

HEADLINE

Normal conditions are now in place across the majority of the country.

Early Warning of water scarcity remains in place around Aberdeenshire, Fife, the Western Isles and Orkney.

Situation summary

Following rainfall in the past two weeks, surface conditions and river levels have recovered across the country. The majority of areas previously at Early Warning level have now returned to Normal Conditions.

Groundwater levels have shown signs of recovery as rainfall in May and beginning of June for the majority of the country was above average. However, levels remain below average and soil moisture is quite dry for Aberdeenshire, Fife, the Western Isles and Orkney.

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 low groundwater, particularly in Aberdeenshire, Fife, the Western Isles and Orkney.

Advice for water users

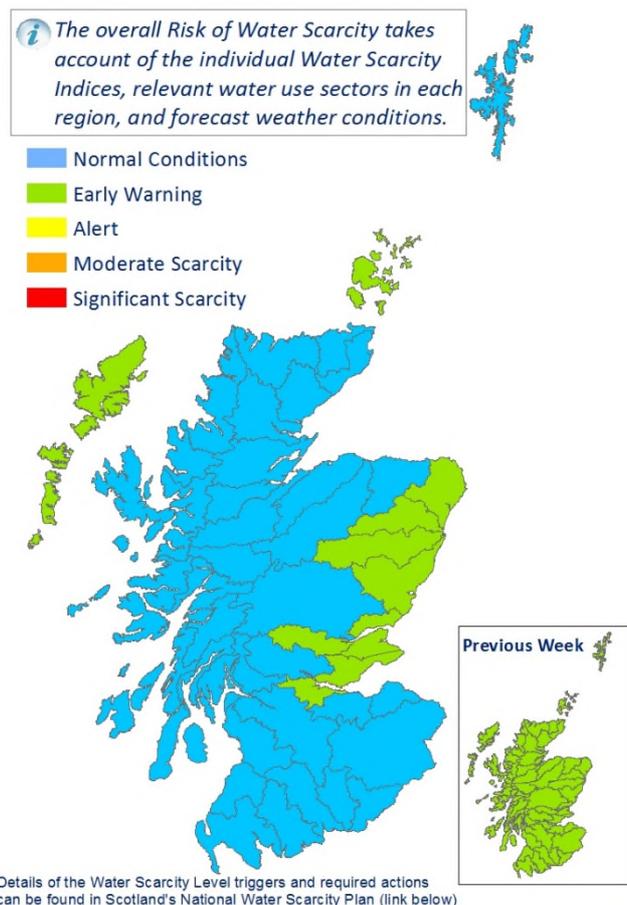
Despite the improving picture across the whole of Scotland we would still advise that farmers using water for irrigation:

- Only irrigate when, and only as much as, absolutely necessary;
- Make sure irrigation equipment isn't leaking;
- Position irrigators carefully so that they do not over-spray beyond the edge of the crop.

Managers of golf courses 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

Figure 1: Current Water Scarcity Level



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 12/06/2019)

Heavy and persistent rain will edge into eastern Scotland on Wednesday night and will continue into Thursday morning. Heaviest rainfall expected to be over high ground of East Lothian and eastern Borders. Rain will continue spreading westwards during Thursday turning lighter later in the day. Friday and the weekend will see a scattering of showers, some heavy and prolonged, particularly across the west of Scotland.

The longer-term outlook is uncertain. For June-July-August as a whole, the chances of above- and below-average precipitation across the UK are similar. On balance, wetter-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:

12/06/19

Precipitation Indices

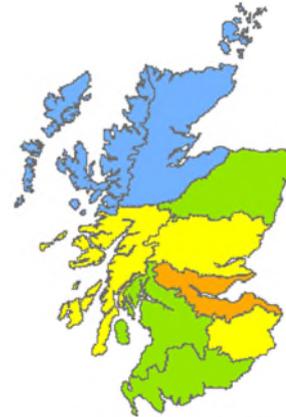
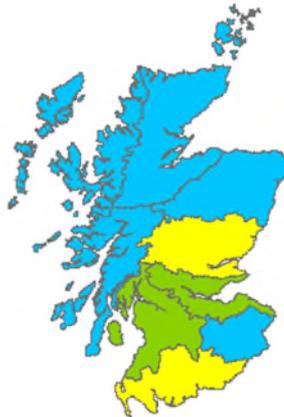
Rainfall over the past 30 days



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

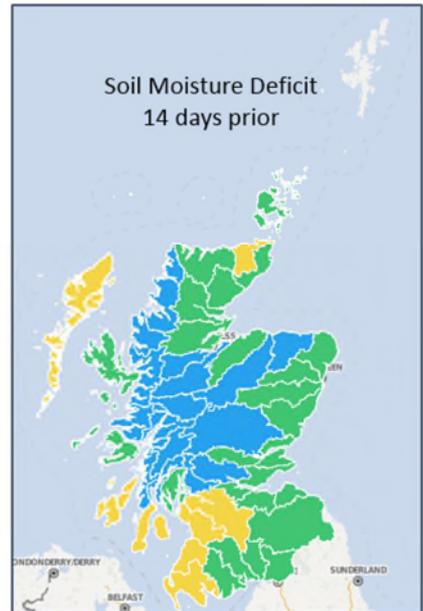
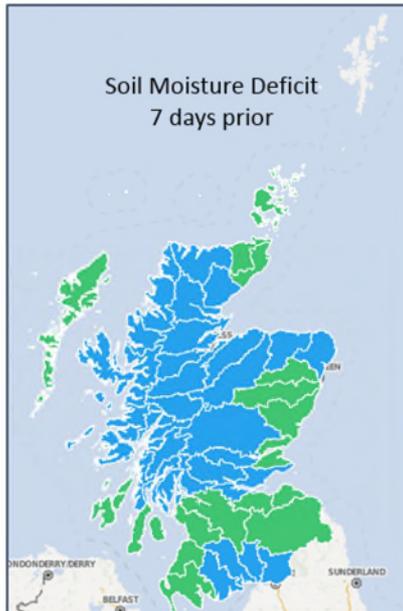
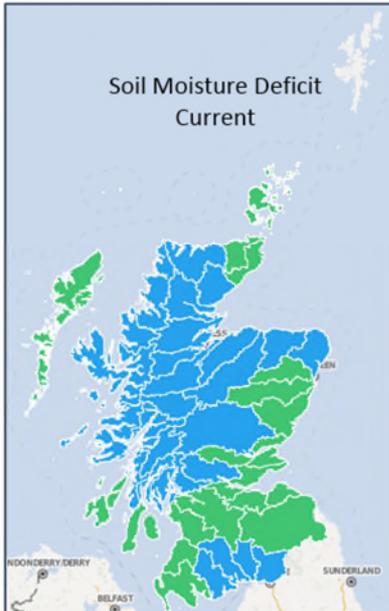
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Soil Moisture Deficit

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.

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

*MORECS data obtained from MetOffice

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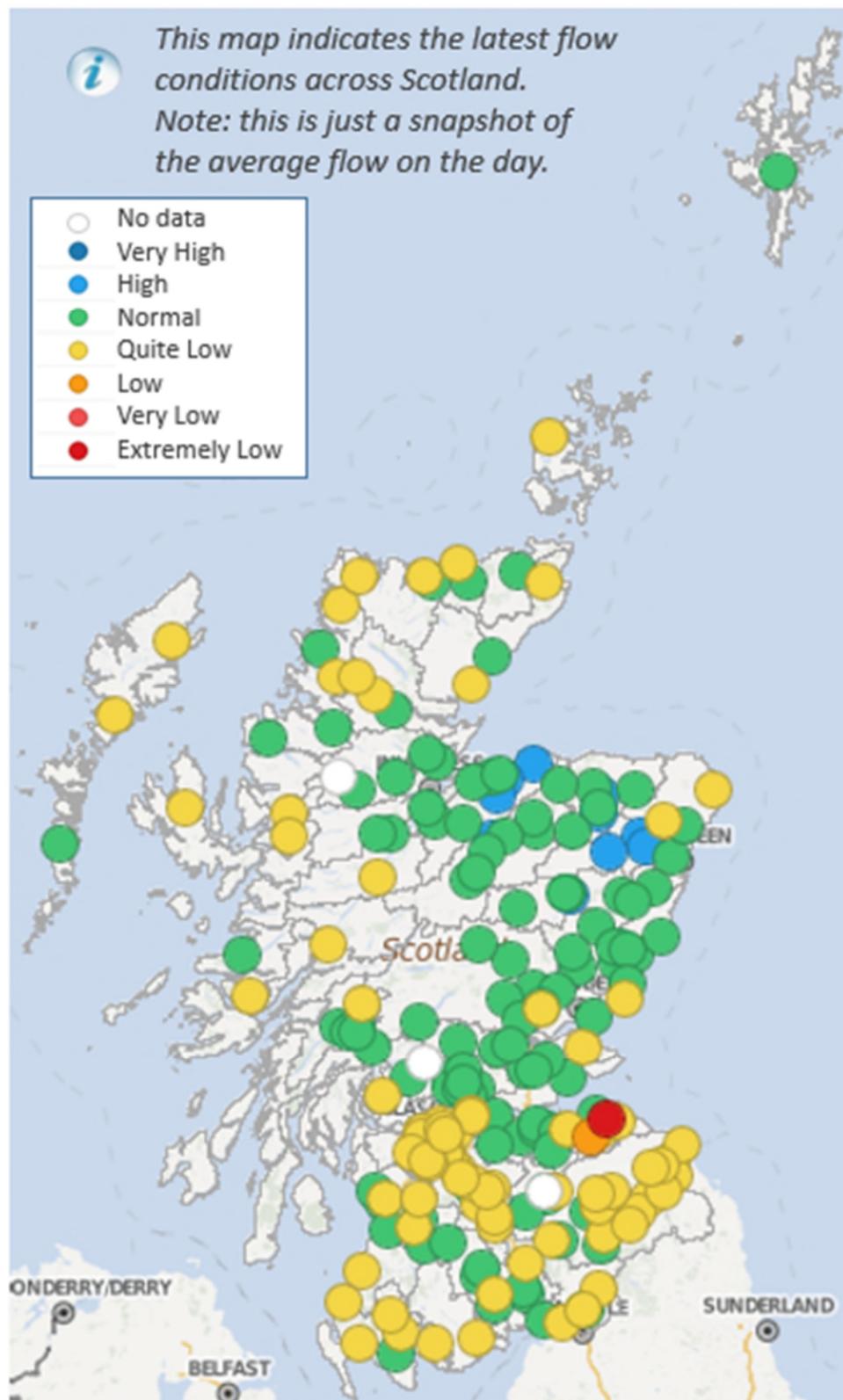
Current Flow Conditions



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.

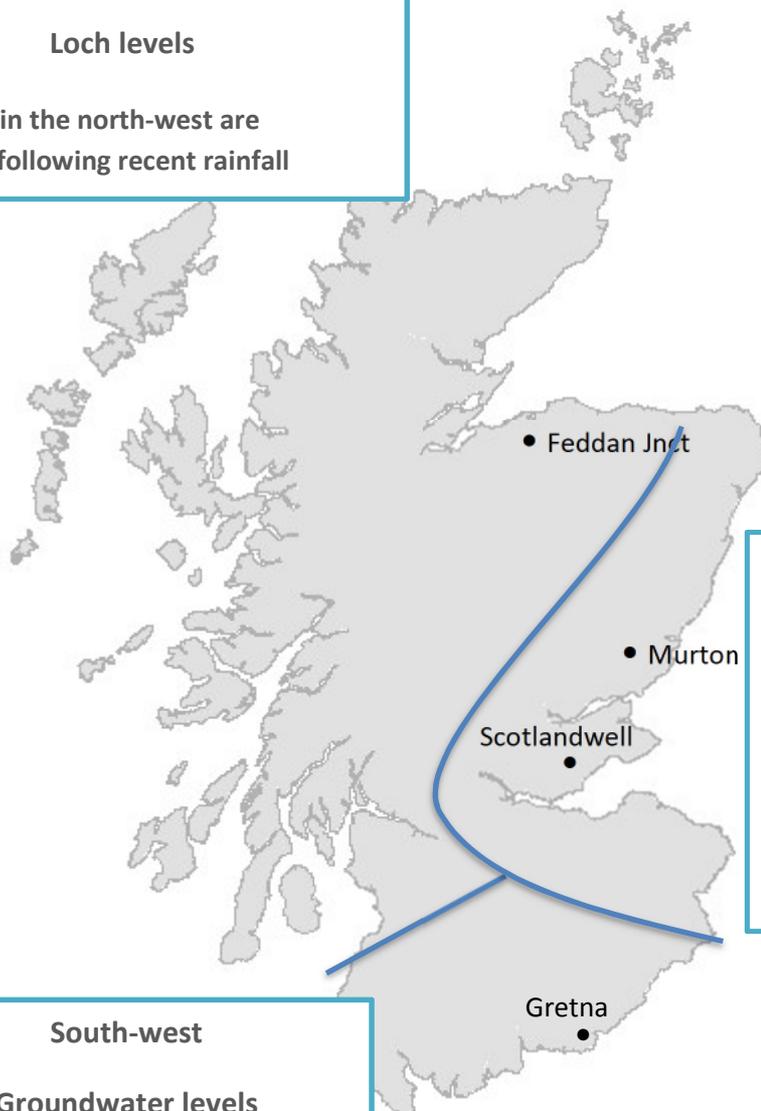
Please note that the map below does not reflect conditions in managed water supply reservoirs.



North-west

Loch levels

Loch levels in the north-west are recovering following recent rainfall



East

Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels along the east coast are rising but are still low for the time of year compared to the long-term record in some areas (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

