

Water Scarcity Report

9th June 2022



The risk of water scarcity in north east Aberdeenshire, parts of the east Central Belt and Fife has increased to Alert. Orkney has increased to Early Warning.

There has been some recovery in the south west to Normal Conditions. There remains an east-west split in water scarcity risk across Scotland.

Situation Summary

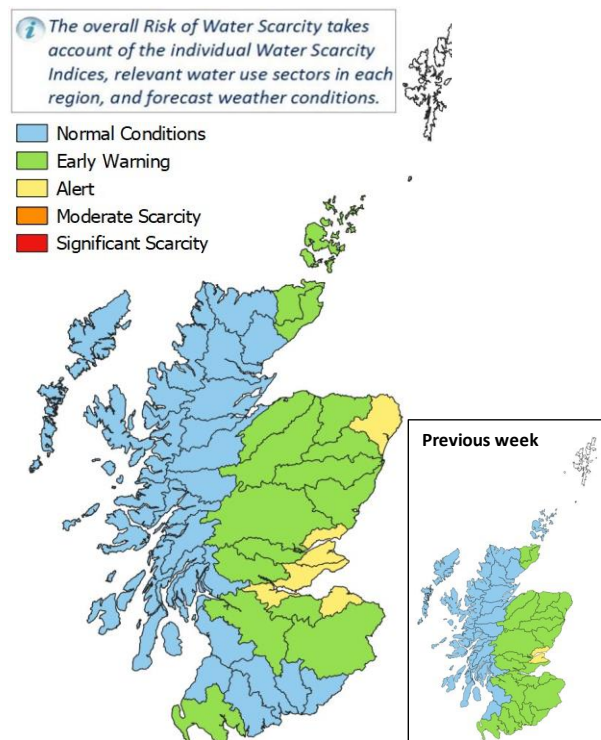
Recent rainfall has not been enough for recovery in the east and ground conditions have continued to get drier. There has been some recovery in the south west where the rain has meant a return to Normal Conditions. River flows remain low for the time of year across the east of Scotland and most of these areas remain at Early Warning.

The risk of water scarcity in north Aberdeenshire, the eastern central belt and Fife has increased to Alert. Orkney has been raised to Early Warning of water scarcity. The deterioration is due to a combination of dry ground conditions and low river flows.

The far south-west remains at Early Warning.

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

Groundwater levels are falling and low at some of the monitoring locations.



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

Public water supplies are operating normally.

Weather forecast (09/06/22)

Patchy light rain on Thursday. Windy with showers or longer outbreaks on Friday and Saturday, the heaviest rain across the NW Highlands. Scattered showers on Sunday, then further rain on Monday, heaviest across the West/NW Highlands.

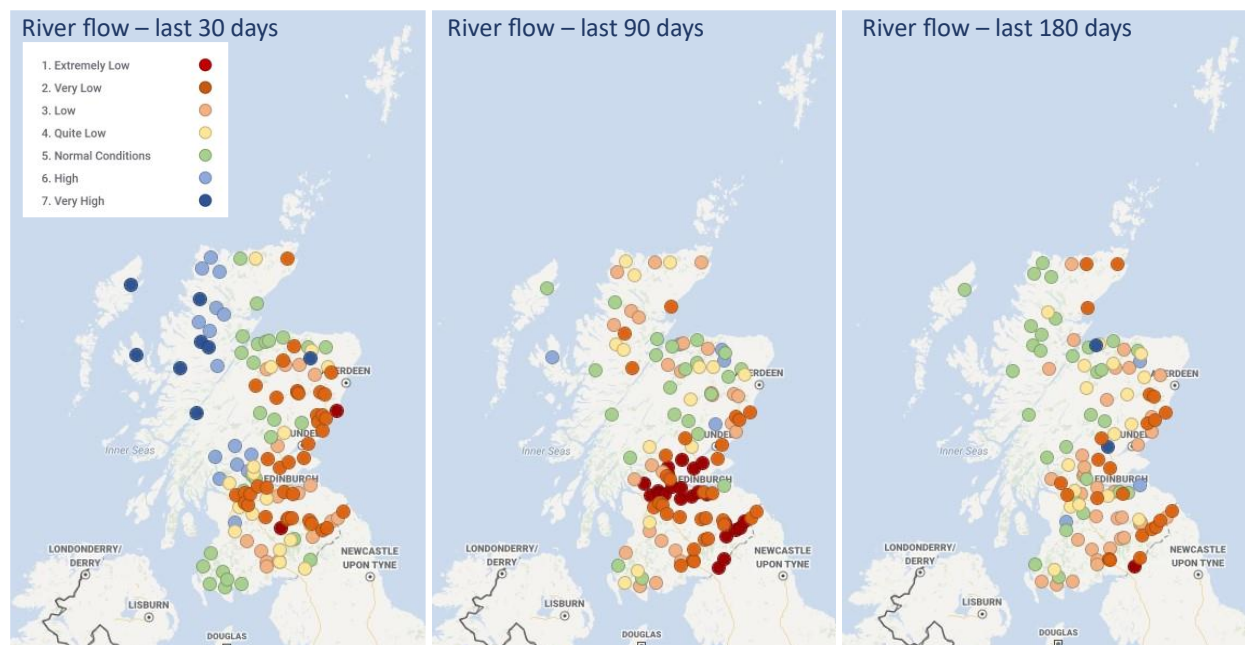
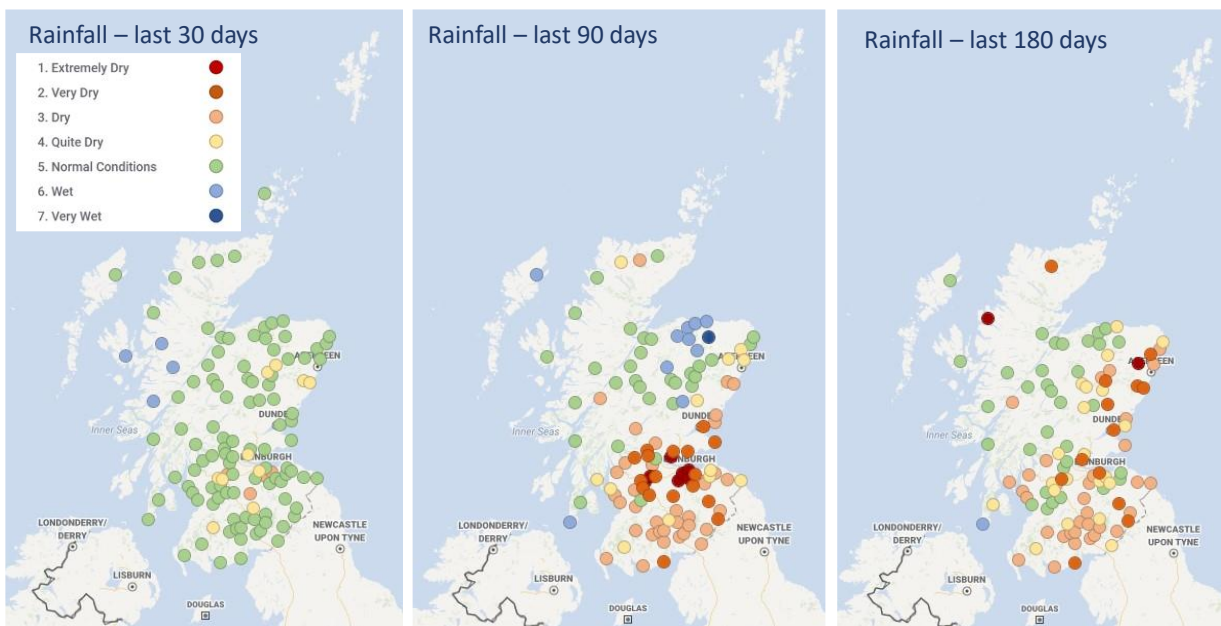
At a seasonal timescale, models show a normal likelihood of wet and dry conditions over the summer months, but there is more chance of higher-than-normal temperatures over this time.

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Supporting information

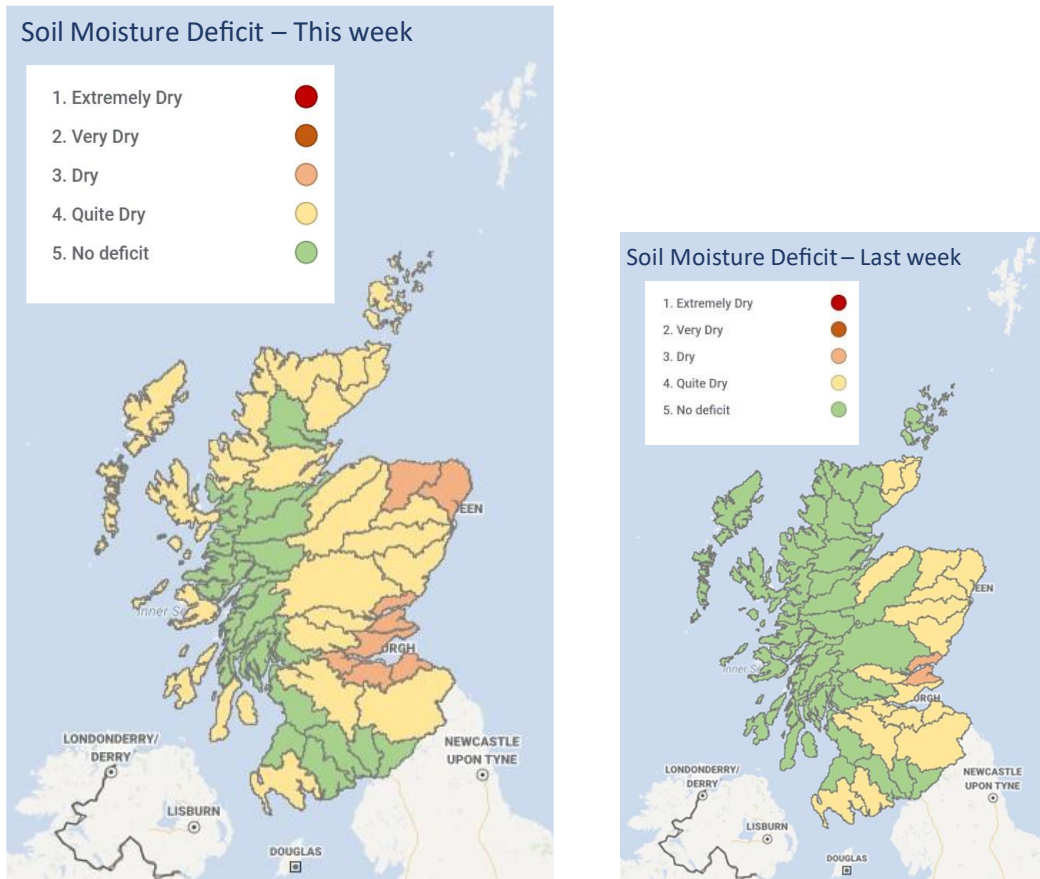
Rainfall and river flows:

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 been lower than normal for the time of year in most areas apart from the northwest although rainfall has broadly been at normal levels for the last month.




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). Soil moisture deficit along the east coast has increased again this week, indicating that soils became drier.



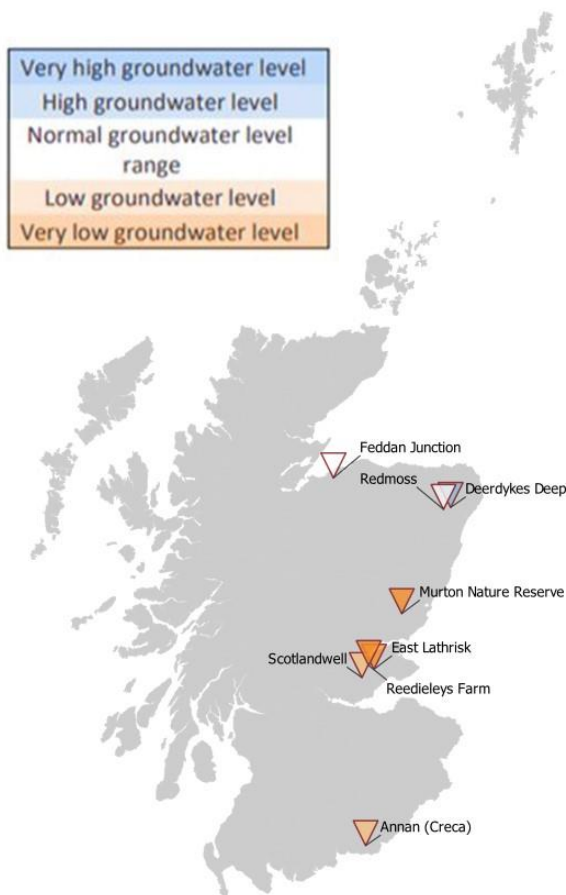
Data based on MORECS (Met Office © Crown Copyright). Some features of this information are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Copyright NERC (CEH). Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right].

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.

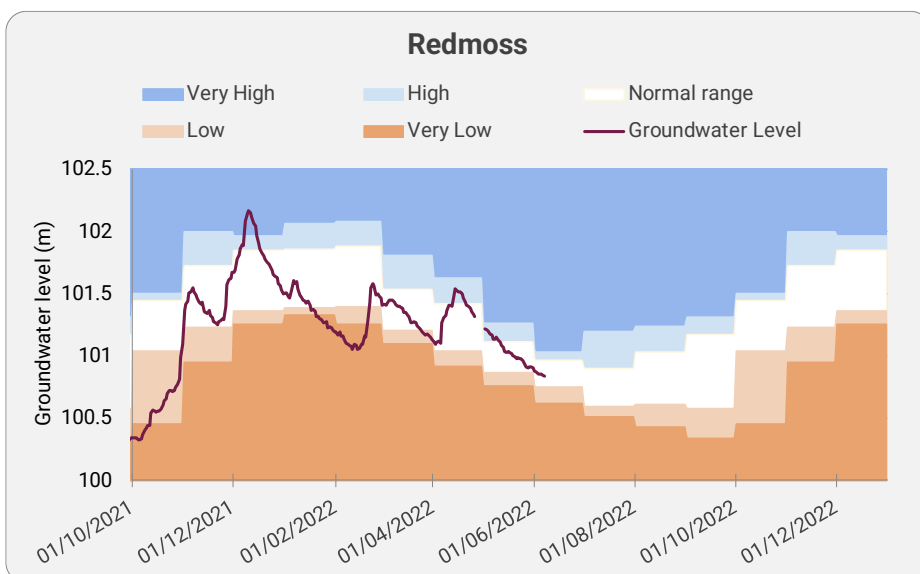
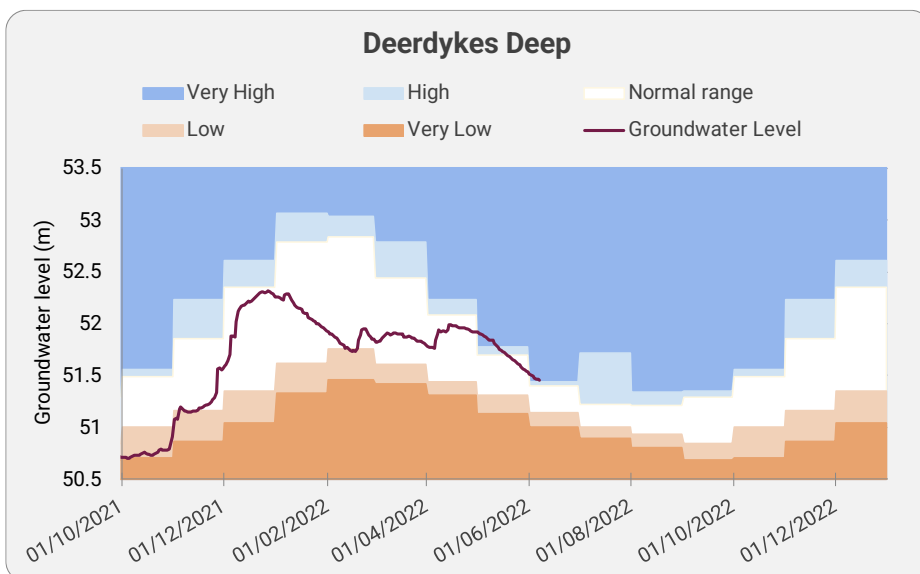
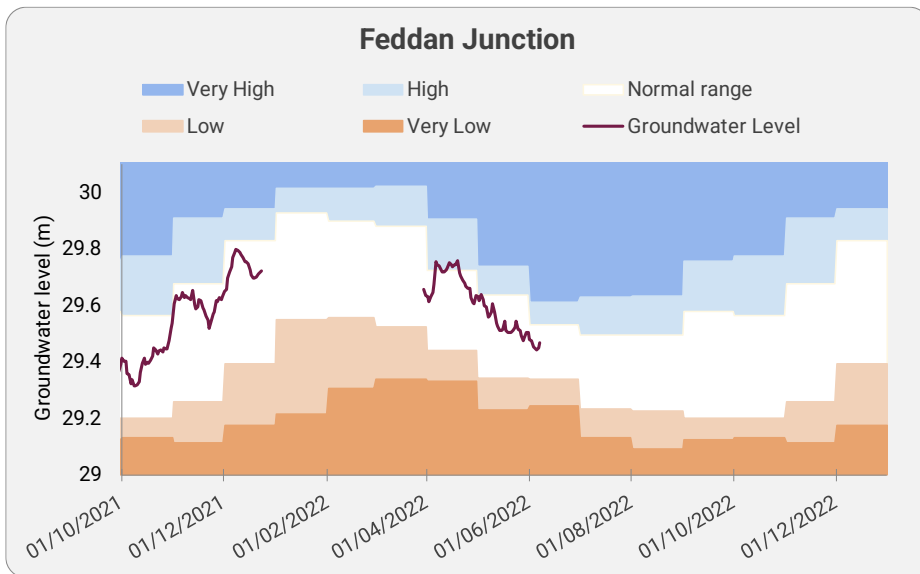


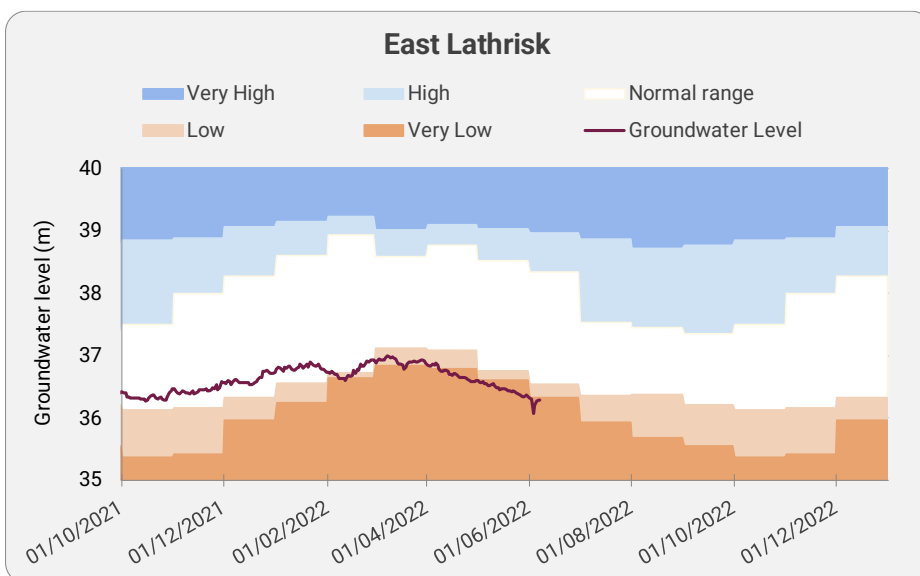
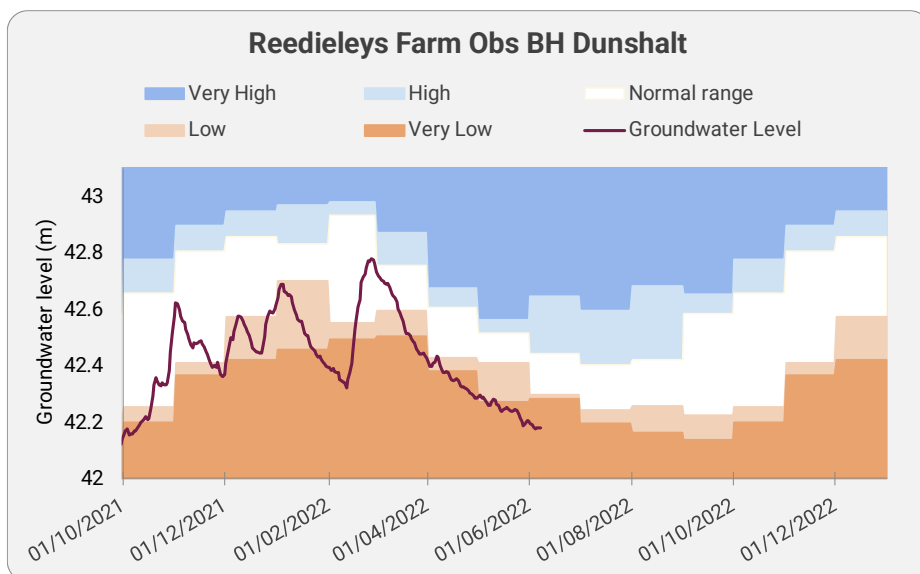
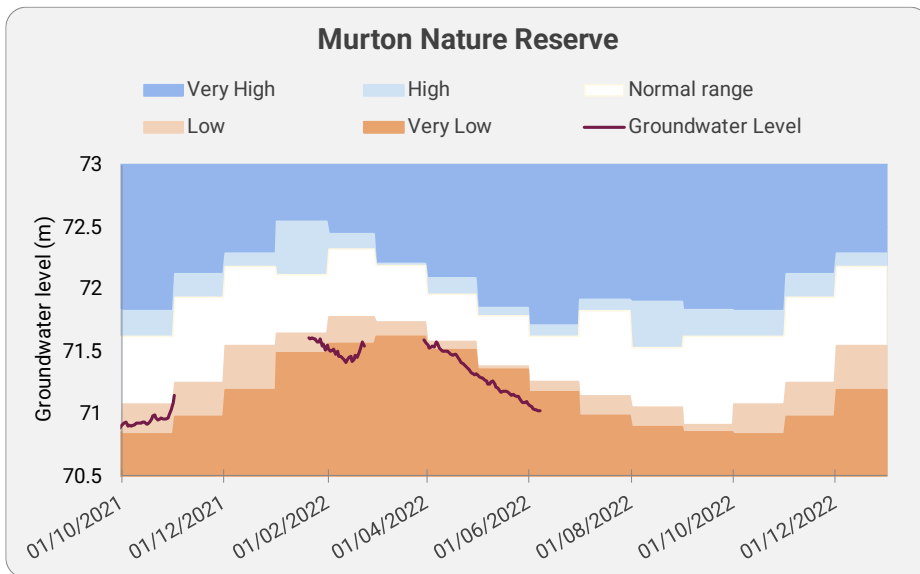
Groundwater levels at the monitoring sites in the east and south-west remain low for the time of year.

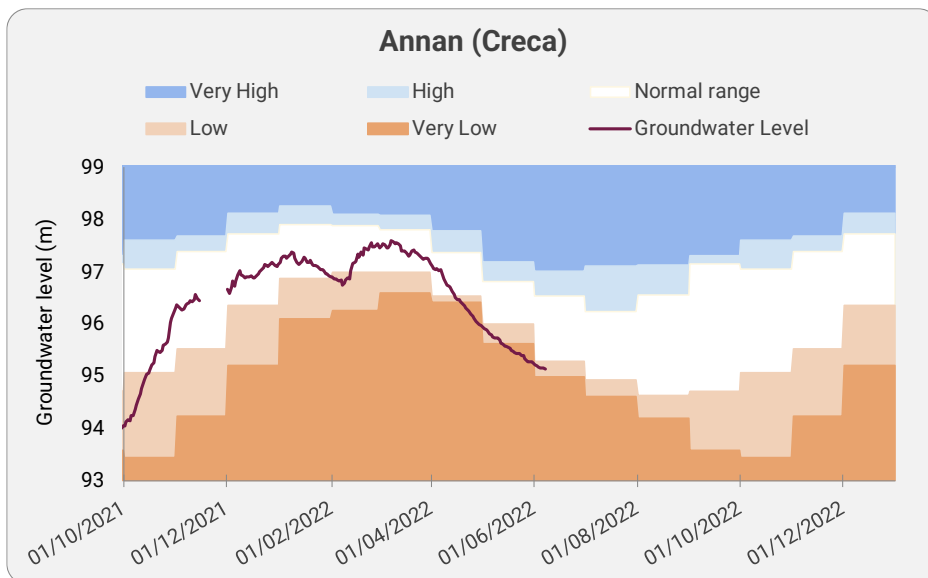
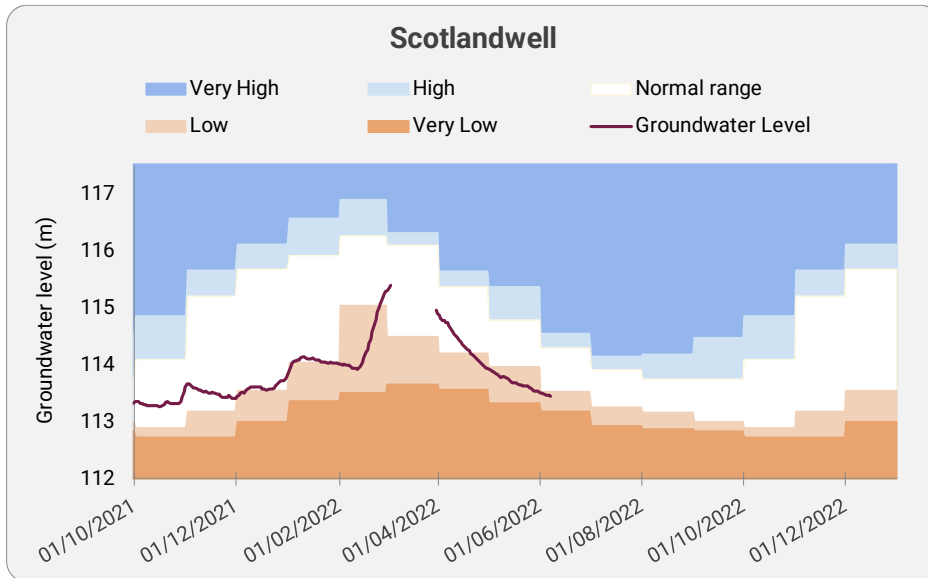
Groundwater levels at the monitoring sites in the north and north-east remain within normal range for the time of year.

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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