



Fig.3 The probable geography of Banbury's trading hinterland in 1875.

Monday, Thursday, Saturday, or Friday en route to Stratford); Gardner (the *Reindeer*, Monday, Thursday and Saturday); Eden (the *Bear*, Thursday) or Page (the *Dog and Gun*, Thursday). The one debt owed from Harbury, up towards Leamington, resulted from a pair of shoes which might have been sent on one of the three carriers' services which trundled along the back roads every week roughly following the line of the canal – more likely that, I think, than *via* the Great Western Railway which, though quicker, was more expensive and lacked the personal touch. A carrier knew the people whose goods he carried, and the people to whom they were to be delivered. That counted for a lot. Every place included in the list of debts owing was served by a carrier service from Banbury, and many a pair of boots or shoes, carefully wrapped and labelled, was consigned in this fashion.