

UK Rivers Network

Weekly News Update –11/5/26

May 2026

- 8 May 2026: [Wild swimmer Angela Jones in long fight against pollution](#): The Monmouthshire wild swimmer and guide, known to many as the "Wild Woman of the Wye", has spent years giving talks in schools, setting up local water-testing groups and training volunteers to monitor the health of rivers such as the Wye and Usk.
- 7 May 2026: [Endangered eel population boost hopes](#): Endangered European eel numbers in a former industrial river will be boosted thanks to a new project. The Eels of Steel scheme, funded by Natural England, aims to accelerate recovery in the Tees catchment.
- 7 May 2026: [Great Ouse welcomes 1,800 rowers for the 160th Bedford Regatta](#): The River Great Ouse was front and centre of attention on Saturday, 9 May as 1,800 competitors from 48 different clubs raced in a programme of 282 races.
- 7 May 2026: [Celebrating Attenborough... on rivers!](#): What better way to celebrate a century of David Attenborough than watching Episode 3 of Planet Earth on the BBC iPlayer: "... an epic river journey following the descent of the planet's mightiest rivers from their mountain sources to the sea".
- 7 May 2026: [Winners of new Wild salmon river conservation award raise more than £44000](#): The first projects supported by the 'The Orri' Award have raised more than £44,000 for endangered wild salmon conservation in UK rivers, exceeding their initial fundraising targets with more than 300 donors.
- 7 May 2026: [Worldview: New Zealand grapples with how to protect its braided rivers](#): A fascinating piece in The Guardian explores the conflict between the shifting needs of rivers and the people who live around them.

- 7 May 2026: [The Riverfly Partnership's year of impact](#): The FBA's Riverfly Partnership has just released its latest progress and impact report for the year ending March 2026.
- 6 May 2026: [Fears for 'hundreds' of young fish after pollution incident](#): Anglers fear "hundreds" of young salmon may have been killed in a pollution incident on a tributary of the Derg River in County Tyrone, a short distance upstream from where drinking water is abstracted.
- 6 May 2026: [Drought Advice For Paddlers - How Low is Low?](#): Are we heading for another summer of drought? Paddle Cymru is well prepared with some timely advice for paddling at low river levels that could affect fish and wildlife.
- 6 May 2026: [Alliance launches to tackle river and habitat decline](#): The Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Partnership aims to "restore nature at scale, improve water resilience and reconnect people with the environment", with a major focus on the area's rivers.
- 6 May 2026: [How to build cities for wildlife, not just people](#): In a new study, an international team of freshwater scientists and planning experts highlights that, while our towns and cities contain some of the world's most degraded rivers, wetlands and ponds, they also provide huge opportunities for protecting and restoring freshwater wildlife.
- 6 May 2026: [Rivers in crisis: how water companies dodge prosecution](#): If you missed Channel4's hard-hitting 33-minute report about river pollution this week, catch up with it here. Krishnan Guru-Murthy speaks to Chief Correspondent Alex Thomson, who has been researching the story, campaigner Feargal Sharkey, and whistleblower Robert Forrester.
- 6 May 2026: [River Action: Thousands of serious pollution incidents downgraded without direct inspection](#): Commenting on the Channel 4 report, CEO of River Action James Wallace said: "We are deeply concerned that thousands of the most serious pollution incidents in England have been downgraded without direct inspection over the past decade. These findings raise profound questions about the state of environmental enforcement in England and whether regulators are being properly resourced and empowered to uphold the law".
- 6 May 2026: [Free wildlife walk to take place along River Trent's Victoria Embankment](#): Nottingham City Council is hosting a free wildlife walk along the River Trent on 13 May as part of a series of events encouraging people to explore the city's parks, riversides and green spaces.

- 6 May 2026: [Wildlife Trusts demand more protection for chalk streams:](#) The government has been urged to help save England's chalk streams by several wildlife trusts. In an open letter, backed by 5,400 signatures, the Trusts accused the government of having "fallen short" in its previous assurances to act.
- 6 May 2026: [International scientists urge urban planners to stop burying rivers to build cities:](#) Freshwater wildlife has collapsed by 84 per cent in recent decades - and urban planners are a critical missing link in the effort to reverse it, according to a new report.
- 5 May 2026: [Big Paddle Cleanup: Welsh Paddlers Making a Difference on the Water:](#) The Big Paddle Cleanup 2026 will take place between 23 May and 7 June, and across Wales, clubs and volunteers are once again stepping up to make a real difference to rivers and other inland waters.
- 5 May 2026: [Cumbria announces Nutrient Credit Scheme to unlock housing growth and protect river water quality:](#) The Cumbria Nutrient Neutrality Partnership has just announced its Nutrient Credit Scheme, which it says is "helping unlock new homes and local investment while preventing further phosphorus nutrient pollution across Cumbria's most protected rivers and lakes".
- 5 May 2026: [New research starts to unlock the wild secrets of vast nature recovery project:](#) The biggest landscape investigation ever undertaken by The Wildlife Trusts is underway on The Rothbury Estate in Northumberland. The unique scientific surveys into the wildlife, ecology and history of this vast 9,500-acre estate will unlock the secrets of its wildlife and historic landscape.
- 5 May 2026: [Bourn Brook Balsam Project in Cambridge:](#) The Cam Valley Forum have an update on their latest efforts to tackle that most unwelcome of riverside "visitors", Himalayan Balsam.
- 4 May 2026: [Project White Hart: Mayday call for wild chalk stream salmon:](#) Over the May Day bank holiday weekend, Project White Hart joined forces with world renowned street artist, Julian Beever, to unveil a striking public art installation in the heart of Winchester. The art piece, a spectacular 3D chalk salmon which appeared to leap out from the pavement outside Winchester City Museum, was a high profile public focal point intended to build a broader public understanding of chalk stream salmon and what is at stake. Over the weekend, hundreds of

members of the public came to see the salmon – and learned more about why they matter.

- 1 May 2026: [How strategically creating clean water ponds can boost freshwater wildlife across a landscape](#): Freshwater Habitats Trust CEO Jeremy Biggs says clean water ponds being created by the Newt Conservation Partnership are boosting biodiversity across landscapes: "The good news is that we can halt and reverse the decline of freshwater species by creating new, clean water ponds in the right places. And the latest monitoring results from the Newt Conservation Partnership shows what a difference this is making to landscapes across England."
- 1 May 2026: [Fill your summer with flying colours as Dragonfly Festival returns](#): WWT has announced that its family-fun Dragonfly Festival will be returning this summer, running throughout the school holidays at nine WWT wetland centres.
- 27 April 2026: [Southern Water admits outrageous sea pollution](#): The deeply unimpressive water company pleaded guilty to releasing sewage into water weeks after getting a record £90 million fine for almost 7,000 (count them) illegal discharges.

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Catchment Coordinator: Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust](#) (30 May 2026)
- [Head of Engagement, Education and Partnerships: Ribble Rivers Trust](#) (25 May 2026)
- [Ecologist: Canal and River Trust](#) (20 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)
- [Agricultural Advisor: East Yorkshire 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)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [Trustee Director: The Open Spaces Society](#) (17 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)

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



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