

Water Scarcity Report

19th May 2022



Thurso, Wick, and Spey have been raised to Early Warning whilst much of the south and east of Scotland remain at Early Warning.

There continues to be an east-west split in the risk of water scarcity across Scotland.

Doon (Ayrshire) has recovered from Early Warning to Normal.

Situation Summary

Although parts of the east have had some rainfall over the last week, this has not been enough for significant recovery. Thurso, Wick and Spey have now been raised to Early Warning. The rest of the east remains in Early Warning.

Without above average rainfall in these areas the risk of impacts from water scarcity is likely to increase.

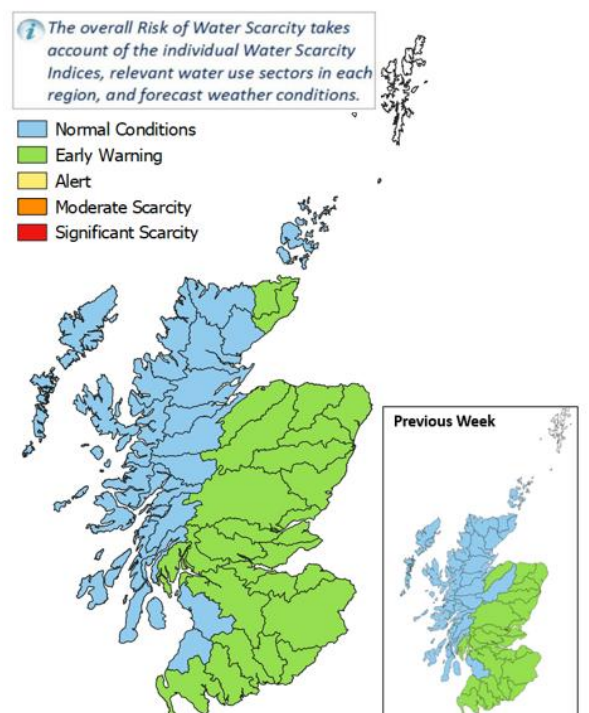
Rainfall over the last week across the west, has improved conditions and there has been recovery in some parts of the south-west.

Doon (Ayrshire) has recovered to Normal Conditions.

Conditions remain Normal elsewhere.

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/>.



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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.

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 \(sepa.org.uk\)](#)

Public water supplies are operating normally.

Weather forecast (18/05/22)

Rain or showers are expected on Friday, the showers will be well scattered on Saturday with plenty of dry weather. Further rain or showers on Sunday.

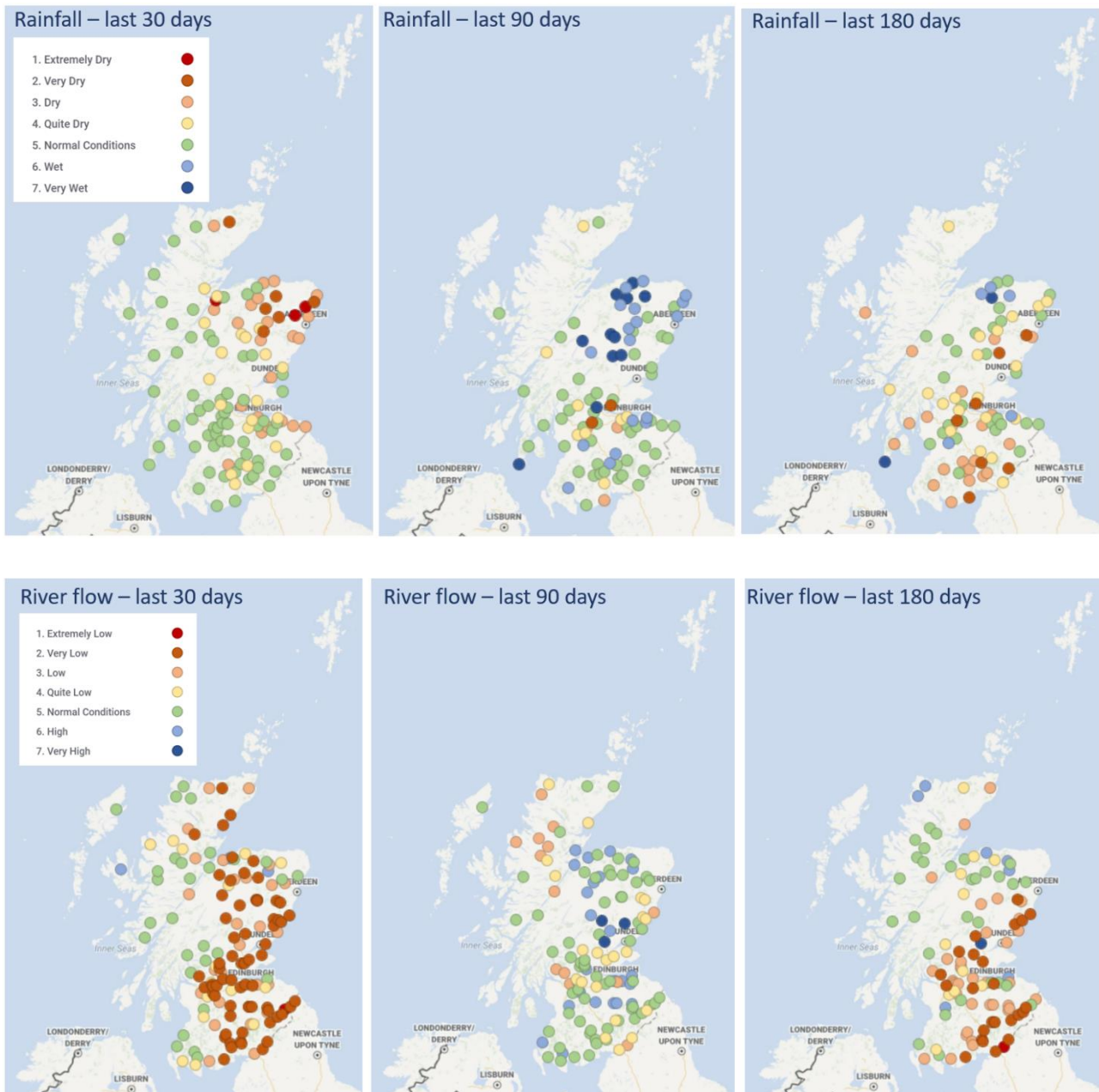
At a seasonal timescale, models show a normal likelihood of wet and dry conditions over May to July, but there is more chance of higher-than-normal temperatures over this time.

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Supporting information

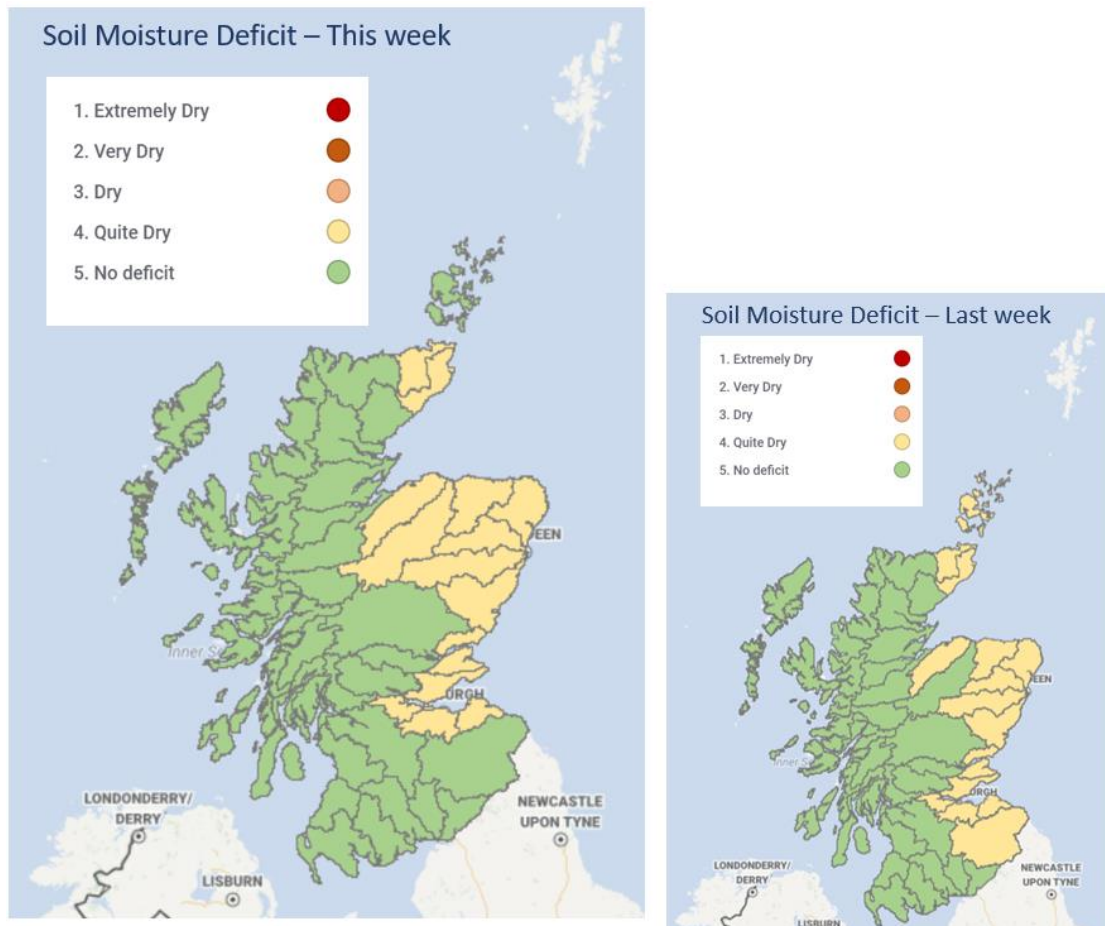
Rainfall and river flows:

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. River flows have fallen particularly low, for this time of year, in most areas apart from the west.




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 the north-east. Soil moisture deficit in the south has decreased, indicating that soils became wetter.

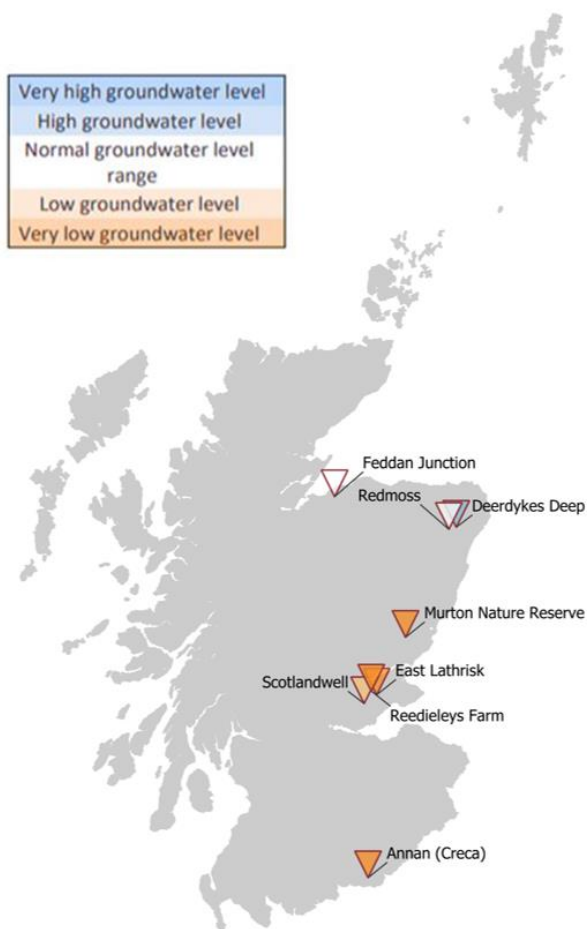


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Groundwater levels:

 **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.

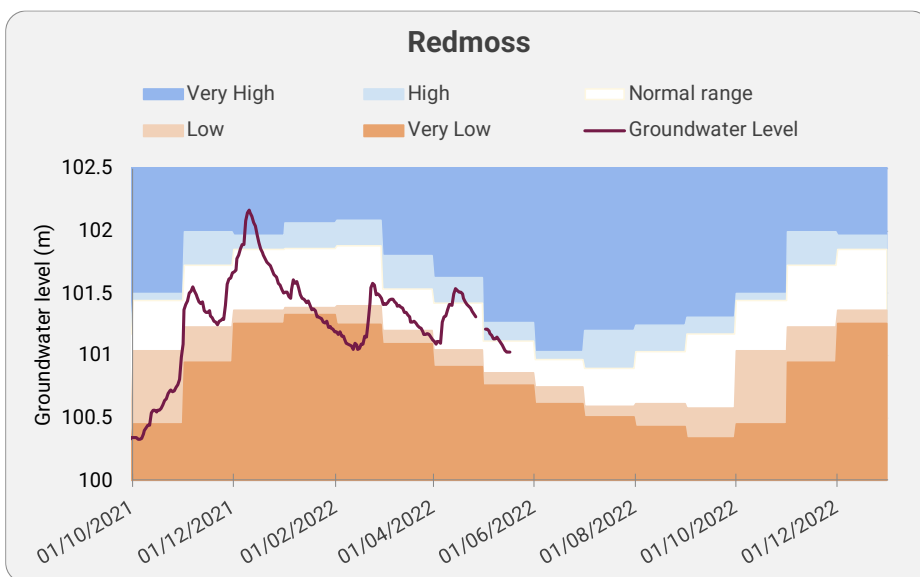
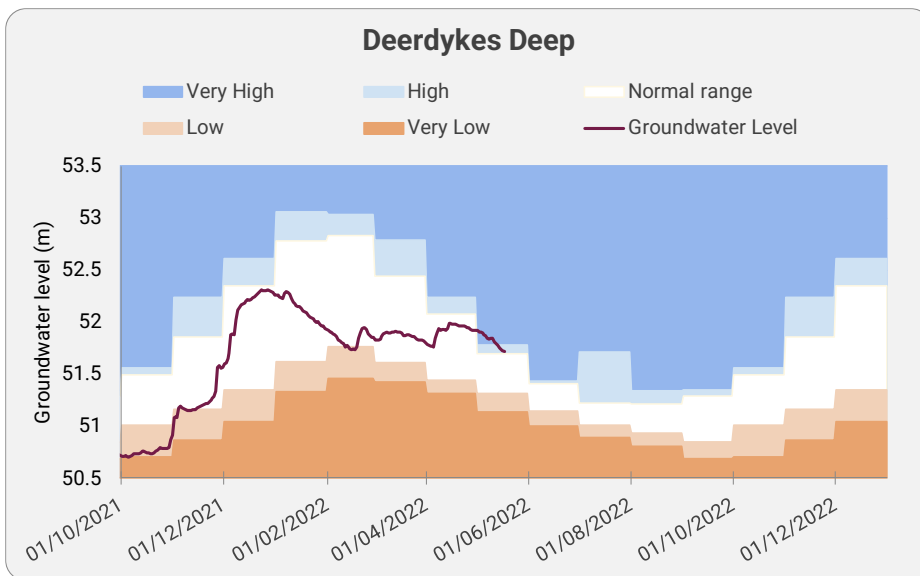
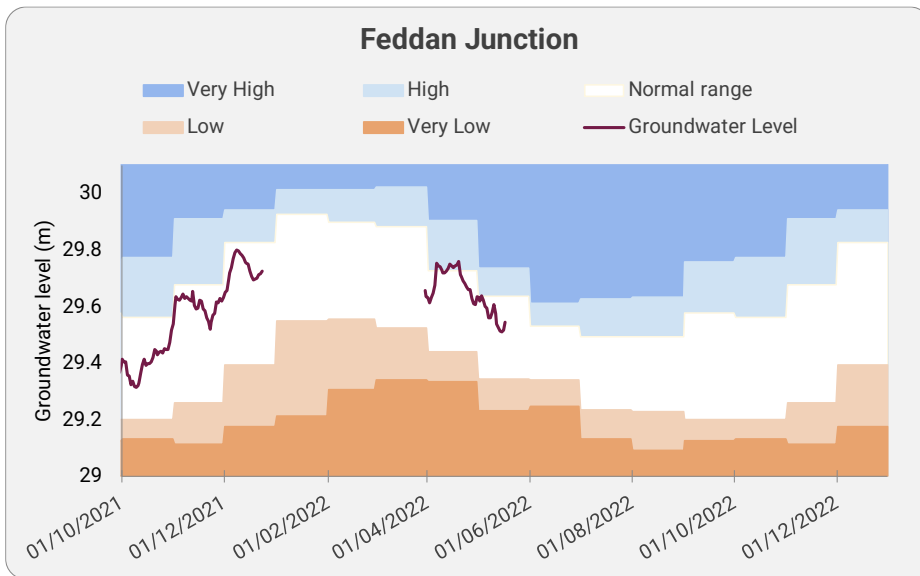


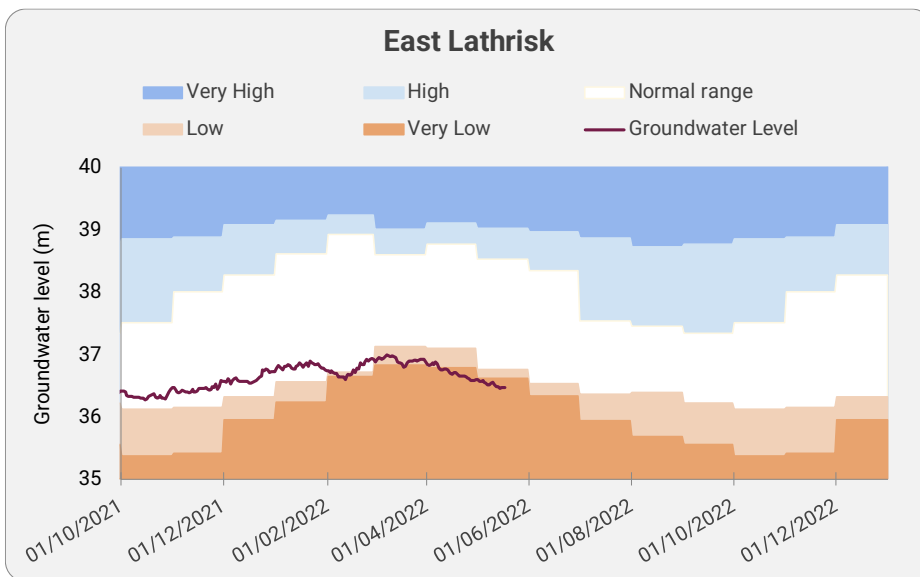
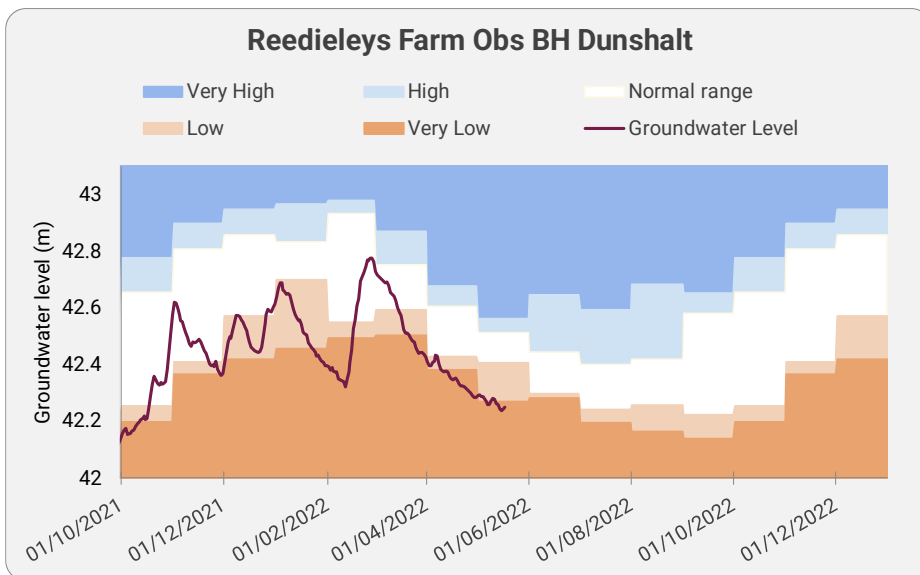
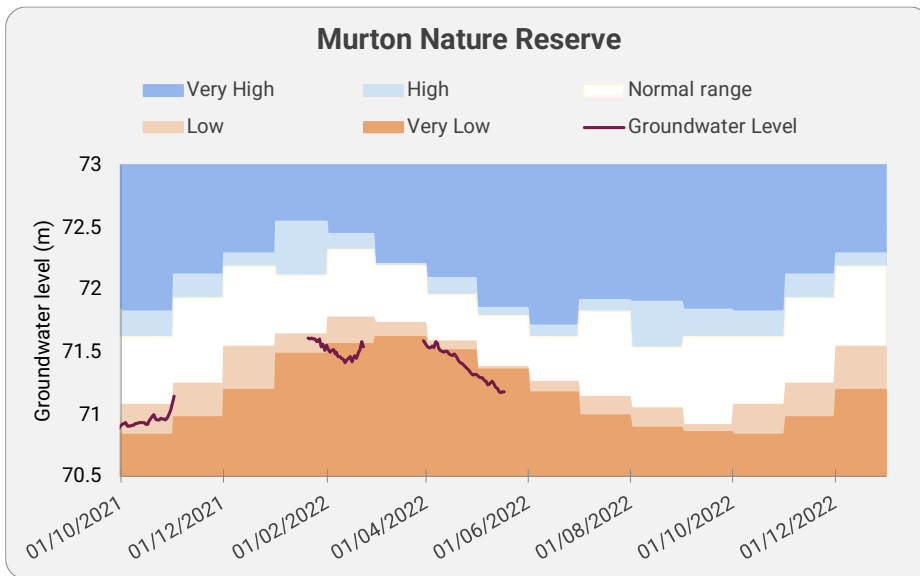
Groundwater levels at the monitoring sites in the east and south-west remain low for the time of year.

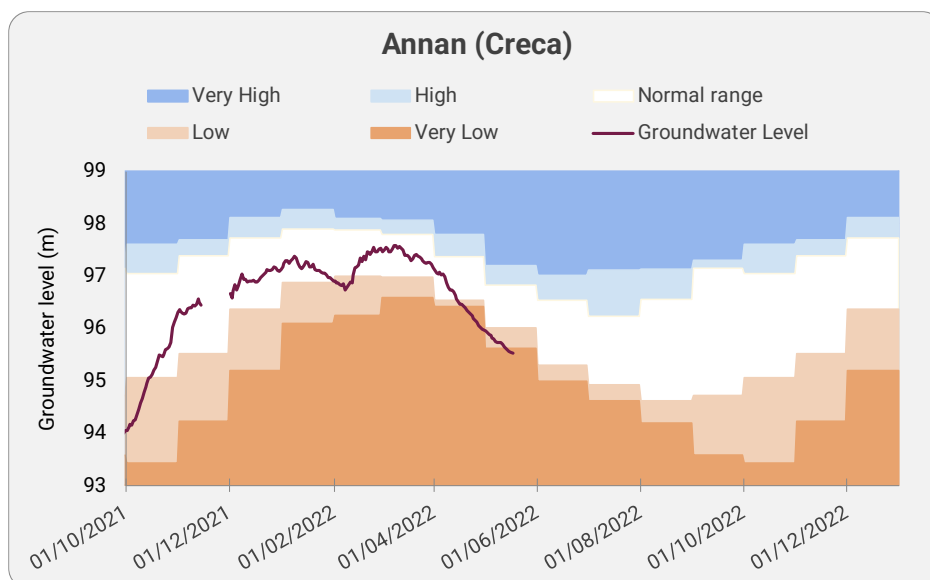
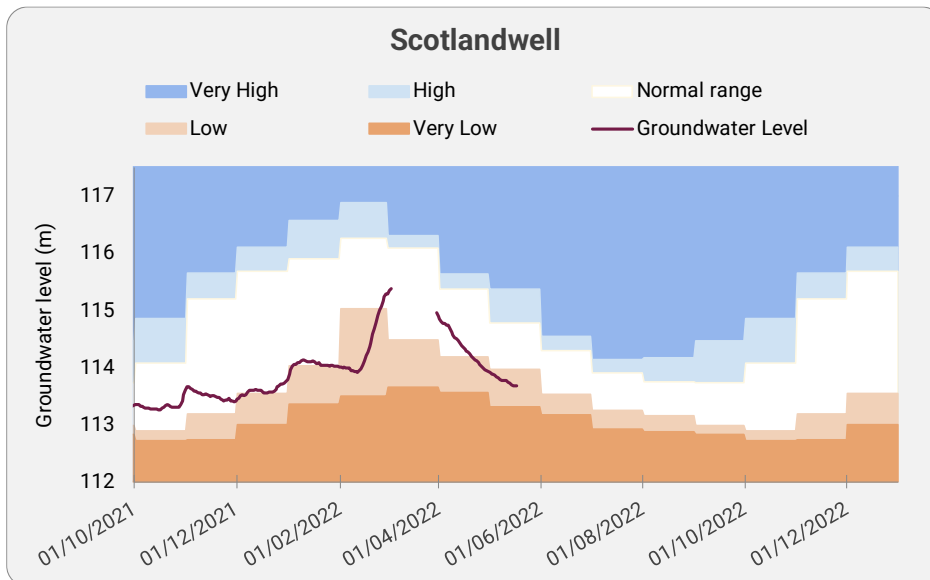
Groundwater levels at the monitoring sites in the north and north-east remain within normal range for the time of year.

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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