



Down the hatch... a pike meets its match

AT first it appears the cormorant has bitten off more than it can chew. Then it simply swallows the foot-long pike whole.

This remarkable confrontation was captured by Stewart Canham, an amateur photographer, at Langford Lakes in Steeple Langford, Wilts.

Cormorants are famed for their fishing skills, aided by long, elasticated necks. But few have been seen tackling such large and fearsome prey.

Mr Canham, 61, from

Gillingham, Dorset, said: "I had been in a hide for about an hour when I saw a cormorant going for a pike out of the corner of my eye.

"It kept diving under the water and then I saw the white belly of the pike on the surface so I reached for my camera. The cormorant was desperately trying to get the pike into its mouth but it was struggling. Then the bird suddenly stretched out its neck and twisted it before swallowing the pike down in one.

"It was incredible."