

UK Rivers Network

Weekly News Update –1/6/26

May 2026

- **Join The Big Paddle Cleanup 2026!**: The Big Paddle Cleanup 2026 is here! Paddle UK's annual national campaign encourages and equips paddlers to remove plastic pollution and litter from UK waterways. The 2026 event which runs until 7 June focuses on accessing hard-to-reach areas to protect blue spaces.

- 30 May 2026: [Wild Salmon Day 2026 - Global Salmon Conservation Leaders Issue Joint Statement](#): On June 1st, International Wild Salmon Day, a global coalition of conservation organisations is sending a clear message: restoring salmon rivers can't wait.



Photo: Atlantic salmon parr by Peter E. Steenstra/USFWS, <https://www.fws.gov/media/atlantic-salmon-parr>.

- 30 May 2026: [Malmesbury River Festival celebrates waterways and wildlife](#): Malmesbury is celebrating its rivers with a new month-long festival bringing together art, music and environmental events. The Malmesbury River Festival will run from June 12 to July 5, featuring a programme of events, exhibitions, and community activities.
- 30 May 2026: [WildFish: Can the Scottish Government face up to the environmental crisis of salmon decline?](#): A new Scottish Government now has an opportunity to decide whether wild salmon recovery is genuinely a national priority or destined to become a badge of environmental shame.

- 29 May 2026: [Catchment First on the Cockhaise Brook Barrier Removal Opens 18km of River on the Ouse](#): This spring, Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust completed the removal of the final major barrier to fish passage on the Cockhaise Brook, replacing a deteriorating concrete culvert with a new clear-span bridge and reconnecting more than 18km of river habitat for fish and wildlife.
- 29 May 2026: ["It's an obsession": one man and his family on a mission to save Europe's glutinous snail](#): The snails have been driven to extinction in England by the poor quality of the country's freshwater bodies. Pollutants from agriculture and industry have ruined their habitats in ponds, ditches, lakes and streams.
- 29 May 2026: [Cam Valley Forum's Bourn Brook Balsam, Part 2](#): Over in Cambridge, Himalayan Balsam is back in the firing line, but "bashing" alone isn't enough...
- 29 May 2026: [Worldview: A dangerous dam-building race is threatening South Asia's shared rivers](#): Bangladesh has just approved one of the largest river engineering projects its history: the Padma Barrage, a vast river-control project intended to restore water in the country's drought-prone southwest. Rather than easing regional water insecurity, the Padma Barrage risks adding to a cycle of unilateral river engineering across the subcontinent.
- 29 May 2026: [Worldview: Letting a River Act Like a River](#): Once heavily channelized, the Gila River is reclaiming its big, messy floodplain, with lessons for the rest of the Southwest United States.
- 28 May 2026: [Help shape the future of paddling](#): Paddle UK is developing its next strategy, and they want to hear from the people who paddle, volunteer, coach, compete, campaign, explore, support and care about the places where they paddle.
- 28 May 2026: [This is why rivers and lakes are so dangerous to swim in](#): Unexpected hot weather inevitably brings tragic river-swimming deaths, but not because "rivers and lakes are so dangerous to swim in", as this article claims, but because we don't, any longer, have an outdoor swimming culture where young people understand where, when, and how they can safely swim locally without going to expensive, overcrowded, sterile, and joyless municipal pools. Once, when all kids played outdoors, this was readily shared knowledge; everyone knew

where you could swim. More inland, designated bathing waters will surely help.

- 27 May 2026: [Council backs farmer-led approach to river and nature restoration](#): Maidstone Borough Council is supporting major river and nature restoration work across the borough with a grant to Kent Wildlife Trust, helping farmers and landowners work together to restore habitats, improve water quality and strengthen climate resilience.
- 27 May 2026: [River Action Yes, the hot weather's lovely... but we're sleepwalking into crisis](#): James Wallace of River Action explains why we need to get better at managing water: "We must start treating rainwater as something precious to harvest, store and work with, not something to flush away to the sea as quickly as possible. Our land must be re-wetted and become a sponge again".
- 27 May 2026: [River Wye Charter signing and ceremony marks historic moment for Rights of Nature movement in the UK](#): On Sunday 24 May 2026 a procession made its way from the Hay Festival to The Warren in Hay-on-Wye. There on the shale beach; communities, campaigners, councillors, artists and river guardians gathered to witness a landmark moment in the campaign to Save the Wye -- and in the growing Rights of Nature movement across the UK.
- 27 May 2026: [Cairngorms glen rivers to be safeguarded by 20,000 new trees](#): Rivers and streams in two of Scotland's most scenic glens are to be protected with new trees which will shelter waterways and provide nutrients for fish. Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is planting 20,000 native trees along rivers and streams in Glen Doll and Glen Prosen.
- 27 May 2026: [WWTs Staycation tips for a seasonal journey around the UK's wetlands](#): As spring blooms and summer stretches into long, golden days, there's never been a better time to explore the UK's wetlands. From tranquil city sanctuaries to vast estuaries and wildflower meadows, WWT sites offer a chance to reconnect with nature, boost your wellbeing, and make lasting memories.
- 26 May 2026: [River will take decades to recover from 'vandalism'](#): An ecologist says it will take 20 to 30 years for a stretch of River Lugg in Herefordshire to recover after being bulldozed by a local farmer. John Price was jailed in 2023 for illegally removing tonnes of gravel from the riverbed to build a road and horse yard at his home and tearing out 71

trees. At the trial, Natural England described the damage as the "worst case of riverside destruction" seen by the organisation.

- 26 May 2026: [Fly counters help to spot signs of river pollution](#): A safety net against water pollution is widening thanks to a growing army of fly-counting volunteers. More than 60 groups of voluntary river detectives have now been formed since the Riverfly Partnership scheme arrived in Scotland four years ago.
- 26 May 2026: [Riverside nature site to be protected and enhanced for the community](#): A newly purchased parcel of land will form part of the River Waveney Trust's "River Access for All" project, reconnecting Waveney Valley communities to their rich waterside heritage.
- 26 May 2026: [The misconnected pipes polluting urban rivers](#): Hidden plumbing errors are sending untreated household sewage into rivers, polluting waterways without residents' knowledge. One south-west London river, the Wandle, has been badly affected by these misconnections, according to Dr Isobel Ollard from the South East Rivers Trust (SERT).
- 25 May 2026: [New poll reveals dramatic loss of 'outdoor joy' as we age](#): A new poll published today has found that nearly half of UK adults spend just three hours or less outdoors a week, despite fond childhood memories of being outdoors. The survey of over 2,000 people, commissioned by The Wildlife Trusts found that 88% have positive memories spending time outside as a child -- but that 44% of adults spend only three hours or a less a week outdoors. This rose to 48% of 18 to 24-year-olds who were the most indoorsy generation.
- 24 May 2026: [Paddle volunteers sink oars into river cleanup](#): Volunteers at a watersports club have been clearing rubbish from their local river as part of a national push to clean up waterways and beaches. Tees Valley Dragons, which hosts rowing and paddleboarding events in Stockton, took their boats to the River Tees to take on a new challenge - filling bags with litter.
- 23 May 2026: [WildFish: Barriers and the law: why connectivity of rivers isn't just an ecological matter](#): Making rivers accessible for fish is set out clearly in our present laws - so why are there still so many redundant barriers in our rivers?
- 22 May 2026: [Muck spreading ban to protect Welsh rivers doesn't work, new minister says](#): A ban on muck-spreading over winter months to

protect rivers doesn't work and will be changed, the Welsh government's new environment minister has said. The regulations - brought in by the previous Labour government - were championed by river campaigners but angered many farmers.

- 19 May 2026: [SAS: Scottish Elections: What happened and what can you do now about water pollution?](#): Last month, Surfers Against Sewage travelled across Scotland speaking to communities who are sick of sewage pollution, plastic waste and political excuses. From wild swimmers and surfers to parents, campaigners and local residents, one message came through loud and clear: people want clean, safe waterways – and they want politicians to treat this crisis with the urgency it deserves.
- 19 May 2026: [Too little too late. Environment Agency trial set to explore fines for agricultural regulation](#): The Environment Agency may be shifting its approach to regulating the agricultural sector in England, saying it is in the early stages of a national Fixed Monetary Penalties trial. Environmental campaigners on the River Wye, a waterbody suffering from agricultural pollution, are calling on the EA for more details about the trial and an urgent commitment to enforcing the law.

Forthcoming events in June 2026

- 23 May to 7 June 2026: [Paddle UK Big Paddle Cleanup](#): Paddlers take to the water to clean up their local patch.
- 23 May to 7 June 2026: [Countryside Restoration Trust and Dorset Arts Week 2026](#): This year's theme is "Flow: Artists considered ideas around hydroecology and river systems, including folklore, defence, and rivers as ancient routes and channels of connection. Contemporary perspectives may also address climate change, resource management, population pressure, and how waterways are increasingly being re-engineered through rewilding initiatives."
- Monday 1 June 2026: [Wild Salmon Day](#): Join a global moment to celebrate wild salmon, raise awareness of the threats they face, and highlight the work that is making a difference.
- Saturday 6 to Sunday 7 June 2026: [Leicester Riverside Festival](#): A month-long celebration of British angling. Perfect for lapsed anglers and those keen to start, with friendly events all over the UK.

- Saturday 6 to Sunday 7 June 2026: [River Festival Coventry](#): Celebrate Coventry's hidden river at this year's River Festival, taking place at FarGo Village on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June, from 11am to 4pm each day, and organized by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.
- Saturday 6 to Friday 12 June 2026: [World Ocean Day \(Week\) 2026](#): The MCS has a week of beach cleans and other events to mark World Oceans Day.
- Thursday 11 June 2026: [FBA Annual Scientific Meeting 2026: Emerging approaches for freshwater science](#): "Building on the success of last year's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), we are delighted to announce that the 2026 ASM, in partnership with Edinburgh Napier University, will be shining a light on 'Emerging approaches for freshwater science'".
- Friday 12 June to Sunday 5 July 2026: [Malmesbury River Festival](#): A brand new river festival in Wiltshire!

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Senior Farm Advisor: Lune Rivers Trust](#) (28 June 2026)
- [Project Officer – Woodlands: Lune Rivers Trust](#) (28 June 2026)
- [Aquatic Species Officer: Lune Rivers Trust](#) (28 June 2026)
- [Head of Operations: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\)](#) (19 June 2026)
- [Catchment Restoration Officer: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\)](#) (19 June 2026)
- [Senior Project Officer: Freshwater Habitats Trust](#) (12 June 2026)
- [Administration and Communications Officer: Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust](#) (12 June 2026)
- [Trust Administrator: Wessex Rivers Trust](#) (10 June 2026)
- [Communications Officer : Wessex Rivers Trust](#) (10 June 2026)
- [Administration Assistant: West Wales Rivers Trust](#) (8 June 2026)
- [River Restoration Officer : West Wales Rivers Trust](#) (8 June 2026)
- [Project Officer: Ribble Rivers Trust](#) (8 June 2026)
- [Catchment Conservation Worker: Ribble Rivers Trust](#) (8 June 2026)
- [Water Team Project Officer \(Maternity Cover\): Wiltshire Wildlife Trust](#) (8 June 2026)
- [Senior Catchment Restoration Officer - Upper Teme: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (31 May 2026)

- [Catchment Coordinator: Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust](#) (30 May 2026)
- [River Restoration Manager: Thames21](#) (29 May 2026)
- [Learning and Engagement Manager: Thames Estuary Partnership](#) (Closing date variable)
- [Head of Engagement, Education and Partnerships: Ribble Rivers Trust](#) (25 May 2026)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [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.

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