

Water Scarcity Report

7th October 2021



HEADLINES

Following recent rainfall, there has been significant recovery across most of Scotland this week, with the exception of the Firth of Tay and the Firth of Forth catchments.

A prolonged period of above average rainfall is required to improve loch levels and reservoir storage.

Situation Summary

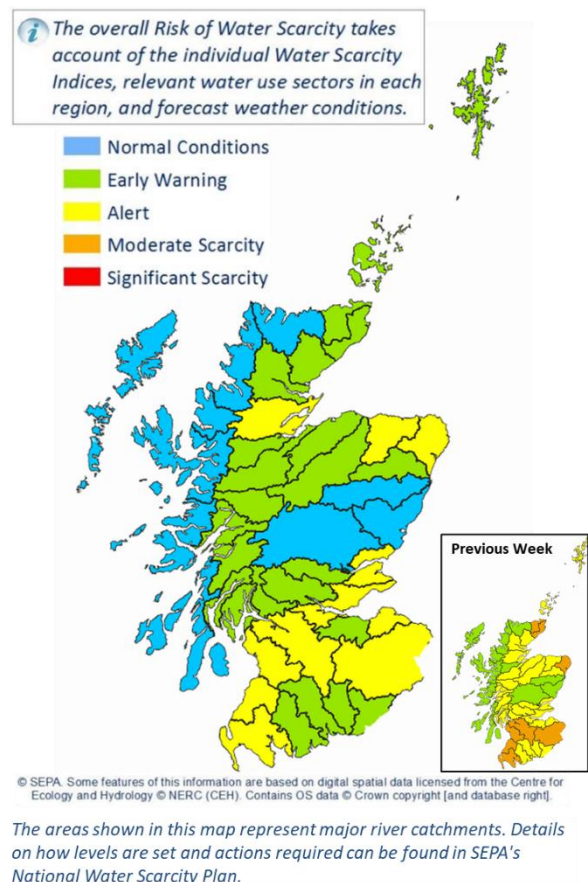
Due to recent rainfall, there has been significant improvement in river levels across most of Scotland. More rain is forecast over the next few days and further recovery is expected next week.

However, recent rainfall has not been sufficient to significantly improve loch and reservoir storage, as well as groundwater levels, which remain low.

A prolonged period of above average rainfall is required in order to offset this storage deficit.

SEPA is monitoring the situation closely and coordinating steps to manage water resources in line with Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan which is available on SEPA's website:

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/>.



You can help us by reporting any evidence you see of water scarcity. For details of information that would be useful to us and where to send it see: [Water scarcity in your area | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#).

Advice for water users

Scottish Water are asking customers to use water wisely in and around their homes. More information can be found on the Scottish Water website

<https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/Your-Home/Save-Water>

Water abstractors with concerns about meeting licence conditions or wishing to discuss contingency measures should get in touch at the following e-mail address

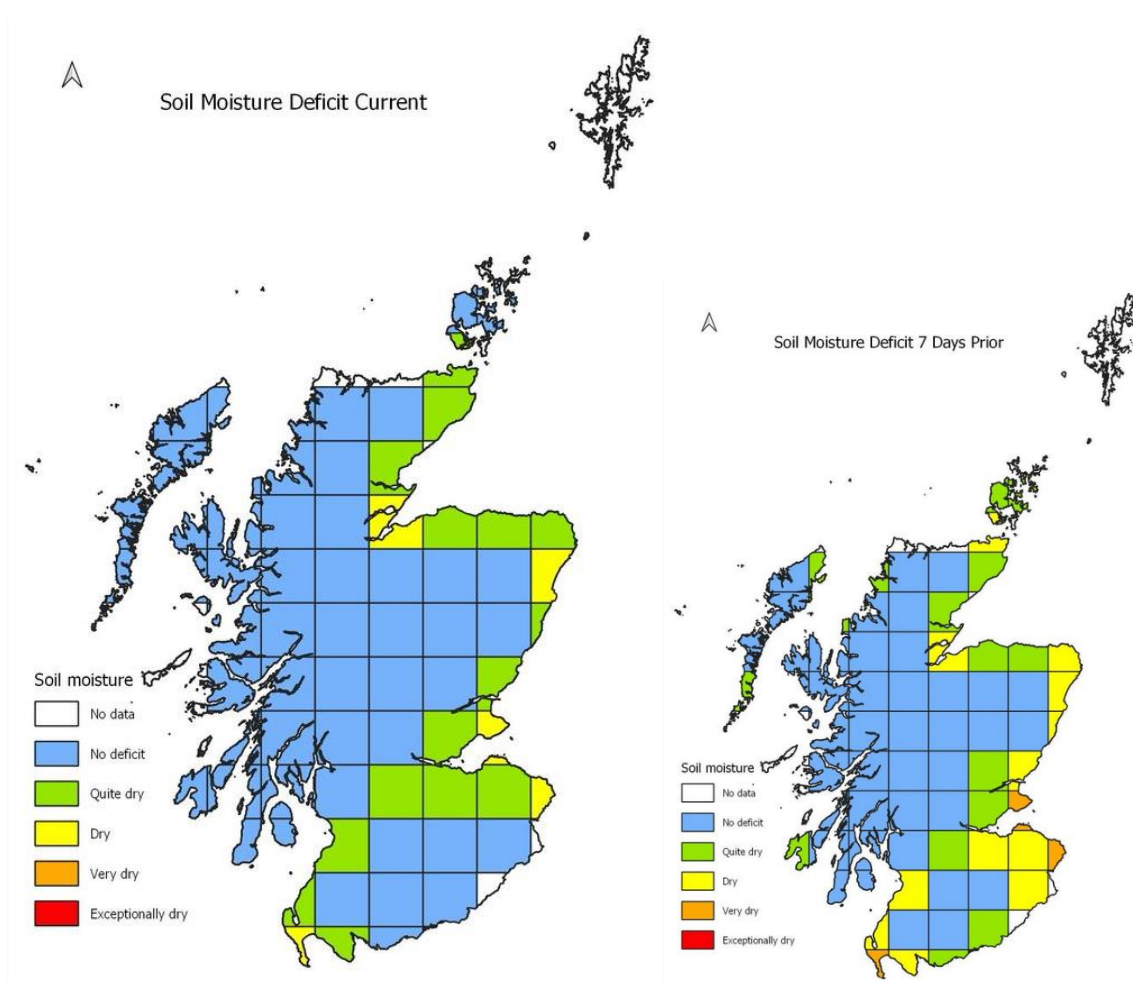
WaterScarcity@sepa.org.uk

Weather forecast (07/10/21)

Occasional rain on Thursday, this more persistent across west/southwestern areas, especially over higher ground, continuing into Thursday night. The heavier rain easing on Friday morning, before some heavier rain spreads to the northwest on Friday evening and night. On Saturday the rainband will move east as a weakening feature with mainly dry weather following from the west. Scattered showers on Sunday and Monday but chance of a longer spell of rain for a time on Monday in the south.

At a seasonal timescale, models suggest that October to December is more likely to be wet than dry, and there is more than double the chance of higher than average temperatures.

Further details are available in the following figures:

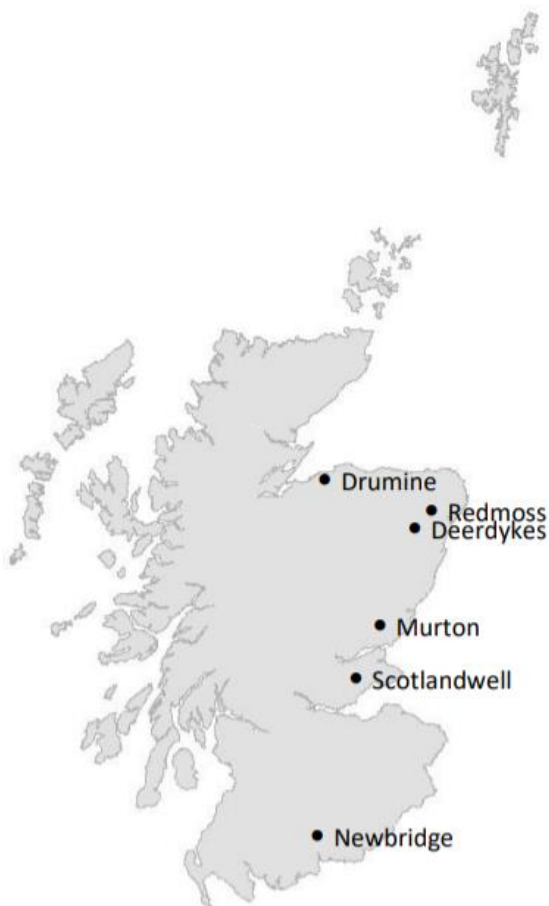


These maps depict the current latest Soil Moisture Deficit (06th October 2021) and seven days prior for comparison. Based on the MORECS data obtained from the Met Office.



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.



5th October 2021

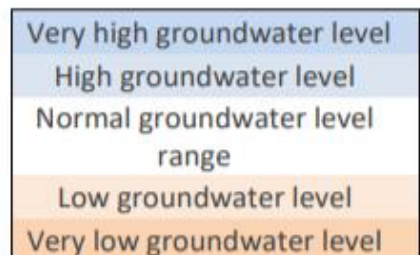
Groundwater levels in the north-east and some parts of the east are now low for the time of year and continuing to fall.

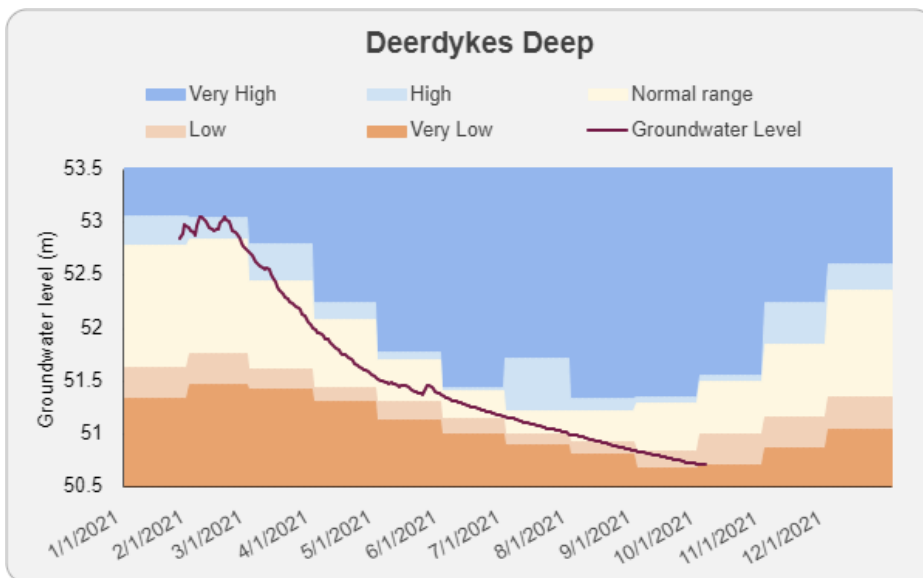
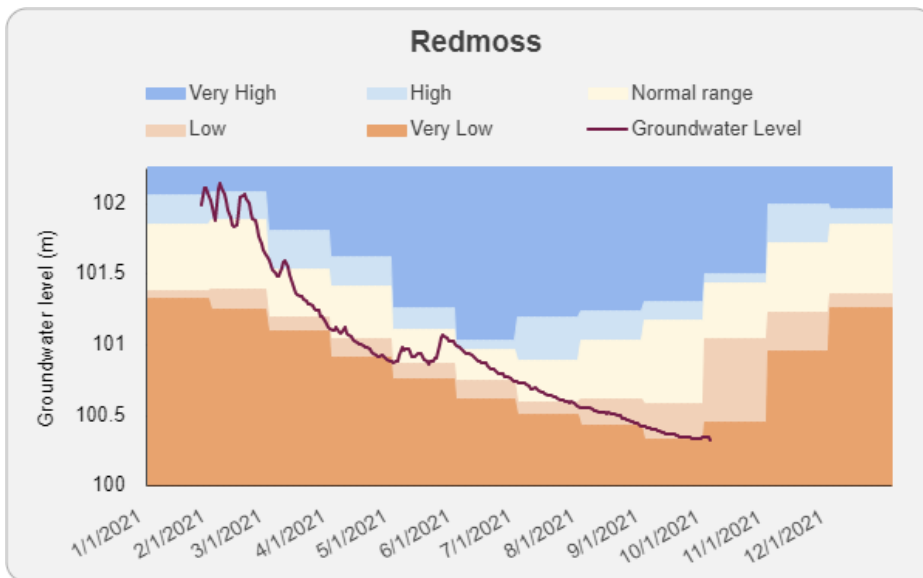
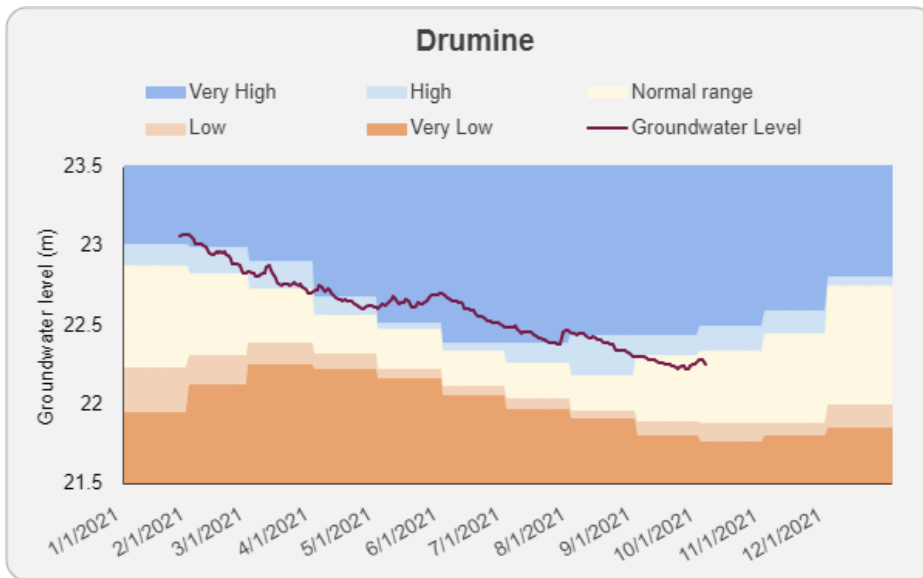
Groundwater levels in other areas are also falling but remain within the normal range for the time of year.

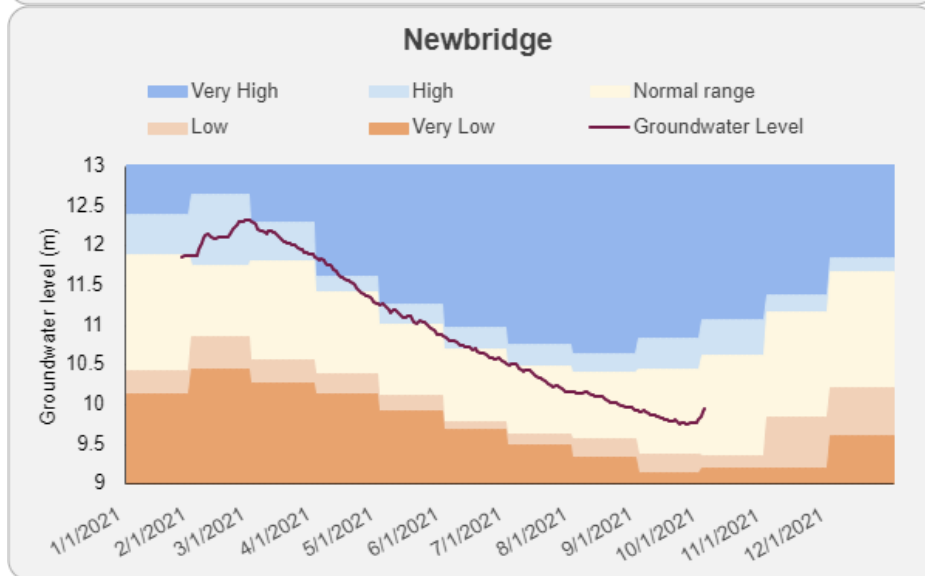
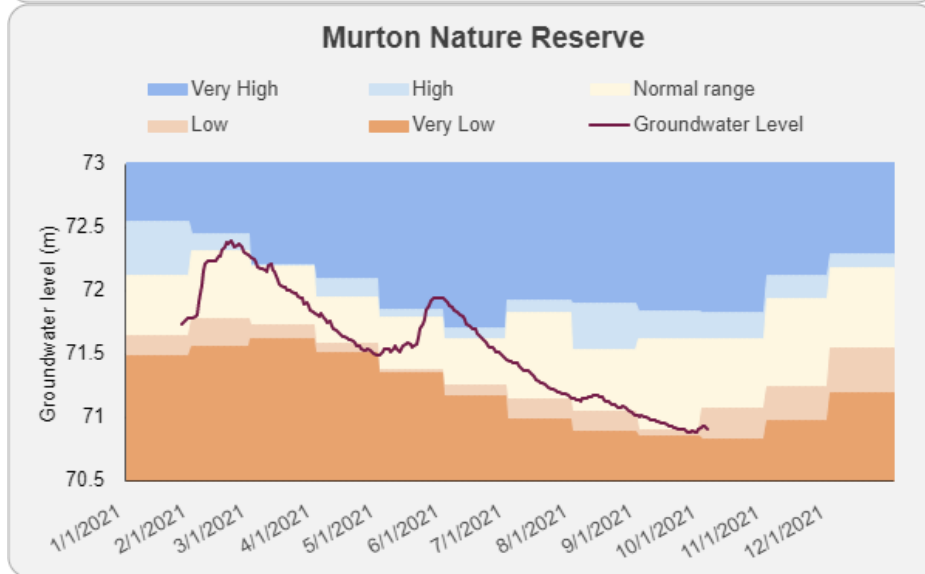
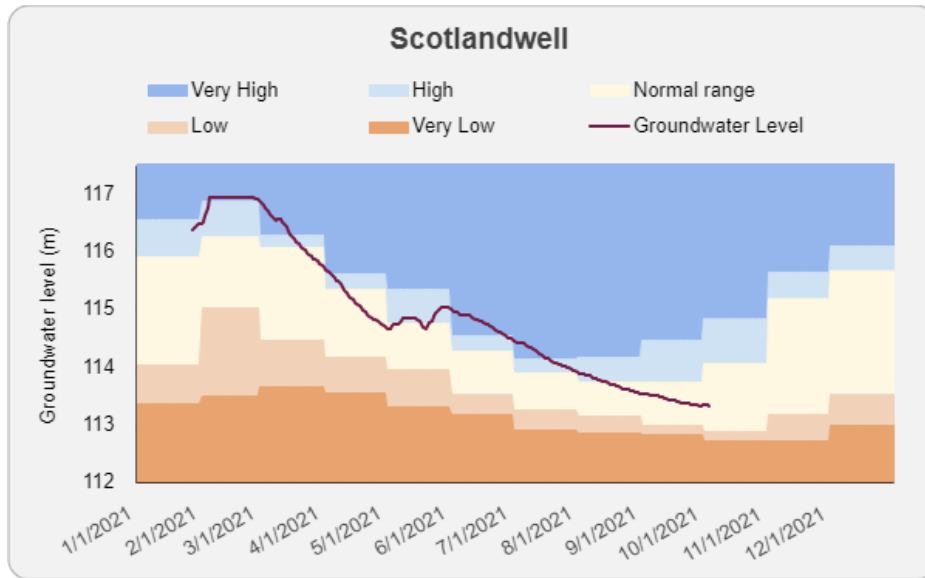
We have up to date data for 11 groundwater level monitoring sites, spread across the east and south-west of the country, giving a good picture of the current situation.

Loch level data is not currently available.

The following charts show the trend in groundwater level (GWL) since start of the year at selected monitoring sites (see map above). The black line shows the recorded groundwater level. This is plotted over level trend bands, which are based on the long-term record of mean monthly level values.







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<http://contactscotland-bsl.org/>

www.sepa.org.uk

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