

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –24/11/25

November 2025

- ➔ 22 November 2025: [River walk of the week: Devon's Powderham estate and Exe estuary](#): If you're anywhere near Exeter, try this fabulous coastal walk around some of the UK's best birding habitat and the glorious Powderham Castle.
- ➔ 21 November 2025: [Never mind the birds; at least we have the streets](#): Irony of ironies! A study of Ordnance Survey data has revealed a huge increase in the number of new road names inspired by bird species that have undergone shocking declines and continue to be pushed closer to the brink. In RSPB's analysis of OS Open Names data for Great Britain covering 2004 to 2024, there's been a steep increase in the number of streets in new developments named after birds that are declining in the wild.
- ➔ 21 November 2025: [Another COP out at COP30](#): The Guardian reports on yet another failed climate conference. How long before people finally accept that COP summits are part of the problem: all talk and no commitment to get to grips with climate change?
- ➔ 21 November 2025: [Hereford Rivers Conference celebrates the Wye](#): The third annual Rivers Conference, organised and hosted by Herefordshire Council, is bringing together farmers, land owners, environmental groups and industry experts to look at innovative new solutions to help protect and restore the River Wye and tributaries.
- ➔ 21 November 2025: [Fish passage improvement completed on the River Teifi](#): Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) Four Rivers for LIFE project has recently undertaken fish passage improvements on the Afon Siedi, an important spawning tributary of the River Teifi.
- ➔ 21 November 2025: [River Arrow and Alne Revival \(RAAR\) gets to work in Alcester](#): Hurrah! Great news that another new river protection group has just formed near Redditch.

- ➔ 21 November 2025: [The Hidden Crisis: Bio-Beads Pollution](#): Following the Camber Sands spill, Surfers Against Sewage updates us on bio-beads and other BAFF media used by UK water companies.
- ➔ 20 November 2025: [One fisherman's mission to get kids fishing!](#): The BBC reports on inspiring work by Kieron Banks of The Kendal Kingfishers Fishing Club, started in March 2024, who invites children and their parents or guardians to spend time on the riverbank.
- ➔ 20 November 2025: [Over 2,450 jobs at risk if Biodiversity Net Gain is torpedoed](#): Ahead of the autumn budget, fears are growing among environmental and business groups that the Government could proceed with proposals to remove obligations to protect wildlife and make up for loss of nature on small and medium sized development sites. Recent research has unearthed the true cost to the economy of this damaging proposal.
- ➔ 20 November 2025: [Salisbury's new flood defence park... floods](#): The £45-million Salisbury River Park, part of a flood defence scheme, flooded catastrophically and disappointingly this week.
- ➔ 19 November 2025: [Return of the sailing ship?](#): The sail-powered Neoliner Origin set off on its inaugural two-week voyage from France to the US with the aim of revolutionising the notoriously dirty shipping industry.
- ➔ 19 November 2025: [BugLife: Insect life continues to decline, despite a hot summer](#): The latest data show that the number of flying insects sampled on vehicle number plates across the UK has fallen by a staggering 59% in just 5 years.
- ➔ 18 November 2025: [How the River Breamish was rewiggled](#): Another success story for the rewiggling movement. The Environment Agency has finished "unstraightening" the River Breamish on the Harehope Estate, south of Wooler in Northumberland, originally "unwiggled" for agricultural purposes.
- ➔ 18 November 2025: [Leaving Labour for the Green Party over Thames Water](#): Labour councillor Martin Abrams explains why he switched parties following government failure to renationalize the water industry.
- ➔ 18 November 2025: [A seal briefing from the NHM](#): Thanks to the Natural History Museum, we discover what makes a seal a seal, which species we can see around our coastline and how to watch them safely.
- ➔ 18 November 2025: [More work needed on water efficiency](#): The Environment Agency's call for stepped-up water efficiency this week

brought a few encouraging signs and statistics: slightly reduced consumption over last year, over 62% of households now metered, leaks at a 20-year low, new reservoirs coming onstream, and abstraction down significantly from 20 years ago. Or so the Agency claims. A critical reading of these numbers might easily pick them apart (of course consumption is down slightly in a drought year; why is water metering almost universal in some areas and more patchy in others...)

- ➔ 17 November 2025: [Plastic wet wipe ban has 95% public support](#): Wet wipes containing plastic are a growing source of pollution, with a recent survey showing an average of 20 wet wipes littering every 100 metres of beach across the UK. When flushed, they can break down into microplastics that poison wildlife and enter the food chain.
- ➔ 17 November 2025: [Worldview: United States: EPA Rule Would Drastically Curb Protections for Wetlands](#): Trump's latest environmental rollback: a proposal to strip federal protections from most U.S. wetlands, some of which feed drinking water systems.
- ➔ 17 November 2025: [Waste mountain threatens the Charwell](#): The horrific fly-tipping mountain in Oxfordshire took a turn for the worse this week after heavy rains threatened to wash rubbish into the nearby River Cherwell.
- ➔ 29 September 2025: [Recovery of Lough Neagh 'could take decades' due to depth and complexity of the problem, says environment minister](#): Frightening news from the Belfast Telegraph as algae continues to blight Lough Neagh.

[More news...](#)

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- ➔ [Outreach and Communications Officer: Cromarty Firth Watershed Environmental Trust](#) (15 December 2025)
- ➔ [Conservation Breeding Programmes Assistant: Ballinderry Rivers Trust](#) (15 December 2025)
- ➔ [Evenlode Catchment Partnership Administration Officer \(Maternity Cover\): Wild Oxfordshire](#) (14 December 2025)
- ➔ [Principal Research Officer: WWT](#) (10 December 2025)

- [Programme Manager: Aire Rivers Trust](#) (4 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)
- [Chalk Streams in the City Development Lead: South East Rivers Trust](#) (24 November 2025)
- [Severn Estuary Partnership Projects Coordinator: Cardiff University](#) (24 November 2025)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

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

River of the week



River Arrow, Alcester – now in the capable hands of the newly formed community group RAAR ([River Arrow and Alne Revival](#))! Photo by [Stephen McKay](#) originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-2.0\)](#) licence.

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