

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –28 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

26 July 2025: [National Fishing Month begins!](#): The month-long angling celebration kicks off today, running from 26 July to 31 August. Let's hope our drought- and sewage- threatened rivers don't disappoint.

26 July 2025: [Wet wipe polluters should pay](#): The Guardian has latched onto a suggestion in the Cunliffe report that makers of wet wipes should pay the enormous cost of cleaning them up.

26 July 2025: [What can European countries teach us about cleaning up water?](#): Tanju Radhu from Loughborough University offers some insights from Croatia, Germany, Albania, and Italy in what we hope is a timely repeat of her 2023 article in The Conversation.

24 July 2025: [Cumbrian River Restoration in the running for global award](#): The Cumbrian River Restoration Partnership Programme – led by the Environment Agency and Natural England – has been named a finalist in the prestigious Thiess International Riverprize Awards. The Programme has restored nearly 100km of rivers and over 150 hectares of floodplain across the Eden, Derwent and Kent catchments.

24 July 2025: [Severn's Maisemore Weir gives cause for concern](#): A 19th-century weir on the River Severn is showing signs of wear and tear.

24 July 2025: [Ilford Arrival opens up the River Roding once more](#): A new regeneration scheme is promising to open up public access to one of London's least known and least accessible rivers, the Roding.

24 July 2025: [Wyescapes points the way to sustainable farming](#): Also in the news this week, the Herefordshire Wyescapes scheme, a collaboration with farmers "to restore a nature-rich mosaic of habitats, improve river health, and naturally reduce the impact of floods and drought, whilst producing food sustainably on more climate-resilient farms". To date, it's involved 49 farms, 80km of river, and 5125 hectares of land.

23 July 2025: [Pond campaigners are positive about the Cunliffe report](#): While most attention at the moment is focused on dirty rivers, Freshwater Habitats Trust has welcomed hints in the Cunliffe report that small waters, such as ponds and lakes, are crucial for freshwater biodiversity.

23 July 2025: [Drinking to the Medway... or maybe drinking the Medway?](#): ITV has a short video report on 'Rights of River', a conference organised by the Friends of the Medway.

23 July 2025: [Abingdon Reservoir has survived an attempted judicial review](#): The proposed Thames Water reservoir near Abingdon, which is estimated to be the size of Gatwick Airport, moved a step nearer to being built this week after a legal challenge failed.

23 July 2025: [Thames Water's flawed megaproject moves forward unchecked](#): GARD, who've been fighting the Abingdon mega-reservoir for years, continued to highlight flood risks and potential environmental damage.

23 July 2025: [Eel speed ahead in the South Downs National Park](#): New fish passes and brushes are being added in the South Downs to make migration easier for European eels.

21 July 2025: [Instant fines for sewage pumpers](#): The I welcomes 2026 government plans to monitor sewage discharges and fine dumpers in real time.

14 July 2025: [East London outdoor swimming spot set for a makeover](#): Time Out reports on plans to upgrade West Reservoir Centre in Stoke Newington.

25 July 2025: [How much would it really cost to nationalize the water industry?](#): Environment secretary Steve Reed claims: "The reason that nationalisation wasn't included [as an option for Sir Jon Cunliffe's report to consider] is because, first of all, it would cost £100bn, according to figures produced by my department. That money would have to be taken away from the NHS and from schools, to be given to the people who have polluted our rivers". Two things wrong here. First, the figure is made up by Reed's own department; independent estimates, such as this one by economist Richard Murphy, suggest the actual cost could be as little as zero. Second, the disingenuous claim that "the money would have to be taken away from the NHS and from schools": it might, for example, be taken away from the blank cheque the government has written for HS2, defence, or other places.

25 July 2025: [The Cunliffe report proves it: water must be nationalised](#): More negative reaction to the Cunliffe report from Andrew Fisher, Former executive director of policy at the Labour Party, who argues privatization means "nationalize the losses, privatize the profits."

21 July 2025: [Water Commission fails to propose bold reform: River Action savages Cunliffe report](#): James Wallace of River Action has published a stinging critique of Jon Cunliffe's water commission report, calling out seven major omissions: "While the report acknowledges the depth of the crisis, it ultimately offers 'the illusion of change – not real change.'"

21 July 2025: [Cunliffe report: a reset button for our broken water system](#): The publication of Sir Jon Cunliffe's report into the very broken water industry is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to put things right. But it's worth remembering two things. First, renationalization of the water industry (which many people consider the fundamental starting point for meaningful reform) wasn't even in Cunliffe's remit. Second, this is only an advisory report: a set of observations and recommendations that the government might or might not accept. Even if they're implemented, it will be years before any of the reforms Cunliffe suggests trickle through into cleaner rivers. But we need to make sure the pressure for change is not lost.

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Westcountry Rivers Trust: Evidence and Engagement Officers](#) (24 August 2025)
- [Tyne Rivers Trust: Catchment Habitats Advisor](#) (22 August 2025)
- [Western Sussex Rivers Trust: Catchment Partnership Project Delivery Manager](#) (18 August 2025)
- [Welsh Dee Trust: Project Officer](#) (18 August 2025)
- [Gwent Wildlife Trust: Senior River Restoration Officer](#) (17 August 2025)
- [South East Rivers Trust: Project Officer](#) (10 August 2025)
- [Northumberland Wildlife Trust: Water Vole Recovery Officer](#) (11 August 2025)
- [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 of the Week

Maisemore Weir, a 19th-century construction currently giving cause for concern on the River Severn near Gloucester.



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