

UK Rivers Network

Weekly News Update –4/5/26

May 2026

- 2 May 2026: [Sewage and agricultural pollution having 'alarming' impact on UK's underwater forests](#): Pollution in rivers is having an "alarming" knock-on impact on marine life in underwater forests along the British coastline, according to new research. Scientists found seagrass meadows affected by excessive nutrients in the water - caused by sewage, fertilisers, manure and industry wastewater - had far fewer and less variety of small invertebrates like crabs, shrimps and snails.
- 1 May 2026: [Citizen scientists praised for work in keeping Tweed healthy](#): Keen volunteers have played a key role in monitoring the health of the River Tweed as part of a month-long initiative. April's Citizen Science Month has seen a surge in activity across the catchment, with citizen scientists helping to support the Riverfly Partnership.

April 2026

- 30 April 2026: ["Floodgates open for sewage" fear as protection lifted in Cornish river](#): A Cornish council has spoken out against a decision by Natural England to remove environmental protection from a section of the River Camel, which councillors say will leave the "floodgates open for sewage".
- 30 April 2026: [Car-Free Paddling Adventure to the English Riviera](#): The challenge was to travel from Nottingham to the English Riviera car-free with a stand-up paddleboard, along with other luggage, for a two-night stay. How difficult would it be? Paddle UK's Neil Heath went to find out.
- 30 April 2026: [Wensum Riverkin and me... in conversation with Tim Ellis](#): In September last year Simon Johnson, Executive Director of the FBA, issued a call to action to save the Wensum. People's eagerness to support this beautiful chalk river in Norfolk was so great that a core collection of

advocates for the Wensum's recovery mobilised forces and formed Wensum Riverkin.

- 30 April 2026: [River Action: When a fisherman must go to court to save a lough](#): For several summers, Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland has been smothered by severe blue-green algal blooms driven by excessive nutrient pollution. Wildlife is disappearing, fish stocks are under pressure, and communities around the lough are increasingly concerned about the consequences of prolonged pollution. Against this backdrop, local eel fisherman Declan Conlon has brought a legal challenge against the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). His case asks the courts to examine whether the authorities have fulfilled their legal responsibilities to protect Lough Neagh and those who depend upon it from nutrient pollution.
- 29 April 2026: [Write a new chapter in history of the River Tweed](#): Borderers are being asked to bring their stories about the Tweed to Innerleithen on Saturday, May 9, as part of a free drop-in storytelling and story-gathering event celebrating the river and its surrounding woodlands.
- 29 April 2026: [Welsh countryside: what Greens and Reform are promising they would change after election](#): In the last of The Conversation's series on environmental issues and the Wales election campaign, Michael Woods, Professor of Human Geography, Aberystwyth University, looks at the countryside policies of two parties that are new contenders for seats in the Senedd.
- 29 April 2026: [Greens promise Clean Water Bill to protect rivers and lochs](#): The Scottish Greens have pledged to introduce a Clean Water Bill that would require full monitoring of sewage overflows and impose strict new penalties on polluters fouling Scotland's waterways. The party says the legislation would set statutory requirements for action when pollution is recorded and place tighter controls on chemicals used in and around rivers, lochs and wetlands.
- 29 April 2026: [How barriers fragmented our river ecosystems and their effects on wild fish](#): Only 1% of rivers are completely free of artificial barriers, and just 3.3% of the river network allows unrestricted movement of aquatic species. Across Great Britain, there are an estimated 0.75 barriers per kilometre of river, creating a heavily disrupted landscape for wildlife. But what does that actually mean for the fish trying to navigate these rivers? WildFish campaigns researcher Danny Nixon looks at how

barriers affect fish populations and why even a single small weir can have consequences that ripple through an entire river system.

- 27 April 2026: [UK's biggest ever environmental pollution claim reaches High Court](#): More than 4,500 people who live or work near the rivers along the Welsh-English border have signed up to take part in what's being seen as a landmark case against Avara Foods and Welsh Water. But...
- 27 April 2026: [Industrial chicken producer hits out over Wye and Usk river pollution claim](#): Lawyers for Avara (one of the country's biggest producers of industrially farmed chicken) have attacked a claim that they are responsible for pollution in the River Wye and River Usk.
- 27 April 2026: [Invasive floating Pennywort in river is 'big problem', says Canal and River Trust](#): The Canal and River Trust has launched an appeal to help raise funds to tackle floating pennywort in the River Soar in Leicestershire. The trust said floating pennywort, which was introduced into the UK in the 1980s as a plant for garden ponds, can grow up to 20cm (8in) and double its weight in as little as three days.
- 27 April 2026: [New report finds UK laws failing to protect whales and dolphins](#): The Wildlife Trusts are calling for urgent action to strengthen marine protection in a North Sea hotspot.
- 27 April 2026: [Wear Rivers Trust completes huge river bank tree planting project](#): Hundreds of trees have been added to the banks of a river to help prevent erosion and provide more habitat for wildlife. The project saw 1,700 saplings planted at a range of sites between November and March at spots along the River Wear which runs through County Durham to its mouth at Sunderland.
- 27 April 2026: [Get ready for Leicester's Riverside Festival \(6-7 June\)](#): If you're in the Midlands, here's a date for the diary: Leicester's Biggest Arts Festival is back in June, for a weekend bursting with music, food, arts, family fun and vibrant waterside activity.
- 27 April 2026: [Bristol Avon Rivers Trust: Delivering healthy, resilient rivers](#): BART has just published its impressive new impact report
- 26 April 2026: [Help the River Sid Catchment Group at Sea Fest '26](#): Sidmouth's homegrown festival kicks off again on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th May 2026... and the River Sid Catchment Group are looking for volunteers to help out on their river-education stall.

- 26 April 2026: [Take part in DMU Leicester's Big River Clean-up](#): Students are being urged to volunteer for De Montfort University's Big River Clean-up in Leicester aimed at stopping plastics getting into our seas and oceans. Volunteers will take to boats and canoes as well as working on the riverbanks to clean-up plastic and other rubbish from the Grand Union Canal and River Soar, in Leicester. The event on Wednesday 20 May, from 9.30am to 12.30pm, is part of the Canal and River Trust's nationwide Stop Plastics Getting into Oceans campaign.
- 26 April 2026: ["We're living in a shed because of river pollution"](#): People living and working in Herefordshire say ongoing pollution in the River Lugg is causing "significant damage" to the local economy.
- 26 April 2026: [Lostwithiel WI make waves for clean rivers](#): Last month, the BBC and the Cornish Times featured the collective hard work of a local consortium who are working to make a river in Lostwithiel, Cornwall, into an official bathing spot. Lostwithiel WI have been vital in putting the bathing water application together, as part of the WI's long-running Clean Rivers campaign.
- 26 April 2026: [Real-time data driving real action - The Wensum water-quality dashboard is live!](#): Norfolk Rivers Trust explain the thinking behind their new citizen science tool.
- 22 April 2026: [Glasgow council to look at restoring pontoons and river buses](#): Glasgow City council is investigating bringing back waterfront pontoons and a river bus. SNP Councillor Graham Campbell said: "I'm very much a champion of getting us back to having a river bus, having river travel and having the river as a transit mechanism and people being able to access it again".

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

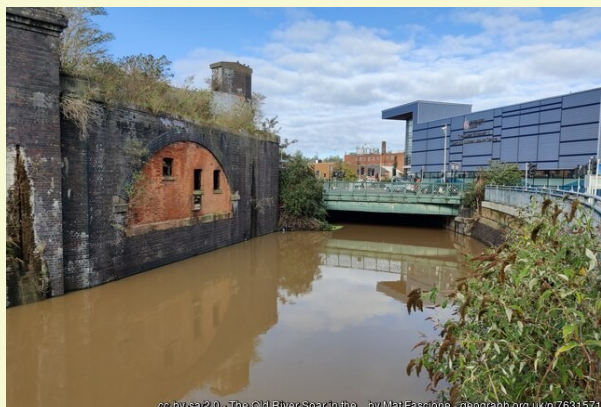
- [Head of Engagement, Education and Partnerships: Ribble Rivers Trust](#) (25 May 2026)
- [Species Recovery Officer: Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust](#) (20 May 2026)
- [Community Officer \(Hereford~River City\): Herefordshire Wildlife Trust](#) (19 May 2026)
- [Nature Recovery Officer \(Hereford~River City\): Herefordshire Wildlife Trust](#) (19 May 2026)
- [Catchment Restoration Officer - Upper Severn \(Wales\): Severn Rivers Trust](#) (Unspecified closing date)
- [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)

- **Trustees and other voluntary posts**
- [Trustee Director: The Open Spaces Society](#) (17 May 2026)
- [Trustee - Honorary Treasurer: Worcestershire Wildlife Trust](#) (4 May 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 Soar, Leicester, currently preparing for a clean-up in mid-May and a festival in early June. Photo © [Mat Fascione](#) originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-2.0\)](#) licence.

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