

HEADLINE

Surface conditions have improved but there are still areas where low groundwater levels are causing problems for private water supplies. Angus and North East Scotland remain at Moderate Scarcity level as a result.

There are no areas where normal public water supplies have been affected.

Situation summary

Further rainfall in all parts of the country last week has kept current conditions fairly stable so the situation remains largely the same as previous weeks. Low groundwater levels in the East are still the main issue, with some private supplies still affected. Recovery of groundwater levels will take much longer.

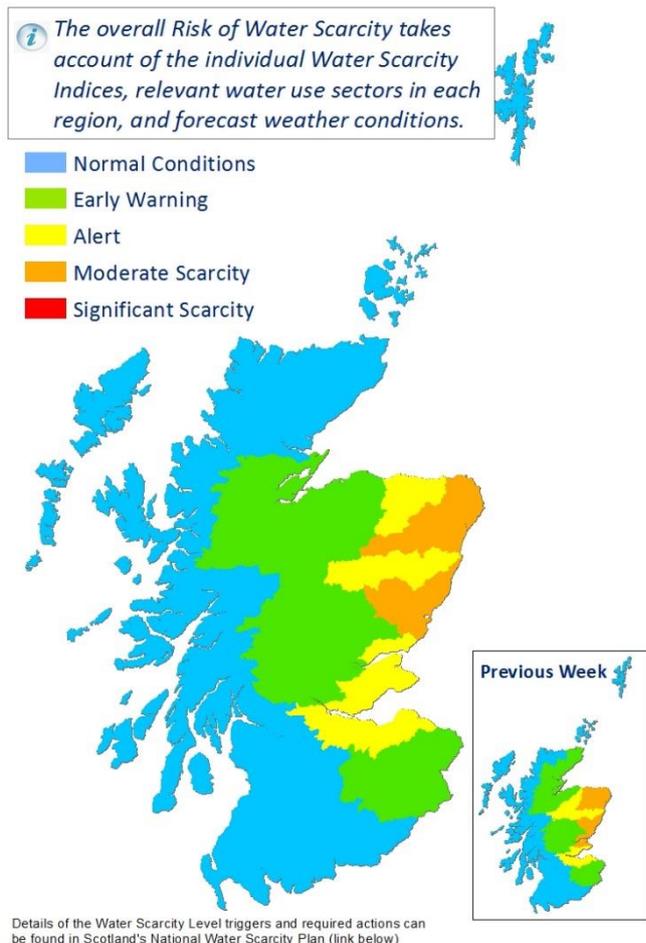
In areas at Moderate Scarcity any water abstractors with concerns about groundwater supplies should [contact their local SEPA office](#) to discuss possible contingency measures.

Groundwater levels and loch storage would normally begin to recover in October. Water resources generally are low going into this recharge period so the amount of rainfall over winter will determine whether there are any knock-on effects into next year. SEPA will continue to monitor this water storage situation throughout the autumn and winter. The areas in Moderate and those remaining at Alert and Early Warning are where current low groundwater levels could lead to issues if insufficient winter recovery takes place.

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

Scottish Water is managing water supplies across Scotland through this extended dry period and will continue to monitor the situation closely. Advice has been issued to all customers to use water wisely nationwide ([link to advice www.scottishwater.co.uk/about-us/media-centre/latest-news/customers-across-scotland-asked-to-use-water-wisely](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/about-us/media-centre/latest-news/customers-across-scotland-asked-to-use-water-wisely)).

General and sector specific advice for abstractors is available: [Advice for abstractors](#).



Details of the Water Scarcity Level triggers and required actions can be found in Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan ([link below](#))

Scottish Water and Local Authorities are working together to help maintain supplies. If your private water supply is drying up you should contact your local authority for assistance and follow the advice about [maintaining your private supply](#).

Forecast (at 24/10/18): Based on information from the UK Met Office

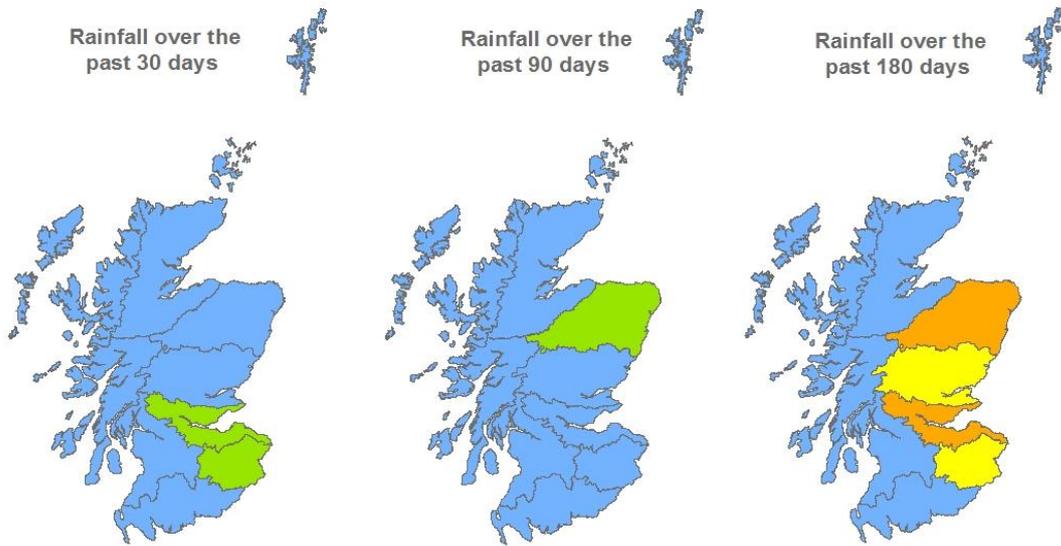
Friday and Saturday will be cold with occasional showers mainly in the north, turning to snow on high ground. The showers will die out on Saturday, and Sunday will be mainly dry.

The longer-term outlook now shows a very slightly higher likelihood of wetter and warmer conditions than normal over the next three months for the UK, with an increased chance of spells of wet and stormy weather throughout autumn, compared to normal. For further details on the seasonal forecast see the latest report at <http://www.hydoutuk.net>.

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

24/10/2018

Precipitation Indices

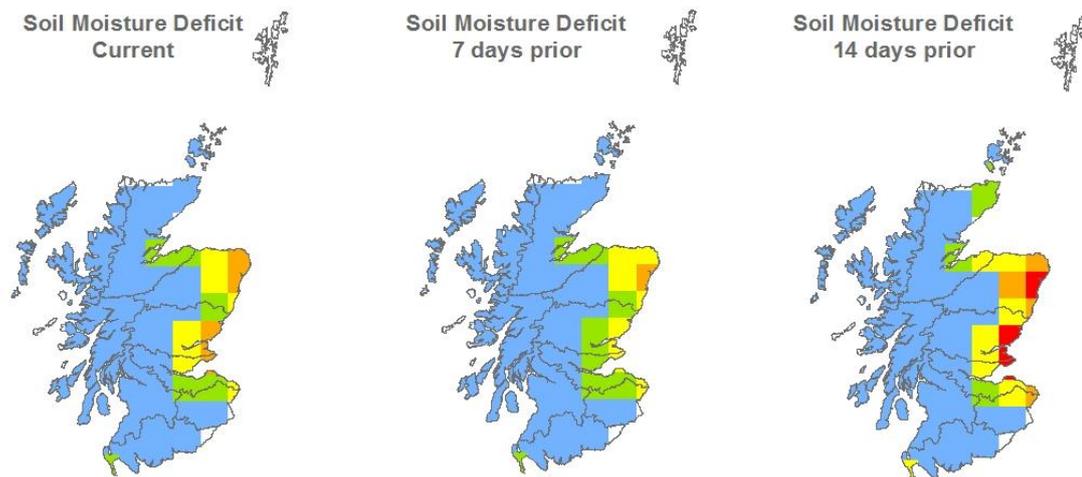


These maps show how low current rainfall totals are for this time of year, relative to historical averages, over the past 30, 90 and 180 days.

- Normal Conditions
- Quite Dry
- Dry
- Very Dry
- Exceptionally Dry

23/10/2018

Soil Moisture Deficit Maps



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

- No Data
- No Deficit
- Quite Dry
- Dry
- Very Dry
- Exceptionally Dry

* MORECS data obtained from MetOffice

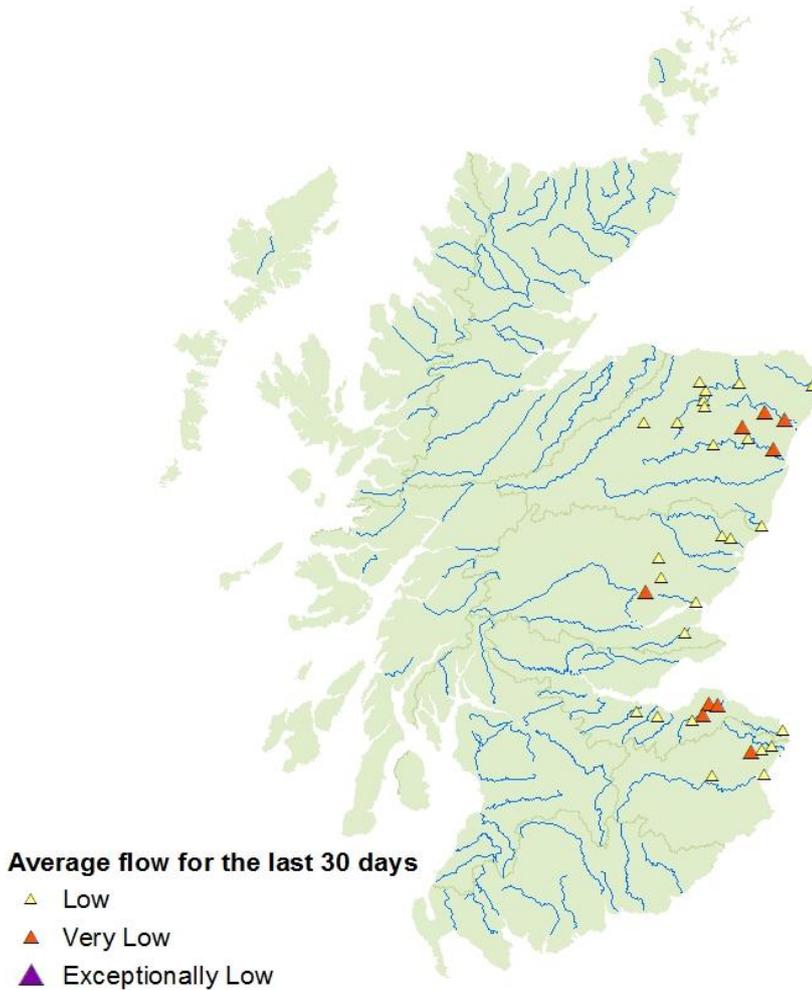
Average flow over the last 30 days

28/10/2018



This map shows the average flow at SEPA's gauging stations over the past 30 days, highlighting sites which have been at very low flows for this period.

Evidence shows that river ecology is at high risk when very low flows are maintained for this length of time.



Notes on exceptionally low flows:

- In the figure above, those sites marked as exceptionally low have had the types of low flows normally seen only a few days per year, persisting for at least a month.
- Even in areas where flows have not reached this exceptionally low level the advice to use water wisely still applies.

Further information from SEPA's water level stations can be found at <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/waterlevels/>.

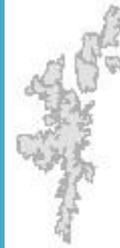


Natural water storage situation

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.

Please note that the map below does not reflect conditions in managed water supply reservoirs.

25/10/2018



North East

**Groundwater levels - very low
Loch storage – low**

Very low groundwater levels in the Northeast area compared to the long-term record. With current conditions it will take a long time for levels to return to normal.

Loch levels in this area are also low following the dry summer but have shown some recent recovery following rainfall, particularly in the North Highlands.

Northwest, West and South – Recovering

Loch level data indicate that storage is recovering in this area.

Where groundwater level data is available, it shows that levels are largely within the normal range, and some recovery of levels is evident.