

## Chapter 27

# A Panorama of Activities at Rutland Water

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In an earlier chapter, David Moore explained how the passing of the Water Act in 1973 created new Regional Water Authorities with a statutory duty to make the best use of water resources and associated land for public recreation. This enabled a progressive approach to providing a balance of recreation and wildlife enhancement as an integral part of the construction of new reservoirs.

Almost 35 years later, the success of this approach is obvious to any visitor to the shores of Rutland Water. In establishing and maintaining the delicate balance between leisure, sport and wildlife conservation, it has gained an international reputation for providing something for everyone.

This chapter offers a selected panorama of activities that can be enjoyed on and around the reservoir.



*Left:  
A wonderful  
location for  
artists (RO)*



*Left: Sunny  
days in  
October, when  
the reservoir is  
at low level,  
provide  
endless  
opportunities  
for the  
photographer  
(SS)*

*Rutland Water's many moods make it a photographer's paradise*  
(Richard Adams)

*Below: Time for a break at the annual Birdfair, which draws thousands of visitors to the nature reserve*  
(Richard Adams)



*Right: Rest and contemplate in peace at the Barnsdale Drought Garden and Arboretum, designed by the late Geoff Hamilton (RO)*



*Above: The shores of Rutland Water are ideal for picnics. Celebrate your birthday or any other anniversary here*  
(RO)



*The cafés at each of the four car parks, known as the Four Foxes, are good stopping-off places on a cycle ride around the reservoir (SS)*



*Below: Sounding Bridge, near Manton, one of many locations around Rutland Water regularly chosen by birdwatchers (RO)*



*Right: The view from Deep Water hide on Lyndon Hill Nature Reserve. Rutland Water has one of the most important wildfowl sanctuaries in Great Britain and with 22 hides the birdwatcher is well catered for (RO)*



*Left: The Birdwatching Centre at Egleton is invariably the starting point for visitors to the internationally famous nature reserve (RO)*



*Competitive sailing with Rutland Sailing Club (Richard Adams)*



*Below: 'Messing about in boats!' The watersports and training centre at Whitwell Harbour is a wonderful place to windsurf, sail and canoe (RO)*



*Above: Lyndon Hill Visitor Centre is described by Anglian Water as 'the gateway to a quieter, more peaceful place that is rich in flowers and birdsong in spring and summer'. Nesting Ospreys are a big attraction here (SS)*



*Normanton Church Museum, the reservoir's most famous landmark, tells the story of Rutland Water (RO)*





*Sailing classes for youngsters are summer favourites (Rutland & Stamford Mercury)*



*Rutland Water is an ideal place for windsurfers, and for those just watching them (Rutland & Stamford Mercury)*



*Camping for watersports enthusiasts near Whitwell Harbour (RO)*



The annual 'Dambuster' triathlon is the only opportunity to swim in Rutland Water (David Moore)  
 Below: The cycle hire centres at Whitwell and Normanton are busy throughout the year (RO)



Below: A bicycle made for two.  
 Cycling is one of the most popular activities at Rutland Water and there are plenty of routes to choose from (RO)  
 Bottom Left: Cycling for the whole family (RO)  
 Bottom Right: Exercising the dog the easy way! (RO)





*The perimeter track of Rutland Water offers plenty of scope for both casual and serious walkers (SS)*



*Above: The Heritage of Rutland Water guided historical walk at Normanton Church Museum in September 2006 (RO)*



*Left: Fundraising for the brass band of the Ancient Order of Foresters (RO)*



*A cruise on the Rutland Belle is an excellent way to explore Rutland Water (RO)*



*A late afternoon Osprey cruise on the Rutland Belle usually results in one or more sightings of this bird, recently reintroduced to Rutland (SS)*



*Spacious play areas for children of all ages (RO)*





*The Rockblok climbing centre at Whitwell car park offers activities to suit all ages and abilities. The challenging climbing wall requires a good deal of concentration (RO)*



*The high-ropes assault course at the climbing centre tests the nerves – and head for heights (RO)*

*The Butterfly and Aquatic Centre at Sykes Lane car park, Empingham, invites visitors to enter a tropical world (RO)*



*Above: Trampolining skills being demonstrated at the climbing centre (RO)*

*Right: Rutland Water fly fishing instructor Dave 'Curly' Doherty (left) prepares to net a fish for Rutland Water's Tackle Shop retail assistant Paul Shaw near Manton Bay (Cliff Waters Design)*





*Above Left: Reservoir warden Alan Dalton with a 20lb Pike he caught when fly fishing on the north arm of Rutland Water in 2006 (Nigel Savage, Anglian Water)*



*Above Right: The weigh-in near Normanton Fishing Lodge at the end of a two-day trout fishing competition which attracted anglers from all over the country and abroad (SS)*

*Below: A family from St Albans, Hertfordshire, enjoying well-earned ice-creams, having just completed a 17-mile cycle ride around the reservoir (SS)*

