

HEADLINE

The Moderate Scarcity level is no longer in place for West Highland, Argyll and north Clyde.

An Alert level of water scarcity remains in place everywhere else except the Northern Isles and south Scotland, which have an Early Warning in place.

Situation summary

Following rainfall last weekend, ground conditions and river levels in the north-west and Argyll have improved somewhat. The Moderate Scarcity level in this region has therefore been downgraded to an Alert level. Should dry conditions return then the risk of further issues this summer remains.

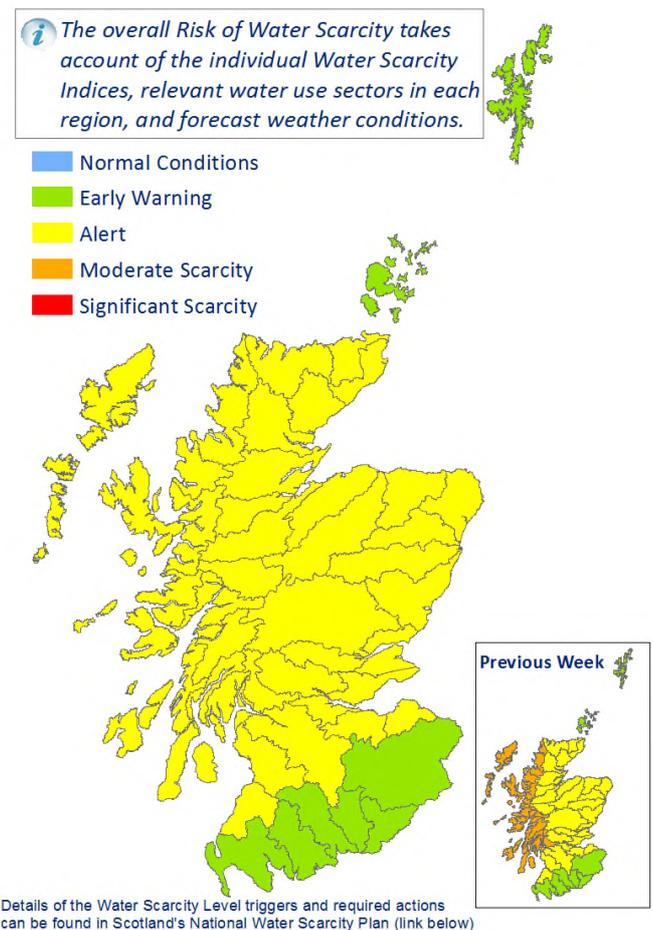
River levels are still low across the Clyde region. Therefore, the Alert level remains for the Clyde region.

Groundwater levels remain below average for the time of year so rivers normally supported by groundwater will quickly fall in a dry period. Groundwater supplies remain at risk unless we experience higher than average rainfall.

There has not been any further reports of evidence of environmental impacts or impacts on private water supplies across the country.

Further forecast rain will continue to improve the short-term outlook for the whole country. However, conditions will deteriorate again in any further dry period due to the low groundwater levels.

Figure 1: Current Water Scarcity Level



Advice for water users

Water sources used for irrigating farm land are at risk of becoming limited in all areas of Scotland, with the exception of the south region. 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;
- 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;

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

SEPA are monitoring the situation closely and coordinating steps to manage water resources in line with [Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan](#). If you have noticed any impact as a result of the dry weather, we would be interested in hearing about them. For further details on reporting impacts of dry weather see <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/>.

General and sector specific advice for abstractors is available: [Advice for abstractors](#). Water abstractors with concerns about meeting licence conditions or wishing to discuss contingency measures should [contact their local SEPA office](#).

Rainfall forecast (Source: Met Office 29/05/2019)

Outbreaks of rain on Friday, most persistent in the west and heavy at times. Dry for most on Saturday, some light rain in the west. Further outbreaks of rain on Sunday, again heavy at times, but low confidence on details.

The longer-term outlook is uncertain. For May-June-July as a whole, the chances of above- and below-average precipitation across the UK are similar. On balance, drier-than-average conditions are marginally more likely. For further details on the seasonal forecast see the latest 3-month outlook summaries at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index>.

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

29/05/2019

Precipitation Indices

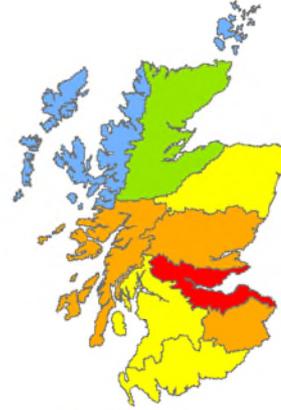
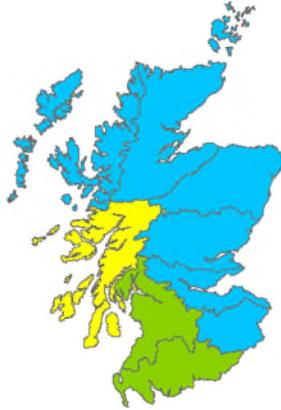
Rainfall over the past 30 days



Rainfall over the past 90 days



Rainfall over the past 180 days



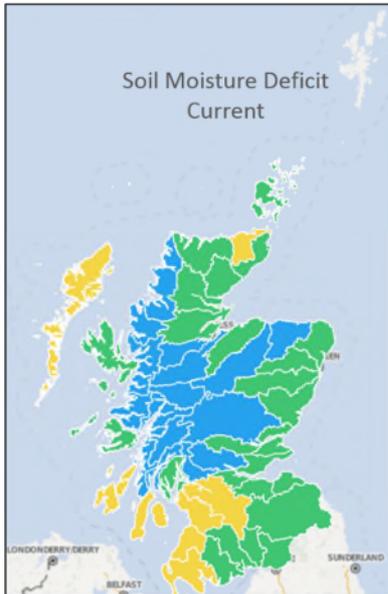
These maps show how low current rainfall totals are for this time of year, relative to historical averages, over the past 30, 90 and 180 days.

- Normal conditions
- Quite dry
- Dry
- Very dry
- Exceptionally dry

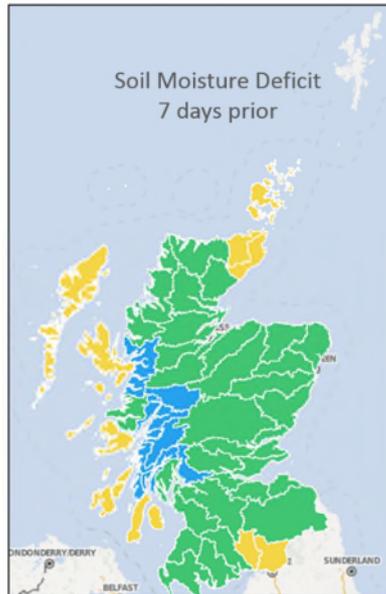
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Soil Moisture Deficit

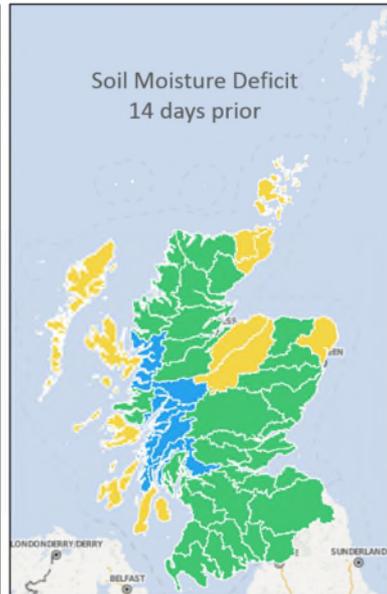
Soil Moisture Deficit Current



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.

*MORECS data obtained from MetOffice

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

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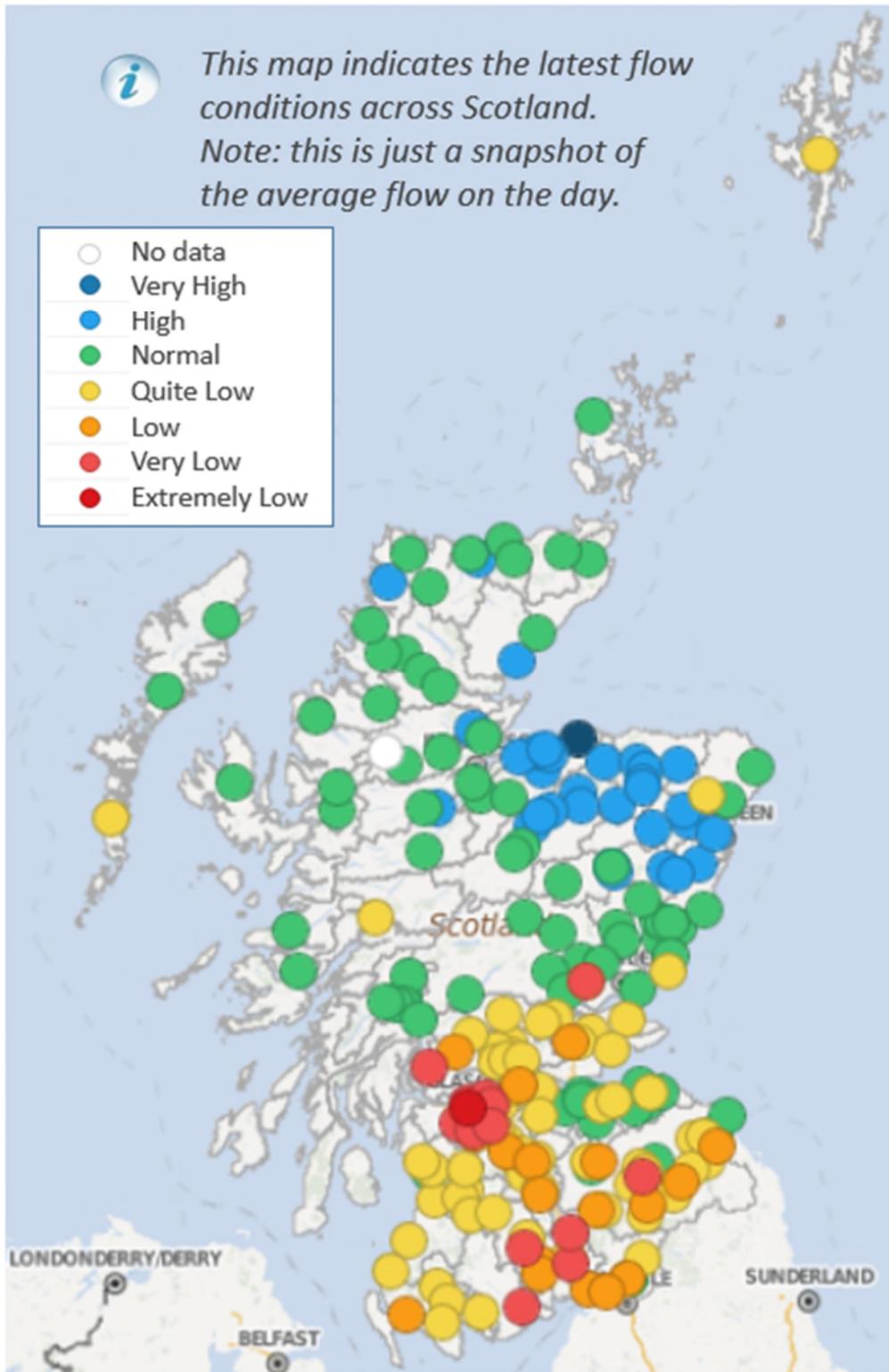
Current Flow Conditions



This map indicates the latest flow conditions across Scotland.

Note: this is just a snapshot of the average flow on the day.

- No data
- Very High
- High
- Normal
- Quite Low
- Low
- Very Low
- Extremely Low





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.

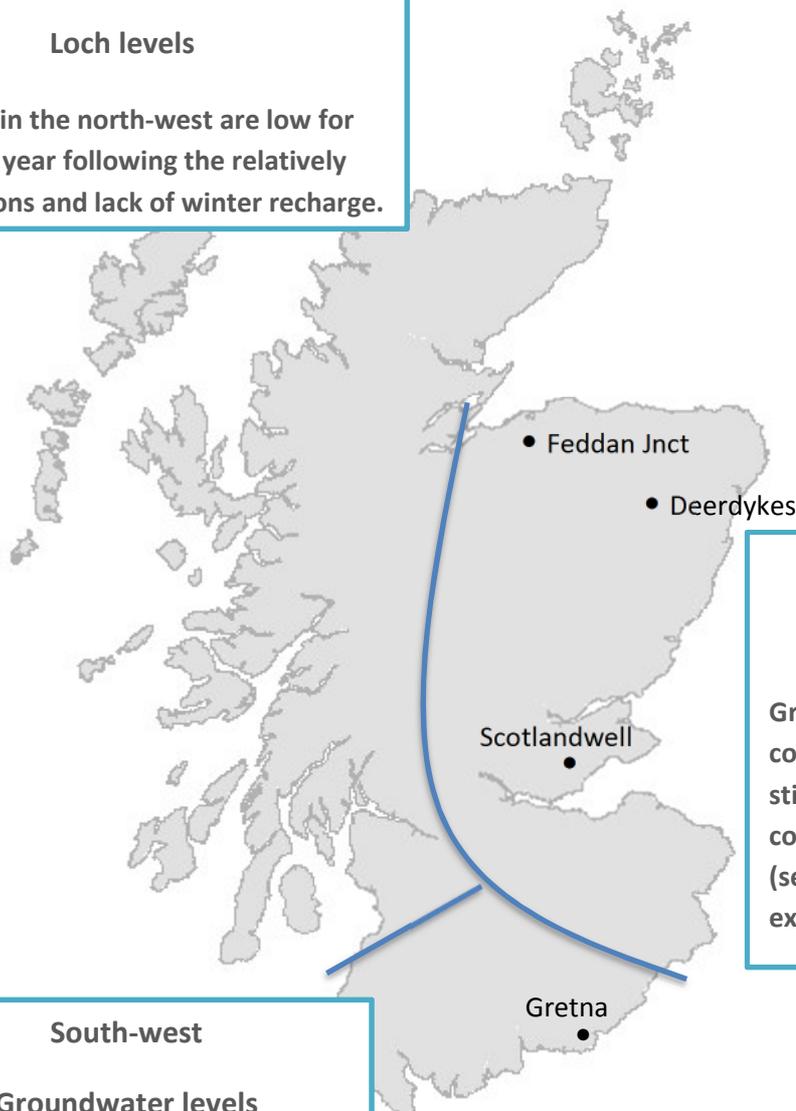
Please note that the map below does not reflect conditions in managed water supply reservoirs.



North-west

Loch levels

Loch levels in the north-west are low for the time of year following the relatively dry conditions and lack of winter recharge.



East

Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels along the east coast are locally improving but are still low for the time of year compared to the long-term record (see the graphs below as an example).

South-west

Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels in this region are average for this time of year.



These charts show the trend in groundwater and loch levels since autumn 2018 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

