

UK Rivers Network

Weekly News Update –2/3/26

February 2026

- 28 February 2026: [Keep Britain Tidy: Spring clean your river!](#): The Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean are back for 2026 and will take place from 13 to 29 March 2026. This high-profile national event offers a great opportunity for local river groups to draw in more supporters.
- 28 February 2026: [All Hands on the River Don conservation and restoration scheme](#): From the Don Catchment, news of the Sprotbrough Ings and Great Ings projects.
- 27 February 2026: [Worldview: The river won: how campaigners in Brazilian Amazon stopped privatisation of waterway](#): In The Guardian, Jonathan Watts reports on an inspiring direct action campaign against one of the world's biggest commodity trading companies.
- 26 February 2026: [Lincolnshire beaver 'engineers' set to work creating new wetlands](#): A family of beavers has been released into a Lincolnshire river to live in what officials claim is England's largest beaver enclosure. The four animals are expected to help return the West Glen River near Grantham to a more natural course after centuries of being straightened and deepened to drain farmland.
- 26 February 2026: [Isle of Wight river restoration reaps rewards](#): A technique that encourages rivers to re-shape themselves has transformed a precious Isle of Wight chalk stream. Stage Zero Restoration (SZR) is an approach popular in the USA and gaining traction in the UK in which rivers are reconnected with their floodplains.
- 26 February 2026: [Water companies flushing antibiotic-resistant bacteria into UK rivers](#): From the Angling Times: "A pilot study of the rivers in a major UK city has found high concentrations of harmful bacteria that pose a huge risk to anglers and the wider public. The study, led by Dr Rob Morley of Index Microbiology and supported by Windrush Against

Sewage Pollution (WASP), the Angling Trust and HoT Water, investigated the presence of ESBL-producing bacteria in the rivers of Oxford."

- 26 February 2026: [Public urged to keep out of River Itchen to protect salmon](#): Conservation experts have issued a warning to avoid entering the River Itchen until May, one of only six chalk streams in England that still supports wild Atlantic salmon.
- 26 February 2026: [Positive ocean news: February '26 edition](#): The Marine Conservation Society presents a roundup of good news from the oceans, including the High Seas Treaty and the Scottish ban on plastic in wet wipes.
- 26 February 2026: ["Clean Water Now" campaign sets out actions needed to restore our freshwater environment](#): Dozens of green NGOs represented by Wildlife and Countryside Link have just launched a campaign for Clean Water Now. The campaign is focused on improving the upcoming Water Bill, with three priorities: fixing the system, stopping the polluters, and restoring freshwater wildlife.
- 25 February 2026: [2.4 million people at highest risk of flooding, Friends of the Earth finds](#): One million homes (home to 2.4 million people across England) are at the highest risk of flooding from rivers, seas and surface water, new analysis by Friends of the Earth reveals.
- 25 February 2026: [Number of homes at high risk of flooding set to treble in next 50 years: Greenpeace](#): As flood warnings and alerts remain in place across large swathes of Great Britain, Greenpeace warns that over 866,000 homes – equivalent to the total of those in Birmingham, Liverpool and Sheffield – could be at "high" or "very high" risk from increased levels of severe flooding fuelled by climate change by the year 2080.
- 25 February 2026: [Channel 4: Dirty Business - watch it here!](#): The new Channel 4 series about the sewage-pollution crisis is available on-demand here: "In an idyllic Oxfordshire hamlet, the fish in the river keep dying. Why? David Thewlis and Jason Watkins lead this shocking real-life drama of victims, whistleblowers and England's water companies".
- 25 February 2026: [Dirty Business should cause fury over the sewage crisis](#): The I reviews the background to "Dirty Business", the new Channel 4 dramatization about the excellent work of Ash Smith and Peter Hammond at Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP) in the Cotswolds.

- 25 February 2026: [BBC Countryfile Visits the River Tweed](#): The BBC Countryfile team visited the River Tweed last month on the eve of the 2026 salmon fishing season, capturing the atmosphere, heritage and science that underpin one of the United Kingdom's most renowned salmon rivers. The programme goes out on Sunday 1 March.
- 25 February 2026: [Extreme weather is transforming the world's rivers. We need new ways to protect them](#): In The Conversation, Professor Jonathan Tonkin and colleagues write: "Around the world, rivers are no longer changing gradually. Rather, they are being increasingly transformed by extreme climatic events such as floods, droughts and heatwaves. Our newly published global review finds these events are pushing ecosystems beyond their limits and eroding biodiversity and core functions. In bringing together global evidence, our research sets out a roadmap for how science and management can respond to these mounting ecological pressures".
- 25 February 2026: [Lucy Burden's "Flow / Llif" opens at Chepstow Museum](#): A major new exhibition celebrating the ever-changing rhythms and beauty of the River Wye has opened at Chepstow Museum. "Flow / Llif: The River Wye from Source to Sea" is the latest body of work by Welsh artist Lucy Burden..
- 25 February 2026: [Herts chalk river restoration is complete after two years](#): A £1.72m chalk river restoration project has been completed after two years of work which is set to enhance local wildlife. Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust was awarded money from the government's Species Survival Fund early in 2024 for its Chalk Rivers project.
- 25 February 2026: [Pippa Heylings MP calls for chalk streams to become UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site](#): The Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Energy Security and Net Zero called for greater river protection in parliament this week. Here's the full text of her speech.
- 24 February 2026: [Rising to the occasion: how nature can fight flooding](#): RSPB explores why flooding is becoming more frequent and how nature can help to prevent and minimise its impact.
- 24 February 2026: [UNEP seeks young people with big ideas to protect the planet](#): The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) today launched a call for nominations for the 2026 cycle of the Young Champions of the Earth award, which honours outstanding young people driving innovative solutions to protect the planet.

- 24 February 2026: [WildFish: Veterinary medicines: an overlooked source of aquatic pollution in the UK](#): Although this is far from a new story, it's a welcome reminder: veterinary medicines (from pet flea and tick treatments to livestock parasiticides) are becoming a significant and under-recognised threat to our rivers.
- 23 February 2026: [Yorkshire Water fined £733k after polluting country park stream](#): Brazen and unapologetic Yorkshire Water was sentenced this week for polluting Pools Brook Country Park stream three times in less than a year.
- 23 February 2026: [MPs and Clean Water Sports Alliance Call For Faster Action on Water Pollution](#): A number of MPs have called for further and faster action on pollution following a Parliamentary event organised by the Clean Water Sports Alliance (CWSA). The drop-in session brought together Parliamentarians and representatives of the CWSA (including Paddle UK, Swim England, British Rowing, RYA, and British Triathlon) to discuss the Water Reform White Paper.
- 17 February 2026: [River Action: Natural Resources Wales Must Prevent Pollution – Not Pass the Buck as the Wye and Severn Decline](#): Emma Dearnaley, River Action's Head of Legal, explains why the group has launched a judicial review challenging Natural Resources Wales (NRW)'s decision to approve permit variations allowing three intensive poultry units in Powys to expand.
- 17 February 2026: [Save our Swale's Review of 2025](#): An inspiring and uplifting review of SoS volunteers and their river-efforts over the last year!

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Catchment Restoration Officers: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (27 March 2026)
- [River Catchment Project Officer: ARK](#) (26 March 2026)
- [Project Officer - Surrey and South London: Waterlife Recovery Trust](#)
(Closing date not given)
- [Scientific Officer: Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority](#)
(17 March 2026)
- [Estuary Restoration Officer: Wyre Rivers Trust](#) (16 March 2026)
- [Chief Executive Officer: Eden Rivers Trust](#) (15 March 2026)
- [Senior Project Manager: Major Projects \(Saltmarsh\)/Severn Estuary: WWT](#)
(12 March 2026)
- [Project Manager - River Enhancement: Aire Rivers Trust](#) (9 March 2026)
- [Catchment Partnerships Manager: Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust](#) (8 March 2026)
- [Water Quality Officer: Devon County Council](#) (8 March 2026)
- [Water Resources Specialist: Severn Trent Water](#) (8 March 2026)
- [Senior Project Officer \(South London\): South East Rivers Trust](#) (8 March 2026)
- [26-week Internship: Galloway Fisheries Trust](#) (6 March 2026)
- [Catchment Advisor: The Wye and Usk Foundation](#) (6 March 2026)
- [Project Officer \(South London\): South East Rivers Trust](#) (1 March 2026)
- [Project Officer \(West Region\): South East Rivers Trust](#) (1 March 2026)
- [Senior River Engagement Officer - Lead Inspiring Programmes for People and Rivers: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (1 March 2026)
- [Beachwatch Assistant: Marine Conservation Society](#) (1 March 2026)
- [Freelance Opportunities - River Learning and Engagement Officer: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (No closing date given)

Other opportunities

The Rivers Trust has a useful page of [current vacancies](#) with the various trusts, including voluntary posts and openings for trustees.

River of the week



River Windrush, Cotswolds – Well done to Ash Smith, Peter Hammond, and all at WASP, who celebrate national recognition this week in Channel 4's *Dirty Business* drama. Photo © [Philip Halling](#) originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-2.0\)](#) licence.

***** Help us grow – please forward to your friends! *****

**Our weekly newsletter is available by email, RSS feed, or download from our website.
Find out more at <https://www.ukrivers.net/subscribe.html>**

Please send your news, events, press releases, campaign alerts, job posts, and anything else you'd like us to circulate to hello@ukrivers.net. UK Rivers Network newsletters are published under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-SA 4.0\) Licence](#), which means they're free to copy, distribute, and remix as you see fit, with credit.