

The Egleton to Nether Hambleton Road

Hambleton Road in Egleton no longer leads to the Hambletons. Now it is the access road to the Anglian Water Bird Watching Centre. But, for the nostalgic, a short stretch can be seen between the lagoons through the Centre windows.

Among the last people to travel this road were Philip Ennis and his imaginary friend ‘Ganwick’ who recorded the following in *Rutland Rides* Volume I:

‘Alongside the stream [in Egleton], which months of dry had parched, grew the tall Hairy Willowherb, topped with its remnants of bright pink flowers . . . We come to this hamlet often, cycling through its narrow lanes to admire its gardens and thatched cottages. Out we went towards the Hambletons, pedalling easily past the barrier that says: “No through way” – to motor traffic. Into what desolation!

‘Over the years we have enjoyed this ride, but for how much longer? Only the slow in-fill of water into the new reservoir gives us a brief respite, because soon this road will be flooded. In preparation for that day the contractors have flattened all that stands; the hedges have been uprooted, the trees felled, the houses demolished . . . Nether Hambleton is no more, is dead, is erased. Save for the occasional gatepost or remnant of fencing, nothing remains to testify that only brief months ago men lived and laboured and loved in the cottages just here.’



Towards Nether Hambleton from Egleton in July 1975 (Tim Clough)

Below: Hambleton Road in Egleton only leads to the Bird Watching Centre now (RO)



Left: A short section of the Egleton to Nether Hambleton road can be seen from the Bird Watching Centre (RO)