

# OLD COACHING MAPS



Howard Scott Walker

Before the days of the Ordnance Survey, coaching maps were published like these. The journey was roughly straightened so it could be published in strip form.

The journey below is part of a journey North from London through Lichfield. You'll see that it passes through the important staging post of Dunchurch before the dangerous journey across Dunsmore Heath where there was always the fear of encountering highwaymen.

It may be difficult to make out what is printed on the map so I've transcribed it as best I can [with modern interjections!]

74 miles from London the road leaves Daventry (vulgo Daintry) The miles are pretty accurate.

75 Bush [I love the tiny drawings of helpful landmarks such as church towers, houses and this bush.] [The A45 is now diverted to the East of the old road.]

76 Berry Bridge [related to Berryfields and Berrystock?] Branston [Braunston]

77 Leame flu [A tributary to the River Leam] Wilbye als Willoughby to Barby [Longdown Lane]

78 Dunchurch Lane a bad way Wiscot [Woolscott]

79 Stone bridge a Rill

80 Arrable Dunchurch to Southam [Southam Road] to Rugby & Lutterworth [Rugby Road]

81 Thurliston Toft Bilton Causton Hall

82 Dunsmore Heath to Northampton [Northampton Lane]

85 the Foss way

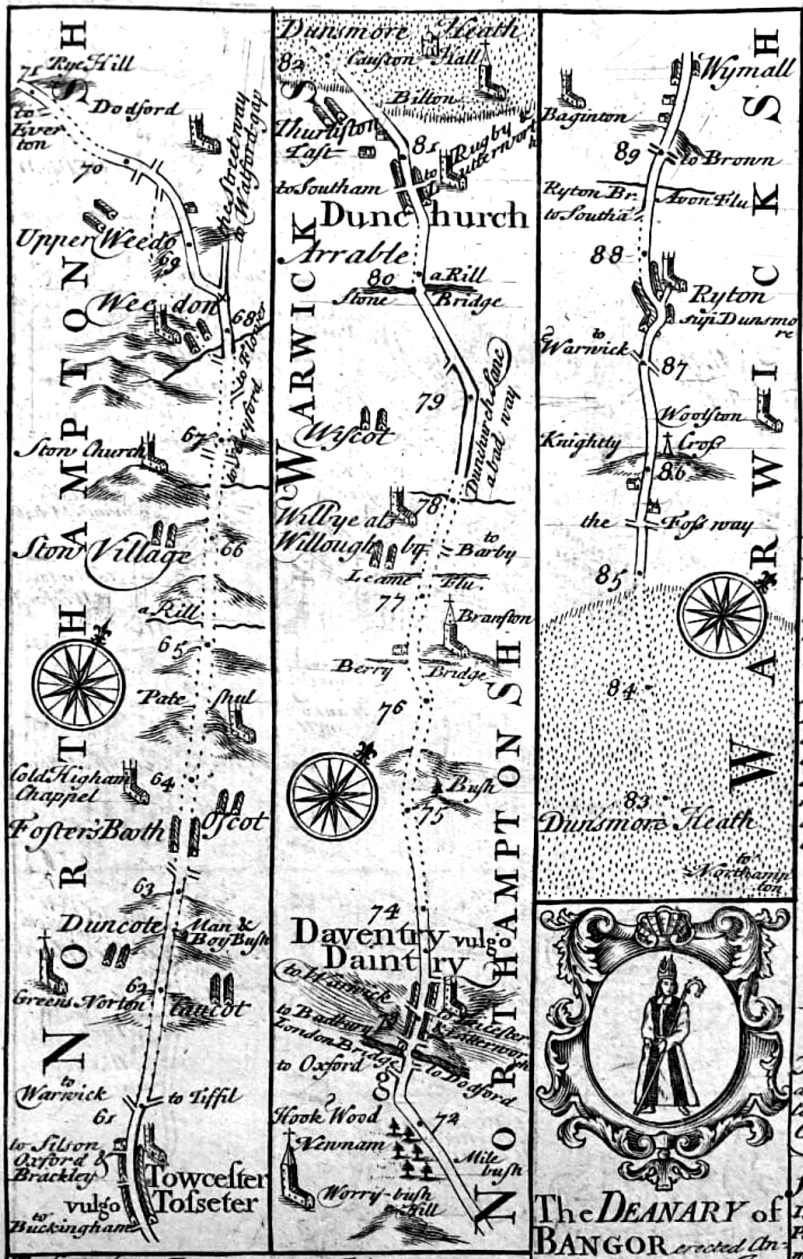
86 Knightly [Knightlow] Cross Woolston

87 to Warwick [Leamington Road] Ryton sup(ra) Dunsmore

88 to Southam [Oxford Road A423] Ryton Br Avon Flu

89 to Brown [to Brandon] Baginton Wymall [Willenhall]

The journey continues North to Lichfield on the next page but is beyond the ten-mile radius, I think.



**Daventry at £.73.**

It is a Corporation consisting of a Bayliff, Aldermen, and Steward &c. It is well accommodated with Inns, & has a Market on Wednesday for Corn, Cattle, Horses, &c. It had formerly a Religious House for Augustin Friars, and here are still to be seen the Ruins of an Old Roman Fort which encompassed about 200 Acres of Ground.

**Mesley at £.95.**

Here was formerly a Castle of the Kings, Lords of Ubergavenny.



**The DEANARY of BANGOR**

It is a large Town, has a Par. Church, & is remarkable for standing on a Roman Causeway called Watling Street. Some remains of it are plainly seen. The Buildings are of Stone. K. Edm<sup>d</sup> created a Cross in the middle of it, in memory of Queen Eleanor of Spain.

**Towcester**, Formerly called Tripontium from its Bridges, is a Town of great antiquity, tho' not very considerable at present. It was so fortified (A.D. 917) that the Danes were not able to take it by Siege: And K. Edm<sup>d</sup> the Elder is said to have encompassed it afterward with a Strong Wall of Stone, the Foot Steps of which are hardly now discernable. It is beautified with a fine Church; It has a good Mt. on Tuesday. Near this Place is a Mount called Barry Hills, planted with private Gardens.

Adorn'd with the Arms of England, Castile, & Leon; as is said he did in all other Towns, between this & Westminster, where the Corps rests. There is a Stone Bridge over the River. It is probably the Lacitorodum of the Ancients, its Situation on the Military Way, and distances in the Itinerary agreeing to it. Market Saturday, & a Fair July 24.