

Water Situation Report

18th November 2021



HEADLINES

There is an increased risk of Water Scarcity impacts in 2022 in the Northeast based on current recovery.

Elsewhere the risk ahead is normal.

Situation Summary

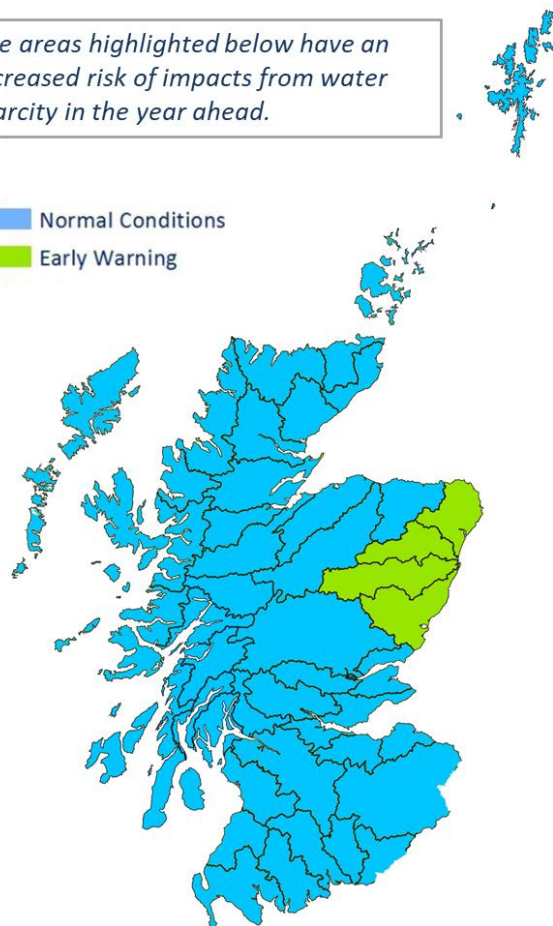
Heavy rainfall in late October and early November has brought recovery to regions impacted by drought earlier this year. Unfortunately, this also led to flooding across several regions of the country.

Storage in lochs and groundwater has increased in recent weeks and water resources are now broadly within normal levels for this time of year. There are some exceptions, however, where recharge has not yet been sufficient and some groundwater levels in the northeast region remain at low levels. If groundwater levels remain low into spring, there would be an increased potential risk of drought impacts occurring in this region next year.

Although the southwest was more impacted by drought this summer, recovery there has

The areas highlighted below have an increased risk of impacts from water scarcity in the year ahead.

Normal Conditions
Early Warning



© SEPA. Some features of this information are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology © NERC (CEH). Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right].

The areas shown in this map represent major river catchments. Details on how levels are set and actions required can be found in SEPA's National Water Scarcity Plan.

been significant. The risk into next year is normal and will be much more dependent on weather conditions that are beyond the current seasonal forecast.

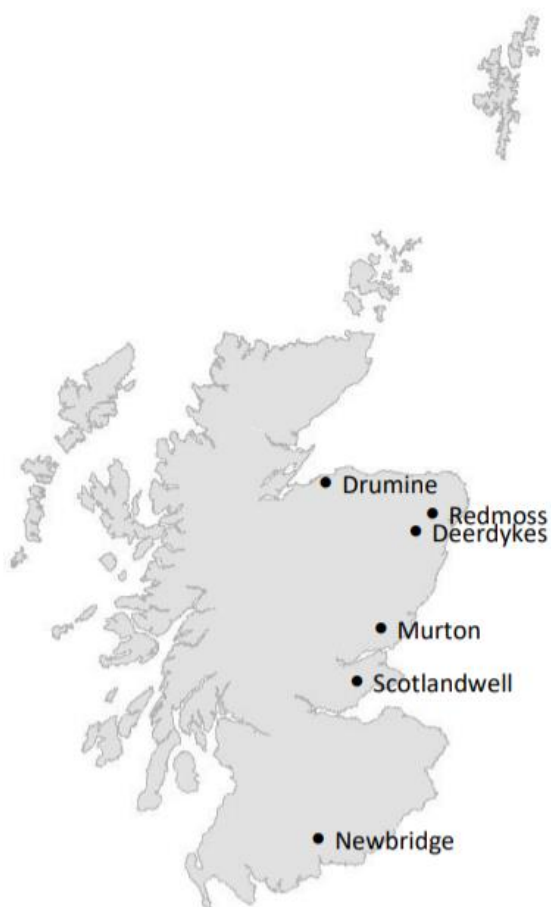
Rainfall forecast

The latest long term rainfall forecast suggests that there is a slightly higher than normal chance of wet conditions through November to January but rainfall is most likely to be within the normal range. For further details on the seasonal forecast see the latest 3-month outlook summary at www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index.



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.



1st November 2021

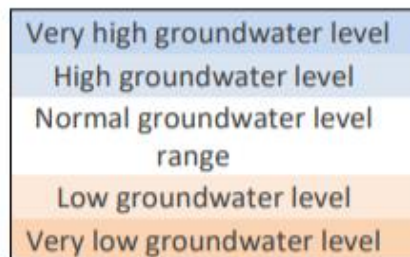
Groundwater levels at some sites in Aberdeenshire and Angus remain low for the time of year.

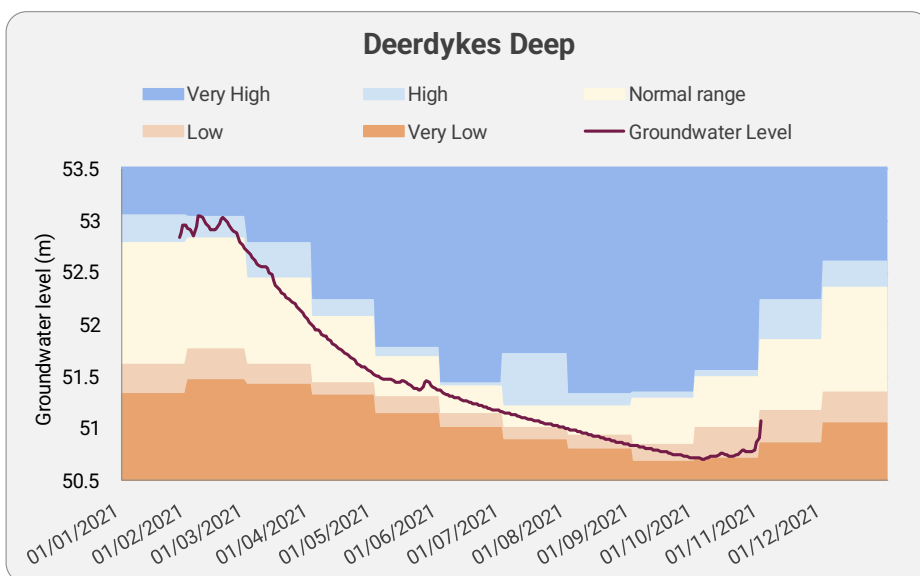
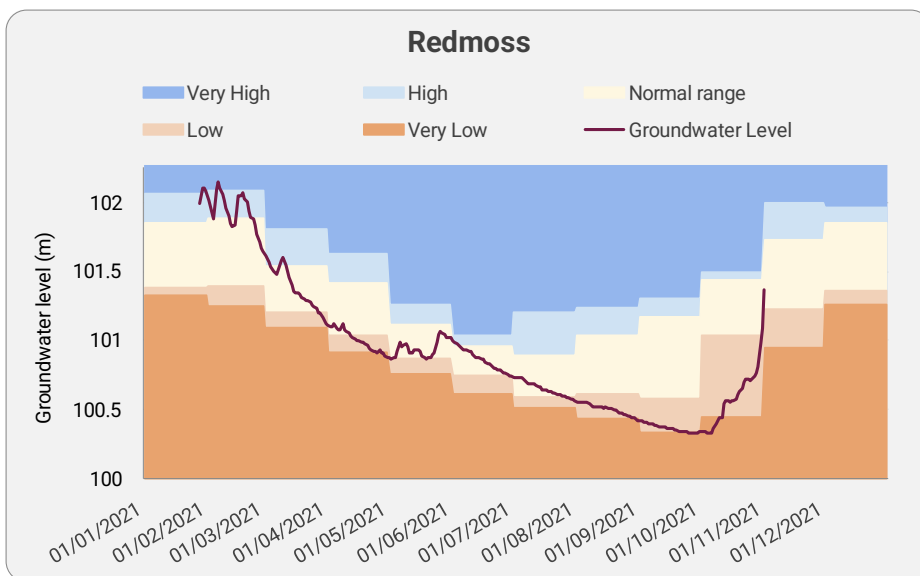
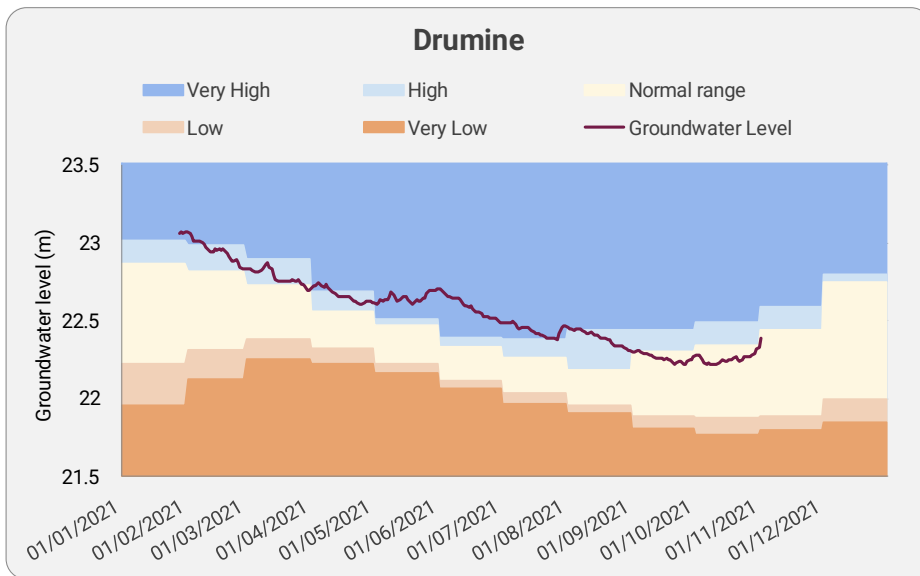
Following recovery within the last month, groundwater levels in other areas are within the normal range for the time of year.

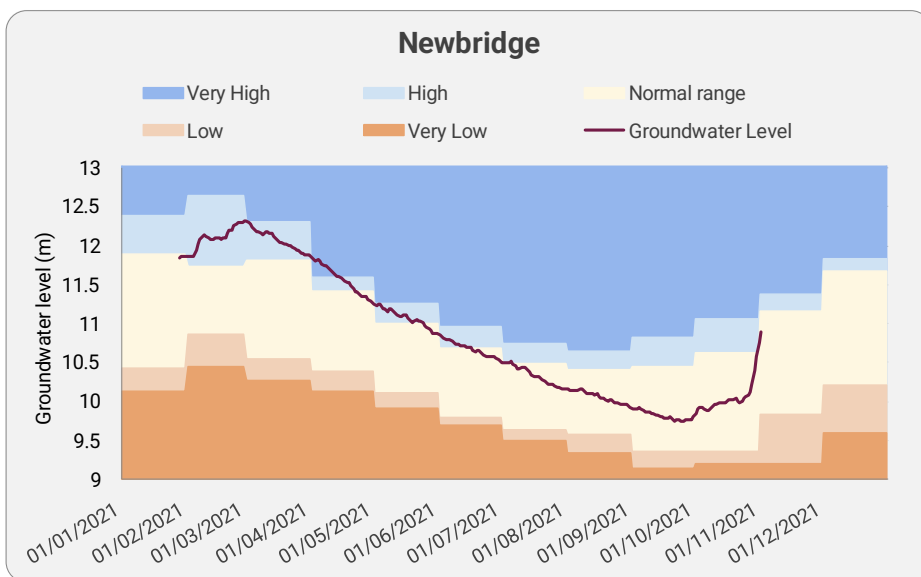
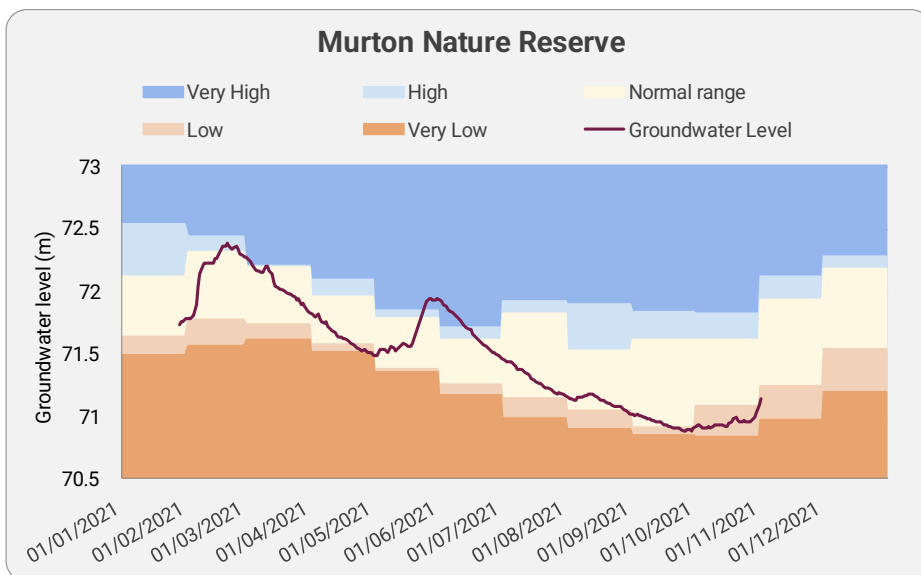
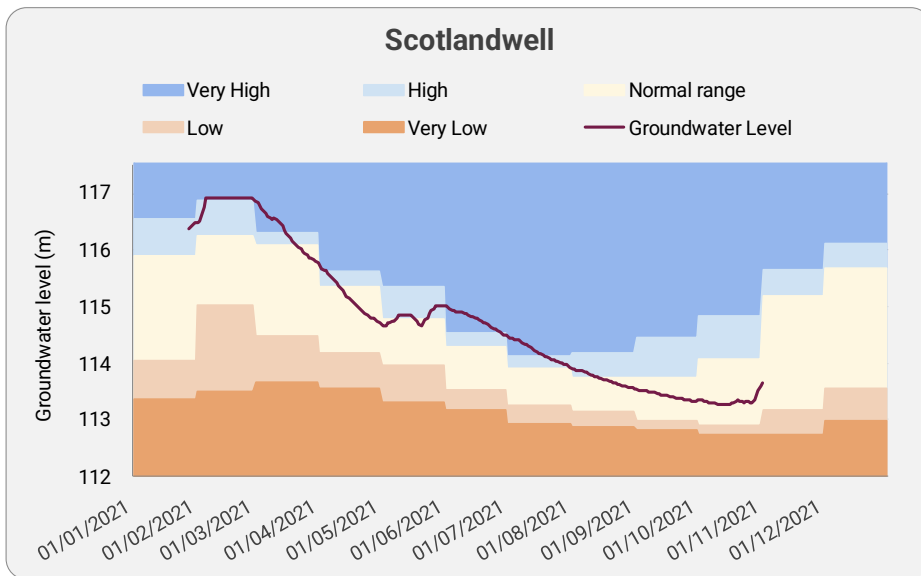
We have up to date data for 11 groundwater level monitoring sites, spread across the east and south-west of the country, giving a good picture of the current situation.

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.







For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language please either contact SEPA by telephone on 03000 99 66 99 or by email to

equalities@sepa.org.uk

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL) the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter enabling you to communicate with us using sign language.

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

www.sepa.org.uk

Strathallan House, Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4TZ