

HEADLINE

The Northeast, Tay, Forth and part of the North Highland area remain at Alert level. The Western Isles has also been raised to Alert level this week.

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

Argyll has returned to Normal Conditions.

Situation summary

Despite recent heavy rainfall this past week, the water scarcity situation remains broadly the same, with dry ground conditions over most parts of the country and pressures on water resources expected to continue in the Alert areas.

River and loch levels across the country have shown some recovery this week following the rainfall. This is particularly evident in western regions. Groundwater levels remain within the normal range for the time of year.

The soil moisture deficit remains high in eastern areas despite the rainfall. This just highlights again that the underlying water scarcity issues remain and it will still take a significant amount of rainfall to ease the situation. Dry conditions are forecast to return over the weekend and last for some time, meaning soils will continue to dry further.

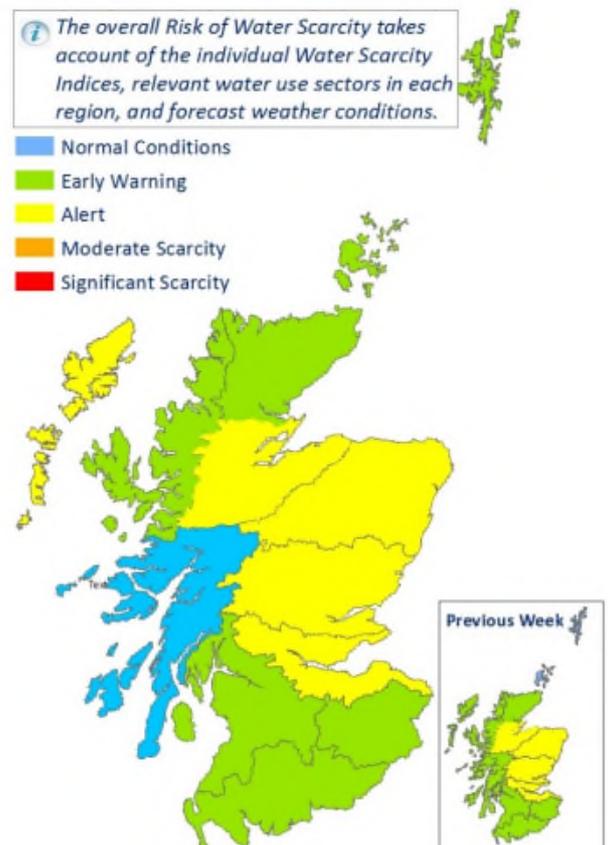
We are monitoring the situation closely and coordinating steps to manage water resources in line with [Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan](#).

Public water supplies are generally operating normally, although dry weather measures are being put in place for some sources that are more vulnerable. Scottish Water have asked customers in the Stornoway area to ensure they are using water as efficiently as possible.

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:

- Only irrigate when, and only as much as, absolutely necessary;

Risk of Water Scarcity



- 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

There have been showers on Thursday morning across most areas with strong northwesterly winds. Mainly dry weather will dominate later on Thursday, Friday and also over the weekend with lighter winds and very little rainfall. **The forecast for the next two weeks is for another period of settled, warm and dry weather.**

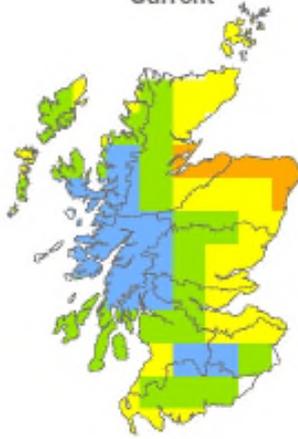
The longer-term outlook shows a slightly higher likelihood of drier and warmer conditions than normal over the next three months, although the confidence in this is not high.

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

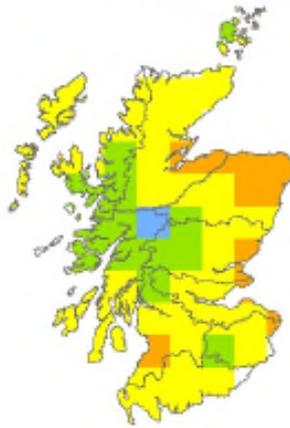
19/06/2018

Soil Moisture Deficit Maps

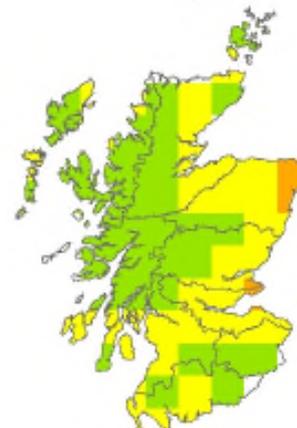
Soil Moisture Deficit
Current



Soil Moisture Deficit
7 days prior



Soil Moisture Deficit
14 days prior



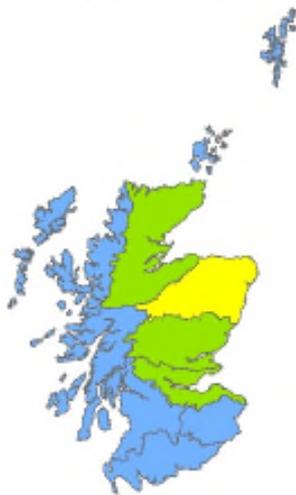
These maps depict the latest Soil Moisture Deficit (SMD) data and the SMD 7 and 14 days prior.

- Blue: No Deficit
- Green: Quite Dry
- Yellow: Dry
- Orange: Very Dry
- Red: Exceptionally Dry

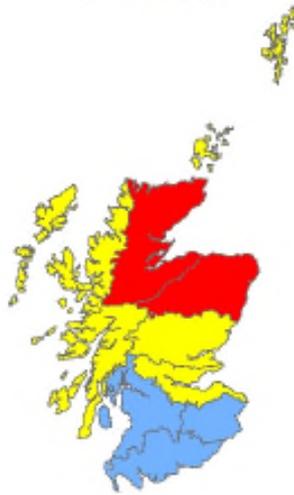
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Precipitation Indices

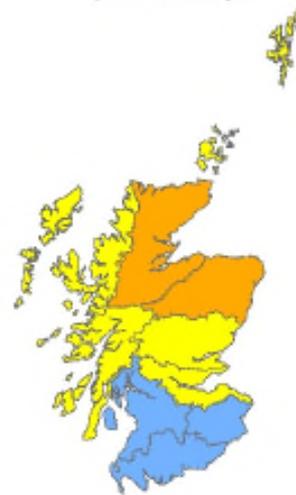
Rainfall over the
past 30 days



Rainfall over the
past 90 days



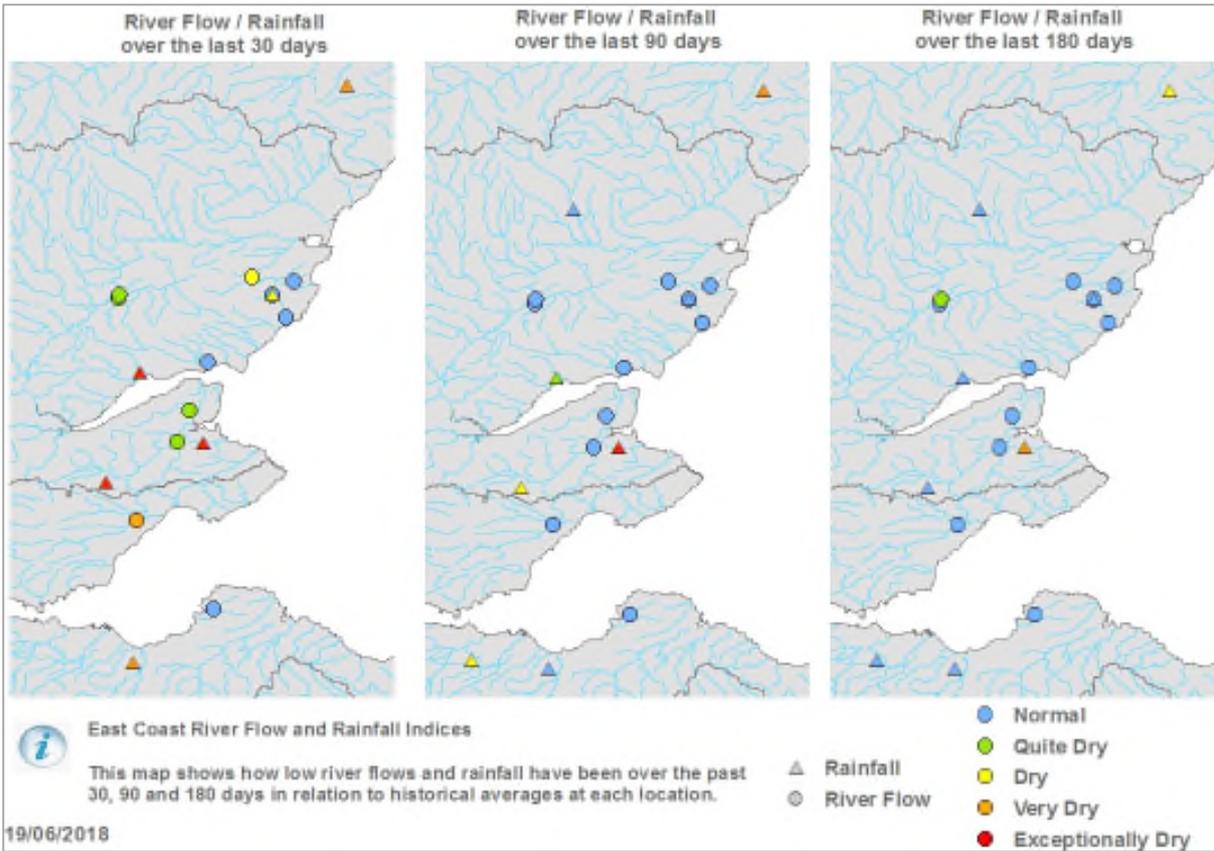
Rainfall over the
past 180 days



These maps show how low current rainfall totals are, relative to historical averages, over the past 30, 90 and 180 days.

- Blue: Normal Conditions
- Green: Quite Dry
- Yellow: Dry
- Orange: Very Dry
- Red: Exceptionally Dry

East coast detail: River flow and rainfall indices

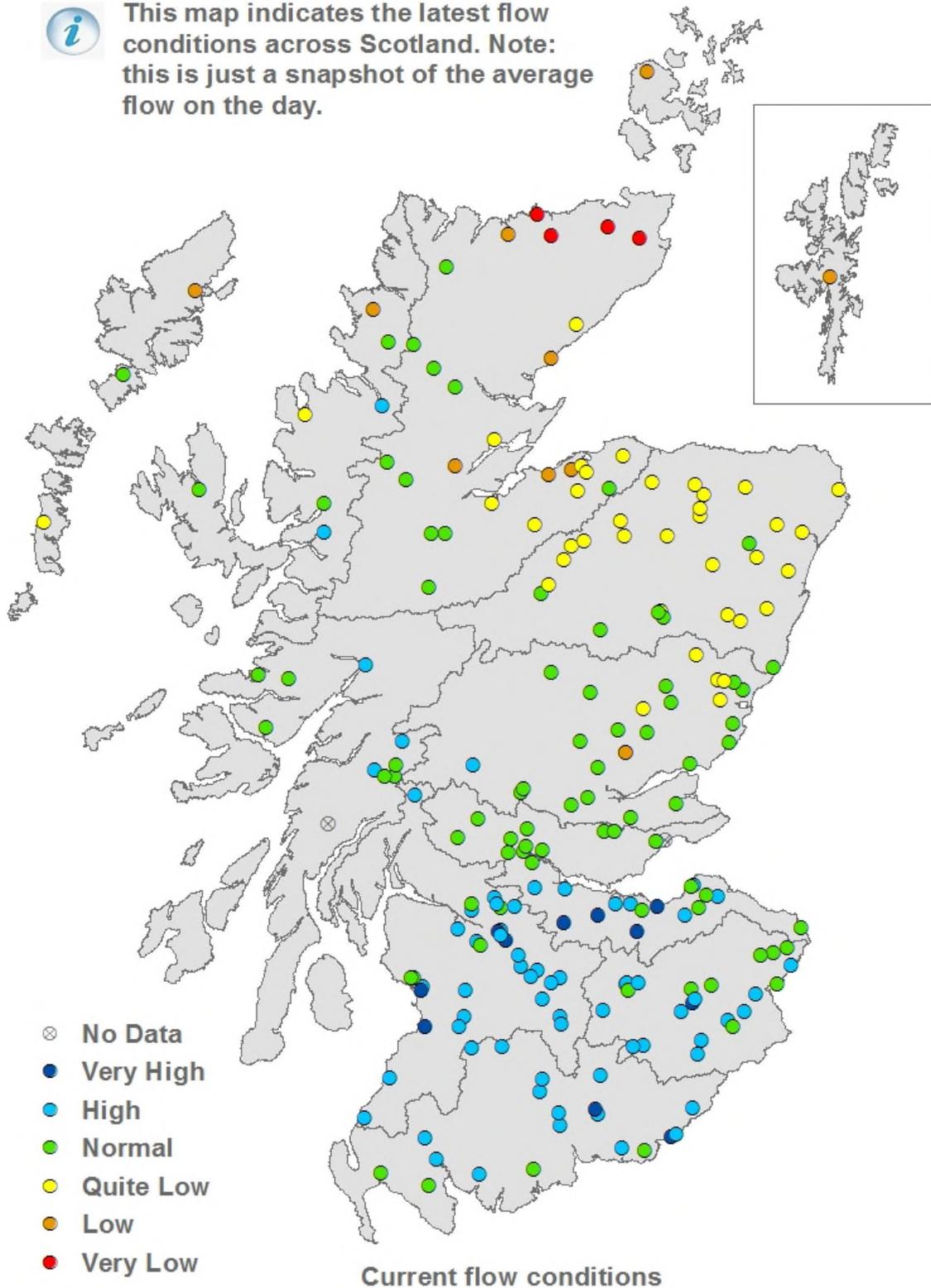


Current Flow Conditions

20/06/2018

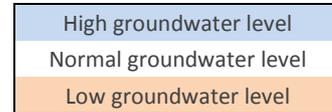
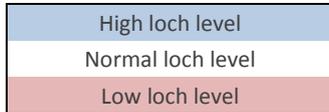


This map indicates the latest flow conditions across Scotland. Note: this is just a snapshot of the average flow on the day.



Loch and Groundwater levels: 19/06/2018

 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.

