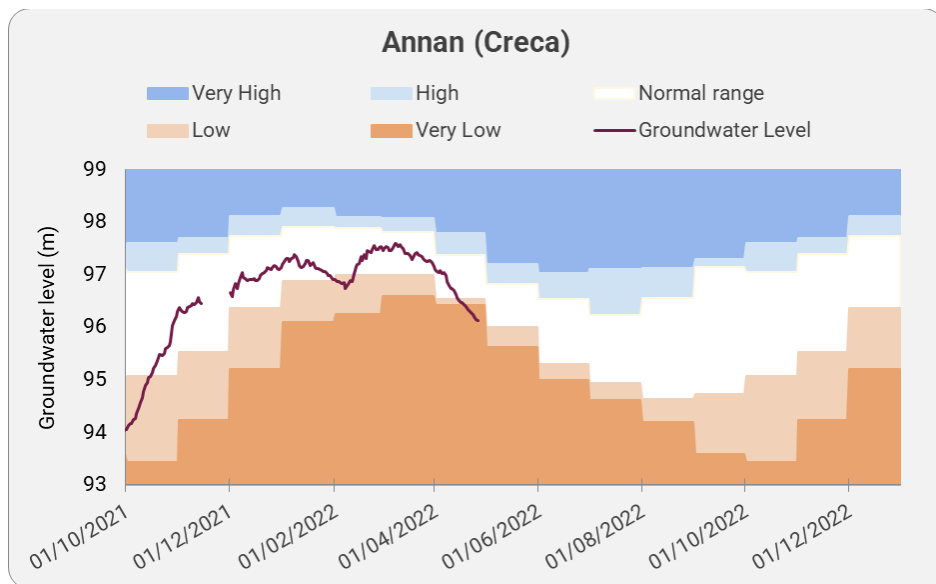
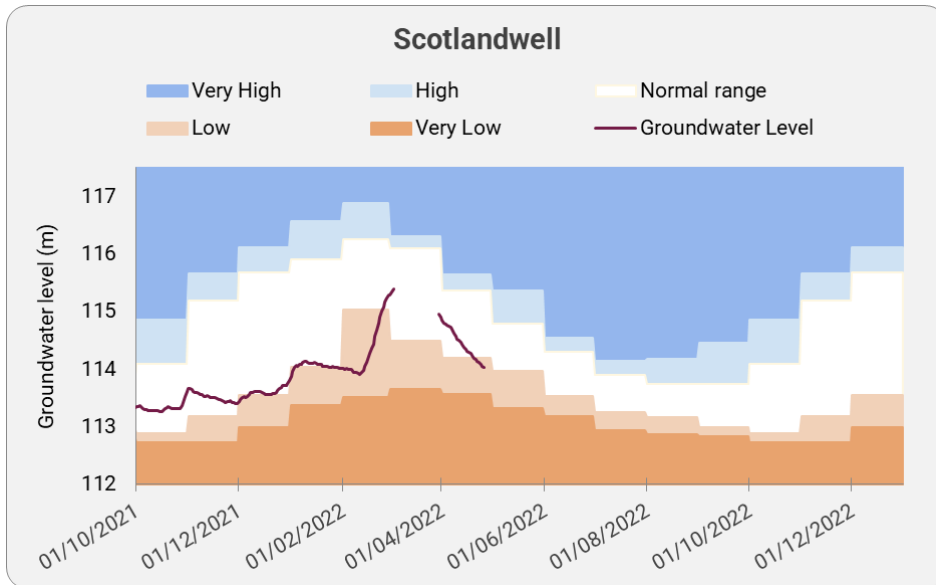
Groundwater levels at the monitoring sites in the north and north-east have shown some recovery and are currently within normal range.

Loch level data is not currently available.

The following charts show the trend in groundwater level (GWL) since October 2021 for selected monitoring sites (see map above). The dark 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.







Flow, Rainfall and Groundwater data are accessed via SEPA’s [time series data service](#) (API). SEPA's live data are subject to ongoing quality control and periodic review.

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

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