



# Daimler



## GRAFTON PHAETON HORSELESS CARRIAGE 1897

This is the oldest surviving Coventry built Daimler and one of the oldest British cars to survive. It has only had 4 owners from new. The Daimler Company was founded on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1896 and a factory was opened at the Motor Mills in Coventry. The company held the British licence rights to the German Daimler patents and therefore was able to use the name as well. Early cars were imported from Germany and France before the production started in Coventry in 1897.

### SPECIFICATION.

It has a two-cylinder four horsepower engine with a hot tube ignition system. Initially fitted with tiller steering, which was converted to wheel steering by Daimler in 1899. The patch where the tiller was removed is still visible on the bonnet. The hood is made of elephant hide

**PERFORMANCE:** Top speed 24mph (40kms/hr)

**PRICE:** £375

**PRODUCTION:** 1

### CAR HISTORY:

A Doctor in Shropshire who allegedly used it to tour France and Belgium originally bought it. In 1905 it passed to it's second owner who kept it until 1954. The third owner Tim Woolley restored the car and registered it AD1897. His exploits with the car were legendary, including a crossing of the 7,000ft Col du Centis and tours from Britain to Munich and Turin. When Tim died in 1984 the car was purchased by it's current owners JDHT in 1985 with assistance from Jaguar Cars and the Science Museum. Further restoration was carried out in 1993/4 when it was returned to it's original blue colour. The car is maintained in full running order and regularly competes in the annual London to Brighton run in November.



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