

## Who built our road network, and were they civil engineers?



When Thomas Telford became ICE President in 1820, the Institution had just 13 members. When the Royal Charter was granted in 1828 there were 156 members.

In parallel with the building of canals and railways, the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries saw a massive programme of road building across the country that is rarely mentioned.

Adrian Coy has researched the building of Turnpikes and the engineering of the Enclosures Acts for his local history group. His findings shed light on the early development of the profession, and that of our highway authorities.