

# UK Rivers Network

## UK Rivers Network: Weekly News Update –2/2/26

### January 2026

- ➔ 30 January 2026: [Petition to save Pembrokeshire's River Cleddau exceeds 2,200 signatures](#): A petition call for a public commitment to save Pembrokeshire's River Cleddau which has attracted more than 2,200 signatures, and is due to be heard by full council, ends this weekend. The e-petition on Pembrokeshire County Councils own website, started by James Harrison-Allen, 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."
- ➔ 29 January 2026: [The "Make a Nuisance" Campaign: Using the Law to Speak Up for Our Rivers](#): Chloe Peck, Senior Engagement Coordinator at River Action, explains how campaigners can use legal tactics to stand up for threatened rivers.
- ➔ 29 January 2026: [Thames21 unveils community-led data tool to help build picture of river health](#): Environmental charity Thames21 has launched a new online dashboard that – for the first time – brings together key datasets on river health gathered by citizen scientists across London and the Thames Basin. Thames21's 'Citizen Science Dashboard' currently holds more than 6,000 water quality samples and 2,000 riverfly surveys, making it, as the charity describes, one of the most complete citizen science tools in the UK. By centralising this information, stakeholders can easily access vital data and have a clear understanding of river health. The launch of the dashboard platforms the work of a growing citizen science movement, empowering communities to monitor and protect their local rivers. This puts people at the centre of taking action for the UK's waterways, helping identify and tackle pollution from sewage, road run-off, and agriculture.
- ➔ 29 January 2026: [Wales: Collapsing wildlife and polluted rivers now a life or death issue](#): A major review of the state of the Welsh environment has warned of "polluted rivers, failing soils" and "collapsing wildlife". Parts of the country also have some of the worst air quality in Britain - causing up

to 1,400 premature deaths a year - according to Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

- ➔ 29 January 2026: ["I waded through a river of raw sewage to meet the man trying to save London's waterways"](#): Lottie Elton of the Big Issue meets and chats with London river champion Paul Powlesland.
- ➔ 28 January 2026: [Controversial Oxford bridge inches toward construction](#): Work on a controversial Oxpens River Bridge was first granted planning permission in 2024, and would provide a walking and cycling route between Oxpens Meadow to Grandpont Nature Park. There have been a number of delays to building the bridge, including a judicial review brought by campaigners which was dismissed in March last year.
- ➔ 28 January 2026: [Protecting one of Europe's last wild rivers: a volunteering trip to the Vjosa in Albania](#): Oliver Balch explores a tree-planting project designed to protect the Vjosa's fragile ecosystem.
- ➔ 28 January 2026: [Building a clearer picture of pollution in the River Wandle: what sediment sampling tells us](#): What can you tell from sediment? South East Rivers Trust explains their new, proactive approach -- a "wider step-change in how the River Wandle is monitored. Working alongside volunteer citizen scientists and partners at King's College London, we are developing a catchment-wide monitoring network that will be publicly accessible. Over time, this will allow us to track how the river responds to different pressures, spot emerging risks earlier, and continually refine where and how restoration and protection work is delivered".
- ➔ 28 January 2026: [River Thames heat pump will power the South Bank](#): A new £72.7million communal heat network could provide low-carbon heating for the National Theatre and other London landmarks near Waterloo and the South Bank in central London. Under the plans, a water source heat pump will take heat from the River Thames and transport it through a network of underground pipes around the area, giving buildings the chance to switch to low-carbon heating without affecting their external appearance.
- ➔ 26 January 2026: [A landmark victory for our oceans: the Global Ocean Treaty comes to life](#): According to Greenpeace's Ariana Densham: "The Global Ocean Treaty has the power to change everything. For the first time, governments have a legal framework to create High Seas sanctuaries – vast protected areas outside of any country's national waters, where fragile ecosystems can recover and thrive. If fully

implemented, the Treaty could establish the largest network of ocean sanctuaries in history, covering over a third of our global oceans".

- ➔ 26 January 2026: [Defra claims farming rules shake-up will "cut pollution and support farmers"](#): More government support for farmers will "help to improve water quality, reduce pollution in our rivers and give farmers the confidence to grow food sustainably", a new announcement from Defra has claimed.
- ➔ 26 January 2026: [House of Commons debate on protecting and restoring river habitats](#): Background debates and notes from a recent commons debate on rivers are well worth browsing.
- ➔ 26 January 2026: [Flagship for Change: Restoring the River Beane together](#): A look at how the River Beane Restoration Association is working with its partners to make the Beane "an exemplar for chalk stream restoration, ecological health and as a community asset" as part of the wider, national Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy.
- ➔ 26 January 2026: [Somerset Levels pumps installed after 'wettest week in 12 years'](#): Life grows ever-more difficult in Somerset. Speaking to The Guardian, Mike Stanton, the chair of the Somerset Rivers Authority, commented: "At the moment it feels like a losing battle. Intense rainfall is hitting us more often because of climate change. It may be that in the next 50 years, perhaps in the next 20, some homes around here will have to be abandoned".
- ➔ 25 January 2026: [Britain is building nine new reservoirs - but doesn't know how to fill them](#): It's full(ish)-steam ahead for nine new reservoirs, including the controversial Abingdon project, but some believe "demand management" (an emphasis on using less water, more wisely) must come first.
- ➔ 25 January 2026: [Parliamentary event saw rare cross-party consensus of concern about the future of nature protections](#): According to The Wildlife Trusts, A parliamentary event last night saw a rare cross-party consensus of concern as nature experts, MPs and peers spoke out about the potential environmental impact of Nuclear Regulatory Review's recommendations - some expressing 'horror' at the flawed evidence in the review.
- ➔ 16 January 2026: [Environment Agency "minded" to support dodgy Dairy Crest creamery expansion](#): The Environment Agency has said it is "minded to issue the new permit" to Saputo Dairy UK (aka Dairy Crest) for Davidstow Creamery, in Cornwall, despite multiple air and water pollution

breaches of its existing permit. Martin Harmer, chairman of Launceston Anglers' Association, based on the River Inny and River Tamar, has said: "As far as are we are concerned, Dairy Crest is not fit to run this industrial site at current levels of production, let alone at increased capacity".

- ➔ 11 January 2026: [River Thames receives spiritual blessing](#) London's River Thames has received a blessing by the Bishop of Southwark, in a ceremony which saw a cross thrown into its murky and fabled waters.
- ➔ 1 January 2026: [Pollution from Construction Sites is Smothering Our Streams to Death: Communities are Calling for Urgent Action](#) BART (Bristol Avon Rivers Trust) looks at the ever-increasing problem of sediment pollution in South Gloucestershire and beyond.
- ➔ 1 January 2026: [Martin Salter: Droughts, Floods and Fine Fishes](#) For those who missed it, here's Martin's pre-Christmas review of an action-packed 2025 for the Angling Trust blog.

## Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

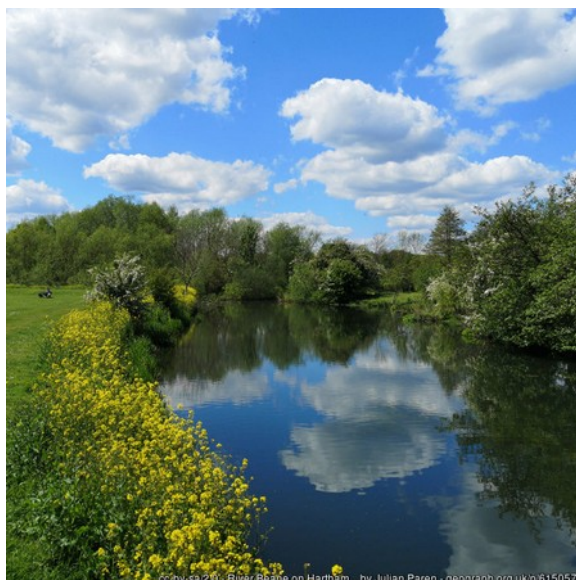
### Jobs

- [Chief Executive Officer: Eden Rivers Trust](#) (15 March 2026)
- [Senior River Engagement Officer - Lead Inspiring Programmes for People and Rivers: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (1 March 2026)
- [Freelance Opportunities - River Learning and Engagement Officer: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (No closing date given)
- [Marine Engagement Assistant: Community of Arran Seabed Trust](#) (15 February 2026)
- [Senior Environmental Scientist: Canal and River Trust](#) (14 February 2026)
- [Senior Ecologist: Canal and River Trust](#) (14 February 2026)
- [Catchment Partnerships Development Officer: Thames21 \(Oxfordshire\)](#) (13 February 2026)
- [Biodiversity Specialist: Southern Water](#) (13 February 2026)
- [Rivers Officer - Catchment Support: Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust](#) (10 February 2026)
- [Community Engagement Trainee: Eden Rivers Trust](#) (2 February 2026)
- [Programme Manager \(Test & Itchen\): Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust](#) (1 February 2026)
- [Woodland Creation Officer: Ribble Rivers Trust](#) (28 January 2026)

## Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [Trustees: Devon Wildlife Trust](#) (22 February 2026)
- [Trustee: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust](#) (15 February 2026)
- [Trustee: Avon Wildlife Trust](#) (3 February 2026)

## River of the week



**The River Beane, Hertfordshire** – Good luck to the River Beane Association and their mission to make their river “an exemplar for chalk stream restoration, ecological health and as a community asset”. Photo © by [Julian Paren](#) originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-2.0\)](#) licence.

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