

Water Scarcity Report

6th October 2022



Significant rainfall over the past week has led to recovery across much of the country.

The River Enrick in the Ness catchment is no longer at Significant Scarcity.

Situation Summary

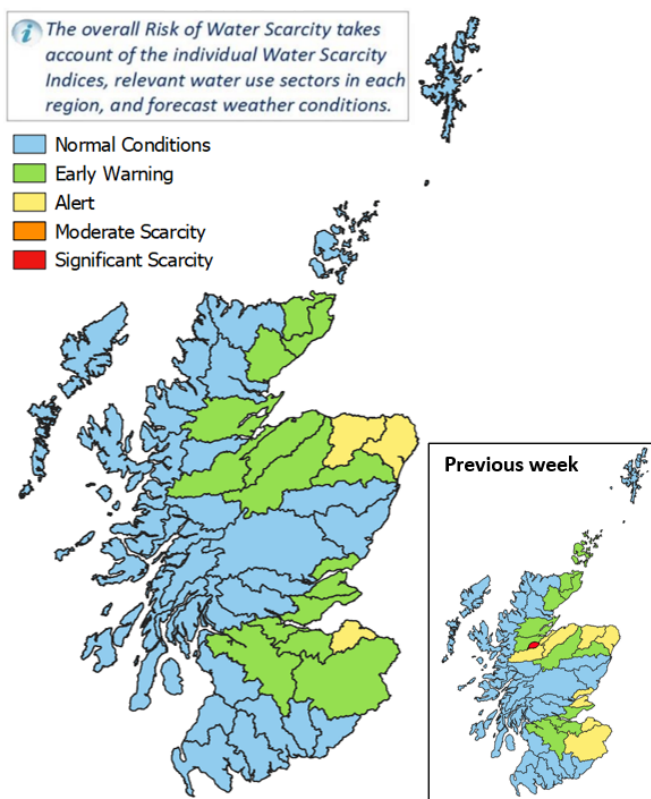
Recent rainfall has resulted in recovery in most places across Scotland.

The River Enrick to the west of Loch Ness, in the Ness catchment, is no longer at Significant Scarcity.

The Ness, Findhorn Group, Firth of Tay Group and Tweed catchments have recovered to Early Warning, while the Beaully and Orkney catchments are now at Normal Conditions.

Rainfall forecast for the next week suggests that further recover is likely in some areas, although this could be limited in the east.

Groundwater levels remain low or very low at all monitoring locations. A prolonged period of above average rainfall is required to offset this storage deficit.



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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.

Longer-term rainfall deficits, low river flows and dry ground conditions persist in areas of the south-east and north-east of the country. A period of above-average rainfall is required to offset these deficits.

SEPA is monitoring the situation 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

Water sources used for irrigating farmland are at risk of becoming limited in the Alert areas. We are urging farmers in these areas, especially if taking water from burns and small rivers, to:

- Routinely check equipment isn't leaking;
- Only use the water required for the use;
- Consider water saving measures for next irrigation season.

Managers of golf courses are asked to do the same.

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.

Public water supplies are operating normally.

Weather forecast (06/10/22)

Thursday and Friday will see widespread showers, some longer spells of rain developing later Thursday afternoon and evening. Scattered showers in the west on Saturday but mainly dry in the east. Further rain spreading east on Sunday afternoon. Mostly dry Monday with showers in northwest from the afternoon.

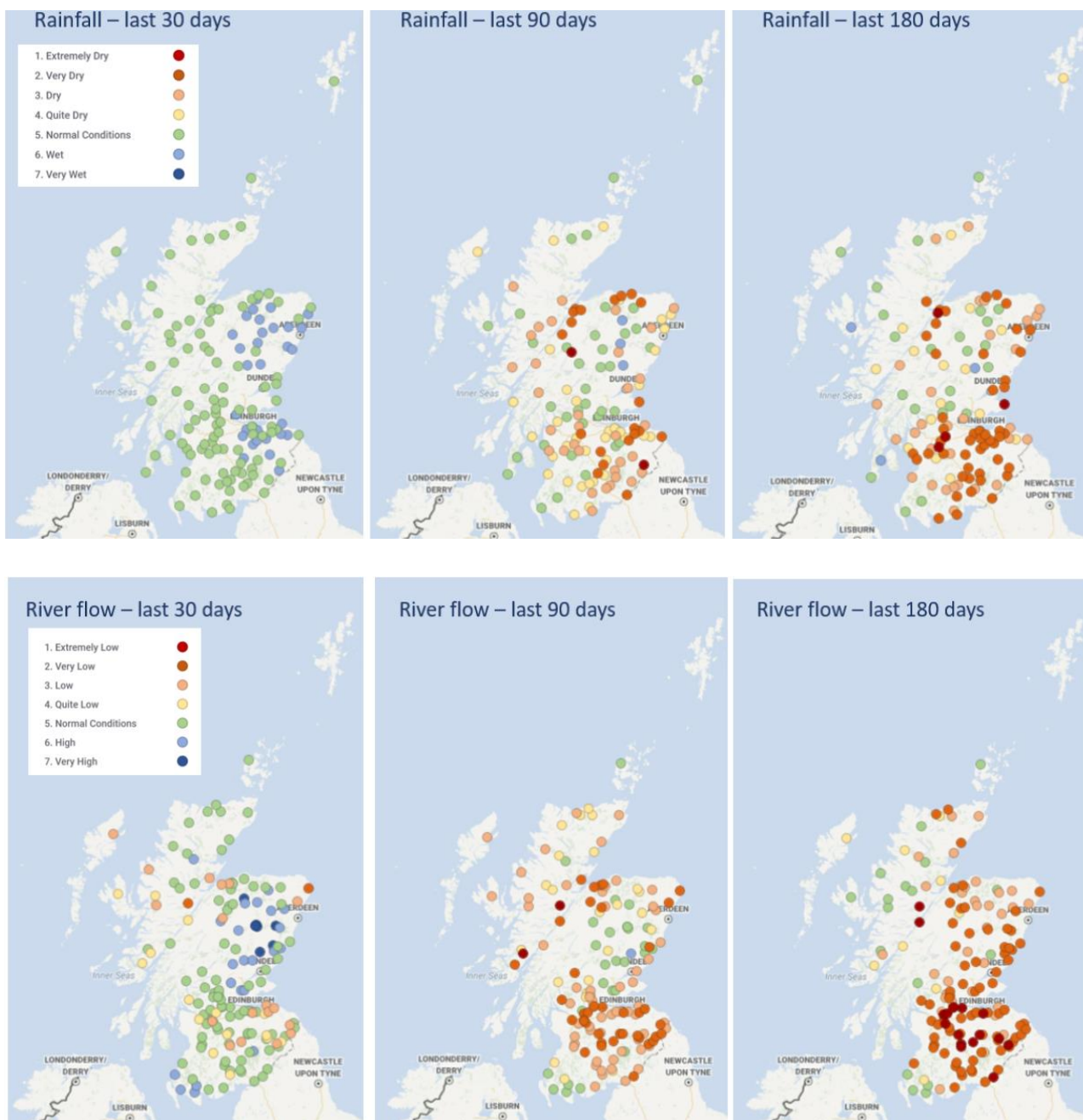
The rainfall outlook for the September-November period suggests that across the UK average rainfall is most likely. Southern and Eastern areas have an increased chance of dry weather continuing, while northern and western areas have most chance of seeing wet conditions.

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Supporting information

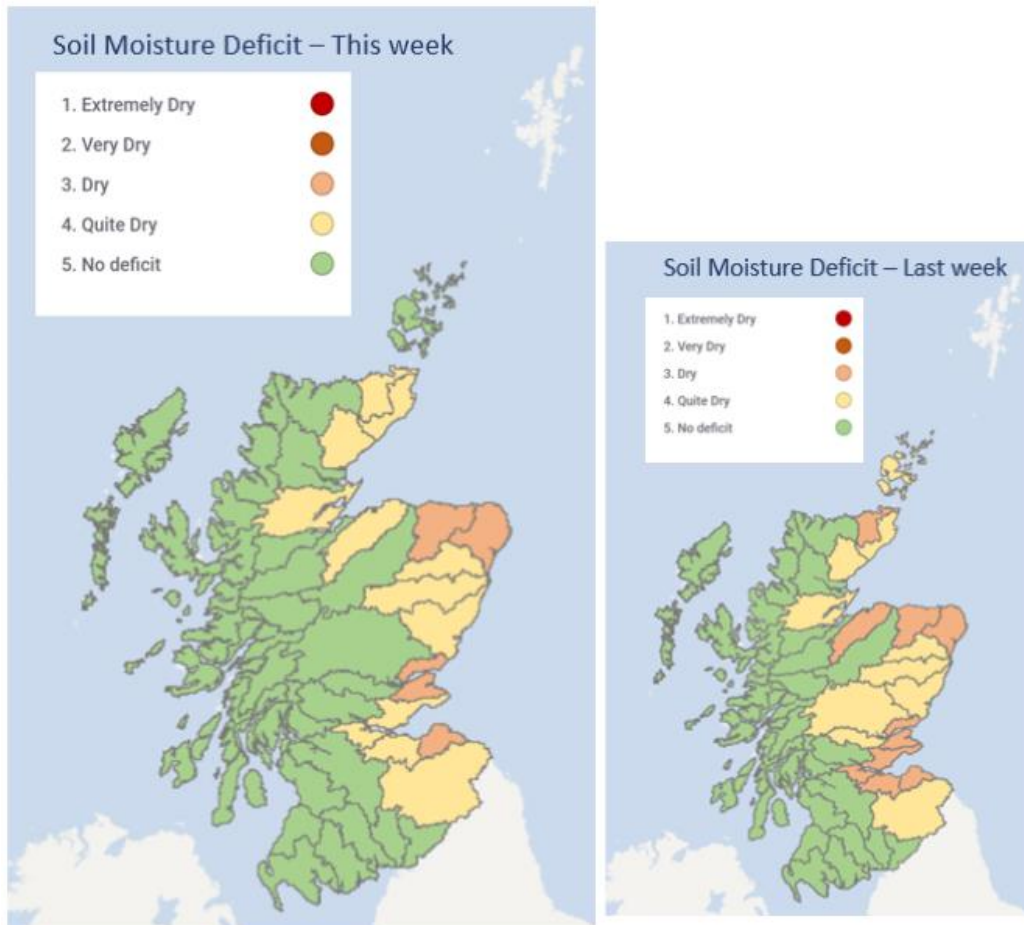
Rainfall and river flows:

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. Rainfall totals have been normal in the shorter term across most parts of the country but conditions in the longer term have been widely dry. The extreme low river flows this summer are still evident on the timescales shown, although there has been a response to recent rainfall.




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). Ground conditions along the east coast are still dry, although there has been some recovery.

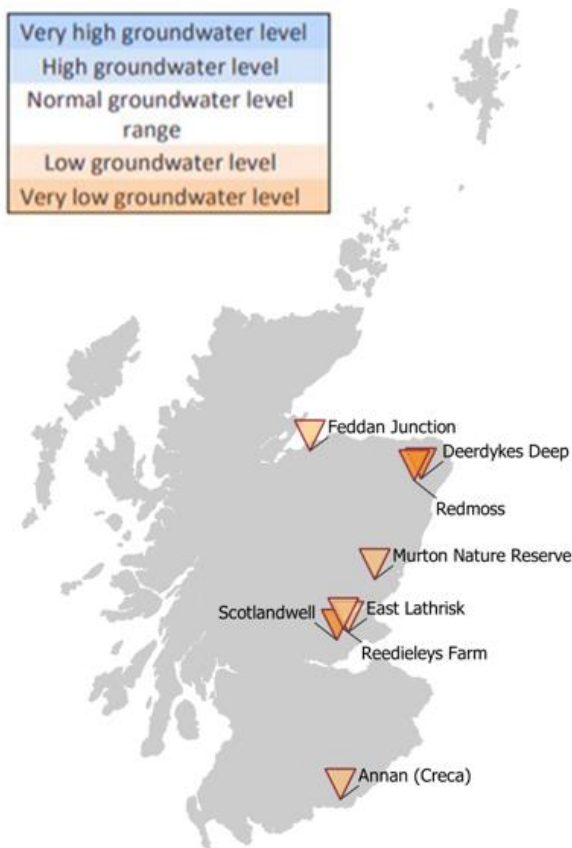


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Groundwater levels:

 **Natural water storage situation**

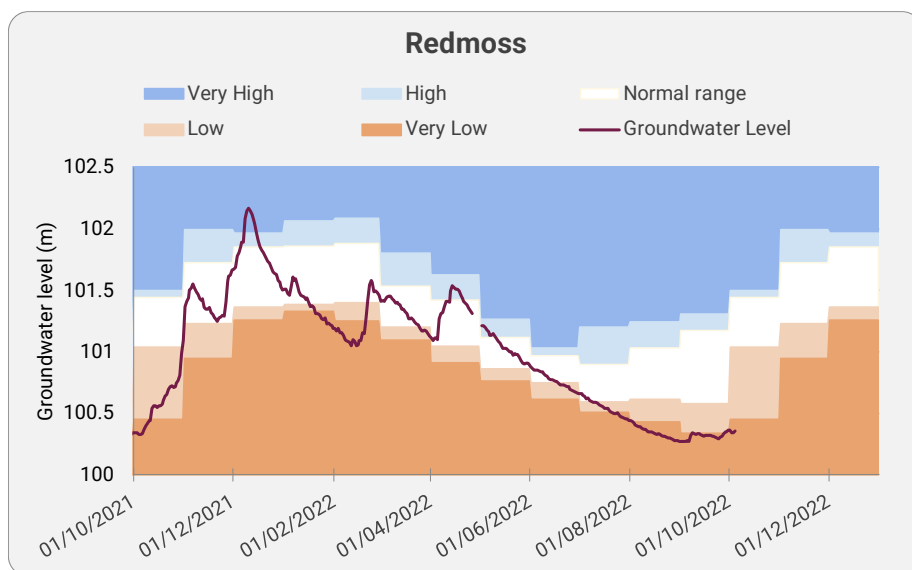
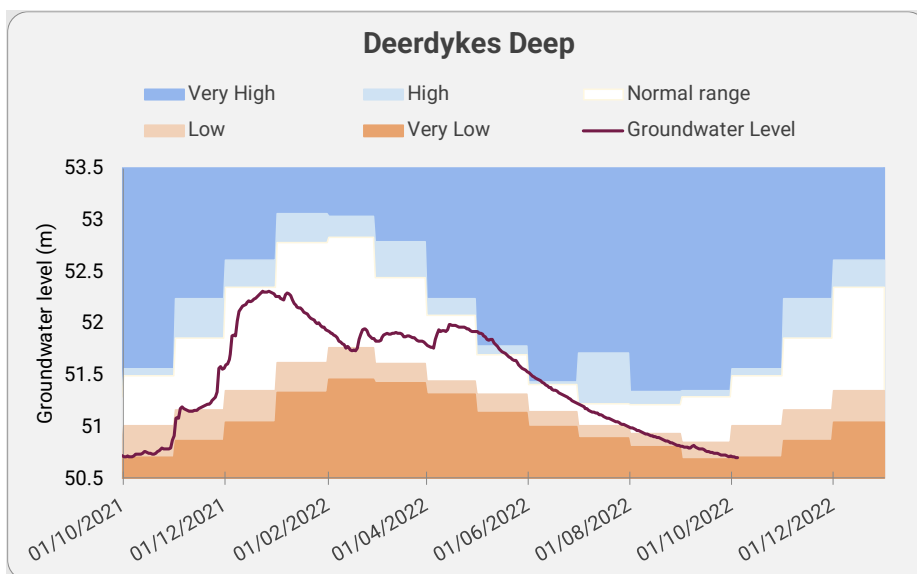
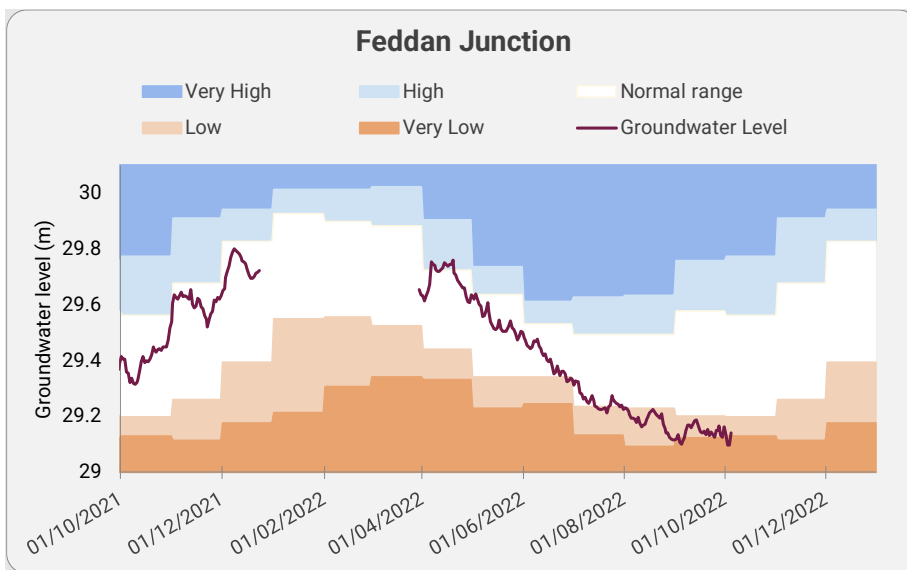
In each river catchment there is some degree of water storage, which can maintain river flows even when it is not raining. This natural water storage is mainly held in lochs and groundwater. When natural storage has been depleted it will take a lot of rainfall for levels to recover.

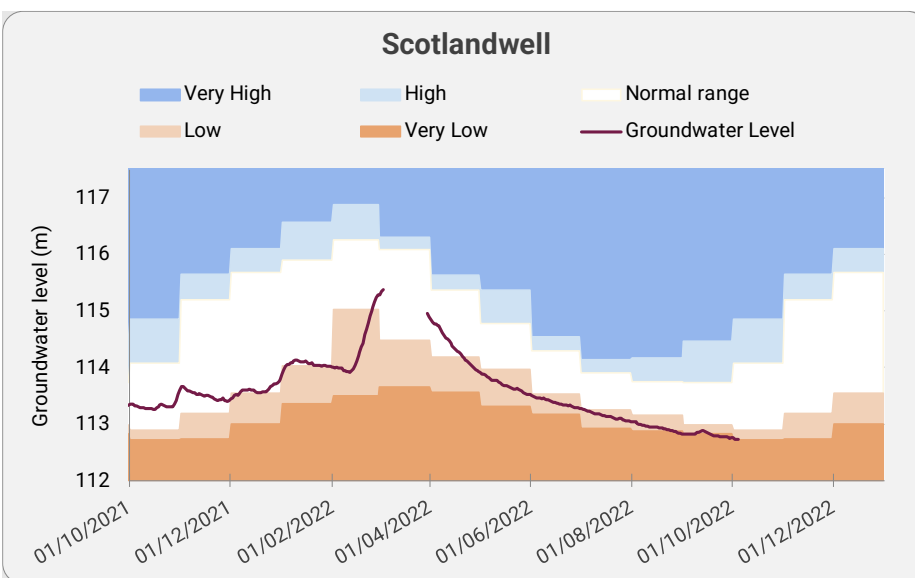
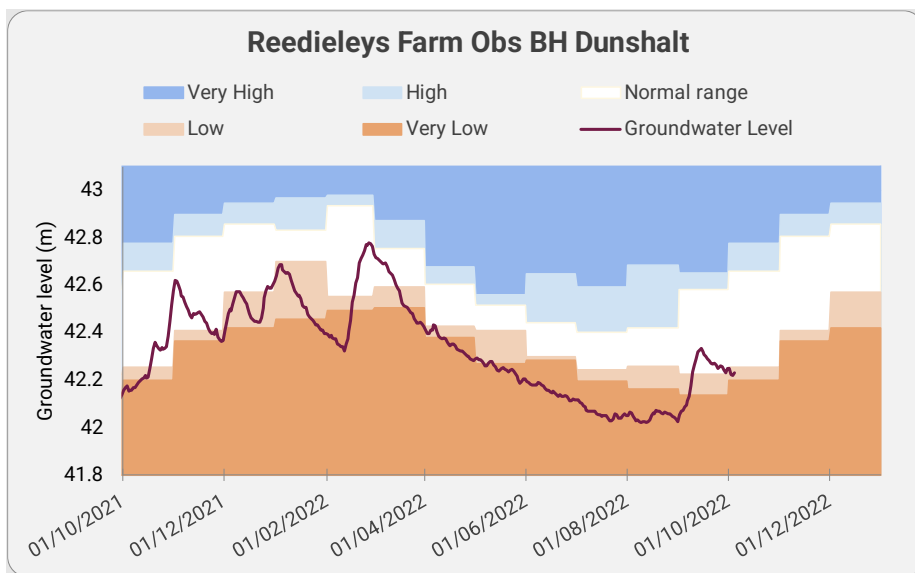
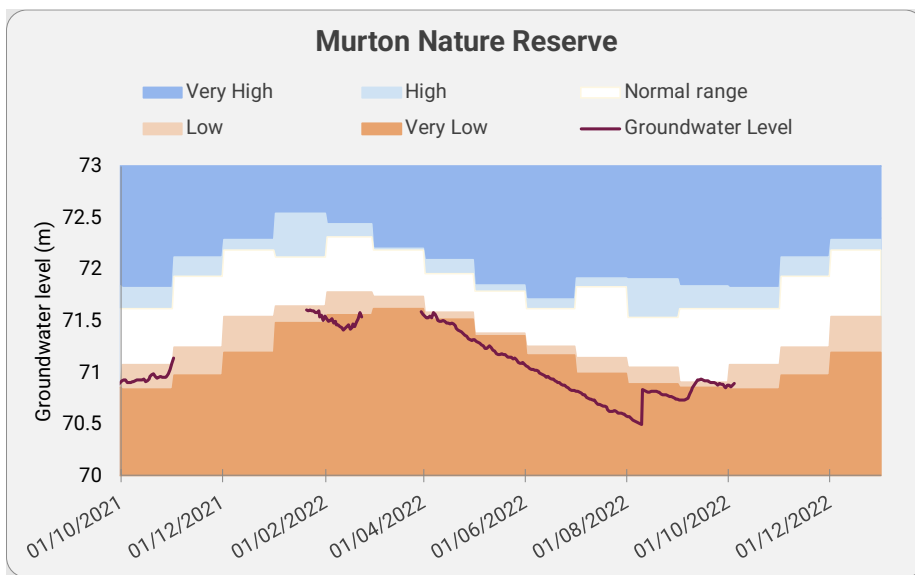


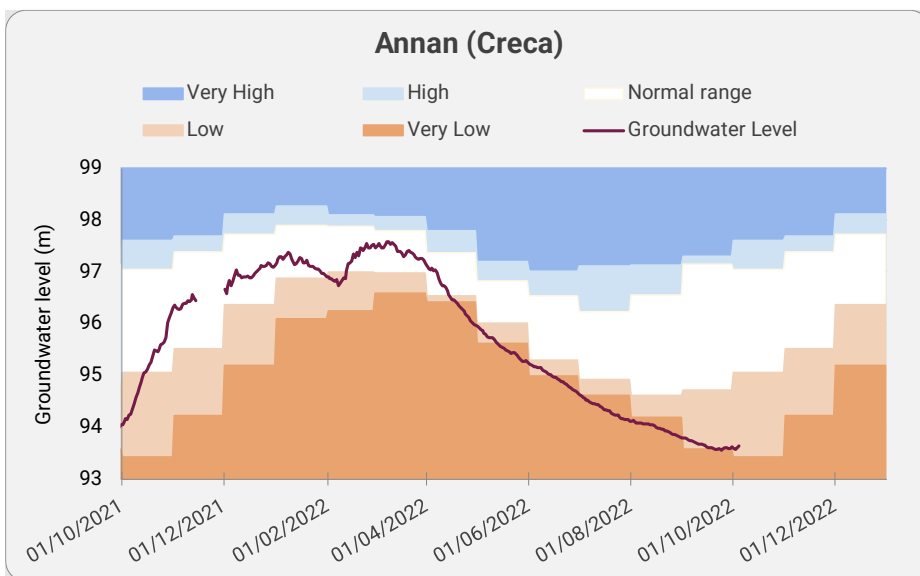
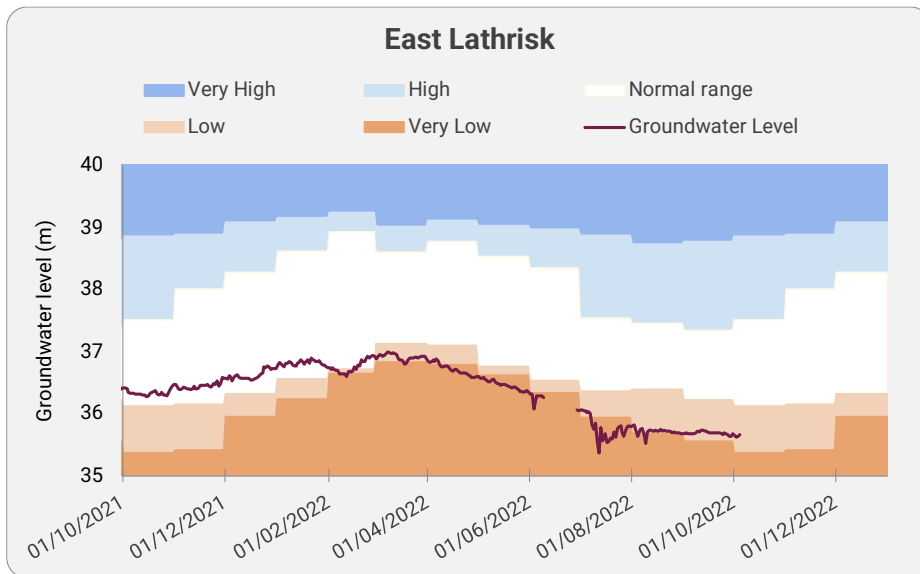
Groundwater levels have seen limited recovery over the past week, with levels ranging between low and very low.

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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