

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –17/11/25

November 2025

- ➔ 16 November 2025: [Irish Waters in Trouble: What's Really in Our Rivers?:](#) A recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report reveals that almost half of Irish water bodies now fail to meet Environmental Quality Standards (EQS).
- ➔ 16 November 2025: [Nature not a blocker to housing growth, inquiry finds:](#) A House of Commons committee has attacked the "lazy narrative", promoted by UK government ministers, that nature is a "blocker" or an inconvenience to delivering housing.
- ➔ 16 November 2025: [Citizen science tackles Dorset river pollution:](#) How hundreds of Dorset volunteers are monitoring agricultural pollution through two citizen science projects: The Riverfly Partnership and Water Guardians.
- ➔ 16 November 2025: [Sifting shift sands on the Camber frontlines:](#) The Guardian talks to local residents who are doing their best to mop up a giant plastic spill at Camber Sands in Sussex.
- ➔ 16 November 2025: [Toxic bio-beads wash up on East Sussex coast:](#) According to Surfers Against Sewage, the environmental catastrophe at Camber Sands is a heartbreaking result of two broken systems colliding: a failing water industry and the systemic over-reliance on plastic.
- ➔ 15 November 2025: [Government scraps planning protection:](#) Housing secretary, Steve Reed, has instructed Labour MPs to vote against a series of Planning and Infrastructure Bill amendments designed for a fairer, more sustainable planning system.
- ➔ 15 November 2025: [Thames Water blamed for blocking River Wandle fish:](#) Thames has been accused of bucking the growing trend for "unblocking" and "undamming" rivers by installing unpassable fish barriers in a London river.

- ➔ 14 November 2025: [Clean up the New River: residents](#): A group of Hackney residents are calling on Thames Water and two London councils to join them in their mission to clean up the New River, the historic aqueduct that carries water to London from Hertfordshire built over 400 years ago.
- ➔ 14 November 2025: [Fly \(tip\) me a river](#): An outrageous case of fly-tipping has seen a mountain of rubbish dumped in Kidlington, north of Oxford, on the River Cherwell floodplain.
- ➔ 14 November 2025: ["Widespread drought" predicted for 2026](#): Recent heavy rain is little compensation for months of recent dry weather. Current Environment Agency predictions signal major drought problems unless the winter is very wet indeed.
- ➔ 12 November 2025: ['City's becks are really important for river health'](#): Aire Rivers Trust describes the benefits of its new Roots in the River project, which aims to restore Bradford's becks and waterways.
- ➔ 12 November 2025: [New report shows people don't want new homes to be built at nature's expense](#): The "More in Common" report for the RSPB shows people want developers to build with nature, not against it.
- ➔ 11 November 2025: [Otter delights in the River Biss](#): An unusual but very welcome visitor raised spirits in Trowbridge, Wiltshire this week.
- ➔ 11 November 2025: [FoE's useful guide to community rights, environment and planning laws](#): From Friends of the Earth, a useful new summary of the legal and planning system and how to have your say on decisions about your local area.
- ➔ 11 November 2025: [Water campaigner refuses to pay sewage bill - but has no regrets](#): Weymouth's Caz Dennett has withheld part of her water bill as part of the "Don't Pay for Dirty Water" campaign... and even court action by Wessex Water has failed to deter her.
- ➔ 11 November 2025: [Is mismanagement failing the River Lugg?](#): Campaigners have claimed failure to manage water levels in the River Lugg is damaging an important habitat at Lugg Meadow.
- ➔ 9 November 2025: [Amazon tree-felling blamed for polluting UK rivers](#): Tree-felling in the Amazon rainforest is partly to blame for pollution that is plaguing UK rivers such as the Wye, a new report suggests.
- ➔ 9 November 2025: [Lords support planning bill protections](#): A vote in the House of Lords has offered a glimmer of hope for our most vulnerable habitats and species and could remove the most dangerous element of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

- ➔ 6 November 2025: ["Cake and eat it" now works fine, says green capitalist Tony Juniper](#): Interesting to compare Tony Juniper's recent "cake and eat it" article [here](#) with his 2006 Guardian piece [here](#).
- ➔ 6 November 2025: [Stemming the tide of antimicrobial resistance in rivers and seas](#): Cutting-edge research from Exeter University "highlights the hidden danger of AMR in our waters, revealing how human activities contribute to the accumulation of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and antimicrobials. By understanding the complex factors driving AMR in the natural environment, we can develop strategies to mitigate this threat and protect public health".

[More news...](#)

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- ➔ [Conservation Breeding Programmes Assistant: Ballinderry Rivers Trust](#) (15 December 2025)
 - ➔ [Assistant Biologist: Lochaber Fisheries and Conservation Trust](#) (3 December 2025)
 - ➔ [Catchment Partnerships Programme Manager: Thames21](#) (30 November 2025)
 - ➔ [Assistant Warden: WWT Welney, Norfolk](#) (26 November 2025)
 - ➔ [Severn Estuary Partnership Projects Coordinator: Cardiff University](#) (24 November 2025)
 - ➔ [Director, Central Team: Freshwater Habitats Trust](#) (21 November 2025)
 - ➔ [Biodiversity Action Officer: South West Water](#) (18 November 2025)
 - ➔ [Farm and Water Advisors: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust / Wessex Rivers Trust](#) (17 November 2025)
 - ➔ [River Conservation Officer: Belfast Hills Partnership](#) (17 November 2025)
 - ➔ [Project Officer \(North\), Foss and Esk catchments: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust](#) (16 November 2025)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- ➔ [Environment Trustee: Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust](#) (30 November 2025)

River of the week



Lugg Meadows, by the River Lugg, in Herefordshire – where campaigners believe flooding is causing significant habitat damage. Photo by [Philip Halling](#) originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-2.0\)](#) licence.

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