

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –8/12/25

- ➔ 5 December 2025: [Nature recovery plan in England hit by clause allowing contracts to end with a year's notice](#): Tara Lohan looks at the inspiring dam-removal movement in the United States and the amazing progress it's made.
- ➔ 5 December 2025: [Worldview: Why America Is Removing Thousands of Dams and Letting Rivers Run Free](#): Practical conservation efforts could be hampered by legal bureaucracy, leaving land less protected in future.
- ➔ 5 December 2025: [The cancer-causing forever chemical polluting most UK rivers](#): Most UK rivers are contaminated by a chemical called trifluoroacetic acid (TFA). Daniel Drage investigates TFA, one of the perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS), often called "forever chemicals".
- ➔ 4 December 2025: [Using citizen science to improve our becks and rivers for nature and people](#): The importance of citizen scientists in monitoring, reporting and campaigning for action on water contamination cannot be understated, writes David Miles for Yorkshire Bylines.
- ➔ 4 December 2025: [Connecting Limbs: Meet the project which aims to bring life back to Sheffield's nature-depleted rivers](#): Claire Bithell of the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust (SRWT) explains the new Connecting Limbs project, which she is heading up: "Named after the project's prototype first step in the Limb Brook Valley near Whirlow, the team's aim is to restore heavily damaged ecosystems along the River Sheaf and its tributaries using nature-based techniques – or at least, methods that mimic the living world."
- ➔ 3 December 2025: [Foam-covered river to be restocked with 3,000 fish](#): Following a major pollution incident and fish kill in Norfolk's River Thet, the Environment Agency will release a mix of native one-year-old species, including roach, dace and chub, into the river this week.

- ➔ 2 December 2025: [River Action takes aim at Thames Water sewage spills](#): According to River Action: "We can today reveal, using documents submitted by Thames Water to Ofwat, that 93 sewage treatment works and water pumping stations the company promised to upgrade remain unfinished, leaving rivers across the Thames catchment exposed to continued pollution and dangerously high levels of bacteria. With Thames Water failing to act, 13 communities from Buckinghamshire and Elmbridge to Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Oxford and Richmond to Wokingham are now fighting back, sending statutory nuisance complaints to their local authorities to demand accountability and urgent action."
- ➔ 2 December 2025: [Suffolk project uses River Gipping to heat buildings in Ipswich](#): A new Suffolk County Council project will harness naturally occurring heat from a river and use it to keep buildings warm in a town.
- ➔ 2 December 2025: [UK is running out of water - but data centres refuse to say how much they use](#): The I's Lucy Heath investigates why some of the UK's most water-hungry infrastructure is shy of accounting for its environmental impact.
- ➔ 2 December 2025: [Save the River Usk launches Water Bill for Wales!](#): "On December 2nd, we at Save the River Usk will be Launching a Water Bill for Wales, calling on the Senedd to introduce strong legislation that protects our Welsh rivers and coastal waters".
- ➔ 1 December 2025: [Warwickshire Wildlife Trust launches £100,000 Wild Waters Appeal](#): Nature is disappearing at an alarming rate from Warwickshire's rivers, a charity has warned as it launches a £100,000 fundraising appeal. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust wants help to fund its work to restore the county's rivers and protect the wildlife living in and along the waterways. The Wilder Waters Appeal will help the trust to re-wild riverbanks, make homes for wading birds, protect amphibians and create "nature-based" solutions to climate change.
- ➔ 1 December 2025: [Walking for Water: Inside a 100-Day Pilgrimage for River Rights](#): Emmeline Hardisty describes her work founding the new Voices of Water Foundation (VoW).
- ➔ 1 December 2025: [East Hampshire recognises the importance of local chalk streams and rivers](#): East Hampshire District Council has agreed to recognise the rights of the rivers that flow through the district.

- ➔ 1 December 2025: [Join the 2026 PondNet Spawn Survey: help track the UK's frogs and toads this spring](#): Freshwater Habitats Trust is encouraging people across the UK to participate in the PondNet Spawn Survey, launching on 1st December. Anyone can get involved by recording Common Frog and Common Toad spawn they have spotted in their garden, community ponds, or in the countryside.
- ➔ 1 December 2025: [Underwhelmed: The Wildlife Trusts' response to the Environmental Improvement Plan](#): From the Wildlife Trusts: "The Government have unveiled their much-anticipated new Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP). Whilst there are encouraging signs for nature recovery within the plan, at the same time the Prime Minister continues to favour the false narrative that nature rules are holding back growth."
- ➔ 1 December 2025: [CRT Appeal Success: Creating New Wetland Habitats for Wading Birds](#): Thanks to last year's CRT Christmas appeal, new wetland habitats for wading birds are now thriving at Bere Marsh Farm in Dorset and Lark Rise Farm in Cambridgeshire. This year's CRT appeal is now live.
- ➔ 1 December 2025: [Say no to farmed salmon for Christmas!](#): Open-net salmon farming is a notable cause of decline in UK populations of wild Atlantic salmon. WildFish's Off The Table continues in its mission to encourage the food trade to seek more sustainable alternatives.
- ➔ 25 November 2025: [Arctic Charr Symposium highlights urgency for conservation action](#): The Freshwater Biological Association (FBA), together with the Institute of Fisheries Management and supported by the Environment Agency, convened the Arctic Charr Symposium in October. The event brought together freshwater scientists, conservation practitioners and local stakeholders to examine the current status of Arctic charr (*Salvelinus alpinus*) in the UK and to identify priority research and conservation actions.
- ➔ 24 November 2025: [Funding for innovative technology for protecting endangered salmon](#): The University of St Andrews is working with the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board (DDSFB) in its ongoing effort to protect the critically endangered Atlantic salmon on the River Dee by developing measures to reduce predation.
- ➔ 7 November 2025: [Just what is a "leaky dam"?](#): You might have heard us mention leaky dams before, but what exactly is a leaky dam? Charlotte Ireland Pope from the Ribble Trust explains.

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Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Field Officer - Solent Seascape: RSPB](#) (4 January 2026)
- [Head of Consultancy: Forth Rivers Trust](#) (31 December 2025)
- [Community Ecologist: Somerset Wildlife Trust](#) (17 December 2025)
- [Ecologist: Wendling Beck](#) (16 December 2025)
- [Outreach and Communications Officer: Cromarty Firth Watershed Environmental Trust](#) (15 December 2025)
- [Conservation Breeding Programmes Assistant: Ballinderry Rivers Trust](#) (15 December 2025)
- [Senior Farming and Catchment Programme Manager: Kent Wildlife 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)
- [Project Officer, Fisheries: Fauna & Flora](#) (9 December 2025)
- [Programme Manager: Aire Rivers Trust](#) (4 December 2025)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [Trustee: Eden Rivers Trust](#) (12 January 2026)
- [Trustee: Lune Rivers Trust](#) (31 December 2025)

River of the week



The River Usk at Newport, Wales – subject of a new bill to the Senedd from Save the River Usk. Photo by [Robin Drayton](#) originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-2.0\)](#) licence.

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