

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –8/9/25

River news

September 2025

- ➔ 6 September 2025: [It's CPRE Countryside Day!](#): Celebrate all things country with rural champions CPRE today.
- ➔ 6 September 2025: [Country Diary: Walking the River East Allen](#): The Guardian's ever-thoughtful nature diary reflects on the "the daily strangeness of this 'false autumn'" as leaves flutter down on a Northumbrian river.
- ➔ 6 September 2025: [Why it's bad news for the Vjosa, Albania's wild waterway](#): The Telegraph reports how the "once-pristine wild waterway in Albania is rapidly turning into a "hellhole".
- ➔ 5 September 2025: [Survey: The Changing Status of Freshwater Biodiversity in the UK](#): The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology is running an online survey of "individuals and organisations involved in freshwater biodiversity and water quality research, monitoring, policy, and conservation in the UK", designed to "capture community knowledge, needs, and priorities with respect to monitoring of freshwater biodiversity, and the pressures it faces, in the UK. We will use this information to develop the structure and content of a subsequent online workshop, in which a smaller team of invited experts will explore how well-equipped we are to detect and understand the effects of pollutants on the health of UK freshwaters." Please take a look and join in if you're interested.
- ➔ 5 September 2025: [Barely news: SAS river swimmers team thwarted by pollution!](#): An attempt by eight swimmers from around the UK to relay the length of the River Thames this week was helpfully thwarted by (guess what) dangerous levels of water pollution: the very issue the swimmers were trying to highlight!

- ➔ 5 September 2025: [Wessex Water sniffs out the sewage](#): Nosy tracker dogs have a nasty new mission: helping Wessex Water spot pollution leaks across its network.
- ➔ 5 September 2025: [New policy proposal for Wilder River Banks is key to reversing river decline](#): The Wildlife Trusts have published new proposals for Wilder River Banks to underpin a brighter future for English and Welsh waterways, which put restoring natural habitat at the heart of plans to tackle the poor state of rivers.
- ➔ 5 September 2025: [Salisbury: Have your say over plans for bathing water status at River Avon](#): A public consultation has been launched to gauge views on whether part of the River Avon at Queen Elizabeth Gardens in Salisbury should officially receive bathing water status.
- ➔ 4 September 2025: [Microfibers threaten Hampshire chalk streams](#): Citizen scientists working with the University of Brighton have documented worrying amounts of microfiber plastic in the River Itchen in Hampshire.
- ➔ 4 September 2025: [It's a barbel whopper!](#): Over in Southampton, news of first-time barbel fisherman Lee Edmond-Hiett, stoked to land a 16lb 8oz barbel with the help of a cheesy garlic bait in his first attempt targeting the species.
- ➔ 4 September 2025: [New Yealm seagrass meadow created from 'castaway' plants](#): The beginnings of a new seagrass meadow in the River Yealm have been planted thanks to volunteers largely from the Environment Agency. A trial supported by the local community is harvesting rafts of dwarf seagrass adrift in the Kingsbridge and Tamar estuaries and replanting them at a new home on the River Yealm Estuary shoreline near Steer Point, Brixton.
- ➔ 3 September 2025: [Derwent anglers trap American signal crayfish](#): Belper and District Angling Club have been given permission to remove 3000 of the invasive, alien crayfish species, which pose a threat to native white-clawed crayfish.
- ➔ 3 September 2025: [Exploring the rivers of Cheshire: The 31st British Rowing Tour](#): Some 80 rowers from 18 different clubs took part in the 31st British Rowing Tour last weekend. With rowers from Maidstone, Bath, Tynemouth, and everywhere in between, including local representation from Royal Chester RC, the tour discovered two new touring routes in Cheshire. This included rowing almost the entire navigable length of the River Weaver and a 7 km section of the River Dee.

- ➔ 2 September 2025: [Water voles return to the River Wey!](#): Nearly 200 water voles have been released in Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire along the River Wey as part of plans to return the animals to the area, having not been seen in about 20 years.
- ➔ 1 September 2025: [Thames GB swimmers fight sewage to highlight water pollution](#): Eight world-class swimmers, sponsored by the campaign group SAS, made a 200km (124-mile) swim relay along the length of the River Thames this week to raise awareness of the UK's "sewage crisis".
- ➔ 1 September 2025: [Calling citizen scientists#1: Join the Great UK WaterBlitz: 19-22 September!](#): Fancy water-testing your local river? Join Earthwatch and about 6000 other water testers in their citizen science project over the weekend of 19-22 September 2025.
- ➔ 1 September 2025: [Calling citizen scientists#2: Join the Big River Watch: 19-25 September!](#): Twice a year, the Rivers Trust runs a Big River Watch, and the next one will take place in September. Anyone can take part in these week-long citizen science surveys that help to build an important picture of river health across the UK and Ireland. Just download the app, spend 15 minutes watching your river, and upload the results.
- ➔ 1 September 2025: [BugLife joins campaign to save Coul Links](#): News of the campaign to stop a vital, internationally recognized Scottish wetland from becoming... yet another golf course.
- ➔ 1 September 2025: [Newtown residents team up to save drought parched fish](#): Locals in Powys turned out to save thousands of "gasping" fish threatened by dwindling water levels in Aberhafesp Brook, prompting a disagreement over whether relocating the fish did "more harm than good".
- ➔ 1 September 2025: [Eel Wipeout feared in Lough Neagh](#): The Belfast Telegraph reports on how toxic algae may have killed "millions of eels" in the UK's biggest lake.
- ➔ 1 September 2025: [Research reveals 24 most important landscapes for freshwater wildlife](#): A new study has identified the 24 most important landscapes for freshwater wildlife in England and Wales: the regions richest in freshwater plants and animals.

[More news from earlier in 2025 on our website...](#)

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Rivers Project Officer: Groundwork South](#) (2 October 2025)
- [Evenlode Catchment Partnership Project Manager: Wild Oxfordshire:](#) (30 September 2025)
- [Finance Director: The Rivers Trust](#) (24 September 2025)
- [Senior Woodland Officer: Ribble Rivers Trust](#) (22 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)
- [Policy and Advocacy Manager: River Action](#) (15 September 2025)
- [Knowledge and Evidence Officer – Riverwoods project: Scottish Wildlife Trust](#) (14 September 2025)
- [Campaigns and Policy Coordinator: Surfers Against Sewage](#) (14 September 2025)
- [Marine Policy Officer \(Wales\): Angling Trust](#) (12 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)

River of the week



The River Itchen, Itchen Abbas, Hampshire: A chalkstream suffering microplastic pollution. © Copyright [Dr Duncan Pepper](#), originally published on [Geograph](#) and licensed for reuse under a [Creative Commons \(CC BY-SA 2.0\)](#) Licence.

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