

Lakenheath, Suffolk

Lakenheath is located on the Ely to Norwich line, 82.6 miles from Liverpool Street. The architect for the station building was Francis Thompson and built by the Eastern Counties Railway, opening as "The Hiss", a local farm name, on 30 July 1845, renamed later as Laken Heath.

It is thought that the signal box dates from the late 1880s. The line was worked by block telegraph from

as early as 1878, but as late as 1880 the signals and points at Lakenheath were not interlocked, so that clearly the present signal box, which is still in operation and worked by double line block, had not been installed.

During the First World War a branch line was opened from Lakenheath to Feltwell Aerodrome (see *Wissington Light Railway*), and Lakenheath became a famous Second World War USAAF base.

The goods yard closed on 12 September 1966 and the station became an unstaffed halt on 7 March

1967.

The photograph was taken in June 1947, looking towards Ely.

Caption by: Editorial Team and Bernard Walsh
Photograph: National Railway Museum (refDP1262)

Ordnance Survey: Scale 1:2500, 1905 Edition.

Editors note: Very little is known about Lakenheath and therefore members comments and in particular those of railwaymen who worked the station would be most welcome.

