

UK Rivers Network

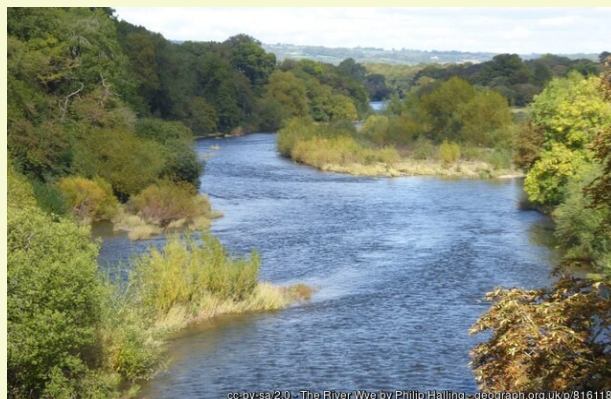
Weekly News Update –15/6/26

June 2026

- 13 June 2026: ["Fast-track" regulation could expose Britons to harmful chemicals, say campaigners](#): An environmental campaign group is taking legal action against the government over proposals that it claims could fast-track chemical hazard classifications from other countries with lower standards into UK law.
- 13 June 2026: [Could a Burnham government return water to public ownership?](#): According to The Guardian, ambitious water and energy reform are part of Andy Burnham's agenda.
- 13 June 2026: [Ireland: Stop the Spread: Workshop Series Protecting the Maigue Catchment from Invasive Species](#): "The Maigue Rivers Trust invites you to take part in this series of interactive workshops facilitated by StreamScapes. By raising awareness, building skills, and promoting simple, effective actions we can help prevent the spread of invasive species and protect river health. Through a mix of presentations, guided walks, and hands-on field sessions, participants will gain a deeper understanding of freshwater ecosystems and the role we all play in safeguarding them". The remaining sessions are on 20-22 June and 15 August.
- 12 June 2026: [Popular fishing spot in Shropshire's River Morda "drying up"s](#): People have been shocked to see part of a Shropshire river apparently "drying up." The River Morda runs for nearly 17 miles on the English/Wales border. Rising in the hills above Oswestry, it flows eastwards through Trefonen and Morda before meeting the River Vrynwy.
- 12 June 2026: [London Rivers Week sees celebration of nature in the capital](#): This year's theme, "Know Your Local River", saw events pop up across the city, encouraging Londoners to explore and connect with their nearest river. There were 70 events across the city, ranging from fish

surveys and litter picks to guided walks and river-themed poetry workshops.

- 12 June 2026: [The River Wye recognised as living ecosystem in UK first: here's why it matters](#): Stretching for around 155 miles, the Wye rises in the Cambrian Mountains in Wales, flows through Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, and winds its way to the Bristol Channel. Long celebrated for its natural beauty, it also stands as a symbol of environmental decline.



River Wye - © Copyright [Philip Halling](#), originally published on [Geograph](#) under a [Creative Commons \(BY-SA-2.0\) Licence](#).

- 12 June 2026: [ERN: Bust your dams! Open Rivers Program funding is open until 26 June!](#): Don't wait any longer to submit your dam removal projects to the Open Rivers program. By 2029, the goal is to fund more than 500 dam removals and reopen more than 5,000 km of waterways. European Open Rivers Programme is a Dutch grant giving foundation funded by Arcadia (and, yes, it does include the UK).
- 12 June 2026: [Funding milestone reached for Rosyth's "struggling" river habitats](#): The Rosyth River Restoration project has secured funding for its next three phases, offering "huge potential" for local ecology and community benefits. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Water Environment Fund has committed £270,000, and Fife Council has allocated £50,000 from the Nature Restoration Fund.
- 11 June 2026: [Race against time to save Endangered native crayfish](#): As invasive American Signal Crayfish numbers surge at a Derbyshire site, a bold rescue mission gives the UK's White-clawed Crayfish a fighting chance, thanks to a new "Ark site" in neighbouring Staffordshire.
- 11 June 2026: [Worldview: Large-scale McKenzie River restoration "truly moves the needle"](#): A look at how Canada's McKenzie River Trust, along with the Eugene Water and Electric Board, the McKenzie Watershed Council and the National Forest Service, has been incrementally converting hundreds of acres of land near the McKenzie River into a wider floodplain.

- 10 June 2026: [Environment Agency issues new permit for Cornish Davidstow creamery](#): The Agency argues it has struck the right balance between allowing expansion at the "persistently poorly performing site" while respecting environmental concerns with additional conditions added following a public consultation earlier this year.
- 10 June 2026: [Restoring the River Breamish to a natural course](#): The next phase in a multi-decade scheme to restore a river to a more natural course is to begin in August. The scheme, led by the charity Tweed Forum, will remove engineering structures which historically straightened the river on a section in the Hedgeley area, north of Rothbury.
- 10 June 2026: [Cotswold citizen scientists find "worrying" river pollution](#): A group of Gloucestershire neighbours testing their local river every week for more than a year say they are concerned by "worryingly high" levels of phosphates and nitrates recorded.
- 10 June 2026: [How can river groups help farmers?](#): Ribble Rivers Trust have an interesting blog post this week explaining the agricultural outreach work of their four dedicated farm advisers.
- 8 June 2026: [Thames Path 30th anniversary relay starts at source](#): A walking relay to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Thames Path is underway, after it kicked off at the source of the iconic waterway. Over 24 days this month, hundreds of ramblers, community and river-user groups will trek along the route - finishing in Woolwich on 28 June.
- 8 June 2026: [Summer tips for riverfly surveyors](#): Newly published guidance this week offers top tips for minimising stress to invertebrates, explains how to survey when the water level is too low to sample, looks at particular risks you might encounter during the summer, and explores how riverfly numbers change with the seasons.
- 8 June 2026: [FBA: An inside look at the wildlife banknote battle](#): While the tabloids froth about replacing Churchill with batty badgers, Steve Ormerod, a professor of freshwater ecology at Cardiff University, explains how candidate animals have been shortlisted for official recognition.
- 8 June 2026: [River wildlife moves freely once dams are removed... but so too can invasive species](#): Queen's University Belfast researchers studying dam removals report that "more than 2,200 dams, weirs and other barriers have been removed between 2020 and 2025. This may help native species move more freely, but... invasive freshwater invertebrates

increased substantially following removal, suggesting that reconnecting rivers can also have unintended consequences".

- 8 June 2026: [Yorkshire storm sewage tank illustrates need for better communication](#): A Yorkshire Water scheme to solve sewage overflows by building a giant floodwater storage tank has sparked public concern through poor communication.
- 8 June 2026: [Reminder: Discover the Rivers4Life Exhibition](#): Join the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust for an Open Day on Saturday 27 June, taking place within their Rivers4Life exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, from 1pm: "This unique event offers visitors the chance to explore our family-friendly exhibition celebrating the rivers, wildlife and catchments of the Yorkshire Dales, while also taking part in guided walks, live demonstrations and expert talks showcasing our conservation work across the region." Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Rivers4Life runs daily from 6 June to 27 September 2026, open 10am–4pm, seven days a week.
- 8 June 2026: [Marine Conservation Society: What a super El Niño could mean for marine life](#): There are growing concerns that a "Super El Niño" could develop this year. MCS UK explore what this phenomenon is and what it could mean for our ocean - and the life within it.
- 8 June 2026: [Protecting Westfield from East West Rail](#): The Countryside Regeneration Trust explains why it is fighting to protect Westfield, a wildlife-rich area of farmland at Lark Rise Farm in Cambridgeshire, from the worst impacts of East West Rail's proposed Cambridge-to-Oxford rail line.
- 8 June 2026: [Paddling to wellness through blue-space sport](#): Paddle UK takes a look at the inspiring work of Phoenix Watersport, which helps a diverse community of people to find confidence and joy through safe and accessible paddling.
- 8 June 2026: [York rivers trail: shaping river stories](#): A new riverside experience for York took a significant step forward last week, as residents, partners and contributors came together on the River Ouse to help shape the York rivers trail.
- 1 June 2026: [SAS: What do people think of the Water Reform Bill?](#): New research from Surfers Against Sewage suggests people think: 1) Current plans from Government don't go far enough; 2) The public are angry and

concerned about rising water bills; 3) The public wants people and the planet put before payouts; 4) Water reform is an electoral issue.

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [Director, Central Team: Freshwater Habitats Trust](#) (15 July 2026)
- [Catchment Restoration Officer - Warwickshire Avon Catchment: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (5 July 2026)
- [Landscapes Recovery Manager: Herts Wildlife Trust](#) (1 July 2026)
- [Consultancy and Development Manager: Norfolk Rivers Trust](#) (29 June 2026)
- [Catchment Officer: South East Rivers Trust](#) (28 June 2026)
- [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 Flood Support: National Flood Forum](#) (24 June 2026)
- [Head of Programmes: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\)](#) (19 June 2026)
- [Principal Research Officer, Wetland Science: WWT](#) (24 June 2026)
- [Project Officer \(Commons\): West Cumbria Rivers Trust](#) (24 June 2026)
- [Project Officer River Restoration \(East\): Yorkshire Wildlife Trust](#) (21 June 2026)
- [Environmental Scientist: Canal and River Trust](#) (20 June 2026)
- [Head of Operations: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\)](#) (19 June 2026)
- [Catchment Restoration Officer: Bristol Avon Rivers Trust \(BART\)](#) (19 June 2026)
- [Conservation Officer and Manager \(2 vacancies\): Upper Caldw: Eden Rivers Trust](#) (18 June 2026)
- [Senior Agricultural Officer \(Water and Wildlife Friendly Farming\): River Thame Conservation Trust](#) (18 June 2026)
- [River Restoration Lead: Yorkshire Water](#) (15 June 2026)
- [Senior Farm Advisor: Tees Rivers Trust](#) (14 June 2026)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [Trustee: National Flood Forum](#) (14 June)
- [Trustee: Herefordshire Wildlife Trust](#) (8 June)
- [Trustee \(accounting skills\): Aire 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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