

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update – 21 July 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

July 2025

20 July 2025: [National Fishing Month is nearly here!](#): Just one week to go before the month-long angling celebration kicks off again, running from 26 July to 31 August.

20 July 2025: [Rivers are facing a perfect storm](#): Erratic heavy rainfalls, sewage overflows, high water temperatures, low oxygen levels, algal blooms, and dwindling flows are a recipe for river disaster, reports Sky News.

20 July 2025: [Government reveals £104bn river plans](#): Just before the Independent Water Commission's landmark review this week, the government has announced how it plans to tackle Britain's dysfunctional water system.

19 July 2025: [Drought concerns mount as Midlands joins the club](#): Since the National Drought Group last met on 5 June, the situation has deteriorated, with further areas, including the West and East Midlands, now officially in drought and recently three more areas moved into prolonged dry weather status (Lincs and Northants, East Anglia, and Thames area). A hosepipe ban is set to be introduced from 22nd July by Thames Water following a period of prolonged dry weather in the area.

18 July 2025: [Serious water pollution incidents rise by 60 percent in just one year](#): Pollution incidents were up by 60 percent in 2024 due to "persistent underinvestment in new infrastructure, poor asset maintenance, and reduced resilience due to the impacts of climate change", according to the Environment Agency.

18 July 2025: [Drought concerns force anglers to hang up their rods](#): Angling groups have stopped fishing on the River Trent due to growing concerns about fish health caused by low oxygen levels, themselves caused by recent hot weather and drought.

18 July 2025: [Ofwat for the chop?](#): The I reports that Ofwat, the toothless water company regulator, is set to be scrapped in the wake of mass public outrage over river pollution.

18 July 2025: [How does drought impact freshwater biodiversity?](#): Freshwater Habitats Trust explores how freshwater life can survive periods of drought: "Many freshwater plants and animals can survive, or even need, periods of drought. While some – like fish – need water all the time, many freshwater species have lifecycles that are well adapted to periods of drying out."

18 July 2025: [Dear Keir Starmer and Steve Reed... We demand an urgent end to the sewage scandal](#): Surfers Against Sewage publishes an open letter to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment.

18 July 2025: [Are firefighters right about rivers?](#): A strong message to swimmers and paddle boarders from Derbyshire Fire service: "If you want to enjoy a hobby such as paddle boarding, join a club where you can paddle board in a safe environment. And if you are tempted to cool down in our rivers –keep out and keep away from weirs". Given that people always have and always will swim in inland waters, perhaps joining the call for more properly designated bathing waters would be more helpful?

17 July 2025: [The great water crisis of 2025](#): George Monbiot attacks government failure to renationalize our water.

17 July 2025: [Councillors clash over Fen flooding](#): Cambridgeshire County Councillors are asking central government for more funds to stop flooding, but opinions differ on the merits of dredging.

15 July 2025: [Polluted Lugg causes concern](#): Herefordshire's River Lugg is among the most polluted with toxic biocides (fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides), according to data from Wildlife and Countryside Link (WCL) and the Rivers Trust.

15 July 2025: [Sea lampreys thrive in the River Dee](#): Sea lampreys are doing well in North Wales, thanks to the Dee River project, led by Natural Resources Wales, which removed part of Erbistock weir, on the River Dee last year.

15 July 2025: [Potato crops and salmon under threat from Britain's dried-up rivers](#): Miserable river levels are making life hard for farmers and fish.

15 July 2025: [Restoring wetlands could save UK billions, says WWT](#): As international delegates gear up for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP15 in Zimbabwe this July, a major new report is warning one fifth of the world's wetlands could vanish by 2050.

14 July 2025: [State of UK Climate Report: Extreme weather is the new normal](#): The latest State of the Climate report notes that "extreme weather events are to be expected each year as an integral part of the UK's climate".

13 July 2025: [Big jump makes a splash in Europe](#): Our friends at the European River Network have seen another successful Big Jump event this year, with around 80 events in 8 countries "demonstrating their commitment to bringing Europe's rivers back to life". But not much action in Britain.

3 July 2025: [Bad policing is discouraging the right to protest](#): Greenpeace research reveals that many people are being arrested at protests, but just 3 percent are charged: "These numbers support the belief, widespread amongst activists and protesters, that the police are abusing this offence and other anti-protest laws to remove and intimidate peaceful protesters".

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Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Avon Wildlife Trust: Beaver Field Officer](#) (4 August 2025)
- [Cardiff University: Severn Estuary Partnership Communications Officer](#) (30 July 2025)
- [South East Rivers Trust: Volunteering and Engagement Officer](#) (28 July 2025)
- [South East Rivers Trust: Chalk Streams in the City Development Lead](#) (28 July 2025)
- [Solway Firth Partnership: Partnership Manager](#) (28 July 2025)
- [WWT: Thames Catchment Natural Flood Management Adviser](#) (28 July 2025)
- [River Dee Trust: Trust Manager](#) (21 July 2025)
- [Surrey Wildlife Trust: Nature Restoration Trainee](#) (20 July 2025)
- [Waterlife Recovery Trust: Project Officer](#) (20 July 2025)
- [Groundwork: Rivers Technical Specialist \(Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre\)](#) (15 July 2025)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [Yorkshire Wildlife Trust: River and Wetlands Voluntary Placement \(6 Months\)](#) (17 July 2025)
- [Green Seas Trust: Social Media volunteers](#) (17 July 2025)

River group of the Week

[The Cleddau Project](#) (Prosiect y Cleddau), in Pembrokeshire, is “an informal group of local people who want to act now to help save and protect the tributaries, estuary, plants and animals of the whole Cleddau catchment”, using a mix of public awareness raising, citizen science, and campaigning.



The East Cleddau viewed from Picton Ferry. © [Philip Halling](#) and licensed for reuse under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-SA 2.0\) Licence](#), originally published on Geograph (<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/6163768>).