

HEADLINE

An Alert is issued for part of the North Highland area. Northeast, Tay and Forth areas remain at Alert level.

Early Warnings are maintained for Tweed, Solway, Clyde, Argyll, North Highland and West Highland.

Situation summary

Despite recent rainfall, conditions have remained dry across the majority of the country with effects becoming more widespread. Ground conditions have continued to get drier over most parts of the country this week, with soil moisture deficits becoming more significant across the east and along the Moray coast.

River levels are still quite low generally and very low in the north. Reservoir and loch levels have dropped significantly over the last few weeks. Reservoir levels and river flows are particularly low in the Conon and Spey catchments.

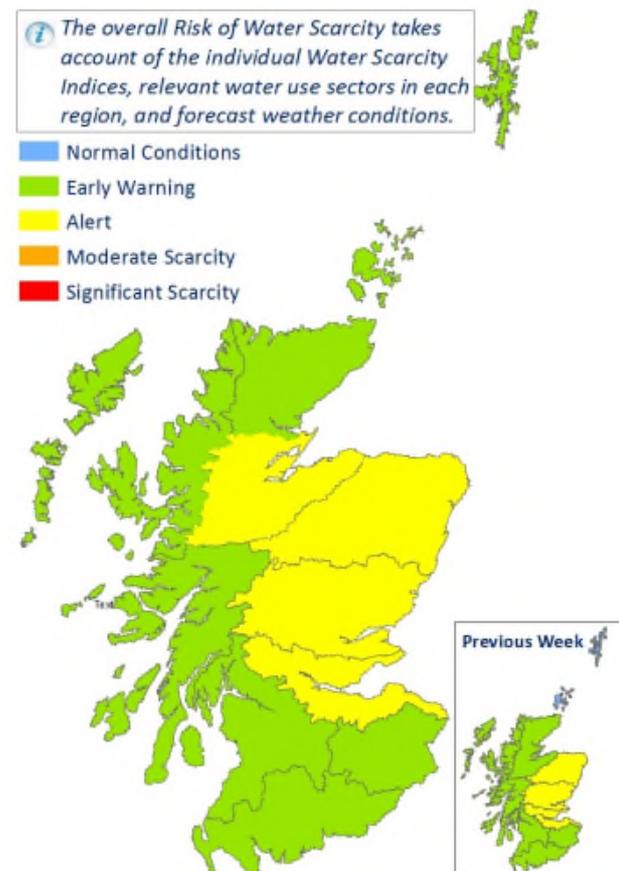
With the dry ground conditions at present, a significant amount of rainfall will be required to ease the situation. Heavy rainfall fell in the west on Wednesday and Thursday, with showers also extending across the country. However, rainfall totals this week are not expected to be significant enough within the Alert areas to significantly alleviate the situation and the pressure on water resources is expected to continue.

We are monitoring the situation closely and coordinating steps to manage water resources in line with [Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan](#).

Public water supplies are operating normally. Dry weather measures are being put in place for some sources that are more vulnerable, but are not currently a cause of concern.

Water sources used for irrigating farm land are at risk of becoming limited particularly in the North Highland, Northeast, Tay and Forth regions. We are urging farmers in these areas, especially if taking water from burns and small rivers, to:

Risk of Water Scarcity



- Only irrigate when, and only as much as, absolutely necessary;
- Make sure irrigation equipment isn't leaking;
- Try to irrigate at night to reduce evaporation losses;
- Explore how you and your neighbours in the same river catchment could avoid irrigating at the same time;
- Consider whether you could switch to using groundwater rather than river water if conditions worsen. If you would need a new borehole to do this your local SEPA office will be able to help and advise.

Managers of golf courses in these parts of the country are asked to do the same.

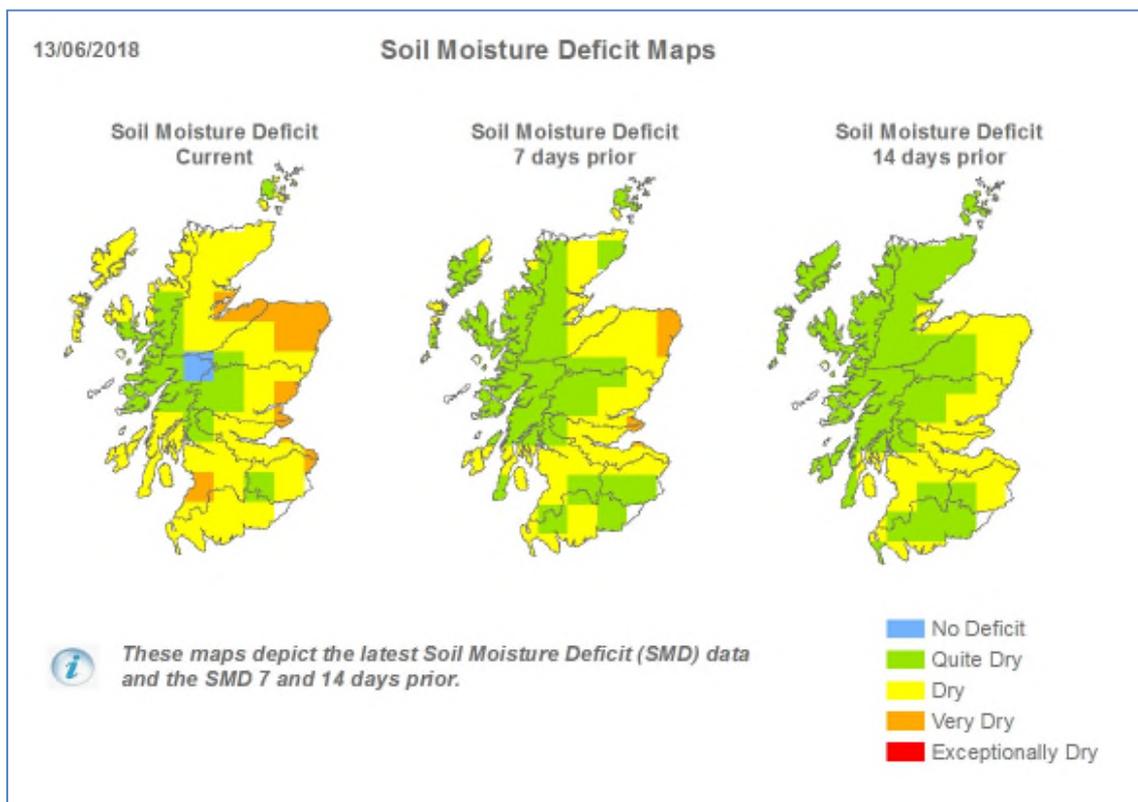
Water abstractors with concerns about meeting licence conditions or wishing to discuss contingency measures should contact their local [SEPA office](#).

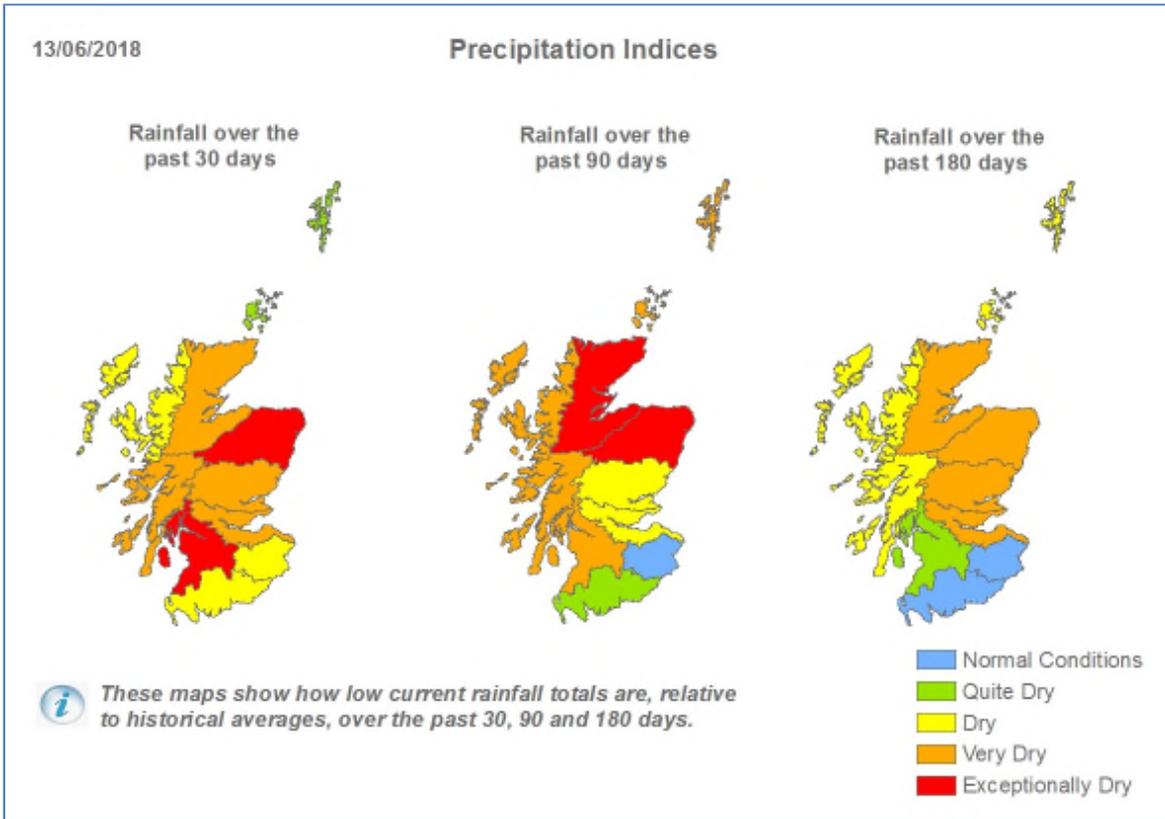
Forecast

Unsettled conditions will continue over the weekend, with scattered showers which may be locally heavy. The rainfall will be heaviest in the northwest and will be very limited along the east coast.

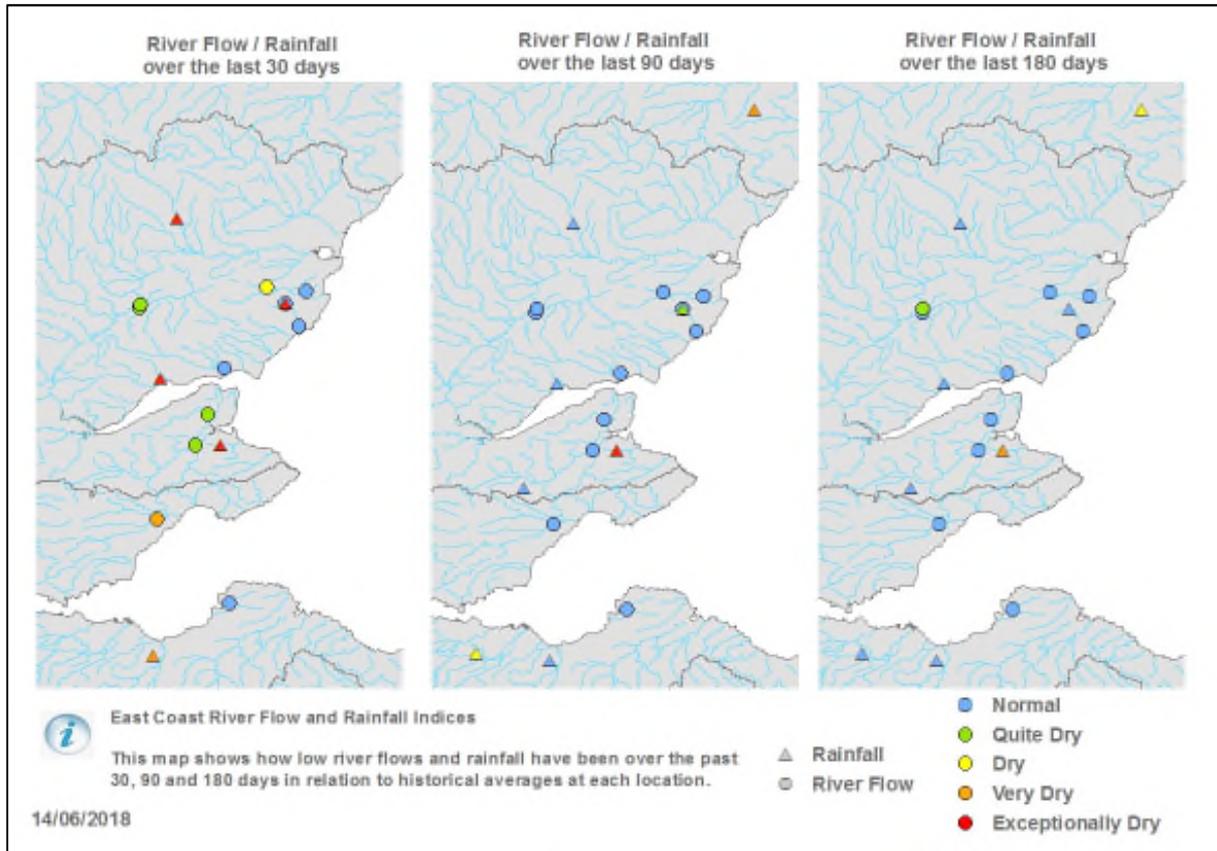
The longer-term outlook shows a slightly higher likelihood of drier and warmer conditions than normal over the next three months, although the confidence in this is not high.

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





East coast detail: River flow and rainfall indices

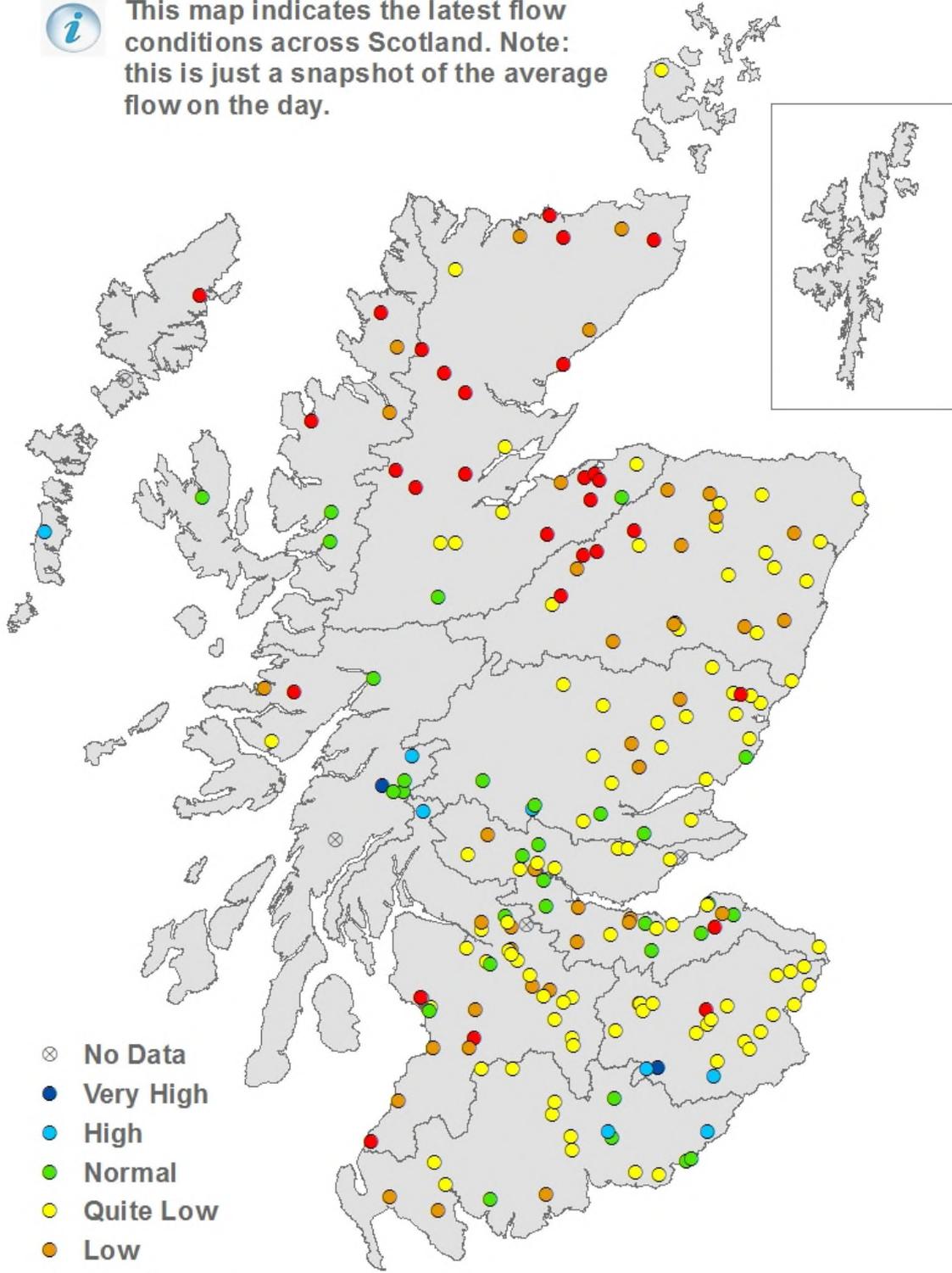


Current Flow Conditions

14/06/2018



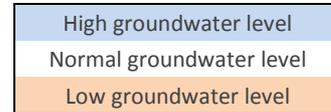
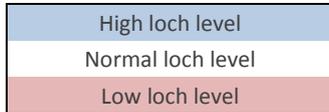
This map indicates the latest flow conditions across Scotland. Note: this is just a snapshot of the average flow on the day.



Current flow conditions

Loch and Groundwater levels: 13/06/2018

 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.

