

# Water Scarcity Report

20<sup>th</sup> October 2022



**Early Warning remains in place in the Conon, Findhorn, Deveron, Ythan, Don, Firth of Tay, and the Tyne (Lothian) catchments.**

**Normal Conditions are in place across the rest of the country.**

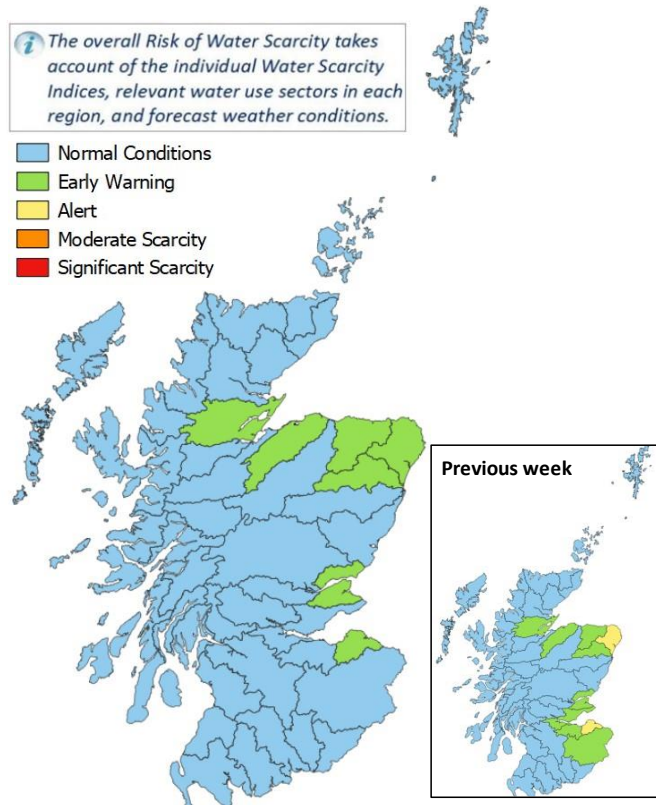
## Situation Summary

Surface conditions continue to improve across Scotland, with more areas recovering to normal conditions for the time of year.

Some areas in the east remain at early warning due to the very dry summer. River levels at some locations are still low, and groundwater levels at most monitoring locations have not shown significant recovery, particularly in the northeast. A prolonged period of above average rainfall is required to offset this storage deficit.

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/>



*The overall Risk of Water Scarcity takes account of the individual Water Scarcity Indices, relevant water use sectors in each region, and forecast weather conditions.*

- Normal Conditions
- Early Warning
- Alert
- Moderate Scarcity
- Significant 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

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](#).

Public water supplies are operating normally.

## Weather forecast (20/10/22)

Rain will affect much of Scotland through Thursday with a brief period of drier conditions over northern parts late afternoon and evening. This rain clears north Friday, followed by a brief period of dry conditions spreading north through the day. These dry conditions will however soon be followed by further rain from the south. Southern parts soon become dry Saturday, these conditions spreading to northern parts late evening. Rain will continue to reach most parts Sunday and Monday, interspersed with brief dry spells.

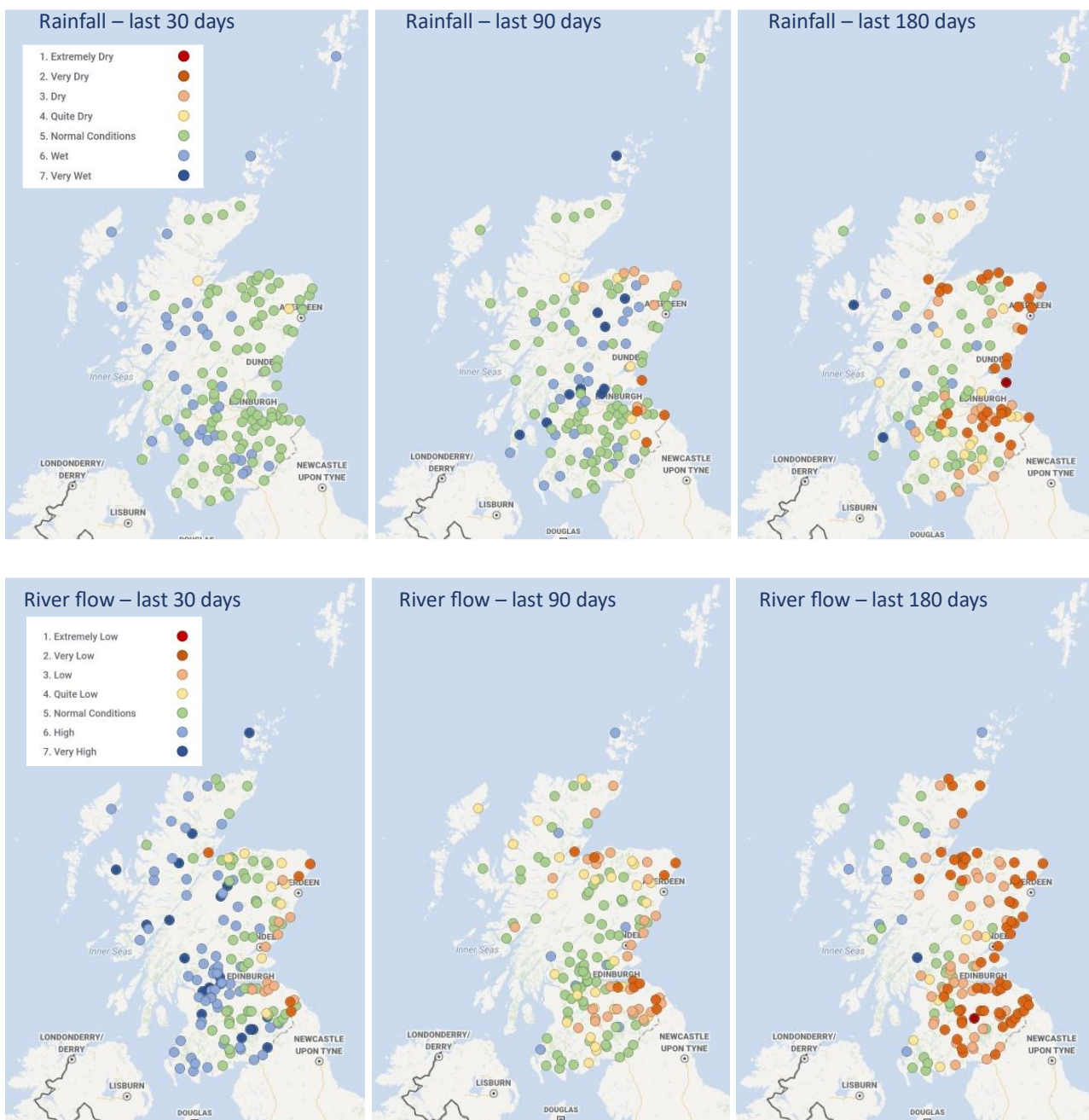
The rainfall outlook for the October-December period suggests that across the UK average rainfall is most likely. Northern and western areas have highest chance of seeing wet conditions.

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## Supporting information

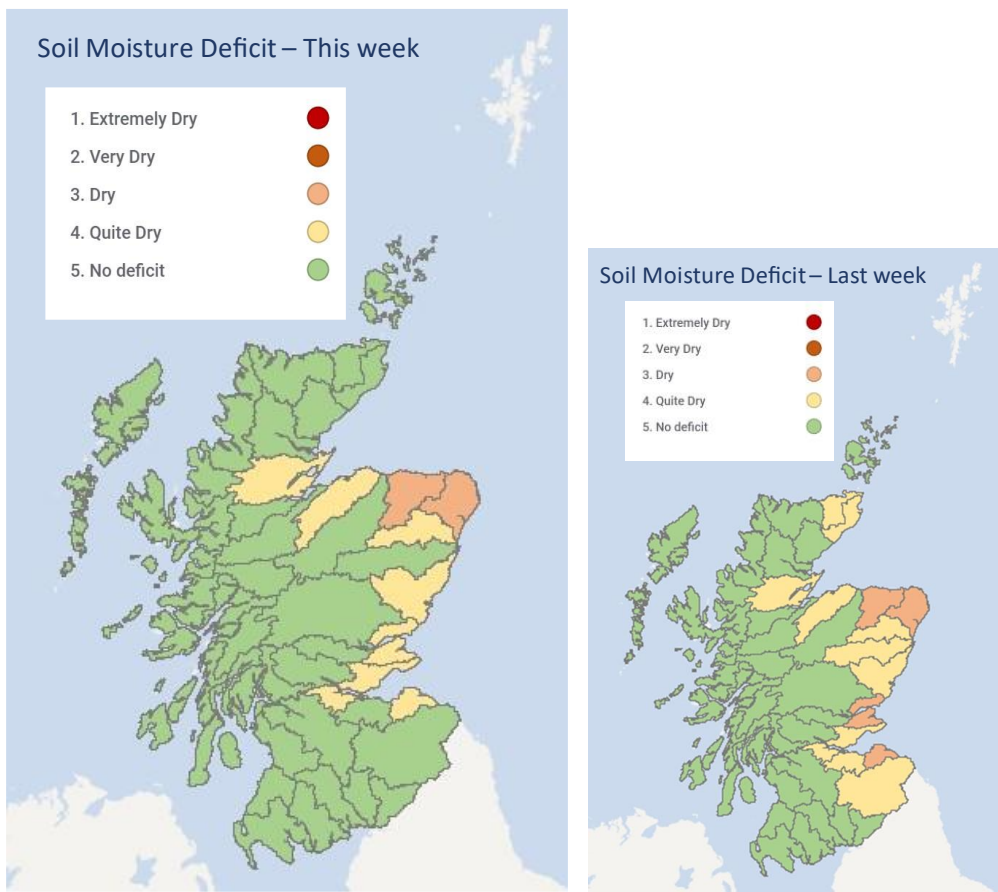
### Rainfall and river flows:

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 short to medium term across most parts of the country but the effect of the dry summer can still be seen in the longer term in the east of the country. The extreme low river flows this summer are more evident on the timescales shown, although in the short term this is limited to certain rivers in the east coast, with relatively normal to very high flows elsewhere over 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). Ground conditions along the east coast are still dry, although there has been some localised recovery.



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Groundwater levels:

**i** **Natural water storage situation**

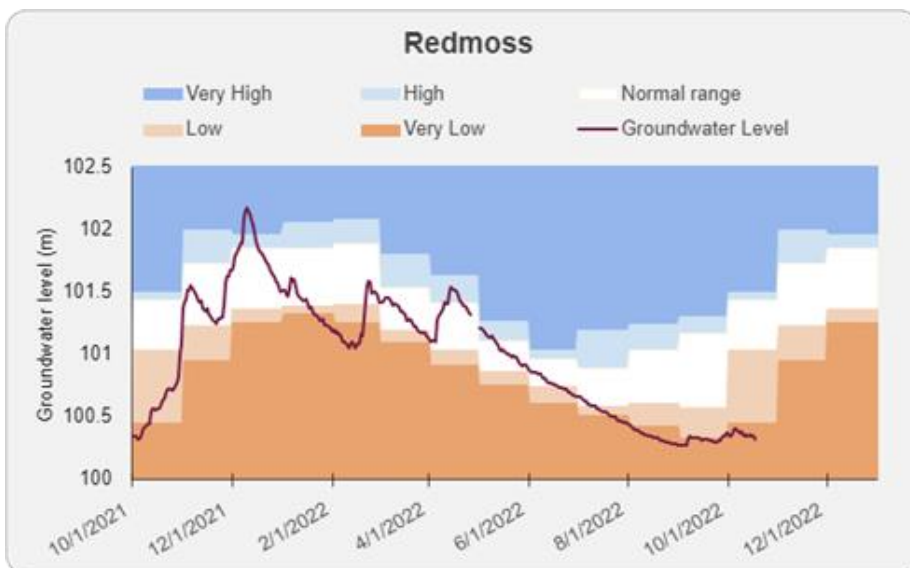
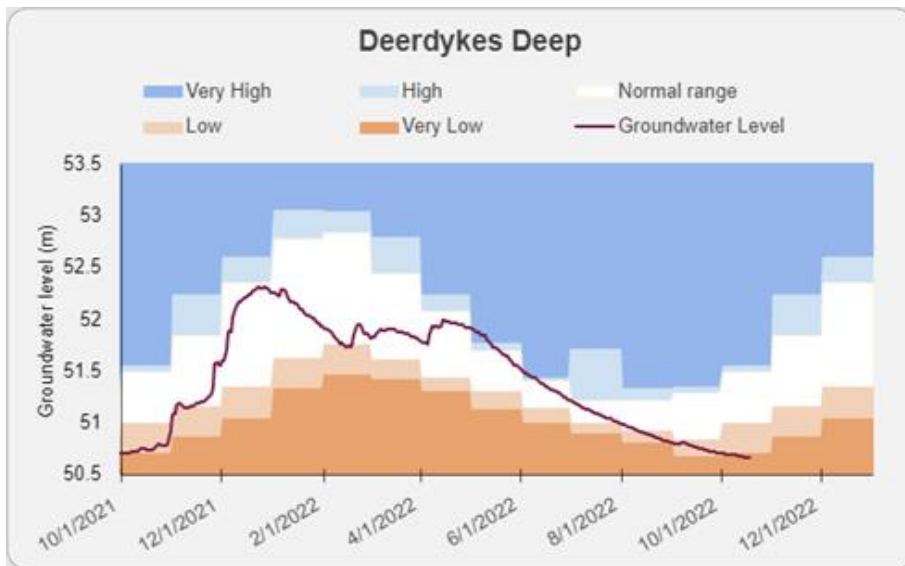
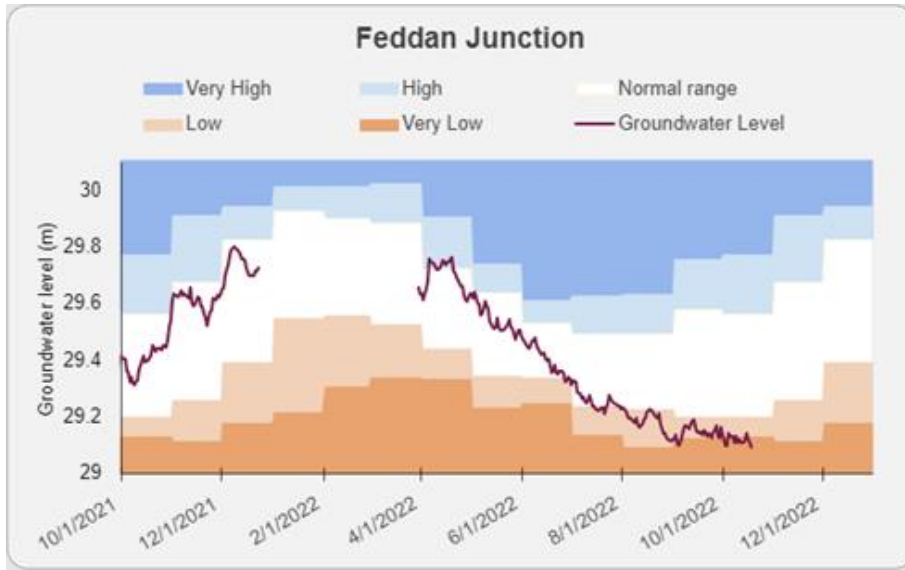
In each river catchment there is some degree of water storage, which can maintain river flows even when it is not raining. This natural water storage is mainly held in lochs and groundwater. When natural storage has been depleted it will take a lot of rainfall for levels to recover.

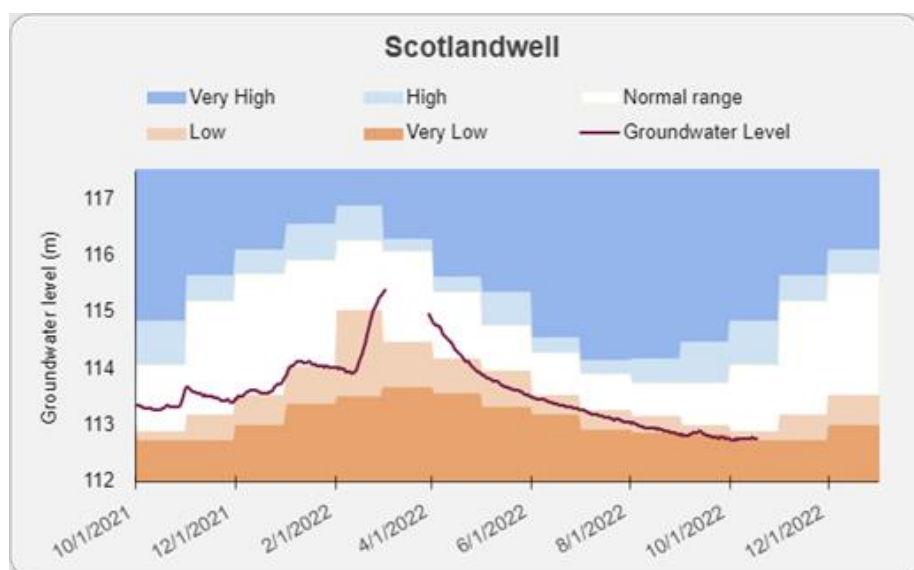
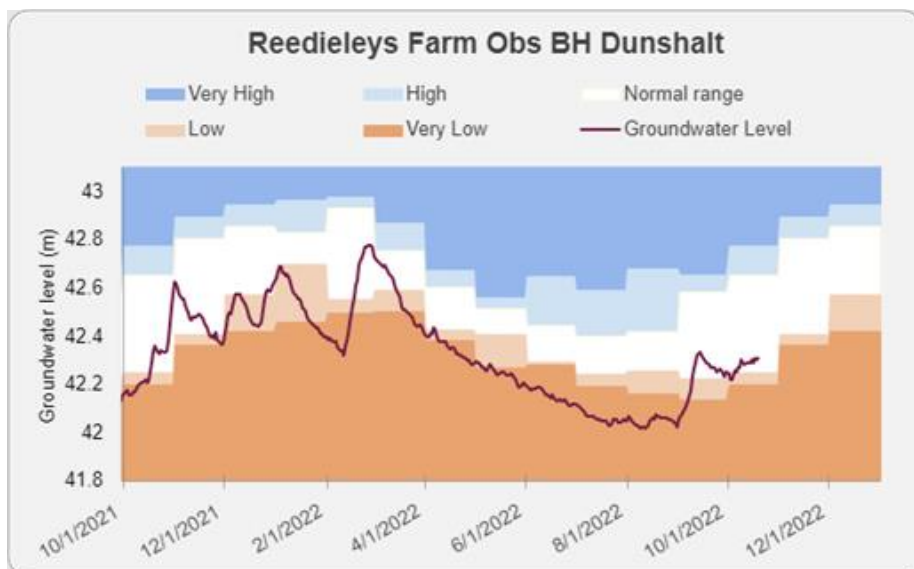
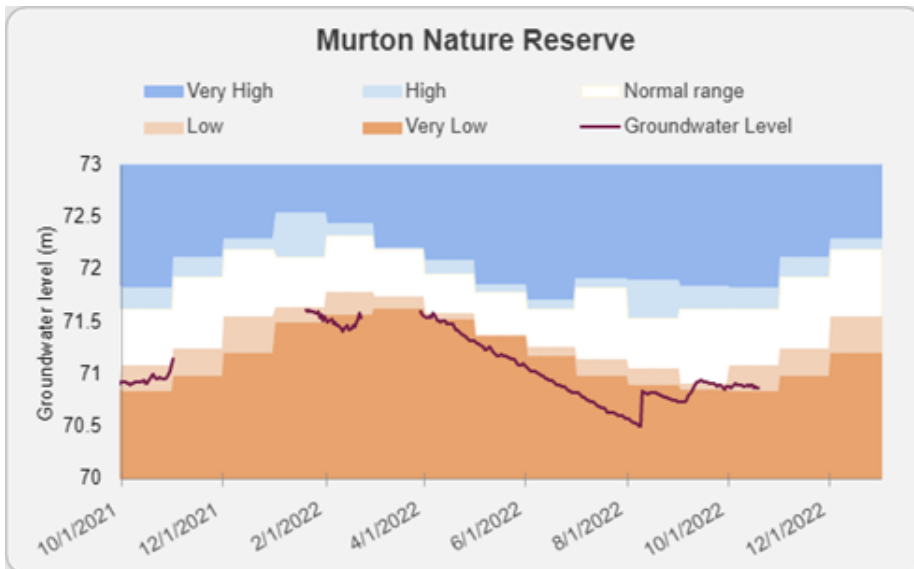


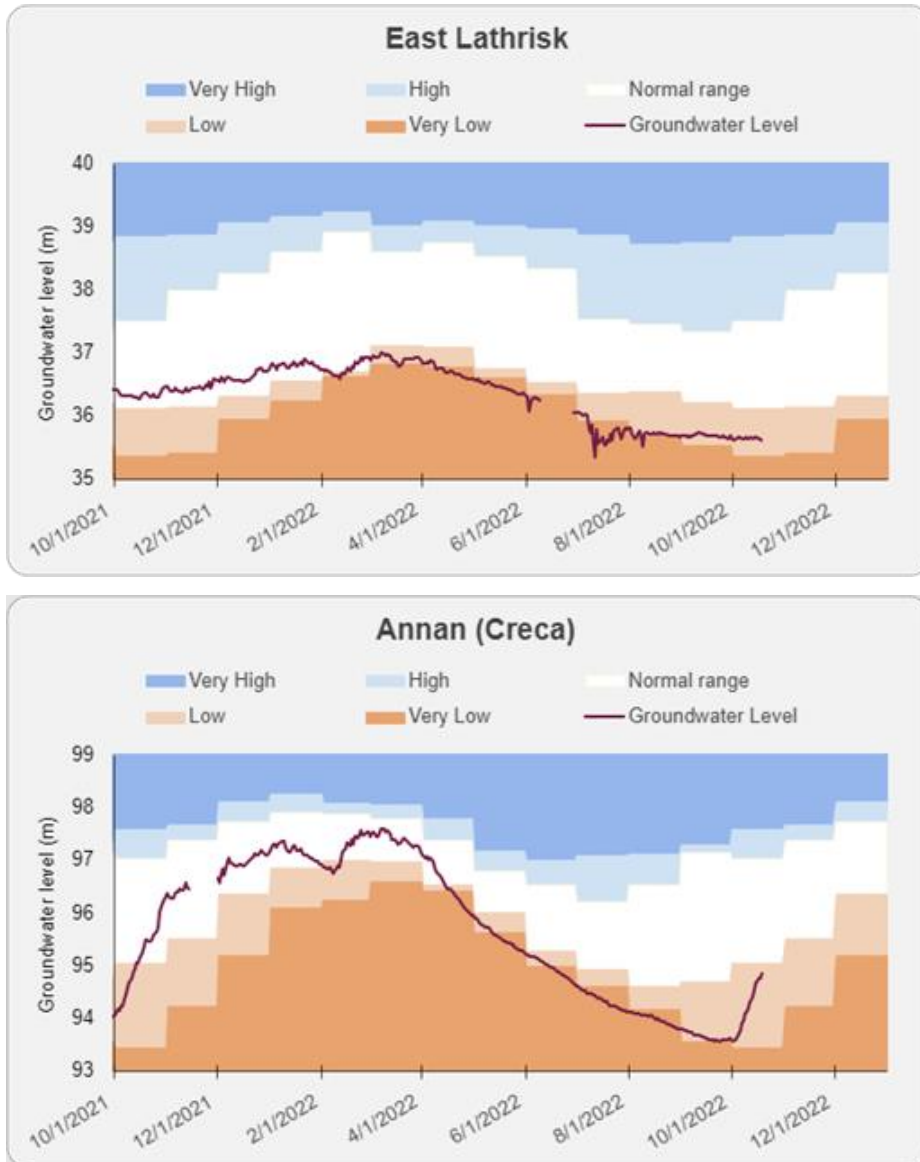
Groundwater levels have seen limited recovery over the past week, with levels mainly ranging between low and very low. Loch level data is not currently available.

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](mailto:equalities@sepa.org.uk)

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

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