

HEADLINE

The current water scarcity level reflects groundwater storage only. Surface water conditions have improved but there are still areas where low groundwater levels are causing problems for private water supplies. Levels have now started to show some recovery.

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

Situation summary

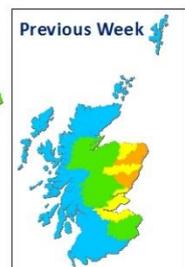
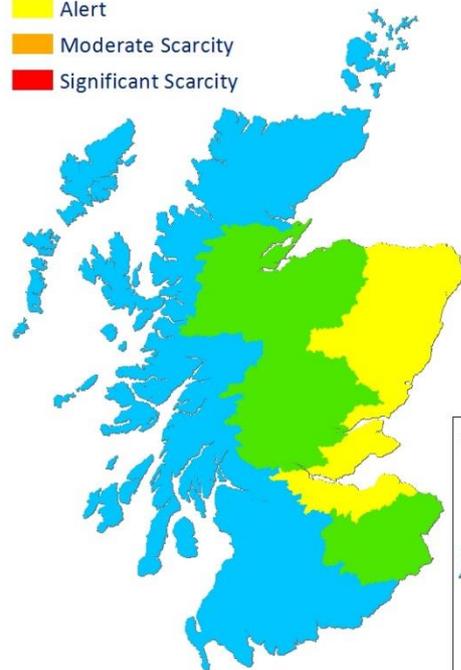
Groundwater levels have begun to show some recovery following autumn rainfall. The extent of this recovery differs across the country, however, and in the northeast levels remain exceptionally low for the time of year. Some private supplies are still affected.

SEPA will continue to monitor this water storage situation throughout the autumn and winter. The areas remaining at Alert and Early Warning are where current low groundwater levels could lead to issues next year if insufficient winter recovery takes place.

Scottish Water is managing water supplies across Scotland.

 *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



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

Forecast (at 29/11/18): Based on information from the UK Met Office

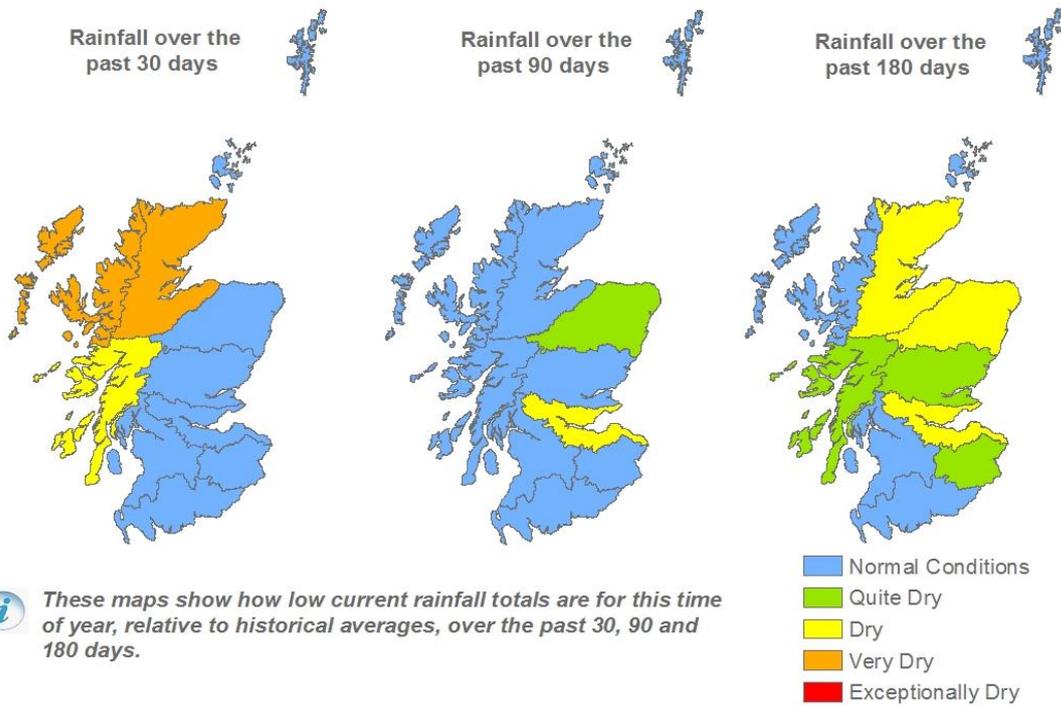
Heavy rain on Thursday across south, central and eastern areas. The rain clearing northeast in the afternoon with showers following becoming frequent in the northwest. Frequent showers in west on Friday falling as snow on higher hills, fewer in east. Showers becoming confined to western areas on Saturday as winds ease. Further rain or showers expected on Sunday.

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, 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:

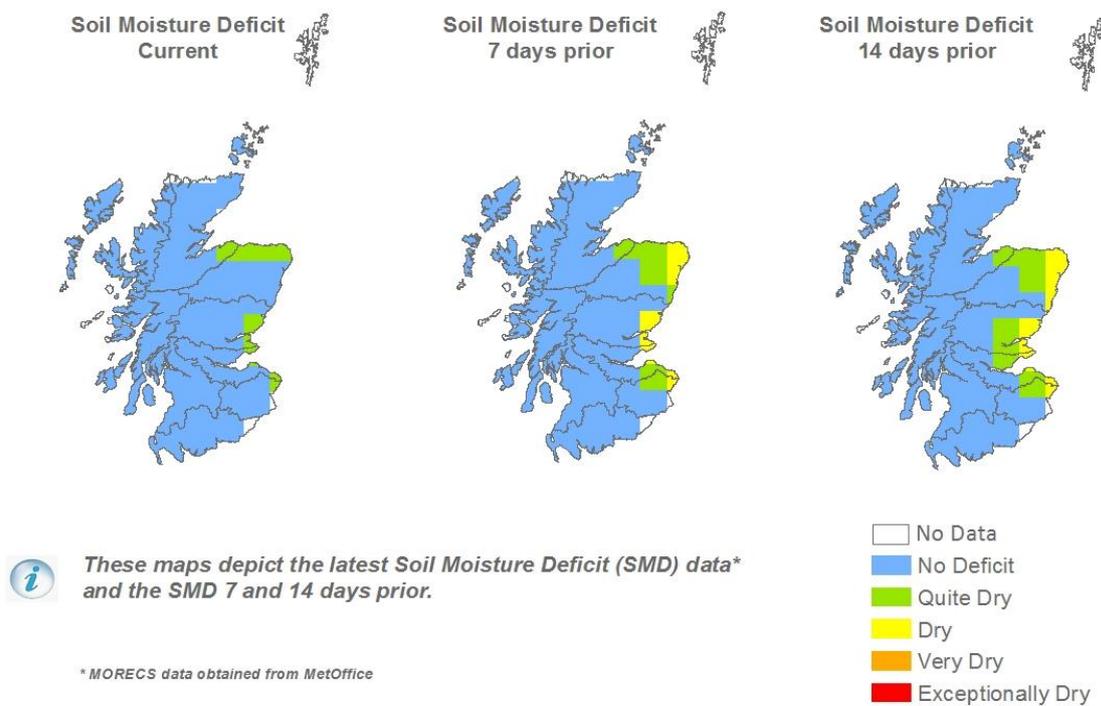
27/11/2018

Precipitation Indices



27/11/2018

Soil Moisture Deficit Maps

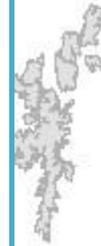




Natural water storage situation

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.



North East

Groundwater levels – in recovery

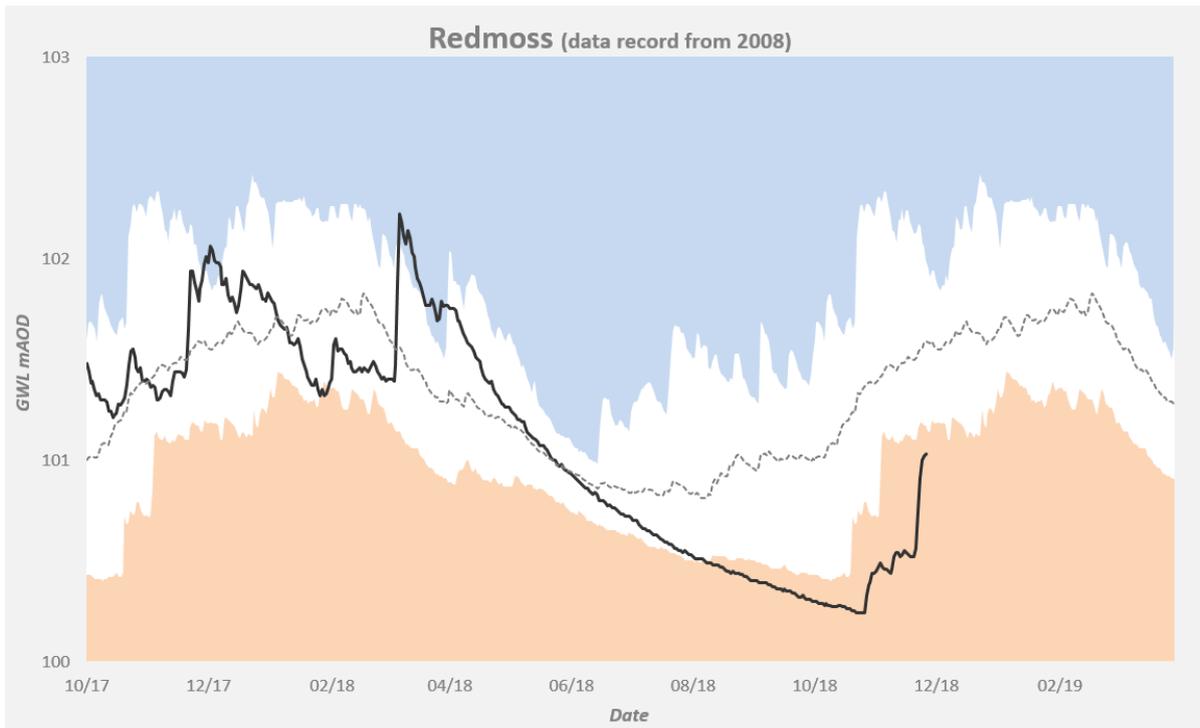
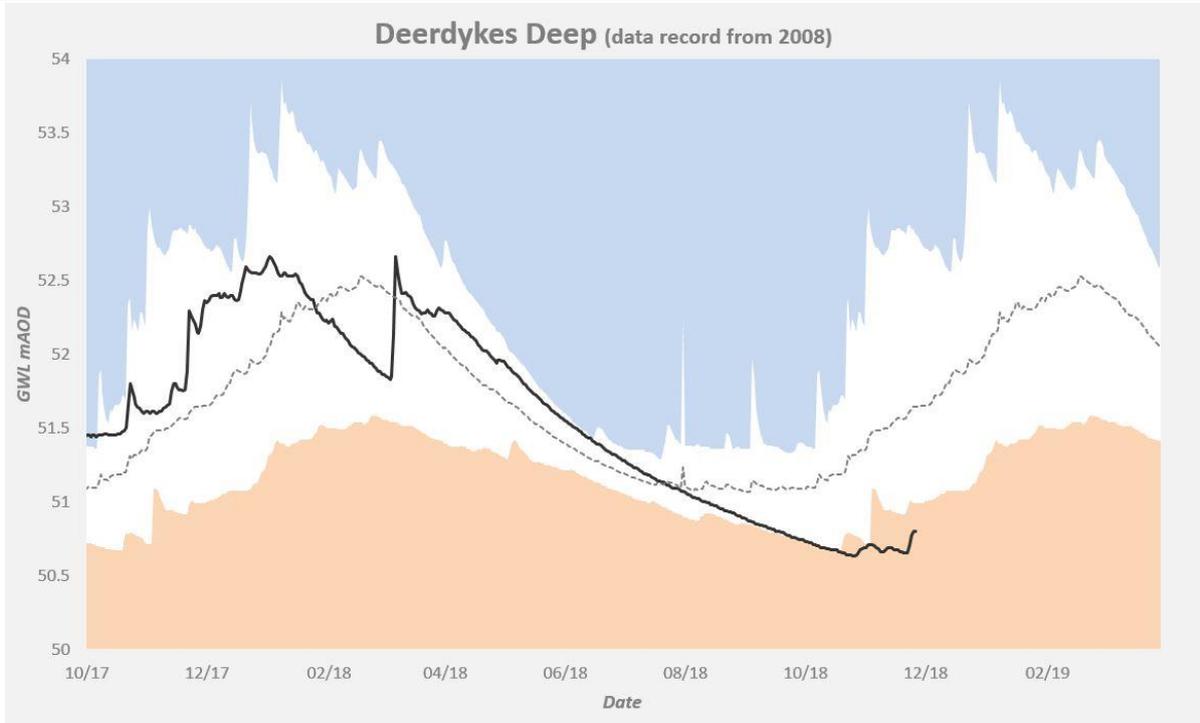
Groundwater levels in the Northeast and Angus areas are still very low for the time of year compared to the long-term record (see the graphs below as an example). However, particularly for shallow aquifers with a quicker response, groundwater levels are showing signs of recovery.

Some private water supplies are still affected in the northeast region.



These charts show the trend in groundwater and loch levels since autumn 2017 at two monitoring sites in the northeast (see map above). The white zone represents the observed range in the long-term record. The black line shows the actual groundwater level and the dashed line is the long-term average trend.

Record high groundwater level
Normal groundwater level range
Record low groundwater level



Murton (data record from 2008)

