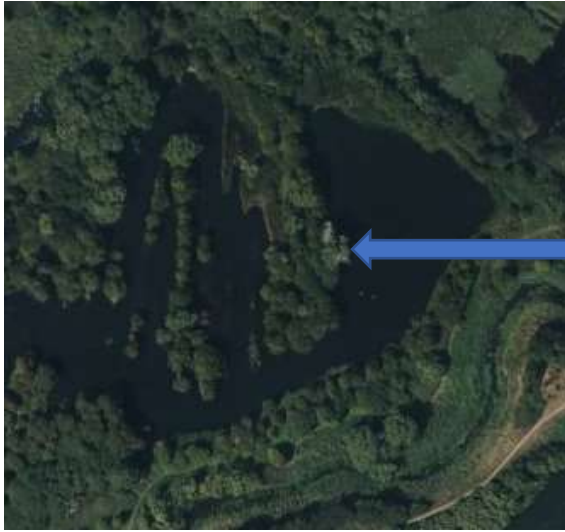


Nene Valley cormorant roosting sites

Jake Davoile Angling Trust 2019

Storton's Pits: SP 732 600



Earls Barton Gravel Pits: SP 866 623



Ditchford Gravel Pits: SP 940 684



Stanwick Gravel Pits: SP 974 728



Kinewell lake: SP 976 751



Thrapston Gravel Pits: TL 003 799



Ferry Meadows: TL 149 976



Grafham Water: TL 158 685

Rutland Water: SK 917 066

Eyebrook Reservoir: SP 853 951

Ravensthorpe Reservoir: SP 679 708

Pitsford Reservoir: SP 778 697

Hollowell Reservoir: SP 688 729

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Hi folks

Further to Rob's email, I just wanted to add some more thoughts from my experience of counting cormorants as they come into roost.

In my opinion, a coordinated roosting bird count is the most effective way of determining how many birds are in any catchment at any given point. This involves a person at each roosting bird site an hour or 2 before dark, counting birds on the trees and then counting birds coming into roost. Binoculars/scopes are a must and two people will work better as you can cover different angles of approach. As more birds come into roost, they will squabble, some birds will come off the roost, circle, and land again. This may happen a few times, which in low-light conditions can prove tricky. Photographs and videos all help to corroborate the data.

Counting on the same evening will eliminate double counting and birds will come from far and wide to roost in large numbers, often into the hundreds.

I'd recommend going for a recce, looking for trees that are white with cormorant guano. This can also be seen on google maps (see attached maps). Check OS maps to look at access

points, rights of way, and make sure to obtain landowner's consent if roosting sites need to be counted on private land.

The last time I counted the birds in the Nene valley was 3 years ago so things may have changed and I have not counted all of the sites listed as some of those counts were BTO data. I've attached a rough word document with the roosting sites mapped (please note that the list and grid refs have changed from the previous list). I'm not sure about the larger reservoirs and will need local knowledge to help identify the locations of roosting tree.

For the purposes of licensing, the peak count will assist NE in determining numbers under licence across the valley. I imagine this will be either Dec or Jan, with peak numbers of overwintering 'sinensis' birds in the catchment. Looking at other catchments, I've found numbers to be 3-4 times higher than what was previously thought using the WeBS data.

Okay, I've written the word roost far too many times for one email.

Best wishes

Jake

**Jake Davoile | Fisheries Management Advisor | Angling Trust**

Office: 07949 703206 | Mobile: 07949 703206