

'There is certainly no circumstance of landscape more interesting or beautiful than water and there can be no person so void of taste as not to feel the necessity of improving the valley at Normanton [now under Rutland Water] by enlarging the river, yet this is a subject attended with some difficulty and requires more management than may at first be conceived; for though it might be possible to make such a dam or head as would convert the whole valley into one vast lake, yet the expense of such a bank, and the waste of so much valuable land, is more than I would dare to advise . . .? (Humphry Repton, 1797)







