

HEADLINE

Normal Conditions are now in place across the majority of the country. The Western Isles and Orkney have returned to Normal Conditions this week.

Early Warning of water scarcity remains in place between Aberdeenshire and Fife.

Situation summary

Surface conditions and river levels have continued to recover across the country. Further areas previously at Early Warning level have now returned to Normal Conditions.

Groundwater levels have shown signs of recovery as rainfall in May and the beginning of June for the majority of the country was above average. However, levels remain low at some sites along the East so catchments between Aberdeenshire and Fife remain at Early Warning until a full recovery is evident, as conditions could deteriorate quickly in any further dry period due to low groundwater levels.

Advice for water users

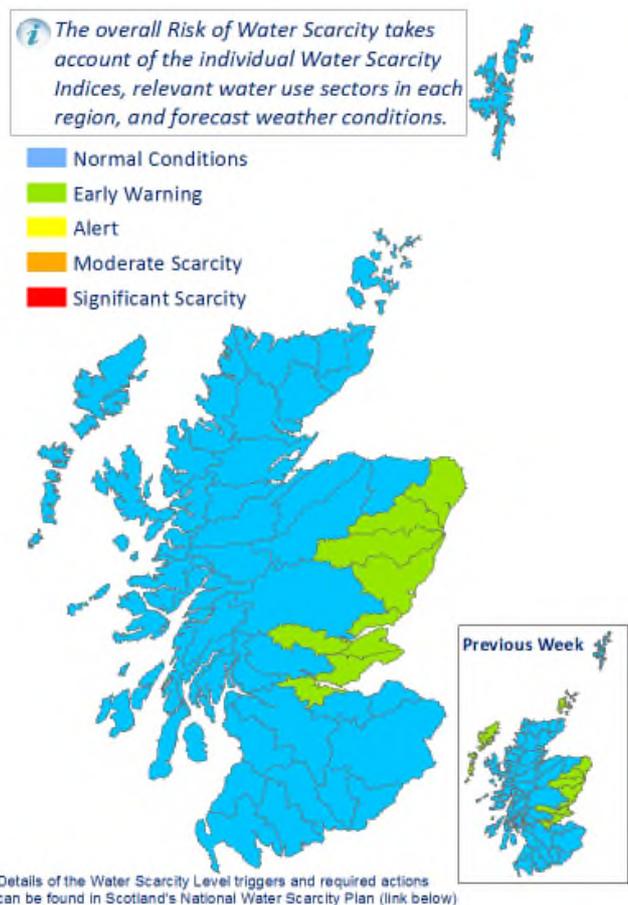
Despite the improving picture across the whole of Scotland we would still advise that farmers using water for irrigation:

- 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 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/>.

Figure 1: Current Water Scarcity Level



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 19/06/2019)

Showery through Thursday and Friday, the showers heavy and perhaps thundery at times, especially across the north. Many places dry over the weekend although a few showers likely to continue across more northern parts, but more persistent rain reaching the south in the evening. Monday looks wet with persistent and heavy rain at times, but details very uncertain at this stage.

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:

19/06/2019

Precipitation Indices

Rainfall over the past 30 days



Rainfall over the past 90 days



Rainfall over the past 180 days



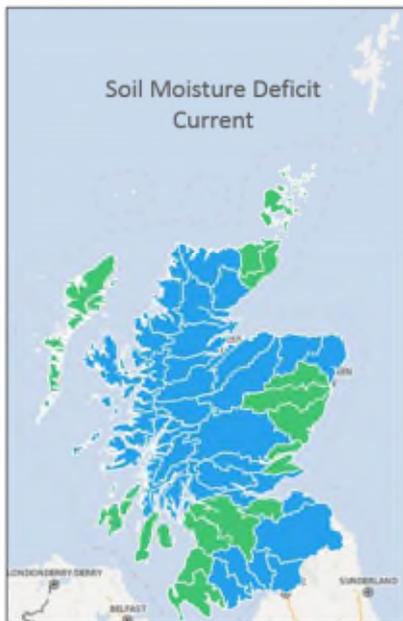
These maps show how low current rainfall totals are for this time of year, relative to historical averages, over the past 30, 90 and 180 days.

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

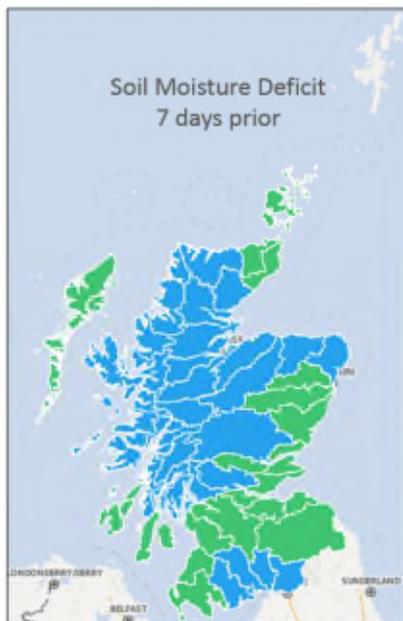
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Soil Moisture Deficit

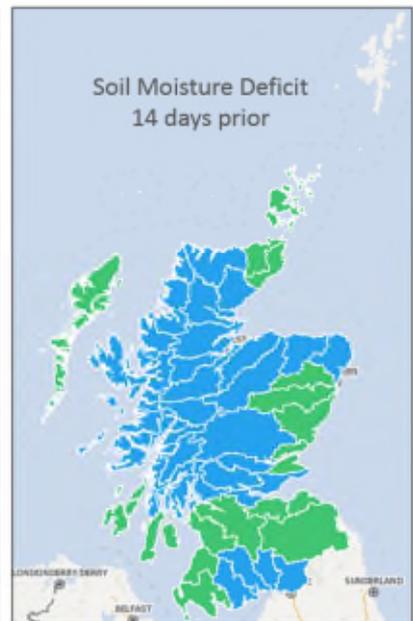
Soil Moisture Deficit Current



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.*

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

**MORECS data obtained from MetOffice*

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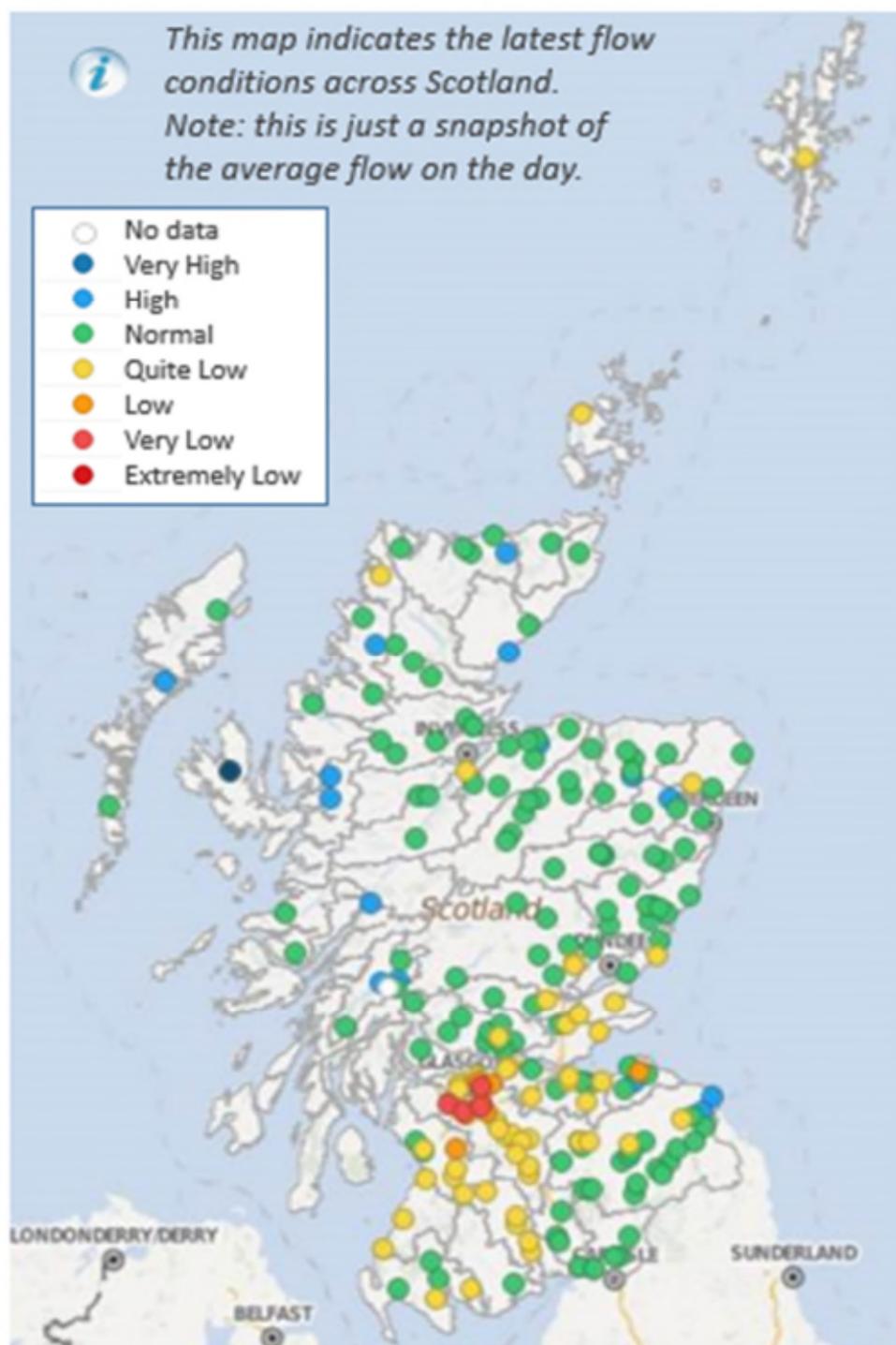
Current Flow Conditions



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.

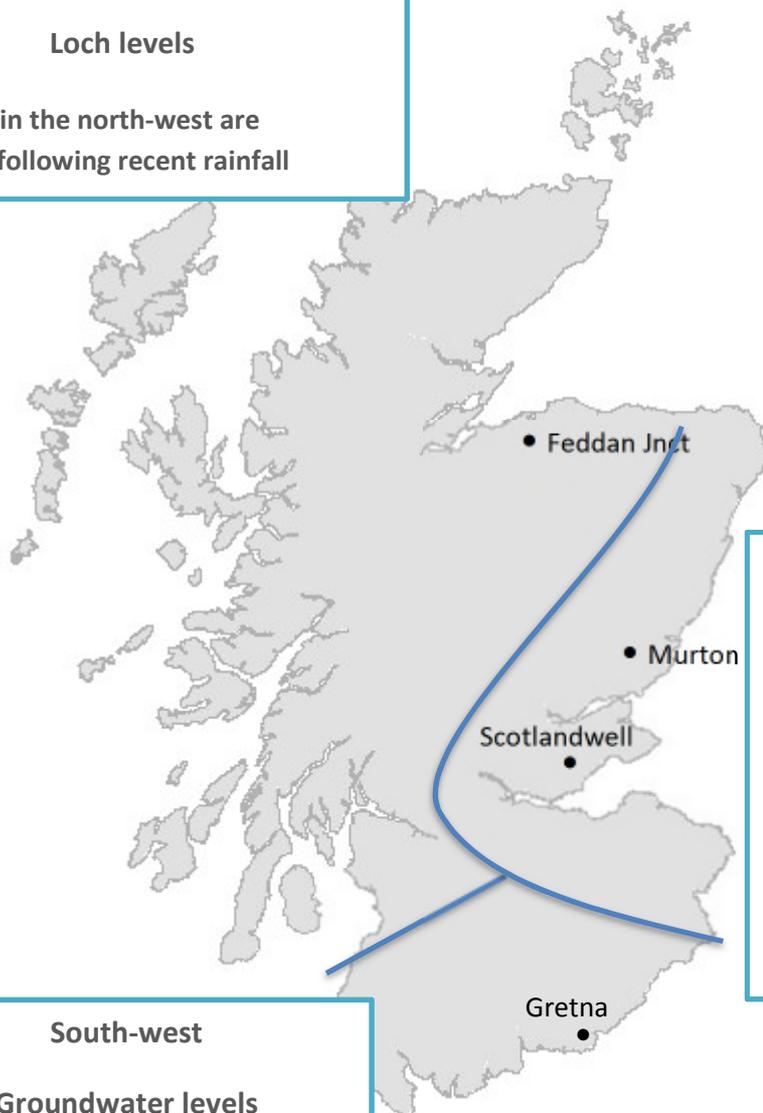
Please note that the map below does not reflect conditions in managed water supply reservoirs.



North-west

Loch levels

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



East

Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels along the east coast have shown some recovery following the recent rainfall. At some sites, however, levels are still low 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

