

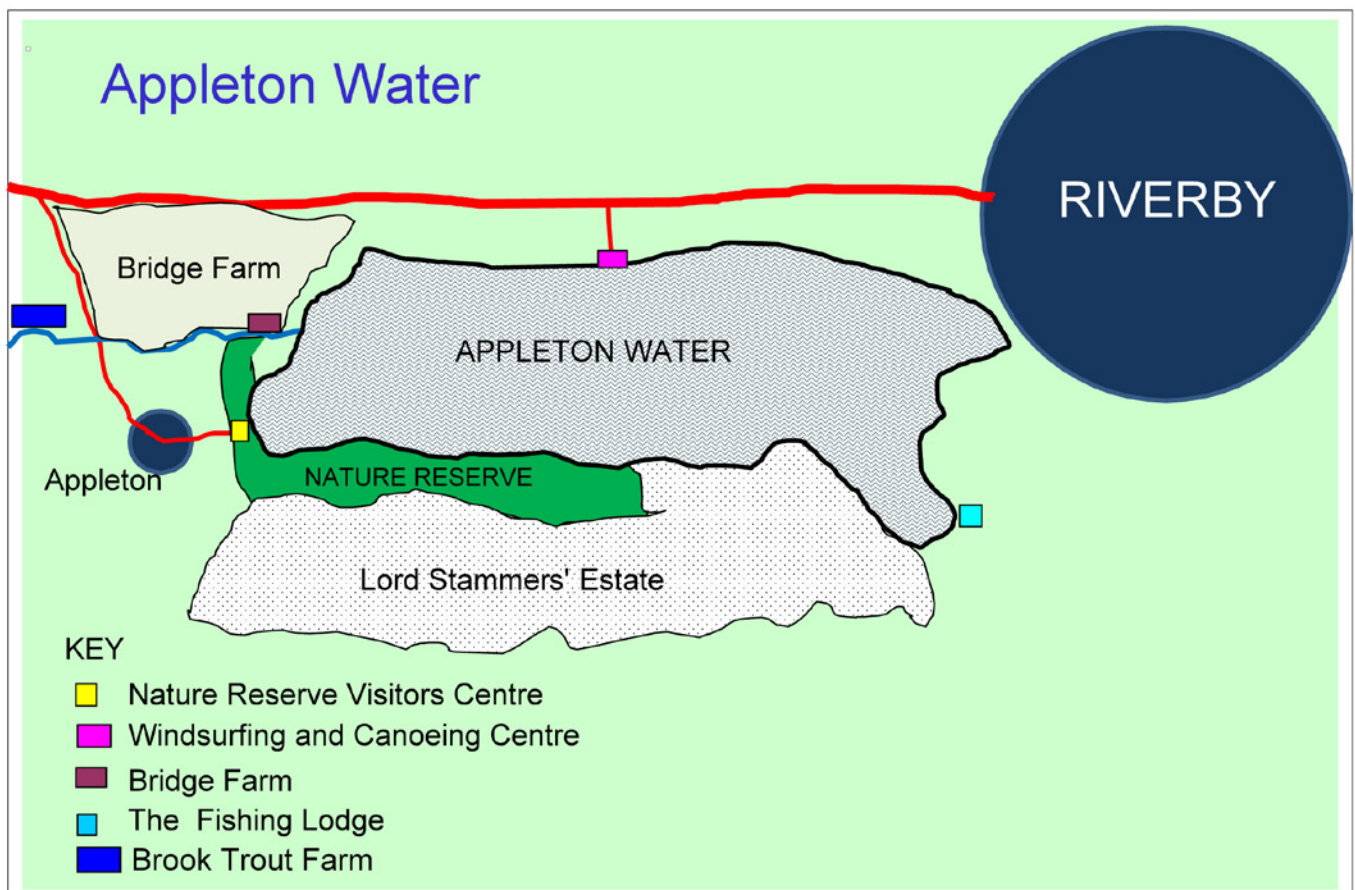
Appleton Water - Should we re-introduce Ospreys?

What happened to Ospreys?

Ospreys became extinct in England about 150 years ago, a combination of persecution and changes in their habitats by humans. We now are more aware of the importance of conservation, and with a more sensitive approach to wildlife and by protecting habitats, it is now possible to re-introduce ospreys and establish breeding populations on nature reserves in England. (This has been done with great success at Rutland Water - find out more at www.ospreys.org.uk)

Appleton Water (A fictional case study)

Appleton Water is a reservoir in the West Midlands. It stores water for several large towns to the east including Riverby. Roads are shown in red on the map. The main road to Riverby runs on the north side of the reservoir, with a lane to Appleton.



The reservoir and reserve was built on land owned by Lord Stammers, whose estate is to the south of Appleton Water.

Appleton Water - Should we re-introduce Ospreys? - cont

Appleton Water has a nature reserve on the south west shore with its entrance via a small lane from the village of Appleton. The nature reserve has a small car park, visitors centre and several hides looking out onto the water.

On the north shore is the Appleton Water Sailing and Canoeing Centre. Wind surfers and canoeists have a clubhouse and shoreline with water access to use the northern half of the reservoir.

The reservoir is stocked with trout from Brook Trout Farm northwest of Appleton village. Access is from the lane to Appleton village.

At the eastern end of the reservoir is the Fishing Lodge. Trout fishing is available from the bank or by boat at the eastern end of Appleton Water with an appropriate licence and a permit from the Fishing Lodge.

Bridge Farm is at the western end of Appleton Water. Access is by a track which joins the lane to Appleton village. The mixed farm has milking cattle, sheep and grows a variety of animal feed crops.

Ospreys at Appleton Water?

Ospreys have been seen at Appleton Water when they “stop-off” during their migration north to Scotland in spring and again in the autumn when ospreys fly south to spend the winter in West Africa.

It may be possible get special permission to bring young ospreys to Appleton Water from Scotland. These young Scottish ospreys, when released, will believe Appleton Water Nature Reserve is their home. This means that when they return to the UK in the future, they will return to the Appleton Water area to breed. If successful, visitors to Appleton Water Nature Reserve could see ospreys nest and raise their young here.

Re-introducing ospreys into an area will speed-up their natural re-population of the UK, which would take many years from Scottish populations. However although some people would support this project, there are others who would be less enthusiastic.

Appleton Water - Should we re-introduce Ospreys? - cont

Here are some of the people who would have their own views about such a re-introduction....

Appleton Water Nature Reserve Manager - in charge of the reserve. The manager would have the responsibility of the re-introduction project, and organise the reserve “team” and the volunteers at the visitors centre.

Riverby Tourist Office - run an accommodation booking service for visitors to the area. They represent the guest houses, hotels, and bed and breakfast businesses in the area.

Bridge Farm - a mixed farm, with sheep and cattle, on the Appleton road near to the nature reserve.

Riverby Town Council – represent the town of Riverby (population 20,000). They have to balance the “for” and “against” for any development which may bring more visitors to the area and put pressures on local transport, roads, and amenities.

RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) – a powerful national conservation organisation. Their work is driven by a passionate belief that all have a responsibility to protect birds and the environment.

Appleton Residents Association – represents the residents living in the quiet rural village of Appleton.

Fisherman’s Arms – a 17th Century pub on the village green in Appleton. This has bed and breakfast accommodation.

The Village Store – A small grocery shop and general store on the village green in Appleton.

Fishing Lodge – represents those who fish for trout in the reservoir, and enjoy a tranquil setting for their pass time, and are allowed to take home the fish that they catch.

Gamekeeper of Lord Stammers Estate – is responsible for rearing the game birds on the estate, including pheasants and partridges. Game shooting brings important income to the estate. Gamekeepers are also responsible for managing wildlife habitats on the estate.

Brook Trout Farm – The fish are reared in large ponds using fresh water from the river flowing into Appleton Water. Owned by Lord Stammers. Sell live fish to Appleton Water and other fisheries in the area.

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Water Authority – manage Appleton Water as a source of drinking water for Riverby and other large towns in the West Midlands. They are very strict about uses of the reservoir but promote the reservoir as a local resource.

Appleton Sailing and Canoe Centre (ASACC) – a popular activity centre, with a clubhouse and water access for windsurfers and canoeists. They currently are limited to the north half of the reservoir to prevent disturbance to anyone fishing, or of the wildlife at the Nature Reserve.

West Borough Highways – are responsible for roads in the area. They also have an important part to play in any development which may affect traffic or roads; e.g. road safety, parking, junctions and road signs.

Natural England – have to give a licence to Appleton Nature Reserve to allow them to take young ospreys from Scotland to start their project in the Midlands.

