

UK Rivers Network

Weekly News Update –22/6/26

June 2026

- 20 June 2026: [Midsummer Celebration of the Rights of the Cam!](#): Join the Friends of the Cam for "our 6th Declaration of the Rights of the River Cam and our dedication to defend the river, which will be collectively read at 6pm on Jesus Green on Sunday 21st June 2026. We will be located between the kiosk/footbridge and the tennis courts. The event will start at 4.30 with art activities and river music and the programme will begin at 5pm".

Photo: The River Cam at Jesus Green. © [MJ Richardson](#) and licensed for reuse under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY-SA 2.0\) Licence](#).



- 20 June 2026: [Europe's bathing waters leave Britain's wanting](#): New figures show that, in 2025, 88% of coastal bathing waters in the EU were classified as excellent, compared to 78% of inland bathing waters. In Britain, 66.1% of designated bathing waters in England were classified as 'Excellent', and 36% of inland bathing sites across were classified as poor, including 12 out of 15 designated river bathing sites. (And a quick reminder that a designation of 'Excellent' does not mean consistently excellent water quality...)
- 19 June 2026: [Stop chemicals polluting Thames, petition demands](#): A plan to swap 75 million litres a day of the River Thames with wastewater has sparked a petition demanding "forever chemicals" be stopped from polluting the waterway. Save Our Lands And River (Solar) said current proposals do not do enough to filter out micropollutants - which can include pesticides and stimulants.

- 19 June 2026: [Think before you flush: expert advice on how and when to save water at home](#): A timely article by Stuart Walker, Research Fellow in Sustainability Assessment, University of Sheffield, encourages us all to "follow the principle of reduce, reuse and recycle to use less of this water and to make the most of the water we use this summer".
- 19 June 2026: [Exclusive testing finds River Trent water contains more E.coli than a high street pub toilet](#): "Exclusive testing" reported by LBC News this week found repeated signs of serious faecal contamination, with every sample from downstream of an outlet on the River Trent returning higher levels of E.coli than a sample taken from a pub toilet. Six sets of water samples were taken upstream and downstream of an outlet outside Burton upon Trent in Staffordshire between 31 July 2025 and 12 March 2026 and analysed by a UKAS-accredited laboratory.
- 19 June 2026: [Is drought making a comeback?](#): Just three months after the last drought officially ended, the parched conditions this spring have increased the risk of drought this summer. The National Drought Group met this week and heard that while water resources remain in a relatively healthy position following an exceptionally wet winter, some areas are already seeing the impacts of drier conditions.
- 19 June 2026: [High tech buoy to be used to monitor water quality](#): A high-tech buoy that continuously monitors water quality is to be launched on the River Wye in Herefordshire. The idea is for the buoy to measure indicators such as turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH and temperature, which is fed into an online platform that provides instant analysis. The project aims to enable Ross Rowing Club and other local groups to gain a better understanding of their local water quality.
- 18 June 2026: [The Biodiversity Heritage Library needs YOU!](#): The Guardian published a wonderful summary of the Biodiversity Library's work this week... and why it's now seeking financial support.
- 18 June 2026: [Is citizen science a distraction?](#): That provocative thought is one of the very challenging ideas floated in Oxford researcher Hope Steadman's piece in The Conversation this week. One of the volunteers she interviewed felt "water companies encouraged participation in citizen science, while ignoring the data... [and] In his view, citizen science risks becoming a tool for keeping volunteers busy and distracted, rather than driving accountability."

- 18 June 2026: [Paddling hygiene can help prevent stowaways](#): Sarah-Kay Purdon and Olivia Pargeter from RSPB Cymru explain how sensible precautions can help paddlers from inadvertently helping to spread invasive species.
- 17 June 2026: [Paul Powlesland accused of acting "illegally" after organising volunteers to clean up River Roding](#): Irony of ironies. When Paul Powlesland, intrepid lawyer and nationally respected river campaigner, organised volunteers to tackle litter, weed and silt from a section of the River Roding, after the Environment Agency repeatedly failed to act, he found himself threatened with pre prosecution. The nature writer Robert Macfarlane, who has visited the Roding, said on Instagram: "If the Environment Agency do prosecute I guarantee they will meet a tidal wave of objection, ridicule and more". Watch this space as the EA's latest public relations disaster unfolds.
- 17 June 2026: [FBA Book Review: "Beyond the Sea: A love letter to freshwaters"](#): FBA's new Species Recovery Manager, Sarah Raubenheimer, takes a look at David Strayer's Beyond the Sea: The Hidden Life in Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands, which was published by Johns Hopkins University Press last year.
- 17 June 2026: [Save Windermere's Work Continues to Drive Progress on Pollution Reduction](#): Clean River Kent Campaign have paid tribute to Save Windermere's work "in keeping water quality at the forefront of public discussion and pushing for meaningful action to protect one of our most treasured landscapes. Their persistence and evidence-led approach continue to drive progress towards a future free from sewage pollution in the catchment".
- 15 June 2026: [New microplastics research examines River Thames](#): A new study into microplastic pollution in the River Thames has been launched by researchers at the University of East London (UEL) in an attempt to influence environmental policy and water quality.
- 15 June 2026: [Big Paddle Cleanup: Sports Cover Europe join Lee Valley river clean](#): Volunteers from Sportscover Europe joined Paddle UK staff and canoe slalom athlete Bethan Forrow, for a cleanup on the River Lee this month.
- 15 June 2026: [Real-time monitoring to protect River Test](#): A scheme to provide real-time pollution monitoring along the entire length of a chalk stream is believed to be the first of its kind in the country. Nearly 20

sensors, known as sondes, have been placed into the River Test to continuously measure key indicators of water quality.

- 15 June 2026: [What is Environmental DNA and why is it useful?:](#) Environmental DNA (eDNA) is an exciting scientific tool that allows us to explore the diversity of organisms living in the environment. In this blog post from WildFish, freshwater ecologist Dr Sam Green explains eDNA and the advantages it brings to citizen science when we unlock its full potential.
- 15 June 2026: [Cows give a 'helping hoof' to restore rare Oxfordshire wetland:](#) A small herd of cows has been introduced to help protect one of Oxfordshire's rarest and most wildlife-rich habitats. With the help of volunteers, Freshwater Habitats Trust has been restoring the alkaline fen at Hinksey Heights, west of Oxford, since 2018. Now, the Oxford-based charity is introducing five native Dexter cattle to manage vegetation and give rare wetland wildlife a chance to thrive.
- 13 June 2026: [Surfers Against Sewage: What is public ownership?:](#) Louise Reddy of SAS explores the "whole spectrum of options" open to the government as it wrestles with growing public scepticism about water reform.
- 13 June 2026: [River Action welcomes Burnham call for Thames Water intervention:](#) River Action says: Burnham's intervention comes as concern grows within the Government over Thames Water's future. This week, the Secretary of State for the Environment opposed the company's latest £10 billion market-led rescue plan, saying it 'doesn't do enough to protect consumers and the environment'. These developments reinforce the need for a fundamental reset of the water industry, starting with Thames Water."
- 14 June 2026: [The River Arun: The man-made river that turned a town's fortunes:](#) Running through Arundel, West Sussex, the river became one of the county's busiest trading routes, carrying coal, timber, tea and salt. Before human intervention, however, it was difficult to navigate, with the tidal reach stopping short of Arundel and limiting access for larger vessels. In the 18th century, major improvements were made to the river to enhance its role in trade.
- 13 June 2026: [Is Thames Water moving "closer to nationalisation"?:](#) The BBC was among those reporting that Thames Water had moved "a step closer to a form of nationalisation" this week, following concerns raised by

Environment Secretary Emma Reynolds over bailout proposals. It's worth reminding ourselves that "special administration", as this refers to, is not the same thing as nationalisation, by taking a look at the admirably clear explanation Oxford University's Dieter Helm published last year.

- 8 June 2026: [WSRT: Cleaning up the River Ems](#): Western Sussex Rivers Trust published a horrible inventory of their haul from a cleanup of the Ems this week, including: "A car bumper, household door and large gas cannister, a kettle, birthday party debris and a bag of used nappies!" Lovely.

Jobs and other opportunities

The closing dates for jobs are in brackets.

Jobs

- [River Restoration Operations Manager: Westcountry Rivers Trust](#) (19 July 2026)
- [River Restoration Team Operative: Westcountry Rivers Trust](#) (19 July 2026)
- [Director, Central Team: Freshwater Habitats Trust](#) (15 July 2026)
- [Senior Project Officer - New Forest: Freshwater Habitats Trust](#) (8 July 2026)
- [Radnorshire Rivers Project Manager: Radnorshire Wildlife Trust](#) (5 July 2026)
- [Catchment Restoration Officer - Warwickshire Avon Catchment: Severn Rivers Trust](#) (5 July 2026)
- [Project Administrator, Headstart: Freshwater Habitats Trust](#) (3 July 2026)
- [Catchment Officer: West Cumbria Rivers Trust](#) (30 June 2026)
- [Landscapes Recovery Manager: Herts Wildlife Trust](#) (1 July 2026)
- [Consultancy and Development Manager: Norfolk Rivers Trust](#) (29 June 2026)
- [Specialist Lead - Monitoring and Evidence: South East Rivers Trust](#) (29 June 2026)
- [Fisheries Specialist: South East Rivers Trust](#) (29 June 2026)
- [Senior River and Fisheries Officer: Westcountry Rivers Trust](#) (28 June 2026)
- [River and Fisheries Project Officer: Westcountry Rivers Trust](#) (28 June 2026)
- [Catchment Officer: South East Rivers Trust](#) (28 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)
- [Technical Programme Manager, Headstart: Freshwater Habitats Trust](#) (26 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)

Trustees and other voluntary posts

- [Trustee \(accounting skills\): Aire Rivers Trust](#) (N/A)
- [Trustee: Somerset Wildlife Trust](#) (20 July)
- [Volunteer Educational Activities Assistant: WWT Martin Mere](#) (Burscough, Lancashire, 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.

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