

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update – 26 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@ukrivers.net

River news

May 2025

24 May 2025: [Canoeists launch 2025 Big Paddle Cleanup!](#): Thousands of paddling volunteers will be helping Paddle UK to bust litter from rivers this week. In last year's paddle, "7,398 hours were spent... filling 1,888 sacks with rubbish, including "7,809 plastic bottles, 2,374 glass bottles, 4,735 cans and 10,613 plastic food wrappers, plus many unusual items".

23 May 2025: [UK Government risks sending nature into freefall](#): RSPB warns that planning reforms are a licence to kill nature. Despite continued anti-nature rhetoric, blaming 'newts and bats' for stalled development, the Government's own Impact Assessment Report found that current nature protections were not 'blockers' to building. Recent research from The Wildlife Trust supports this too, showing that the species blamed by the Government factor into just 3% of planning appeal decisions

20 May 2025: [Have you seen ratty?](#): Or voley, more like. West Cumbria Rivers Trust are asking for help in tracking down threatened water voles as part of their Mink Free Rivers project.

20 May 2025: [How a Water Conservation Idea Won Over Oklahoma Farmers](#): Keeping cattle out of streams proved a simple way to shift Horse Creek from a list of most polluted waterways.

20 May 2025: [At last, water firms facing criminal probes over sewage](#): The I reports on more action to tackle water polluters.

20 May 2025: [Coastlines will crumble even if we meet climate targets](#): Climate change is now baked in, researchers point out, even if we meet the increasingly dubious target of limiting world warming to 1.5 degrees.

18 May 2025: [Water voles are almost extinct - could glitter save them?](#): Sparkly poo offers a cunning way to track cuddly threatened riverbank critters.

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.

17 May 2025: [Phil Williams: Thinking about rivers and dams](#): A short interview with one of the founders of the International Rivers Network (now International Rivers).

8 May 2025: [How your dog is harming the river you love](#): Writing in The I, Clare Wilson offers simple tips for minimizing canine impacts on freshwater wildlife.

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Wessex Rivers Trust: Project Officer](#) (9 June 2025)
- [Education and Engagement Officer, South East Rivers Trust](#) (8 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)

Watch and listen

In case you missed it.

Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers

In six programmes, Paul Murton explores five rivers from source to sea.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m0011hp7/grand-tours-of-scotlands-rivers>

Campaign of the week

A huge well-done to the Straitgate Action Group who have finally defeated a 150-acre, 20-million-tonne mega-quarry near Ottery St Mary, Devon after 25 years of campaigning. No direct river impacts, but major concerns over water supplies, ponds, and other freshwater issues.

<https://straitgateactiongroup.blogspot.com/>

Walk of the week

A few miles from Straitgate, why not celebrate the wider, East-Devon River Otter landscape with this six-mile, two-hour walk starting and finishing in Otterton...

https://www.bbc.co.uk/devon/outdoors/walks/river_otter.shtml