

UK Rivers Network

Weekly News Update –27/4/26

April 2026

- 24 April 2026: [The Big River Watch is Here!](#): The Rivers Trust's Big River Watch is happening right now, from 24th to 30th April. It's super-easy and takes just 15 minutes, as this step-by-step guide from the Eden Rivers Trust explains.
- 24 April 2026: [How is climate change and river pollution shaking up the Senedd Election?](#): According to this report from ITV News, green issues are registering as an important campaign issue in the forthcoming Welsh Senedd election on 7th May. And that will come as no surprise when you read the next story...
- 24 April 2026: [Top of the Poops: River Teifi ranked poopest place in England and Wales](#): Statistics from the Top of the Poops website reveal that the winding river has won the accolade for the highest number of hours of untreated sewage spilt in 2025, up from fifth place last year. What a brilliant achievement! (not).
- 24 April 2026: [Largest-ever ban on toxic chemicals in EU hit by "extremely frustrating" delays](#): Harmful compounds in children's nappies and toxic "forever chemicals" in everyday products are among 14 hazardous substance groups hit by lengthy delays to EU pollution controls, according to report findings described by scientists as "extremely frustrating".
- 24 April 2026: [An updates on WildFish's legal work to combat chemical pollution in rivers](#): WildFish's legal team continues to hold regulators to account, and they've just published updates in two separate cases: the first, an upcoming tribunal hearing on pesticide records, and the second, a disappointing decision by the Information Commissioner on veterinary medicines records.

- 24 April 2026: [River Elwy astonishes with dramatic change of course](#): Part of the River Elwy near Llanefydd on the Conwy-Denbighshire border has moved about 50 metres, including around some trees, to the bafflement of local residents. Although the cause of the change is unknown, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) said rivers like the Elwy were sensitive to activities such as gravel removal, bank reshaping or channel straightening, with evidence this type of work had taken place historically.
- 23 April 2026: [Ban "forever chemicals" in uniforms and frying pans, MPs urge](#): A group of MPs has now called for a complete ban on PFAS "forever chemicals", unless manufacturers can demonstrate they are either essential for their product or there is no alternative.
- 23 April 2026: [Jo Bateman: Why I'm taking a water company to court](#): In a new article for River Action, sea swimmer and clean-water campaigner Jo Bateman from Exmouth explains why she took South West Water to court.
- 23 April 2026: [Simple change in food handling process can cut exposure to toxic plastic chemicals by half](#): Is it really possible to go plastic-free? New research in The Independent suggests levels of potentially toxic phthalates and bisphenols could be cut by about 50 per cent with intervention.
- 23 April 2026: [New water vole populations found in Yorkshire streams](#): Surveys have revealed that endangered water voles are found more widely in upland areas than previously thought. Yorkshire Water said the aquatic rodents had been spotted at new locations across the Peak District National Park and South Pennines in the moorland catchments of the River Don and River Holme.
- 22 April 2026: [Worldview: The Colorado River vanished for 5 million years. Scientists have just figured out where it went](#): Known for carving the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River is one of the most famous waterways in North America. However, this river hasn't always flowed through the Grand Canyon and it's unclear exactly when, and how, the relationship between the two began. This mystery has long been debated by geologists, but a new study published last week in the journal Science may have finally provided an answer.
- 22 April 2026: [Cornish council votes "no confidence" in South West Water](#): Councillors this week agreed unanimously that Helston Town Council would formally declare a vote of no confidence in South West Water, sign

a collective letter to the Secretary of State calling for the company's management to be removed through a Special Administration Order, and ask other town and parish councils to do the same.

- 22 April 2026: [How do drugs in water affect fish behaviour?](#): According to a new report in The Angling Times, Australian scientists have shed more light on how recreational substances such as cocaine, even when detected at low levels, may be influencing movement and activity in aquatic species, particularly salmon.
- 22 April 2026: [Sewage on the road for the Scottish Election](#): Here's the latest update in the Surfers Against Sewage rolling blog of their Scottish election tour ahead of the Holyrood Elections on May 7th.
- 22 April 2026: [Friends of the River Wye: Introducing the Riverside Code](#): Friends of the River Wye have launched The Riverside Code, a new guide endorsed by author Robert Macfarlane (Is a River Alive?) and actor and activist Jim Murray (The Crown, Masters of the Air), to equip the public with the tools to help protect and restore rivers.
- 22 April 2026: [Chalk-stream salmon could become an official sub-species](#): Scientists from the University of Exeter and INRAe (France) have carried out detailed genetic testing of salmon from 42 rivers in England, Ireland and France -- including fish from chalk streams in southern England and northern France. They found that salmon from chalk streams are closely related to each other -- and genetically distinct from salmon in nearby non-chalk rivers.
- 22 April 2026: [Atlantic salmon: Their Future is in our Hands](#): Mark Bilsby, CEO Atlantic Salmon Trust, marks Earth Day with a call for action to save wild salmon in a rapidly warming world with more tree planting and other conservation measures.
- 22 April 2026: [Soil Association celebrates 80 years of organic passion!](#): Congratulations to the newly octogenarian Soil Association! For 80 years, they've helped pioneer organic food and farming, working alongside farmers, food businesses, schools, caterers and communities to build a shared vision of nature-friendly farming and healthier diets.
- 22 April 2026: [Double your impact: restoring Atlantic salmon in the River Teme](#): Severn Rivers Trust is taking part in the Big Give Earth Raise, which means every donation made during this week will be doubled. This is a limited, one-week opportunity and once match funding is used, it's gone.

- 17 April 2026: [Growing ambitions: a new chapter for the Riverfly Partnership](#): The Riverfly Partnership continues to grow, with new groups coming aboard from the rivers of Cornwall to the west coast of Wales, over to Northern Ireland and all the way up to the Highlands of Scotland.
- 17 April 2026: [BugLife writes open letter to ministers on veterinary parasiticides in the environment](#): BugLife is asking people to ask their MPs to sign the Early Day Motion (EDM) about toxic pesticides used in tick and flea treatments. Here's their open letter
- 17 April 2026: [Conflicts to canoes: Ex-BBC News producer tells his story](#): Former BBC News producer Dominic Hirst covered conflict and unrest in the world's most dangerous places. Life is now much calmer and safer overseeing the growth a canoe club he founded. He tells his story to PaddleUK.
- 17 April 2026: [New advice on avoiding British cod: how to make sure your fish and chips are sustainably sourced](#): The Marine Conservation Society recently downgraded all UK cod stocks and removed them from its list of sustainable seafood. So... what to eat instead? The MCS Good Fish Guide recommends cod lovers seek out fish from further north, from Icelandic waters, where it's still available in quantity.
- 17 April 2026: [In conversation with Stuart Crofts: fisherman, entomologist and environmental campaigner](#): Champion of riverflies, the FBA talks to Stuart Crofts, the dedicated driving force behind the Adult Caddisfly Occurrence Scheme, now in its 20th, and final, year.
- 17 April 2026: [Natural Flood Management in Malmesbury](#): NFM projects are popping up all over the place at the moment. Here's a report from BART about some work they've been doing recently at a farm near Malmesbury in Wiltshire.
- 17 April 2026: [Dorset beavers prompt mixed feelings](#): Dorset Wildlife Trust made national headlines this week with plans to release up to 50 beavers on 10 sites over several years. Less well-reported were concerns from fishing groups, including the Frome, Piddle and West Dorset Fisheries Association, who described their reaction as "very alarmed" at the potential impact on their own smolt to salmon project.
- 17 April 2026: [Western Sussex Rivers Trust reacts to "Dirty Business"](#): WSRT's CEO Aimee Felus offers a personal commentary on the recent Channel 4 docu-drama.

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Project Manager: Mersey Rivers Trust](#) (17 May 2026)
- [Advocacy and Parliamentary Officer: Angling Trust](#) (17 May 2026)
- [Native Oyster Project Officer: Tees Rivers Trust](#) (15 May 2026)
- [Freshwater Ecologist: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (12 May 2026)
- [Marine Restoration Assistant: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust](#) (15 May 2026)
- [Scotland Coordinator Amphibian and Reptile Conservation](#) (11 May 2026)
- [Project Delivery Manager: Tyne Rivers Trust](#) (10 May 2026)
- [Wetland Wildflowers Coordinator: WWT](#) (10 May 2026)
- [Hampshire Avon Citizen Science Coordinator: For the Love of Water \(FLOW\) CIC](#) (8 May 2026)
- [River Ecologist: Friends of the River Wye](#) (3 May 2026)
- [Freshwater Adviser: NatureScot](#) (30 April 2026)
- [Policy and Campaigns Officer \(Scotland\): WildFish](#) (28 April 2026)
- [Catchment Resilience Project Officer: River Waveney Trust](#) (26 April 2026)
- [Visitor Engagement Assistant: WWT \(London\)](#) (26 April 2026)
- [Policy and Advocacy Manager - Forever Chemicals: Marine Conservation Society](#) (26 April 2026)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [Trustee Director: The Open Spaces Society](#) (17 May 2026)
- [Trustee - Honorary Treasurer: Worcestershire Wildlife Trust](#) (4 May 2026)
- [Trustee: Legal Expertise \(Bristol Avon Rivers Trust\)](#) (30 April 2026)
- [Trustee \(accounting skills\): Aire Rivers Trust](#) (N/A)
- [Education Officer: Wessex Rivers Trust](#) (N/A)
- [Learning and Engagement Volunteer: West Cumbria Rivers Trust](#) (N/A)

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 Elwy, Llanefydd, which amazed locals recently by shifting its course an astonishing 50 metres! Photo © [Eirian Evans](#) originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-2.0\)](#) licence.

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