

HEADLINE

There is no longer an immediate risk of water scarcity impact but an Early Warning remains for a risk of water scarcity in 2019 if winter recharge of storage is not sufficient.

Situation summary

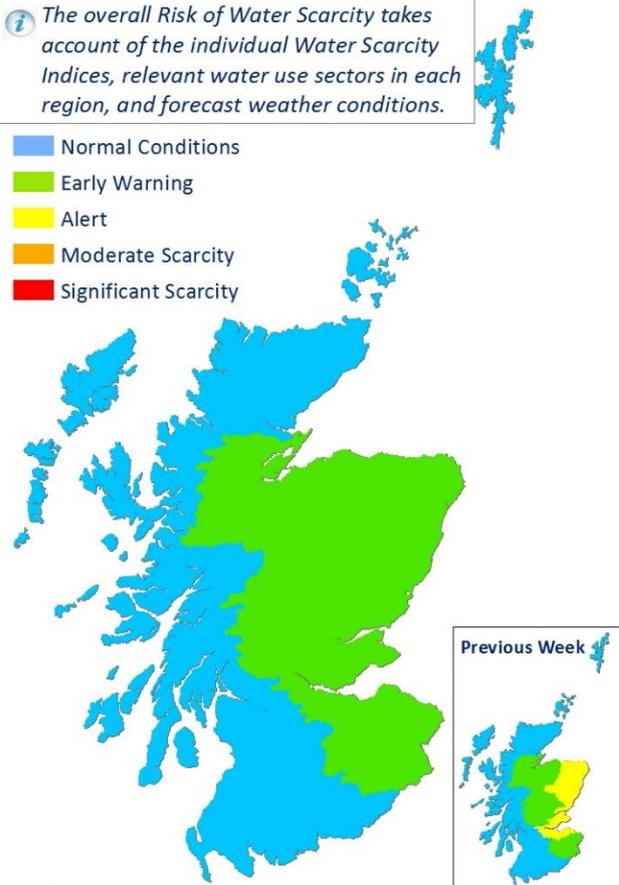
Groundwater levels have started to recover following autumn rainfall. The extent of this recovery differs across the country, however, and in the northeast and east of the country levels remain low for the time of year.

SEPA will continue to monitor the water storage situation throughout the winter. An Early Warning remains where current low groundwater levels could lead to issues next year if insufficient winter recovery takes place.

The report will now be issued monthly on the [Water Scarcity section of SEPA's website](#) updating on the winter recovery of storage and reassessing the risk of water scarcity in 2019.

 *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

The longer-term outlook shows a fairly even spread across the likely scenarios over the next three months for the UK, meaning that normal rainfall, drier than normal conditions or wetter than normal conditions are all equally likely. 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:

12/12/2018

Precipitation Indices

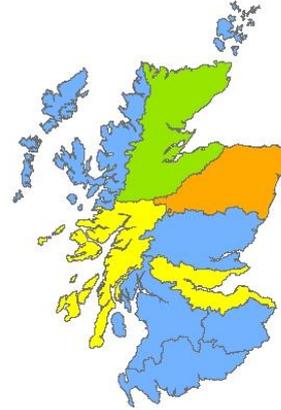
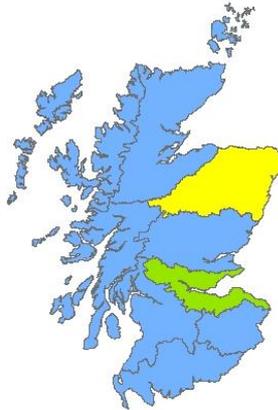
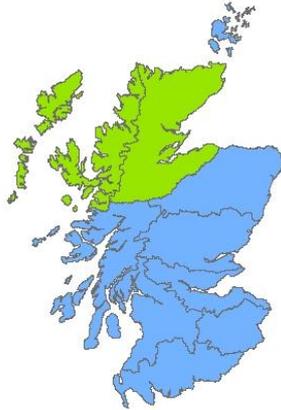
Rainfall over the past 30 days



Rainfall over the past 90 days



Rainfall over the past 180 days



These maps show how low current rainfall totals are 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

12/12/2018

Soil Moisture Deficit Maps

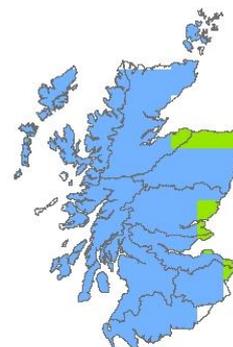
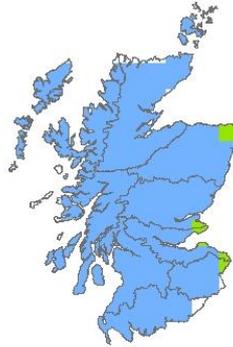
Soil Moisture Deficit Current



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.

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

* MORECS data obtained from MetOffice



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

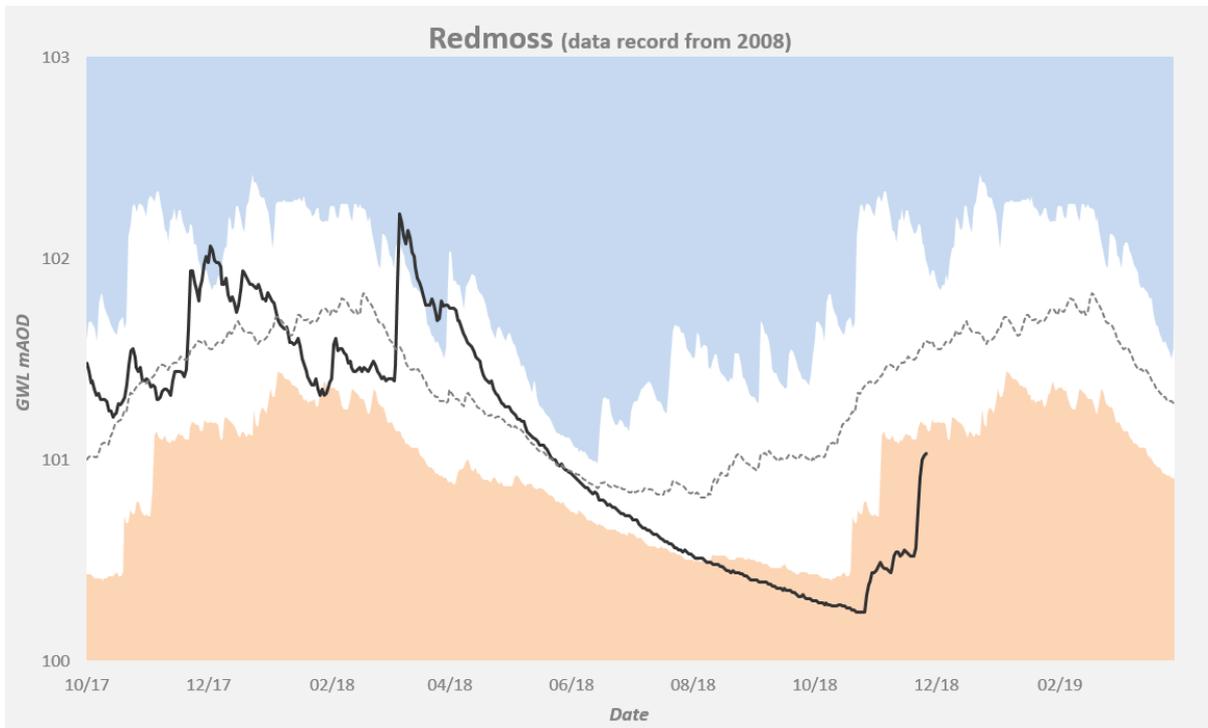
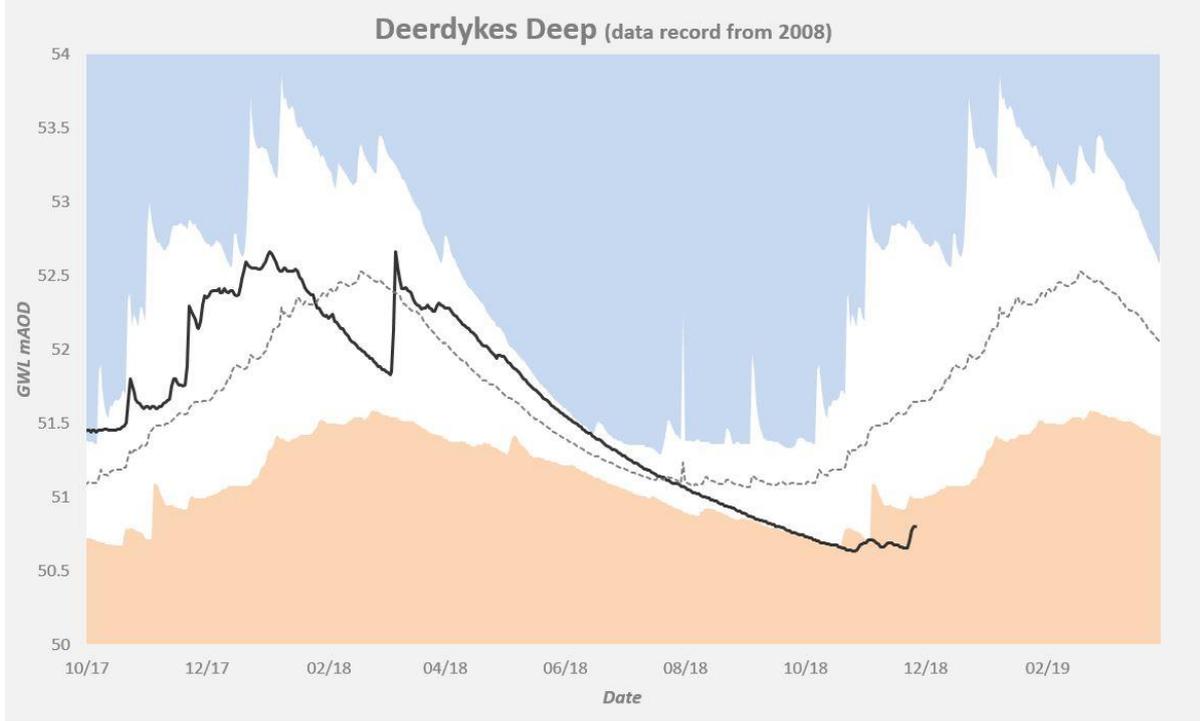
Groundwater levels in the Northeast and Angus areas are still very low for the time of year compared to the long-term record (see the graphs below as an example). However, particularly for shallow aquifers with a quicker response, groundwater levels are showing signs of recovery.

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 selected 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)

