

# CUTTING REMARKS

The Story of Roade's Railways  
and Cutting through the Ages



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# A PROPHECY ABOUT ROADE

In a "Handbook for Travellers along the London and Birmingham Railway" published in 1839 at a price of 2 shillings, when the line had been opened to traffic for a year, there is an interesting reference to the village of Roade. After describing the course of the line from London to Hanslope, the book proceeds:

*"About this spot we leave the county of Buckingham and enter that of Northampton and, passing rapidly over a lofty embankment of about a mile in length, which divides the village of Ashton in two parts, shortly arrive at the Roade Station.*

*The little village of Roade, which lies close to the railway, has suddenly been invested with all the bustle and activity of a town; and will, no doubt, enjoy increasing consequence and prosperity from its locality to this great line of communication. This is one of numerous instances which could be adduced, of the great benefit which a Railway confers upon the towns near which it is formed; and amidst the changes which are thus originated, many places which heretofore have been comparatively unknown will become towns of considerable extent."*

Since these prophetic words were composed, the village has grown both socially and economically into a sustainable rural hub. In the 183 year interim, the expanding community has witnessed considerable changes, many of which were influenced by the railway or a consequence of its passage through the Parish.

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