

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

How to use this information...

### Introduction

Your class will need to look at this case study information first. It would be a good idea to look at [www.ospreys.org.uk](http://www.ospreys.org.uk) to find out about how ospreys were re-introduced at Rutland water as this will show many other aspects and the timescale involved in such a project.

**The aim is to use the case study as a stimulus for a variety of individual or group activities.**

#### 1. Role play public meeting - Should Ospreys be reintroduced to Appleton Water? (Role play)

Introduce the scenario. Allocate a role to pairs in the group.

Ask them to create a suitable name of a person to represent their role and prepare a maximum of 2 minutes to present their view regarding at the meeting.

Chair the meeting -give each the opportunity to present their case

- allow some time for questions of further points to be raised
- have a “class vote” on the re-introduction
- is further evidence or research needed?

#### 2. Letter to the MP for Riverby and Makrillston constituency

The class can choose to write a formal letter from one of the interest groups to the MP regarding re-introduction of ospreys at Appleton Water. Letter setting out and style make good teaching points.

#### 3. The Appleby Herald

Write a short local news paper piece about the proposed re-introduction of ospreys at Appleton Water. It will need a headline, picture, and some quotes from interest groups or people with views about the project.

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### 4. Publicity for the public meeting at Appleton Village hall

A public meeting will be held at Appleton village. Design a flyer or poster with a suitable slogan and graphics to catch the eye and encourage as many as possible to attend the meeting. You need a time and location for the meeting on your flyer or poster.

### 5. For and Against

Introducing ospreys would be a wonderful conservation project. However it would also have an effect of many people, and on the local communities. Even though this sort of project has been a success in other places we have to ask would it be right for Appleton Water?

Using the information make a list of reasons - **For**  
- **Against**

If you were planning the project what sort of things might happen in the future as a result?

## Key issues -Teachers notes

Here are some suggestions regarding some of the key local issues in this case study....

### For

Osprey distribution in the UK is accelerated. It would probably take over 100yrs for ospreys to naturally repopulate this area in the Midlands from wild populations of birds.

Inspire more people to be interested in wildlife.

Prestige of the project at Appleton Nature Reserve - locally, nationally and internationally.

Attraction of conservation funding: for the Nature Reserve, visitors centre, hides, staff etc.

Visitor attraction to the reserve and area (over 30,000 visited the Rutland Ospreys last year).

Increased local income for local pub, shop, and cafe's hotels and other accommodation.

Development of other wildlife projects as a result of funding for the ospreys.

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### Against

Ospreys may require larger exclusion areas for other users of Appleton Water (eg water sports and fishing).

Need more staff (cost) and volunteers to manage increased visitor numbers at the Nature Reserve.

Protection of the ospreys against intruders (eg egg collectors, photographers near to nest site).

Ospreys (only) eat fish - local fish farms and owners of fish ponds may have ospreys taking their fish.

Increased traffic to the nature reserve - access is only by small lane through Appleton village, so passing traffic in the lane causes difficulties for locals and visitors alike, and more car parking may be required.

Effects on local farms - access on lanes used for farm vehicles and stock, people trying to get a closer look at the ospreys using footpaths or they may trespass into crops.

Signposting and junction changes for safe main road access to the nature reserve may be required

Lord Stammers' estate is next to the nature reserve- concern over disturbance to game birds.

Disturbance of the residents of Appleton village caused by increased visitor numbers.