

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –1/12/25

November 2025

- ➔ 29 November 2025: [More foam appears in River Gipping at Great Blakenham](#): Even more foam has appeared once again in a Suffolk river after seemingly going away in recent days.
- ➔ 29 November 2025: [Revealed: Europe's water reserves drying up due to climate breakdown](#): Vast swathes of Europe's water reserves are drying up, a new analysis using two decades of satellite data reveals, with freshwater storage shrinking across southern and central Europe, from Spain and Italy to Poland and parts of the UK.
- ➔ 29 November 2025: [Environment Agency seeks views on River Itchen plans](#): The Environment Agency is asking for public views on three proposals to enhance the River Itchen north of Woodmill near Southampton. The consultation runs until Friday, December 12.
- ➔ 29 November 2025: [Project launched to protect rivers that feed North Devon's surf ecosystem](#): A pioneering partnership between the North Devon World Surfing Reserve (NDWSR), the National Trust, Earth Action North Devon (EAND) and the Save the Waves Coalition is driving an ambitious effort to restore and protect North Devon's rivers, beginning at Combesgate, near Woolacombe.
- ➔ 28 November 2025: [Wallingford beach given 'sufficient' water quality rating](#): A popular swimming area for families on the banks of the River Thames has been given a "sufficient" water quality rating--a slight improvement on last year's "poor" rating and the only river bathing site in the country to receive this designation.
- ➔ 28 November 2025: [Join ERN's upcoming webinars about free flowing river](#): Sign up now for two upcoming webinars: 16 December from 4pm to 6pm: "Axe Vienne Creuse Gartempe – Hydroelectricity or Refuge for Migratory Fish?" and "13 January from 4pm to 6pm: 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers for Europe – what is France doing?".

- ➔ 28 November 2025: [Scotland launches fund to restore rivers and protect wild salmon](#): A £230,000 conservation fund to repair Scotland's rivers and help halt the sharp decline in wild salmon and sea trout has opened for 2026.
- ➔ 28 November 2025: ['Disappointing' decline in salmon migration](#): There has been a "disappointing" drop in the number of salmon migrating upstream to spawn in the North West, according to the Ribble Rivers Trust.
- ➔ 28 November 2025: [Campaigners to gather in Radcliffe over sewage in the River Irwell](#): Campaigners concerned about untreated sewage entering the River Irwell, which flows through Rossendale and Bury, have held a public meeting in Radcliffe.
- ➔ 27 November 2025: [Essex wetland project will reduce flooding and restore nature](#): A new natural flood management scheme near Colchester, Essex is now completed, ready for winter. The Fiddlers Hill wetland project in Fordham, Essex has recently been completed. This natural flood management scheme increases the meadow's capacity to hold water during heavy rainfall whilst creating habitats and enhancing biodiversity.
- ➔ 27 November 2025: [Country diary: The river has risen to meet the trees. This is Storm Claudia's work](#): Paul Evans watches the ditches and drains from the hills of mid-Wales burst with rain, giving the Severn "a deadly seriousness".
- ➔ 27 November 2025: [Chris Packham Calls For War On Climate Change](#): The broadcaster says conservationists like him have not done enough to protect nature and calls on the UK government to lead an emergency response to protect the environment.
- ➔ 27 November 2025: [Petition call to save Pembrokeshire's River Cleddau](#): A call for a public commitment to save Pembrokeshire's 'failing' River Cleddau has been made in a petition on the council's own website.
- ➔ 27 November 2025: [Muddy marvellous: celebrating 10 years of transformation at Wallasea Island](#): Ten years ago, you'd have been more likely to spot wheat than waders at Wallasea Island. But today, this stretch of the Essex coast is a thriving wetland alive with life. Spoonbills sift through saline lagoons, Short-eared Owls glide low over the reeds, and clouds of wading birds swoop and swirl across the sky. So how did an ordinary patch of farmland become one of the UK's most remarkable conservation success stories? .

- ➔ 27 November 2025: [Flea treatment – The silent river killer](#): "I was shocked to realise that I was part of the problem when I discovered the pollution of our rivers by the pesticides in the popular Spot-On pet medicines that are used to treat fleas and ticks", writes Jeff Gill in an enlightening blog post for River Action.
- ➔ 27 November 2025: [Environment Agency fails to come clean on dismal bathing water quality](#): According to the Environment Agency: "The number of monitored bathing sites in England meeting minimum standards for water quality has risen slightly since last year... Out of the 449 sites regularly tested this summer, 93% met minimum standards for levels of bacteria in the water, linked to sewage spills, agricultural pollution and other factors. That is better than the 92% of 2024". But the two years aren't like-for-like comparable (2025 was a drought year with less rainfall and need for CSO spills) and the relatively new riverine bathing waters have quality that is, with only two exceptions, poor: 87% of the UK's 14 riverine bathing waters are unsafe. [more](#) from the Environment Agency.
- ➔ 26 November 2025: [The Wildlife Trusts react to today's budget](#): Joan Edwards of The Wildlife Trusts, says: "In today's budget, Rachel Reeves has allayed immediate fears that another wildlife-harming Planning Bill could be announced. However, we are not out of the woods yet. The risk of destroying Biodiversity Net Gain ambition, together with recent Nuclear Taskforce recommendations which could undermine environmental regulations, still cast doubt as to whether nature will be able to thrive alongside new homes and infrastructure. Meanwhile, policy and budget flip-flops are continuing to undermine farmers' efforts to produce food sustainably".
- ➔ 25 November 2025: [Conservation leaders warn of 'Perfect Storm' threatening England's wildlife and most special places](#): Two of the UK's largest conservation charities, the RSPB and The Wildlife Trusts, are warning that the UK Government's blinkered "Build Baby Build" agenda is creating a perfect storm of threats to nature, and that this is at odds with the public's ambition for protecting wildlife and habitats which is at an all-time high.
- ➔ 25 November 2025: [England has just two clean river bathing spots - despite calls for 100 by 2030](#): A campaign to see 100 designated inland bathing waters in the UK by 2030 has a very long way to go. The latest Environment Agency figures reveal just two of 14 designated river bathing waters are safe to swim in.

- 25 November 2025: [Councils continue to ignore advice on floodplain building](#): Almost 3,000 homes have been built in areas at risk of flooding against the official advice of regulators, according to Lucy Heath of The i Paper.

[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)
- [Catchment Advisory Modeller \(GIS and Hydrology\): The Wye and Usk Foundation](#) (Unspecified)
- [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)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

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

River of the week



Wallingford Bridge over the River Thames – near “Wallingford Beach”, a popular inland bathing spot, which has seen a slight improvement in water quality in 2025. Photo by [Steve Daniels](#) originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-2.0\)](#) licence.

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