

A1123 NEEDINGWORTH BYPASS

opening by

Rt Hon John Major MP

Friday 28 July 1995



Cambridgeshire
County Council

THE SCHEME



The village of Needingworth has grown substantially since a bypass was first suggested to reduce the volume of through traffic, and heavy goods vehicles in particular. Proposals to provide the village with relief from heavy traffic were approved by Cambridgeshire County Council in 1991 and funding support from the Government was received in 1994.

The purpose of the bypass is to:

- relieve the village from a high volume of through traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles
- reduce accidents and improve journey times between Huntingdon, St Ives and Ely
- provide improved access to the trunk road network for local industry and commerce from St Ives and the Fen areas
- meet increased traffic demands as a result of the recently completed A1-M1 (A14) link

The bypass should remove some 8,000 vehicles which currently pass through the village each day, including about 700 heavy lorries.

BYPASS CONSTRUCTION

Cambridgeshire County Council began construction of the £3 million Needingworth bypass last October, appointing Costain Building and Civil Engineering Ltd as contractor. The scheme was supervised by W S Atkins, consulting engineers.

The bypass is a single carriageway road, some 3 km (nearly 2 miles) long with a new roundabout (*front cover*) at the St Ives end and a new priority junction (*centre*) at the Bluntisham end.

Approximately 50,000 cubic metres of earth has been excavated and 22,000 tonnes of surfacing laid to build the new road. Two culverts (*bottom right*) have been constructed to carry the diverted Heath Drain.

The design of the bypass includes an environmental barrier (*bottom left*) with extensive tree planting to help screen the road from the village. Some 22,000 trees and shrubs will be planted to help blend the scheme into the surrounding countryside.

Despite a particularly wet autumn and winter (*top right*) the bypass was completed 3 months early.





HOLYWELL-cum-NEEDINGWORTH

The parish of Holywell-cum-Needingworth lies to the north of the River Great Ouse. Holywell, on the river, is named after a well on the south side of the churchyard and used to be the site of a ferry crossing to Fen Drayton. There are two riverside inns at Holywell. The Old Ferry Boat, on a site reputed to have been home to a hostelry since the tenth century, and the 300-year old Pike and Eel. Both inns once catered for barge traffic which ran on the River Great Ouse between Lynn and St Neots. These pubs, with their moorings, gardens and lawns, now attract pleasure craft and anglers.

The A1123 forms the High Street of Needingworth, a mile north of the river; it is the main route between Ely and St Ives. In the High Street are the village prison, known as the lock-up and The Queen's Head pub, which can be found close to the war memorial which dates from 1836.

Most of the seventeenth century village was burned down in 1847, but some seventeenth and eighteenth century houses and cottages survive along the High Street, including The Chestnuts which dates from 1710.

The parish has a population of about 2,500. It has a County Junior School, an Adult Education Centre, recreation ground and sports pavilion. The Village Festival is well-known and well-regarded locally.

THE CONSTRUCTION TEAM

The construction team

Cambridgeshire County Council

Director of Transportation - Mike Sharpe MSc CEng
FICE FIHT

WS Atkins

Regional Director - Geoff Young BSc CEng MICE
Resident Engineer - Peter Binks

Costain

Regional Director - Symon Taylor BSc CEng MICE
Area Manager - David Alefs BSc CEng MICE
Agent - Paul Kelk



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