

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update – 19 May 2025

Welcome to our weekly newsletter, available on our website (in HTML and PDF) and (soon) by email. You can help us grow by subscribing to the feed for free: <https://www.ukrivers.net/rss.xml>. We'll have an option to subscribe by email very soon. Please send us your news, events, and anything else to: **hello at ukrivers dot net**

River news

17 May 2025: [Thousands join Surfers Against Sewage 'Paddle out Protest' for clean water](#): SAS have organized a mass action to protest against polluted bathing waters.

16 May 2025: [Oxford's £176 million flood defence scheme approved](#): The huge new Oxford Flood Alleviation scheme has gained government approval.

16 May 2025: [Basingstoke council grants rivers "human rights"](#): Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has voted to grant rivers and chalk streams new rights, including the right to flow and remain clean.

16 May 2025: [Oxford University re-maps the world's rivers](#): Oxford researchers have developed a new river-mapping tool called Global River Topology (GRIT), covering a total length of 19.6 million km, which aims to show the world's rivers (and canals) in their full complexity. It should lead to better hydrological modeling, flood forecasting, and water management.

15 May 2025: [West Country water lovers urged to lend a hand to bathing waters](#): In a rather muddled press release, the Environment Agency vaguely asks for help in designating more bathing waters—but there's a distinct lack of dash, determination, and ambition.

15 May 2025: [New study confirms democracies outsource their pollution](#): No surprise at all: a new study of 161 countries over several decades has confirmed that democracies outsource more greenhouse emissions than autocratic regimes.

7 May 2025: [Building boardwalks: how volunteers can be a powerful voice for nature's recovery](#): An inspiring story from the Freshwater Habitats Trust about how more thoughtful access can help improve the biodiversity of a threatened site by keeping people in the right place.

7 May 2025: [5 endangered marine animals that need protecting in the UK](#): The Marine Conservation Society enlightens us about their work to protect the flapper skate, the European sturgeon, the angel shark, the European eel, and the pink sea fan.

1 May 2025: [WWT leaves X/Twitter](#): The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust has announced its departure from the increasingly toxic social media site.

April 2025

30 May 2025: [UK woefully underprepared for climate change](#): The Climate Change Committee's latest report is scathing, ranking the UK governments' efforts as "... limited... piecemeal and disjointed... too slow... stalled, or ... in the wrong direction... [and] ineffective".

28 April 2025: [Eco Albania scoop the Goldman Prize for river activism](#): Two Albanian activists, Besjana Guri and Olsi Nika, have won the 2025 Goldman Prize for their campaign to protect the wild Vjosa River from a hydropower dam.

17 April 2025: [Birmingham volunteers learn to test water quality](#): Dr James White from the University of Birmingham is empowering volunteers to check the health of their local rivers and streams.

[More news...](#)

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Wessex Rivers Trust: Project Officer](#) (9 June 2025)
- [Wessex Rivers Trust: Engagement Officer](#) (3 June 2025)
- [Shropshire Wildlife Trust: Severn & Wye Nature Programme Manager](#) (2 June 2025)
- [Sussex Wildlife Trust: Wilder Ouse Officer](#) (2 June 2025)
- [Wiltshire Wildlife Trust: Head of Nature Recovery \(Maternity Cover\)](#) (2 June 2025)
- [South East Rivers Trust: Senior Catchment Officer \(Wandle and Darent\)](#) (1 June 2025)
- [Business & Corporate Engagement Partner, Canal and River Trust](#) (1 June 2025)
- [River Action: Campaign analyst](#) (28 May 2025)
- [Wessex Rivers Trust: Trust Administrator](#) (27 May 2025)
- [West Cumbria Rivers Trust: Assistant Project Officer](#) (27 May 2025)
- [Trust Manager/Senior Biologist: Lochaber Fisheries Trust](#) (23 May 2025)
- [General Administrator, South East Rivers Trust](#) (11 May 2025)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [Trustees: Sussex Wildlife Trust](#) (20 June 2025)
- [Trustees: River Waveney Trust](#) (12 June 2025)
- [Chair of Trustees: Wild Trout Trust](#) (30 May 2025)
- [Trustees: Tweed Foundation](#) (18 May 2025)

Watch and listen

In case you missed it...

Is a River Alive? by Robert Macfarlane

The nature writer's new book is serialised as a BBC book of the week in five quarter-hour episodes: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/m002bsw7>

Walk of the week

Bernard Levin's London Bridges walk

I seem to remember this clever walk featuring in Levin's book *Enthusiasms*, or perhaps one of his others. A simple idea: you walk through central London by the river until you come to a bridge, then cross, then walk on the other side... and repeat for as long as you like.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120502160111/http://www.smh.com.au/travel/walking-on-water-20081113-64cy.html>

Campaign of the week

Clean rivers for people and wildlife

The Women's Institute is currently running a campaign "encouraging members to make and support applications to create bathing waters in rivers across England and Wales as a way to drive the cleanup of our precious waters".

<https://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/key-and-current-campaigns/clean-rivers-for-people-and-wildlife>