

## HEADLINE

**Early Warning of water scarcity remains in place for Aberdeenshire, Ayrshire, Clyde, Angus & Dundee, Fife and the Galloway regions.**

**Normal Conditions remain in place across the rest of the country.**

### Situation summary

River levels across the Clyde and Solway areas, as well as in the Forth and Tay catchments and coastal Aberdeenshire, remain low. The Early Warning level remains for parts of these regions.

Despite recent rainfall, groundwater levels in the south and east of the country still remain low for this time of year, and ground conditions are generally quite dry and locally dry in coastal areas. Any prolonged periods without rainfall in these areas may see a water scarcity situation develop.

### Advice for water users

Farmers using water for irrigation should:

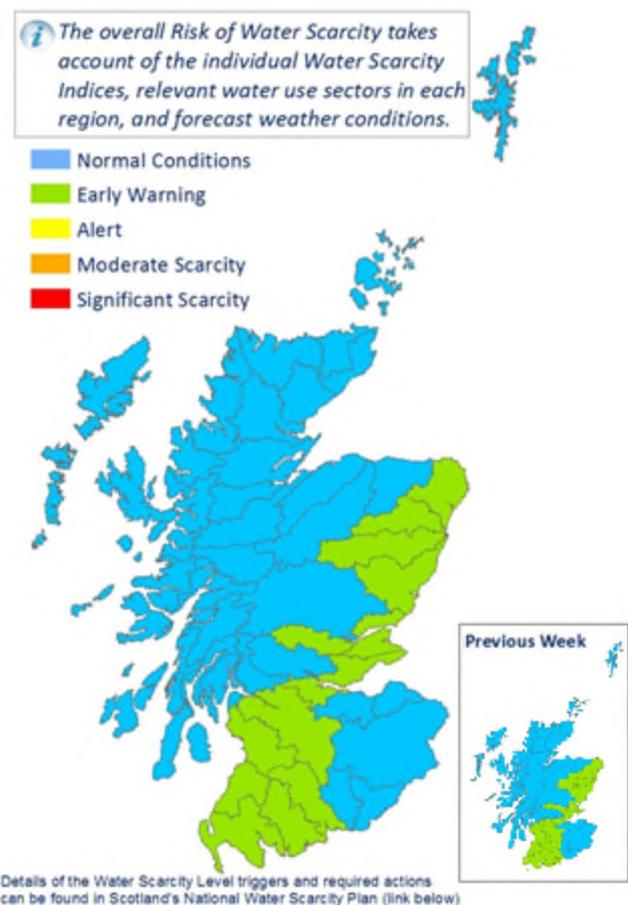
- Only irrigate when, and only as much as, absolutely necessary;
- Make sure irrigation equipment isn't leaking;
- Position irrigators carefully so that they do not over-spray beyond the edge of the crop.

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/>.

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](#).

**Figure 1: Current Water Scarcity Level**



## Rainfall forecast (Source: Met Office 18/07/2019)

Thursday will be a showery day. The showers will be heavy at times but won't last too long in any one place, and they will become isolated in the evening. There will be a few showers breaking out again in the north on Friday while a spell of rain spreads into the south and central belt in the afternoon, reaching the northeast in the evening. Heavy showers will follow to the south later. Some slow moving downpours are likely in the south and east on Saturday. A dry start on Sunday then outbreaks of rain will spread in from the west, probably becoming heavy and persistent in the northwest and this could last into Monday.

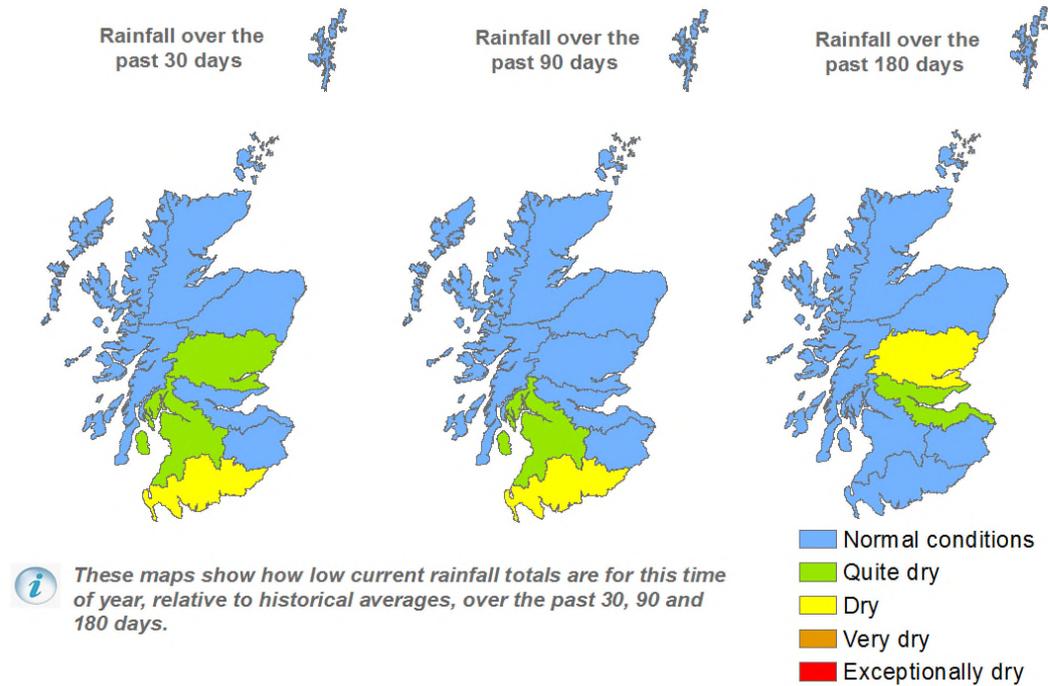
The longer-term outlook is uncertain. For July-August-September as a whole, the chances of above- and below-average precipitation are similar. For further details on the seasonal forecast see the latest 3-month outlook summaries at

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index>

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

17/07/2019

## Precipitation Indices



### Soil Moisture Deficit update

The soil moisture deficit is similar to last week, with widespread Quite Dry areas south of the central belt, and on the east coast. Localised Dry areas persist coastally, in the East Neuk of Fife, in East Lothian and the Borders, in Ayrshire and the Solway coast, and in Caithness and Orkney. Most of the north-west of the country has no deficit, apart from isolated Quite Dry areas on Islay and the Uists.

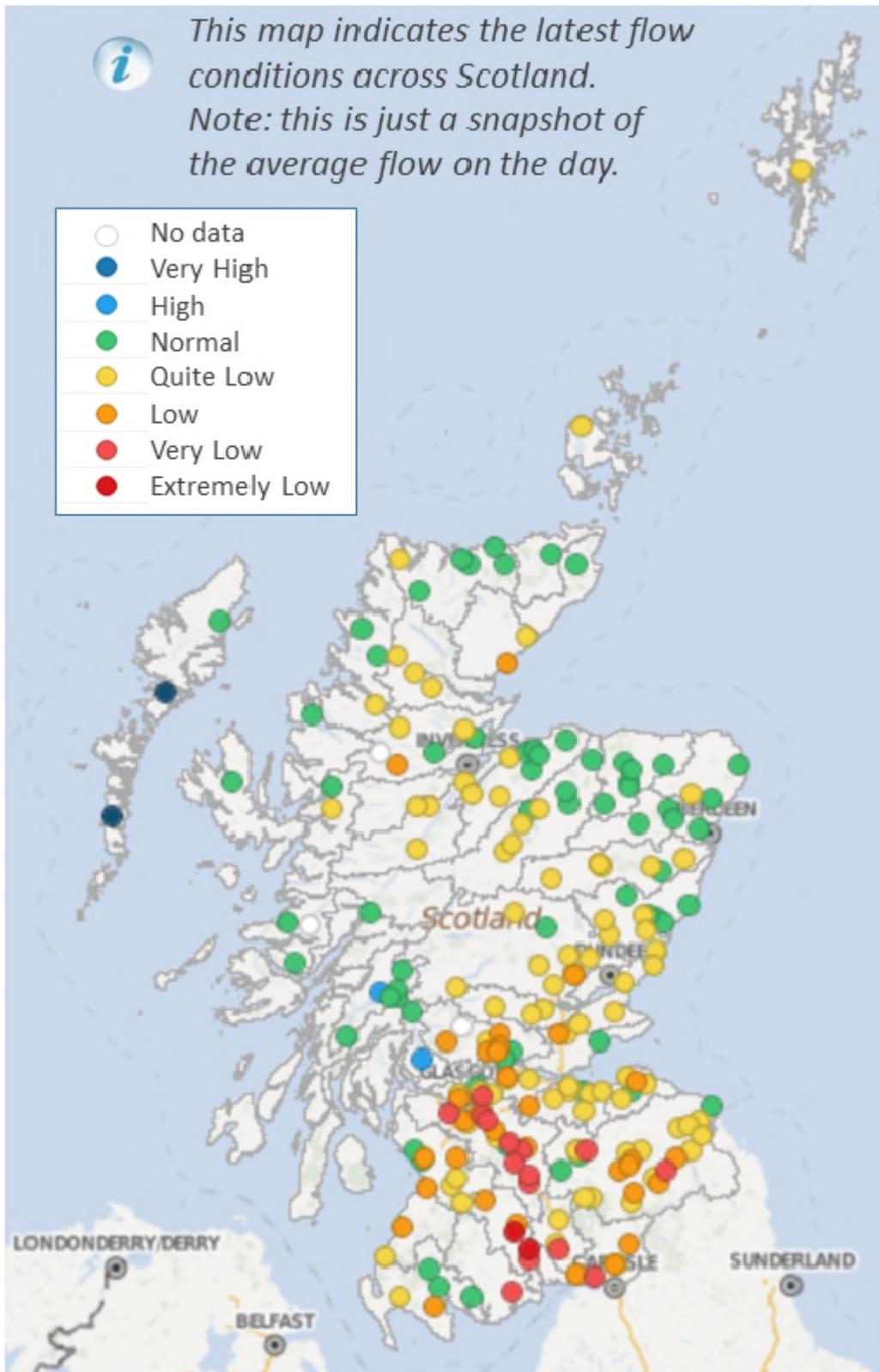
18/07/2019

## 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.*





## 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.

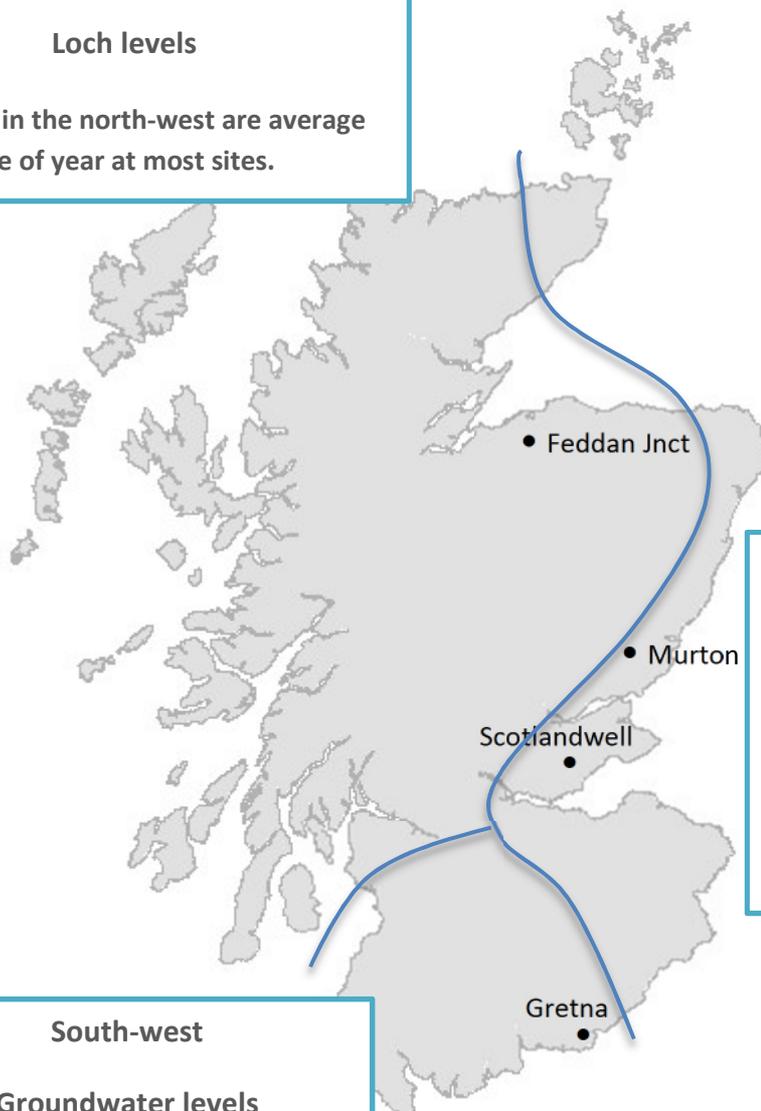
Please note that the map below does not reflect conditions in managed water supply reservoirs.



### North-west

#### Loch levels

Loch levels in the north-west are average for this time of year at most sites.



### East

#### Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels along the east coast continue to decrease. At some sites, levels are low compared to the long-term record (see the graphs below as an example).

### South-west

#### Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels in this region have begun to decrease. At some sites levels are low compared to the long term-average.



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

