

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –1/9/25

River news

August 2025

- ➔ 29 August 2025: [New Wildlife Trusts report reveals massive impact of pig and poultry farming](#): The waste from pig and poultry production is about 10.4 million cubic metres per year in the UK, equivalent to 4,160 Olympic-sized swimming pools. The high level of nutrients found in poultry waste make it hard to use sustainably. A new independent report, commissioned by The Wildlife Trusts, has for the first time, investigated the cumulative impact of the UK pig and poultry sector on the wider countryside. The findings reveal the deep impacts of these increasingly intensive industries on water quality and pollution levels.
- ➔ 29 August 2025: [Tyne Rivers Trust tackles historic mine pollution](#): How the Tyne Rivers Trust is working with undergraduate Tom Teasdale, from Northumbria University, to measure pollution in the Swinhope Burn, a tributary of the River East Allen in Northumberland, using geochemical analysis.
- ➔ 28 August 2025: [Wild swimming in Shrewsbury? There's an app for it!](#): Wild swimmers in Shrewsbury can now make better-informed decisions about river safety through an expanded regional pilot project, which monitors river water quality on a daily basis. The Environment Agency has installed high-tech autonomous sensors in the River Severn at Shrewsbury, to remotely provide daily readings on bacteria levels including E. coli.
- ➔ 28 August 2025: [Cunning river ramp busts plastic with bubbles](#): A simple but very cunning new invention, developed in Derby, pushes plastic to the surface of a river where it can be collected more easily.
- ➔ 28 August 2025: [The River Evenlode catchment: a community's ongoing fight against water pollution](#): Laura Bannatyne shares the inspiring story of one local community's determined fight against water pollution.

- ➔ 28 August 2025: [Somerset river lovers fight on for eels](#): A great account in The Guardian of the Somerset Eel Recovery Project, and related efforts to boost the critically endangered species.
- ➔ 28 August 2025: [River Action and SAS take apart the Independent Water Commission](#): A great new report (PDF format) from two of our most vociferous clean water campaign groups explains what the recent IWC report got right and wrong about proposed water reform.
- ➔ 28 August 2025: [Sargasso Sea surveys find vulnerable sperm whales and elusive pygmy sperm whales, as Greenpeace calls for ocean sanctuary](#): More from Greenpeace's Sargasso campaign... and why it matters to us here in the UK.
- ➔ 27 August 2025: [Lakes around the world are in decline. Here's why – and what can be done about it](#): There are more than 100 million lakes dotting the planet, according to one prominent study. But many aren't what they used to be. "Today, some of the world's best-known and most important lakes are a shadow of what they were just a few decades ago," says Dianna Kopansky, the head of the Freshwater Ecosystems and Wetlands Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). "We need to reverse this decline. If we don't, it could be calamitous for the hundreds of millions of people who rely on lakes for their survival."
- ➔ 26 August 2025: [Suffolk's Four Rivers Project extended](#): A citizen-science sewage and water-quality monitoring project that began on the River Deben will not be extended to the Alde-Ore river system, the Waveney and the Blyth.
- ➔ 26 August 2025: [Anger over River Wharfe abstraction](#): Yorkshire Water is feeling the heat over plans to take more water from Ilkley's river, the first in the country to be partly designated as a bathing spot in 2021.
- ➔ 26 August 2025: [Potentially polluting Kennet poultry farm kicked out by planners](#): River campaigners in Berkshire have won a victory against Suttons estates, which was trying to build a poultry shed for 32,000 chickens. Keen readers will remember that Suttons estates was also connected with the Newbury bypass controversy three decades ago, which caused significant damage to the Kennet and Lambourn rivers.
- ➔ 25 August 2025: [Hosepipe ban could last until winter](#): Water companies are warning that there's no plan to lift temporary water restrictions anytime soon, despite intermittent rain this week.
- ➔ 25 August 2025: [How rivers carry plastic across continents](#): A new study by the University of California at Santa Barbara, spanning four continents and eight countries, has amassed one of the largest datasets ever

collected on plastic pollution in rivers — offering insights that the researchers responsible believe are key to helping turn off the tap of plastic waste.

- ➔ 25 August 2025: [Drought Parches the Yakima River Basin](#): In case we're tempted to think Britain's drought is special, it's worth looking at what's happening elsewhere in the world. Over in Washington state, NASA explores how the Yakima River Basin has entered drought for the third year in a row.
- ➔ 25 August 2025: [And now for some good news from the Marine Conservation Society](#): Tired of all the gloom? Check out this month's roundup of positive ocean news from MCS.
- ➔ 25 August 2025: [Canals feeling the strain of our dwindling rivers](#): the Canal and Rivers Trust presents an update on water levels: "Water levels in some reservoirs are dropping towards minimum levels, with particular pressure on reservoirs feeding the Ashton, Caldon, Grand Union Leicester Line, Grand Union Leeds and Liverpool, Macclesfield, Peak Forest, Rochdale, South Oxford and Trent and Mersey canals. Several lock flights across Birmingham have been closed to preserve water including Brades, Minworth, Rushall and Tame Valley and Wolverhampton".
- ➔ 25 August 2025: [YETI Presents Wild Atlantic Salmon: Restoring the Run](#): A new short film from YETI, Wild Atlantic Salmon: Restoring the Run, was released on 24th July 2025 through YETI's YouTube channel. The creation of this film was a huge combined effort involving: YETI's production team; the Atlantic Salmon Trust; Bywell Salmon Fishing; The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust; and Deveronside Fishings. It also features Atlantic Salmon Trust ambassadors, Marina Gibson and Richard Davies, as well as many other individuals who have come together to tell the important story of wild Atlantic salmon in the UK.
- ➔ 25 August 2025: [Running for rivers with the Rivers Trust](#): In September, Team GB Rower and Olympian, Graeme Thomas, will take part in a 43-mile ultramarathon, tracing the route of Atlantic salmon up the River Exe, from the sea at Exmouth to the spawning grounds on Exmoor, raising funds for The Rivers Trust. The run, known as the Salmon Run, will coincide with the Big River Watch, the nationwide citizen science survey taking place over the same weekend.
- ➔ 20 August 2025: [Creative ways to save water: reduce your use to support our rivers](#): Matthew Woodard of the Rivers Trust writes: "River levels in the UK are worryingly low. Help ease the pressure on our rivers and water supplies with our creative ways to reduce your water footprint during dry spells".

[More news...](#)

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Evenlode Catchment Partnership Project Manager: Wild Oxfordshire:](#) (30 September 2025)
- [Project Officer: South Yorkshire: Waterlife Recovery Trust:](#) (19 September 2025)
- [Part-time Project Officer: South Wales Waterlife Recovery Trust](#) (19 September 2025)
- [Technical Advisor - Transform Bottom Trawling Coalition: Blue Ventures](#) (16 September 2025)
- [Volunteer and Citizen Science Coordinator: Western Sussex Rivers Trust](#) (15 September 2025)
- [Campaigns and Policy Coordinator: Surfers Against Sewage](#) (14 September 2025)
- [Ryton Natural Flood Management Project Officer \(Maternity Cover\): Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust](#) (10 September 2025)
- [Assistant Engagement Officer \(Stear: Connecting Coastal Communities\): WWT](#) (8 September 2025)
- [Project Manager - Catchment Restoration: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\)](#) (5 September 2025)
- [Coastal Grazing Marsh Project Manager - Transforming the Thames: RSPB](#) (3 September 2025)
- [Senior Ecologist: Severn Trent Water](#) (1 September 2025)
- [Programme Lead for Wales: Afonydd Cymru](#) (31 August 2025)
- [School Engagement and Catchment Partnership Officer: Lune Rivers Trust](#) (31 August 2025)
- [River Restoration Officer: Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#) (31 August 2025)

River of the week



Marsh Benham, near Newbury, saved from potential poultry pollution this week. © Copyright [Des Blenkinsopp](#), 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.