

HEADLINE

An Early Warning has been added for the Northeast, Tay and Forth areas.

Normal Conditions elsewhere.

Situation summary

The weather has been fairly normal for the time of year across the country over the previous weeks, except for parts of the east coast where soils are continuing to dry. Eastern areas are showing a medium soil moisture deficit. This may mean that irrigation will be required for some crops which, if conditions become drier, could put pressure on water resources.

There is still a longer-term rainfall deficit showing due to the relatively dry winter. This can have the potential to impact on larger water resource storage sources, including reservoir and groundwater levels, but no significant impacts have been observed so far in this respect.

Scottish Water reservoir stocks are operating normally, although some reservoirs are now being closely monitored.

River levels are now quite low across much of the country, typical of this time of year.

Forecast

The forecast for the next five days is for very dry and warm weather. The longer-term outlook (up to three months) shows broadly normal rainfall and river flow conditions are most likely.

On-going action

We are continuing to monitor the situation closely.

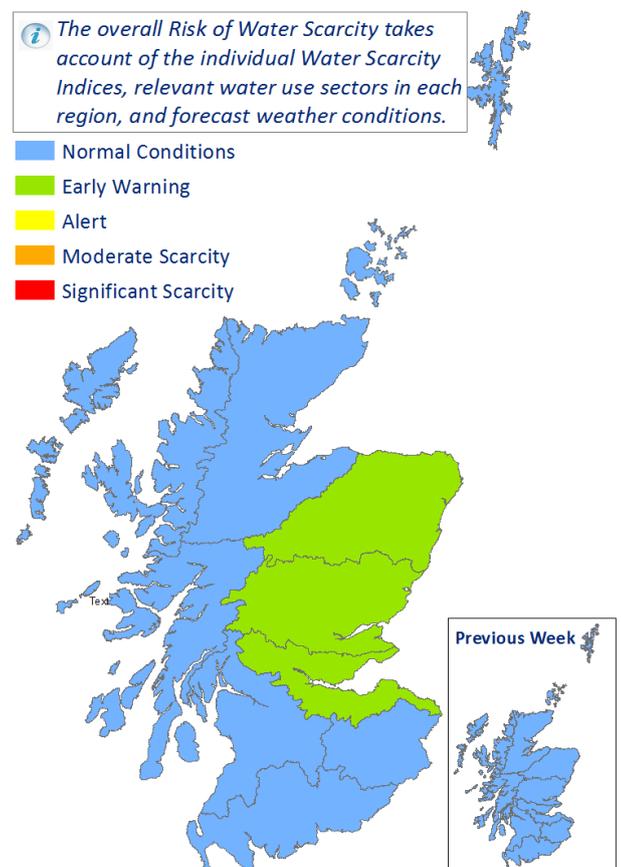
As there is now an early warning in place SEPA will issue updated water situation reports weekly. The latest report will be available on SEPA's website (<https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity>).

Water users, particularly irrigators within the Early Warning areas, should plan ahead and consider water needs over the coming weeks. [Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan](#) contains details of the actions required to manage water scarcity.

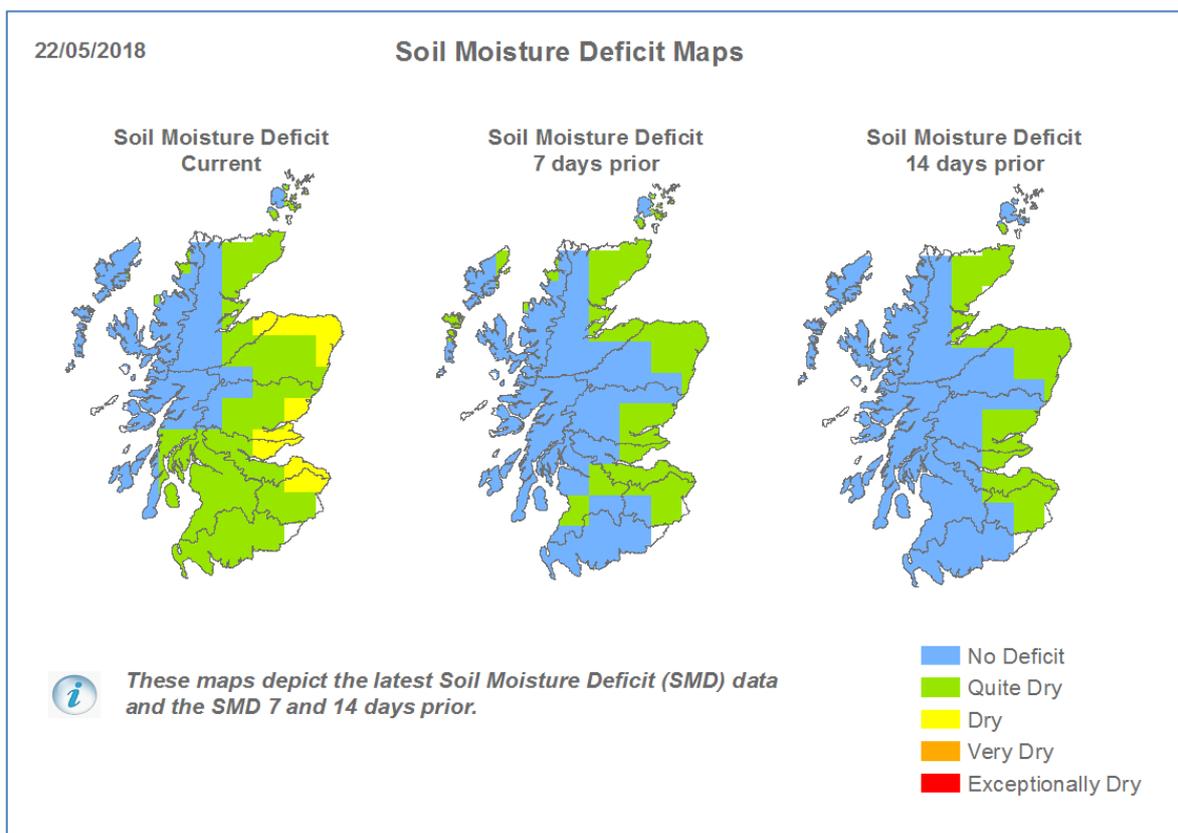
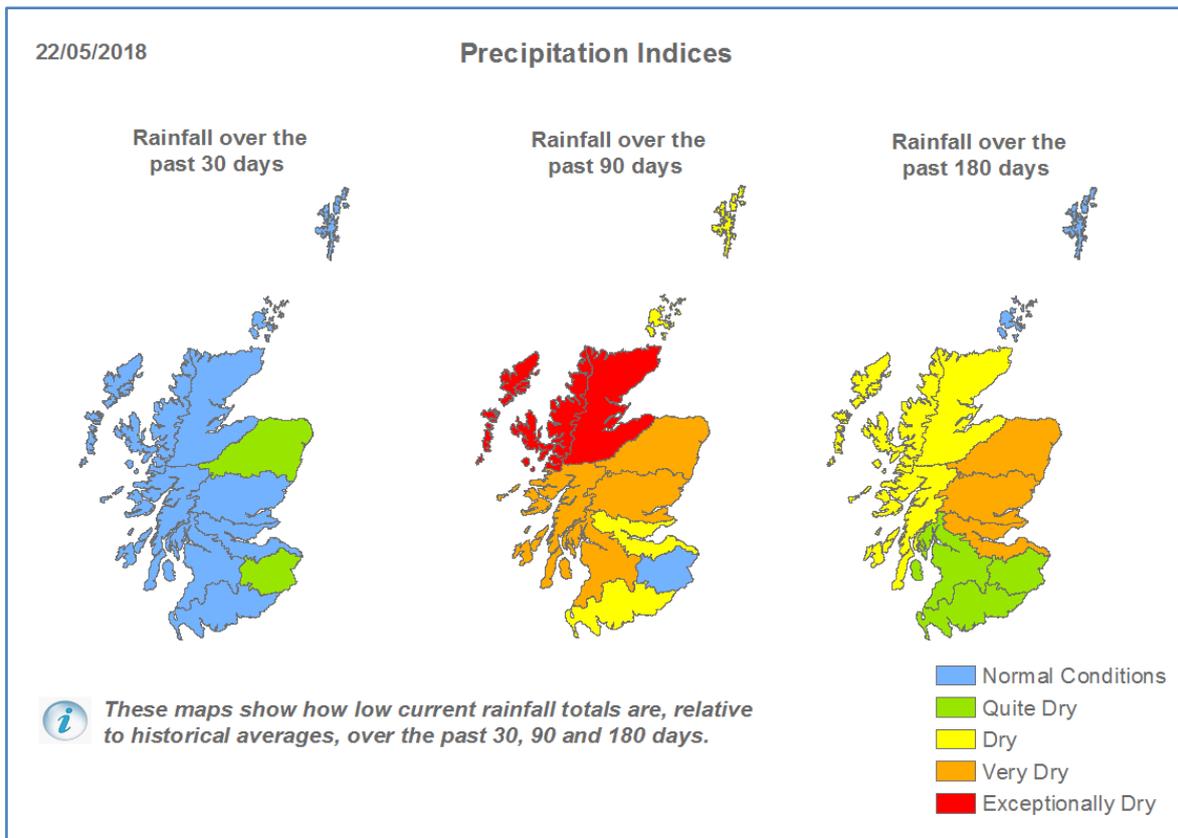
Risk of Water Scarcity

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



Further details on the current situation are provided in the following figures:



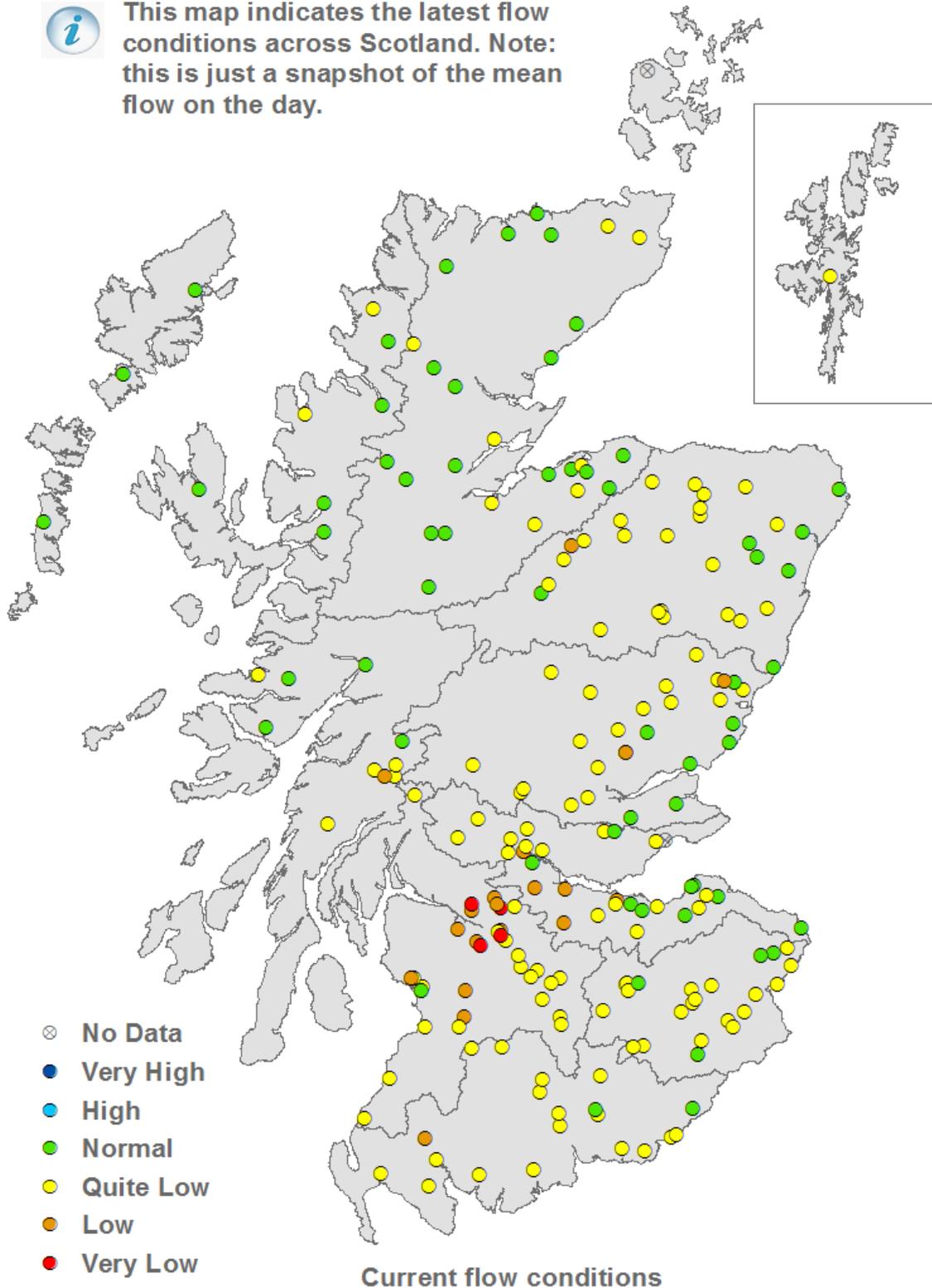
Soil moisture categories are based upon MORECS data (Source: Met Office © Crown Copyright, 2017).

Current Flow Conditions

22/05/2018

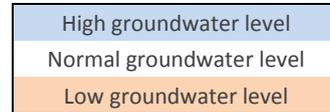
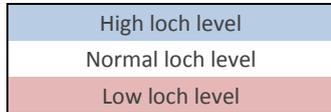


This map indicates the latest flow conditions across Scotland. Note: this is just a snapshot of the mean flow on the day.



Loch and Groundwater levels: 22/05/2018

 These historic trend groundwater and loch levels show the current levels (the dark line) compared to the record high and low. The white zone represents the observed range with the central line as the long-term average trend.



The lochs shown are representative uninfluenced lochs. Loch levels respond quicker to rainfall than groundwater levels so it is normal that the level fluctuates more.

