

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –25/8/25

River news

August 2025

- ➔ 22 August 2025: [The Rise of Plant Life Changed How Rivers Move, Study Shows](#): A new study from Stanford University challenges conventional wisdom about braided and meandering rivers. The new research suggests the theory that braided rivers dominated the first 4 billion years of Earth's history is based on a misinterpretation of the geological record.
- ➔ 22 August 2025: [Greenpeace: Why we need to protect the Sargasso Sea](#): Bermuda's Noelle Young has called for urgent global action to protect the Sargasso Sea, which provides migratory routes to humpback and sperm whales, breeding grounds for European eels, and nursery habitats to species found nowhere else on the planet.
- ➔ 22 August 2025: [Sewage pollution fears in River Medina on the Isle of Wight](#): Sick swimmers and dead fish... but what's really responsible for dwindling water quality in the Isle of Wight's biggest river?
- ➔ 22 August 2025: [More rivers tie the knot](#): The Canary reports on Extinction Rebellion's Dirty Water campaign and World Water Wedding, a range of actions for people to pledge their troth to protect rivers and water bodies across the country.
- ➔ 22 August 2025: [Is the Stid in Yorkshire the world's deadliest body of water?](#): Science writer Helen Pilcher explains why a tiny slice of this northern river is so very dangerous.
- ➔ 21 August 2025: [Three Rivers: A new book by Robert Winder](#): The FT reviews Robert Winder's new book, which argues that Europe's three great rivers, the Rhine, the Rhone and the Po, gave rise to the three great national cultures of Germany, France and Italy.
- ➔ 21 August 2025: [Why the 2025 Global Plastics Treaty Collapsed in Geneva... and what comes next](#): Surfers Against Sewage explains how vested interests conspired against international control of plastic production (and the water pollution it causes).

- ➔ 21 August 2025: [Still time to check your bug splats for Buglife!](#): The Bugs Matter survey, an annual citizen science project from Kent Wildlife Trust and Buglife, has captured the imagination of nature lovers nationwide. Using the simple but ingenious method of monitoring insect splats on vehicle number plates, the project provides crucial data about insect abundance across the countries. There is still time to get involved: the 2025 survey concludes on Tuesday 30 September.
- ➔ 20 August 2025: [Angry Feargal lawyers up](#): Amwell Magna Fishery (AMF) angling club and its most famous member, clean river champion Feargal Sharkey, are threatening legal action over the Environment Agency's decision to reduce the flow of the River Lea.
- ➔ 20 August 2025: [Can new technology save our rivers?](#): Water companies are still stuck in the 19th century world of Joseph Bazalgette, or so we like to think. But this week's Northumbrian Water Innovation Festival shows water firms in a much more positive light, with a range of new ideas under discussion, including wastewater biofuels, new planning tools for local authorities, and fresh ideas for cutting storm sewage overflows.
- ➔ 20 August 2025: [Friends warn again of planning foe](#): Friends of the Earth has issued fresh warnings about watered-down nature protections in the proposed Planning and Infrastructure Bill.
- ➔ 20 August 2025: [Yorkshire Water will take more from its rivers](#): New government permits have been issued so the water company can abstract extra supplies from the River Wharfe and the River Ouse.
- ➔ 20 August 2025: [Warminster sewage tank will protect Wiltshire rivers](#): Almost flushed with success, a giant new 400,000 litre sewage tank is nearing completion in Wiltshire, greatly reducing the risk of sewage overflows into the the Were and Wylfe rivers.
- ➔ 19 August 2025: [Thames runs dry near its source](#): Dry weather has taken a toll on the Cotswold source of the Thames after almost half a year of little or no rain.
- ➔ 19 August 2025: [Anglian Water accused of running Heacham River dry](#): Sedgeford Parish Council has complained to Anglian Water that overabstraction is damaging the chalkstream Heacham River in Norfolk.
- ➔ 19 August 2025: [Citizen scientists warn about Windermere](#): The Big Windermere Survey, which took 1000 water samples from 100 locations, reveals "really concerning" pollution and has prompted calls for "decisive action".
- ➔ 19 August 2025: [Freshwater Habitats Trust warns of attack on Habitats regulations](#): The Habitats Regulations, originally conceived as part of the

1992 EU Habitats Directive, are under fresh assault from government planning "reforms". The Trust is particularly concerned about the plight of news: "Given the endless frontbench scapegoating of bats, newts and snails, we perhaps shouldn't be surprised to find protected species designations are also in the firing line. Initial reports suggest that Great Crested Newts will be amongst the first species to be delisted."

- ➔ 19 August 2025: [Devon students build otter habitat out of recycled flood defence](#): Kingsley School students in Bideford have built an otter habitat using recycled timber from local flood defence works at Kenwith Valley reservoir. Next up, they'll be installing a live camera to monitor otter as part of their classroom studies.
- ➔ 18 August 2025: [Salmon breed on the Don for first time in 200 years](#): Great news from the Don Catchment Rivers Trust (DCRT), covering Yorkshire and Derbyshire, which has confirmed the discovery of a wild-born Atlantic salmon in the river, the first evidence of successful spawning since salmon were wiped out by pollution and manmade barriers in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- ➔ 18 August 2025: [Pensioners pay the hidden cost of rising water bills](#): Disturbing news from charity Independent Age that almost half of older adults are cutting back on personal hygiene, laundry, and other water use as bills begin to rise to protect rivers.

[More news...](#)

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- ➔ [Wild Oxfordshire: Evenlode Catchment Partnership Project Manager](#) (30 September 2025)
- ➔ [Waterlife Recovery Trust: Project Officer - South Yorkshire](#) (19 September 2025)
- ➔ [Surfers Against Sewage: Campaigns and Policy Coordinator](#) (14 September 2025)
- ➔ [Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\): Project Manager - Catchment Restoration](#) (5 September 2025)
- ➔ [Afonydd Cymru: Programme Lead for Wales](#) (31 August 2025)
- ➔ [Lune Rivers Trust: School Engagement and Catchment Partnership Officer](#) (31 August 2025)
- ➔ [Cotswolds Rivers Trust: Project Officer](#) (29 August 2025)

- [Galloway Fisheries Trust: River Restoration Intern](#) (29 August 2025)
- [Eden Rivers Trust: Conservation Assistant: e-DNA and Species](#) (28 August 2025)
- [Natural Resources Wales: Lead Marine Fish Advisor](#) (27 August 2025)
- [The Rivers Trust: Farm Advisor \(Nature-based Solutions\)](#) (27 August 2025)
- [Worcestershire Wildlife Trust: Senior Wilder Schools Officer](#) (26 August 2025)
- [Devon County Council: Development Ranger \(Rivers Run Through Us\)](#) (26 August 2025)
- [Trent Rivers Trust: Landscape Recovery Manager](#) (26 August 2025)
- [Marine Conservation Society: Programme Manager - Sustainable Seafood](#) (24 August 2025)
- [Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust: Bluespaces Delivery Manager](#) (24 August 2025)
- [Westcountry Rivers Trust: Evidence and Engagement Officers](#) (24 August 2025)
- [Newmarket Chalk Streams Trust: Rivers of Light Project Officer](#) (23 August 2025)
- [Tyne Rivers Trust: Catchment Habitats Advisor](#) (22 August 2025)
- [Trent Rivers Trust: Two Fisheries Trainees](#) (26 August 2025)

River of the week



Photo of the River Strid – swift and sometimes deadly. © Copyright [Ian Capper](#), originally published on [Geograph](#) and licensed for reuse under a [Creative Commons \(CC BY-SA 2.0\)](#) Licence.

***** Help us grow – please forward to your friends! *****

**Our weekly newsletter is available by email, RSS feed, or download from our website
(in HTML and PDF formats).**

Find out more at <https://www.ukrivers.net/subscribe.html>

Please send your news, events, press releases, campaign alerts, job posts, and anything else you'd like us to circulate to hello@ukrivers.net

UK Rivers Network newsletters are published under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-SA 4.0\) Licence](#), which means they're free to copy, distribute, and remix as you see fit, with credit.