

UK Rivers Network

UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –5/1/26

January 2026

- ➔ 2 January 2026: [More rain needed to restore water levels in East Anglia](#): Anglian Water has said further measures to conserve water may be required in 2026 if drier conditions return over winter.
- ➔ 2 January 2026: [Plenty of cause for hope' as nature has 'bumper year' on Wildlife Trust reserves](#): The Wildlife Trusts are hailing 2025 as a 'bumper year' for new arrivals and discoveries across their nature reserves, following multiple reports of species making a comeback despite their rarity nationwide.
- ➔ 1 January 2026: [How to reduce ocean plastic pollution in 2026](#): Ocean plastic pollution is a major concern for the planet and its wildlife. Make 2026, the year you help reduce plastic pollution on our UK shores.
- ➔ 1 January 2026: [What if floods left your home unsellable? That's the reality facing more and more people in Britain](#): Kirsty Major explores the growing problem of flooding's long-lasting impacts for The Guardian.
- ➔ 1 January 2026: [Pembrokeshire petition demands action to clean River Cleddau](#): A petition calling for a public commitment to save Pembrokeshire's River Cleddau says: "We call on Pembrokeshire County Council to create and enact a Clean Rivers Policy to restore the Cleddau to good health after decades of neglect and degradation".
- ➔ 1 January 2026: [Tracing the Truth: A Community's Decade-Long Fight Over Bio-Bead Pollution](#): On Dorset's stunning Jurassic Coast, fossil hunters flock to Charmouth in search of ancient treasures. But alongside the relics of prehistory, plastic pollution washing ashore, are millions of tiny plastic bio-beads. For nearly a decade, the local community has fought tirelessly to uncover the truth behind this pollution and hold those responsible to account.

- ➔ 1 January 2026: [Cheshire Wildlife Trust plans major restoration for River Birket](#): Cheshire Wildlife Trust is excited to announce that plans to restore a 24ha area of floodplain grazing marsh on the Wirral peninsula will be delivered in 2026. Nature Recovery Programme Manager, Hannah Phillips says: "Historically the site was a functioning wetland, previously known as Hoylake Carrs and the proposed restoration will follow historic lines still visible in the ground where the river once flowed called paleochannels. The project will aim to turn back time while giving a new lease of life to this important and declining habitat. Holding water on site year-round will make it a haven for waterfowl and wading birds".

December 2025

- ➔ 31 December 2025: [How are warming waters changing UK seas?](#): Thanks to climate change, the composition of the UK's marine environment is altering substantially. And according to a comprehensive study surveying the UK's watery ecosystems back in June 2025, the key findings are stark.
- ➔ 31 December 2025: [Where are we on ocean plastics?](#): Catherine Gemmell, Policy and Advocacy Manager at the Marine Conservation Society, discusses where we in the campaign against plastic pollution following progress in recent years and bans on polluting single-use items.
- ➔ 30 December 2025: [From a football to a tyre: oddities blocking South West sewers](#): Sewers across the South West are being clogged not just by everyday waste but by a growing list of unexpected items including footballs, tyres and cleaning equipment, according to South West Water (SWW).
- ➔ 30 December 2025: [First young salmon found in three rivers since 2015](#): Young Atlantic salmon have been spotted in three rivers in the north-west of England for the first time in 10 years. The species was declared critically endangered in Britain in 2023 but the recent discoveries in the Mersey, Bollin and Goyt mean salmon have been migrating from the Arctic Circle to successfully spawn.
- ➔ 28 December 2025: [Why are councils voting for 'rights' of rivers?](#): The lawyers, campaigners and councillors behind the "rights of rivers" declarations accept it is up to Parliament to give England's waterways the same legal status as people. But they claim they are building a growing movement to improve the condition of the country's rivers.

- ➔ 27 December 2025: [Mersey Rivers Trust: Citizen science hub](#): Lots of local river groups run citizen science projects. A few, including Mersey Rivers Trust, have documented what they do in detail--making a superb resource that will be of interest to many other groups.
- ➔ 27 December 2025: [Young country diary: Our local river is clean again--and the birds are back too](#): Theo, aged nine, explains his delight in the rebirth of the River Wandle.
- ➔ 27 December 2025: [Mersey Valley Way: First new National River Walk announced](#): Communities in Greater Manchester and the northwest of England are set to benefit from a new National River Walk, stretching 21 kilometres or the length of a half marathon. This walk is the first of its kind and is part of the government's manifesto pledge to create nine new walks, one for each region of England.
- ➔ 25 December 2025: [Inside plans to make London the UK's first 'swimmable city'](#): A floating pool in the Thames and a beach in Hackney are just some of the ideas being discussed under plans to make London a "swimmable city", reports Lucie Heath for the I Paper.
- ➔ 25 December 2025: [Ribble Rivers Trust wins national wild salmon conservation award](#): The Ribble Rivers Trust has won a prestigious new national award for wild salmon conservation, supporting a community-led river restoration project that will both protect an endangered British species and help reduce local flood risk.
- ➔ 15 December 2025: [Tyne Tunnels Volunteers Dig Deep for River Don](#): A team of hardy volunteers from the Tyne Tunnels traded their desks for spades this week, joining forces with us to plant over 300 trees and shrubs on a farm near the River Don. Braving high winds and heavy rain, the dedicated group spent the day transforming the landscape as part of an environmental initiative to protect local waterways.
- ➔ 30 November 2025: [Understanding Windermere's Decline: The Role of Treated Sewage](#): In Windermere, untreated sewage discharged for 33,410 hours between 2020 and 2024, all of it ending up in the lake. In the same period, Save Windermere's work with Professor Peter Hammond from Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP) identified more than 600 days when spilling occurred illegally.
- ➔ 13 November 2025: [Atlantic salmon in stretch of Derbyshire river 'extraordinary'](#): The sighting of Atlantic salmon in part of a river in Derbyshire has been called "extraordinary" by conservationists. The young

fish, known as parr, have been spawned in the River Ecclesbourne, near the site of the former Postern Mill in Turnditch.

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Evidence Project Officer: Thames21](#) (26 January 2026)
- [Riverfly Partnership - Senior Development Manager](#) (18 January 2026)
- [Communication and Engagement Lead: Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Rivers Trust](#) (14 January 2026)
- [Project Managers: Welsh Dee Trust](#) (12 January 2026)
- [Rivers Project Officer: Great Ouse Rivers Trust](#) (9 January 2026)
- [Social Media Administrator: WildFish](#) (7 January 2026)
- [Communications Assistant, Media and Events: The Rivers Trust](#) (6 January 2026)
- [Catchment Coordinator: Western Sussex Rivers Trust](#) (6 January 2026)
- [Species Recovery Officer: London Wildlife Trust](#) (5 January 2026)
- [Field Officer - Solent Seascape: RSPB](#) (4 January 2026)
- [Catchment Partnerships Programme Manager: Thames21](#) (26 January 2026)
- [Head of Consultancy: Forth Rivers Trust](#) (31 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



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River Cleddau from St Catherine's Bridge, Pembrokeshire – subject of a new petition to Pembrokeshire County Council calling for a Clean Rivers Policy . Photo © by [Deborah Tilley](#) originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-2.0\)](#) licence.

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