

Water Scarcity Report

21st July 2022



The Don catchment has been raised to Moderate Scarcity, and the Dee, Ythan, the Firth of Tay, Firth of Forth, Almond and Tyne catchments remain at Moderate Scarcity.

The Leven (Dumbartonshire) area has been raised to Early Warning.


Situation Summary


This week has seen hot and dry weather across parts of Scotland with record breaking temperatures in the Borders. Most areas across Scotland have continued to get drier. Although some rain is forecast for the weekend and into next week it is unlikely there will be enough to improve conditions.

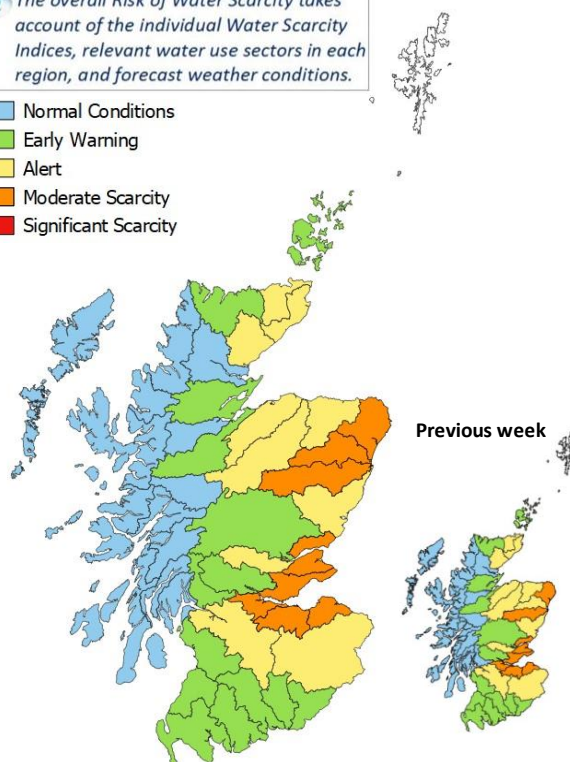
In the north-east, the Don catchment has now joined the Ythan and Dee at Moderate Scarcity due to continued dry ground conditions and low river levels in these areas.

Also in the east, dry ground conditions and low river levels mean the Firth of Forth area, the Almond, Tyne and Firth of Tay Group remain at Moderate Scarcity.

Most of the east coast is now at Alert or Moderate Scarcity due to an extended period of low river levels and dry weather.

 The overall Risk of Water Scarcity takes account of the individual Water Scarcity Indices, relevant water use sectors in each region, and forecast weather conditions.

-  Normal Conditions
-  Early Warning
-  Alert
-  Moderate Scarcity
-  Significant Scarcity



©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.

In the west, the Leven (Dumbartonshire) catchment has been raised to Early Warning, joining the rest of Galloway and Ayrshire.

Groundwater levels are falling and are very low at some of SEPA's monitoring locations.

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

Water sources used for irrigating farm land are at risk of becoming limited in the Alert and Moderate areas. We are urging farmers in these areas, especially if taking water from burns and small rivers, to:

- Only irrigate when, and only as much as, absolutely necessary.
- Make sure irrigation equipment isn't leaking.
- Reduce evaporation losses by avoiding irrigating during the hottest time of day
- Explore how you and your neighbours in the same river catchment could avoid irrigating at the same time.
- Consider whether you could switch to using groundwater rather than river water if conditions worsen. If you would need a new borehole to do this, your local SEPA office will be able to help and advise.

Managers of golf courses are asked to do the same.

For the most up to date advice please see: [Advice for abstractors](#).

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.

Public water supplies are operating normally.

Weather forecast (21/07/22)

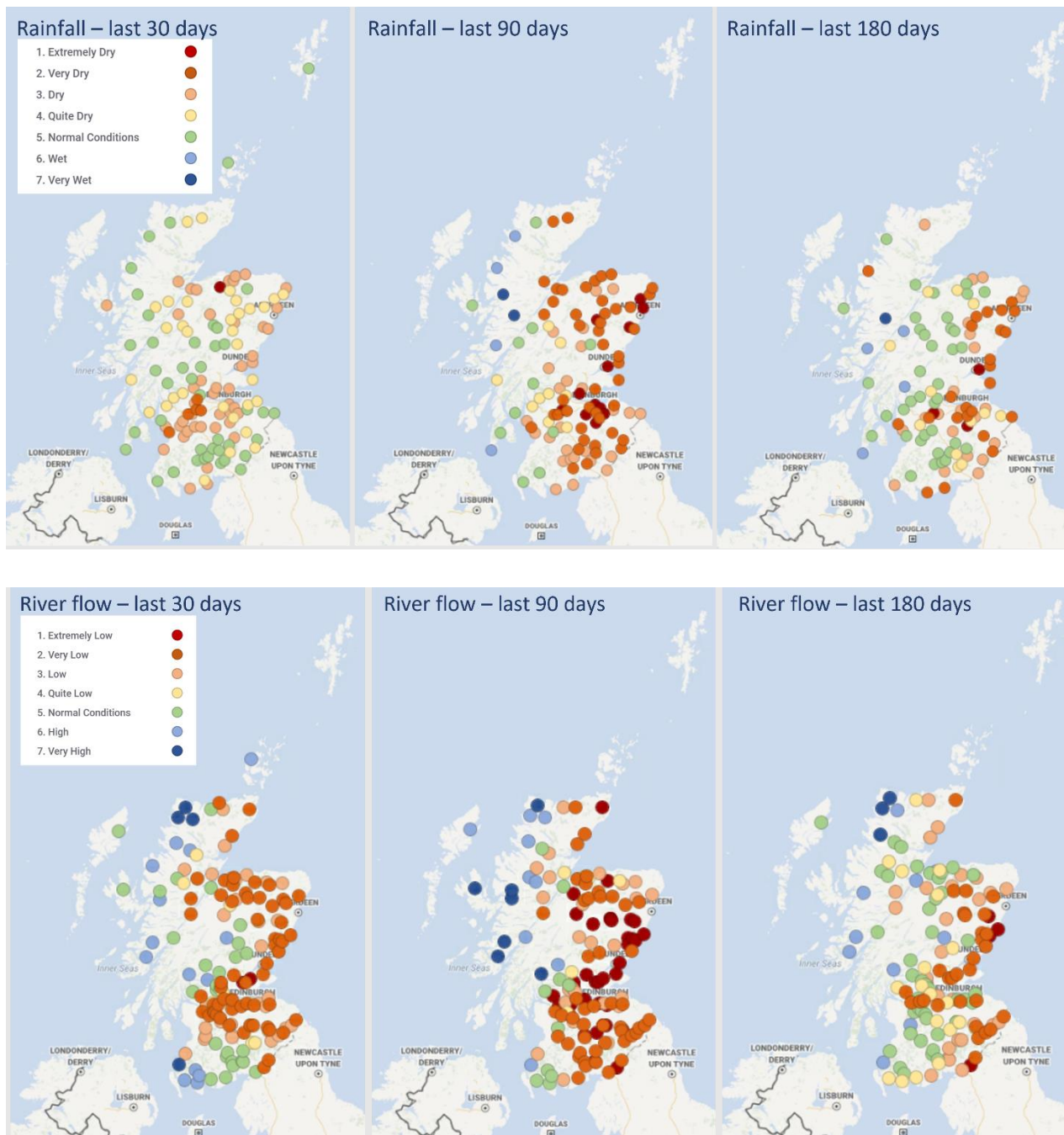
Showery rain extending northeast across most of Scotland during Friday, becoming drier from the west later in the day. Widespread rain will extend northeast across most of Scotland on Saturday, heaviest in the northwest. A showery airstream will become established across Scotland on Sunday and Monday, showers most frequent in the northwest.

© Crown copyright [2022], Met Office

Supporting information

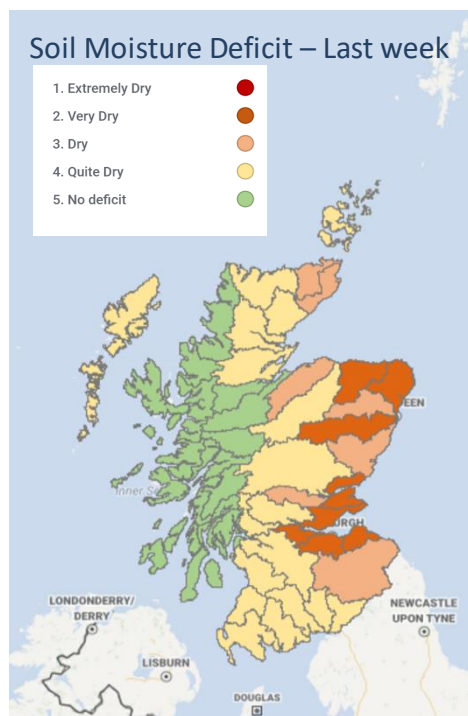
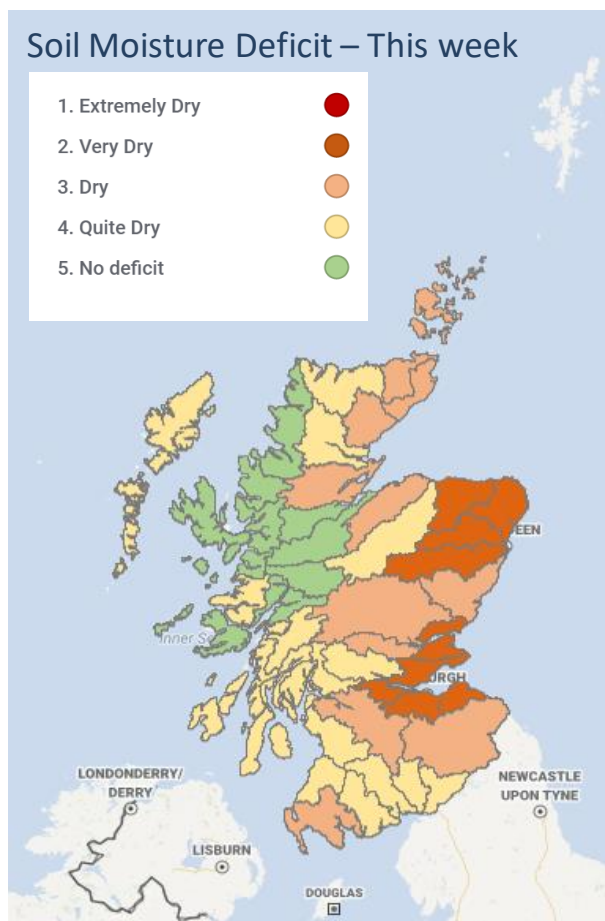
Rainfall and river flows:

These maps show rainfall (top row) and river flow (bottom row) relative to the long-term average, for this time of year, over 30 days, 90 days and 180 days. River flows have been lower than normal for the time of year in most areas apart from the northwest. Rainfall has been low across the east of the country and in some parts of the central belt, but generally normal elsewhere.




Soil moisture deficit:

These maps show this week’s soil moisture deficit, alongside last weeks for comparison. This is obtained from the Met Office Rainfall and Evaporation Calculation System (MORECS). Soil moisture deficit in the east and south-west have continued increasing this week, indicating that soils became drier.

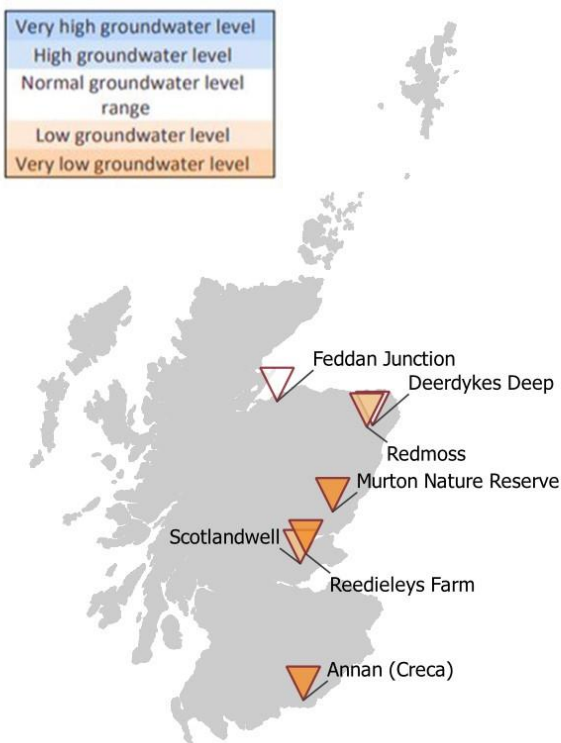


Data based on MORECS (Met Office © Crown Copyright). Some features of this information are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Copyright NERC (CEH). Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right].

Groundwater levels:

 **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.

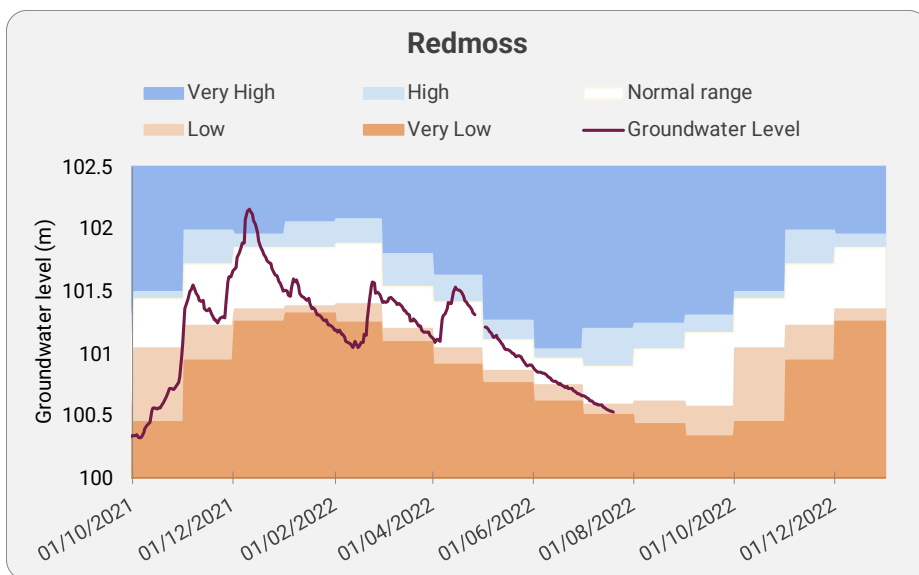
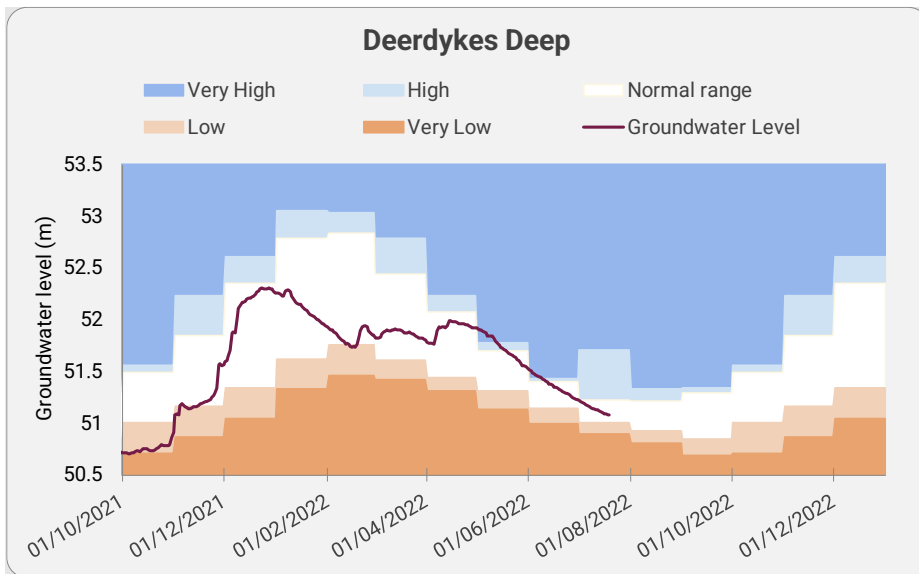
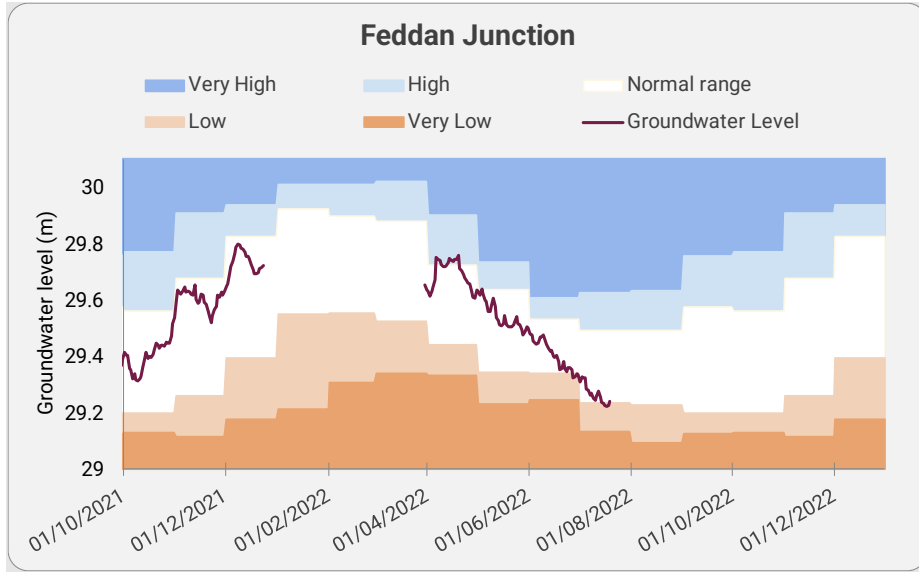


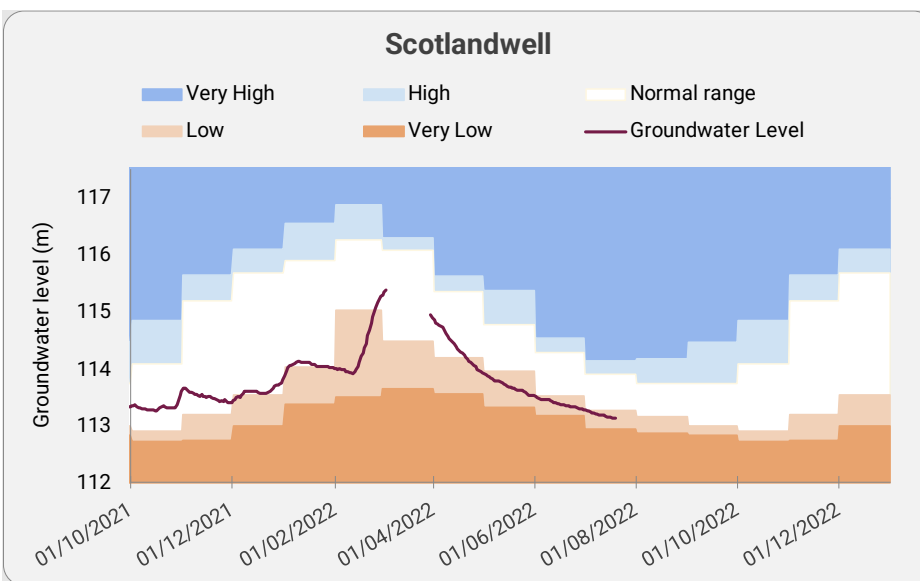
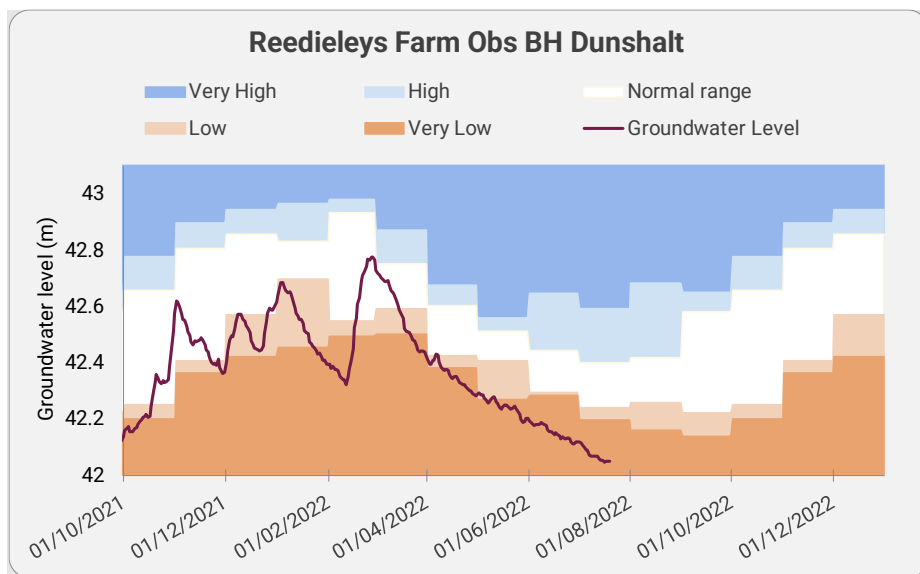
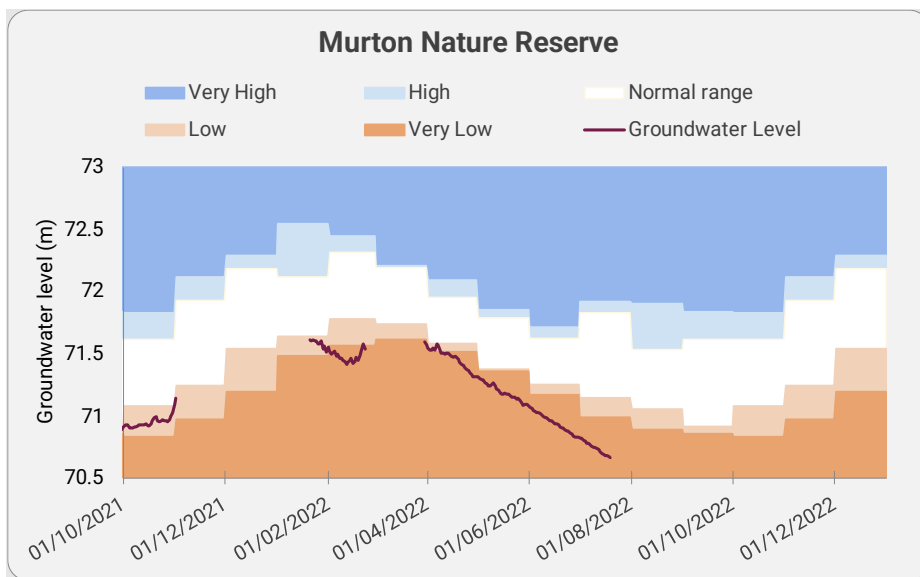
Groundwater levels at the monitoring sites in the east and south-west continue to drop and are now very low for the time of year.

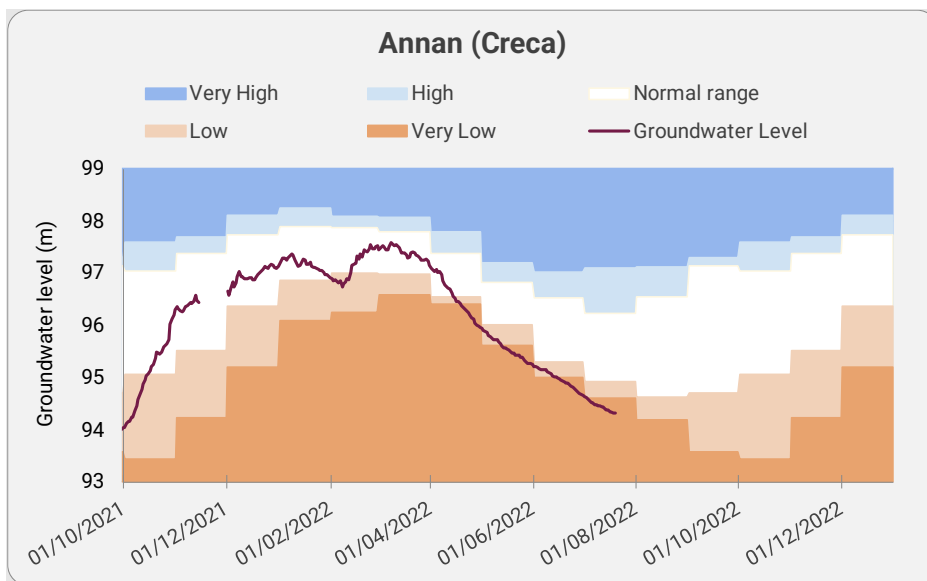
Groundwater levels at the monitoring sites in the north and north-east are also dropping towards the low range for the time of year.

Loch level data is not currently available.

The following charts show the trend in groundwater level (GWL) since October 2021 for selected monitoring sites (see map above). The dark 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.







Flow, Rainfall and Groundwater data are accessed via SEPA’s [time series data service](#) (API). SEPA's live data are subject to ongoing quality control and periodic review.

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