

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –13/10/25

River news

- ➔ 10 October 2025: [New Forest citizen scientists discover major sewage spill](#): Untreated sewage from homes and businesses has been flowing straight into Lymington River for decades, according to local water testing by Friends of the Earth.
- ➔ 10 October 2025: [Small waters promise big nature win](#): Freshwater Habitats Trust explain why small waters, such as ponds and lakes, need to be part of the forthcoming Water Reform Bill.
- ➔ 10 October 2025: [Everyone's Evenlode engages 4,000 children with rivers](#): Rowan Wynne-Jones reflects on the successes and challenges of the four-year Cotswolds National Landscape Everyone Evenlode, hands-on educational project.
- ➔ 10 October 2025: [Myth Busting: Would it really cost £100 billion to bring water utilities into public ownership?](#): River Action's Samir Seddougui explains why government refusal to renationalize the water industry on cost grounds is a deliberate distraction.
- ➔ 9 October 2025: [FT mocks river rights movement as "twaddle"](#): "If rivers can have rights", says the FT's Robert Shrimpsley, "Not only should our rivers be unpolluted by sewage, our debate could be uncontaminated by twaddle". Greens, he argues, "take a perfectly good idea — protecting rivers — and find a way to make it risible".
- ➔ 9 October 2025: [\[£££\]: Retracing the lost river that was built to quench London's thirst](#): The New River Canal has largely been lost to history, but there remain clues to this extraordinary construction, as The Times (pay-walled) discovers.
- ➔ 9 October 2025: [Three years on – a renewed call to protect Garnock Estuary wildlife haven](#): Local community groups and national wildlife organisations have once again called on Scottish Government agency

NatureScot to urgently act to protect one of Ayrshire's most important wildlife sites.

- ➔ 9 October 2025: [World view: Dammed if you do in Europe](#): Once lagging behind, Southeastern Europe is now seeing growing action to dismantle outdated dams, weirs, and culverts that fragment rivers, disrupt fish migration, degrade water quality and pose risk of failure. A new report reveals that river restoration through barrier removal--a critical tool to revive Europe's freshwater ecosystems--is gaining unprecedented traction in Southeastern Europe .
- ➔ 9 October 2025: [More focus on water saving allows 21,000 homes to go ahead in Sussex](#): A new agreement will allow building 21,000 homes in Sussex after a four-year pause due to concerns over the amount of water being taken from rivers and wetlands in the Arun Valley. But descriptions of the plan as "sustainable" are still very wide of the mark.
- ➔ 9 October 2025: [Take a friend fishing for free!](#): The Angling Trust is promoting the revival of the free fishing scheme, running over Christmas and New Year.
- ➔ 9 October 2025: [The areas where water bills are rising by up to £43 a year](#): Five water companies have permission to raise bills more than expected to pay for water upgrades. But let's remember the I's other recent story from a few weeks ago, highlighting that over a quarter of our bills go to paying water company dividends and debts.
- ➔ 9 October 2025: [Salisbury campaigners push for Bathing Water status](#): River campaigners For Love Of Water (FLOW) CIC, Extinction Rebellion Salisbury, and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have joined forces on an application to make Salisbury's Queen Elizabeth Gardens a designated bathing water with regular pollution monitoring.
- ➔ 8 October 2025: [CPRE joins the attack on National Park rollbacks](#): Reports suggest that the government is considering amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill that could limit planning restrictions within National Parks. The amendments to the bill could see the removal of the Protected Landscapes duty; a move that over 170 organisations across the UK have warned would open the door to damaging development in some of the country's most treasured landscapes.
- ➔ 6 October 2025: [Cumbrian farmers win legal battle over dredging](#): A group of 49 farmers has won a long battle to clear the River Winster, after the Cumbrian town of Grange-over-Sands suffered 10 years of what they describe as "avoidable" flooding.

- ➔ 5 October 2025: [Major Welsh river works completed to support wildlife](#): Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has successfully completed a programme of improvement works at Bontnewydd weir on the Afon Gwyrfai, removing barriers to fish and eel migration and strengthening the riverbank for the future.
- ➔ 3 October 2025: [York gets a new river trail](#): As part of York Walking Festival and York Environment Festival, York residents joined a creative riverside walk to help shape the new York rivers trail. The trail, co-designed with schools, stakeholders and local communities, will blend art, science and local voices to tell the city's flood and climate story when it plans to launch in summer 2026.
- ➔ 3 October 2025: [River Wye pollution prompts UK's largest environmental lawsuit](#): Around 4,000 people have joined a class-action lawsuit against alleged pollution of the three rivers by two poultry producing companies and Welsh Water.
- ➔ 1 October 2025: [The Wildlife Trusts' ten top nature moments this autumn](#): Changing colours and slowing seasons offer some magical moments for wildlife.
- ➔ 1 October 2025: [New species delight visitors at WWT's first Dragonfly Festival](#): WWT Slimbridge recorded its first ever breeding pair of willow emerald damselfly; with a southern migrant hawk dragonfly spotted at WWT Welney and WWT London for the first time – adding a total of 35 new species to their reserves.
- ➔ 15 September 2025: [Burning banned on England's deep peat to protect wildlife](#): ARC updates us on the extended ban on burning heather and grass, which is designed to improve air quality for local communities, reduce flood risk and protect wildlife.

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

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

- ➔ [River Catchment Director: Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board](#) (Unspecified: October 2025)
- ➔ [Wild Salmon Conservation Manager: Fisheries Management Scotland](#) (26 October 2025)
- ➔ [Exe Catchment Fisheries Officer: Westcountry Rivers Trust](#) (23 October 2025)
- ➔ [Individual Giving Manager: Thames21](#) (21 October 2025)

- [Senior Project Officer - Urban Water Quality: Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust](#) (15 October 2025)
- [Exe Catchment Fisheries Officer: Westcountry Rivers Trust](#) (12 October 2025)
- [Junior Catchment Restoration Officers x3: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (12 October 2025)

River of the week



River Thames, London: “A Monster Soup commonly called Thames Water – Microcosm dedicated to the London Water Companies”, a c.1828 drawing by William Heath, reminds us that concerns about Thames pollution are nothing new. Image courtesy of [Wellcome Collection](#) published under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-NC 4.0\)](#) licence.

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