

New Barnsdale Hill

The realignment of the A606 to the north of Rutland Water was necessary because the old Stamford Road between Burley Fishponds and Barnsdale Hill was below the projected high water level of Rutland Water. From the west, the diverted route starts at what is now the Hambleton turn. It passes through the south ride to Burley on the Hill to the north of Burley Fishponds, then through the southern edges of Burley and Rushpit Woods before joining the old road at its junction with Barnsdale Avenue at the top of the hill. Tree clearance started in late 1973 and, as the route crossed a large area of ancient land-slipping, this was followed by a meticulous investigation of the geology. Before road construction could start, a programme of drainage works to stabilize the slope had to be completed. The road opened to traffic in 1976.



Work on the new road is well under way in July 1975 (Richard Adams)



The realigned Barnsdale Hill nearing completion, looking towards Oakham (Richard Adams)



The new Barnsdale Hill in 1976, looking towards Whitwell (Andrew Burns)