

Gibbet Lane

Gibbet Lane, now under Rutland Water, ran in an easterly direction along the south side of the Gwash from Hambleton Bridge, or High Bridge, to Edith Weston. This lane and the nearby Gibbet Gorse take their names from the gibbeting of Richard and William Weldon of Nether Hambleton who were hanged for the murder in 1788 of John Freeman, a baker of Edith Weston, whilst returning this way from Oakham (*see* Chapter 30 – Extra, Extra, Read all about it!). The local name for the lane was ‘Cattle Grid Road’ (Edna Locke).

Another crime committed here was reported in the *Stamford Mercury* on 18th December 1818:

‘On Monday last, as Mr S [Samuel] Suitor, shoemaker, of Hambleton, was returning from Edithweston between 7 and 8 o’clock in the evening, he was met at the end of the lane . . . by two footpads, who knocked him down and otherwise ill treated him and robbed him of 17li.16s.6d, the amount of bills he had received that day.’

A more recent traveller was Sheila Drake (*née* Tibbert) of Nether Hambleton who frequently went this way with her parents on a pony and trap to visit her grandparents in Edith Weston, where a short length of the lane remains today as the access road to Rutland Sailing Club.



High Bridge in 1970, looking north. Gibbet Lane is to the right (Jim Levisohn ARPS)



Above: Gibbet Lane at Edith Weston looking west in 1970 (Jim Levisohn ARPS)



Left: Gibbet Lane highlighted on the OS 2nd ed 1" map 1906