

High Bridge Road

High Bridge, also known as Hambleton Bridge, was across the River Gwash on the Lyndon to Upper Hambleton Road. This road was joined from the east by Gibbet Lane just before High Bridge. From here it passed through Nether Hambleton, over the River Eg at Hobbs Bridge, and on to Middle Hambleton. Most of this area is now under Rutland Water.

In *Just Rutland*, published in 1953, J and A E Stokes described this route in one of their journeys:

‘After crossing two flat grass fields, the road twisted sharply into a fiercely steep and narrow track, bordered by big old gorse bushes whose golden fires were swiftly dying. Ahead and far below lay the valley of the Gwash . . .

‘Rutland at its very best is here, gorgeous scenery on the Rutland scale, serene and dignified, aloof, independent, and utterly unspoiled. No motor coaches travel this wild little road; probably no motor coach could make it, and would certainly be unwise to try . . .

‘The gated way ended with an old stone bridge over the Gwash . . . There are quite big fish in the little river; we stood watching them darting in the shadow of the bridge . . .’



High Bridge (at X) on a map prepared following the enclosure of Hambleton in 1653 (Edward Conant)



High Bridge road looking north towards Middle Hambleton from Nether Hambleton in 1972. The turn to Egleton is on the left (Richard Adams)



Above: Hobbs Bridge over the River Eg (Fred Adams)



Right: High Bridge in 1970, looking north (Jim Eaton)