

Old Barnsdale Hill

Before Rutland Water, Barnsdale Hill was a landmark on the A606 road between Oakham and Stamford, a former turnpike (*see Aspects of Topography: Old Barnsdale Hill*). Old Barnsdale Hill still exists, but only as an access road to Barnsdale Hall and a Rutland Water car park.

In 1813, J N Brewer described the state of Barnsdale Hill in *The Beauties of England & Wales*:

‘ . . . in the course of the last summer, the Editor of these sheets observed a very awkward part of the road on the rise and turn of the hill between Burley and Whitwell, covered for some perches along the centre with immense fragments of ragged stone, thicker and harder than even the heads of the surveyors who had directed them to be laid down, and this without any mixture of sand or gravel to fill up their interstices. Here, it seems, they were laid, in hopes that coaches, carts, and waggons, would gratuitously pulverize them . . . it must have produced a complete system of blockade and non-intercourse between Oakham and Stamford.’



An aerial view of Barnsdale Hill in 1967. The new road from Oakham now joins at X (Anglian Water)



The old Barnsdale Hill milestone no longer serves a useful purpose (RO)



Barnsdale Hill towards Fox Bridge in 1972. Vegetation clearance is well under way (Roland Meadows)



The old road at the foot of Barnsdale Hill is revealed at low water level (RO)