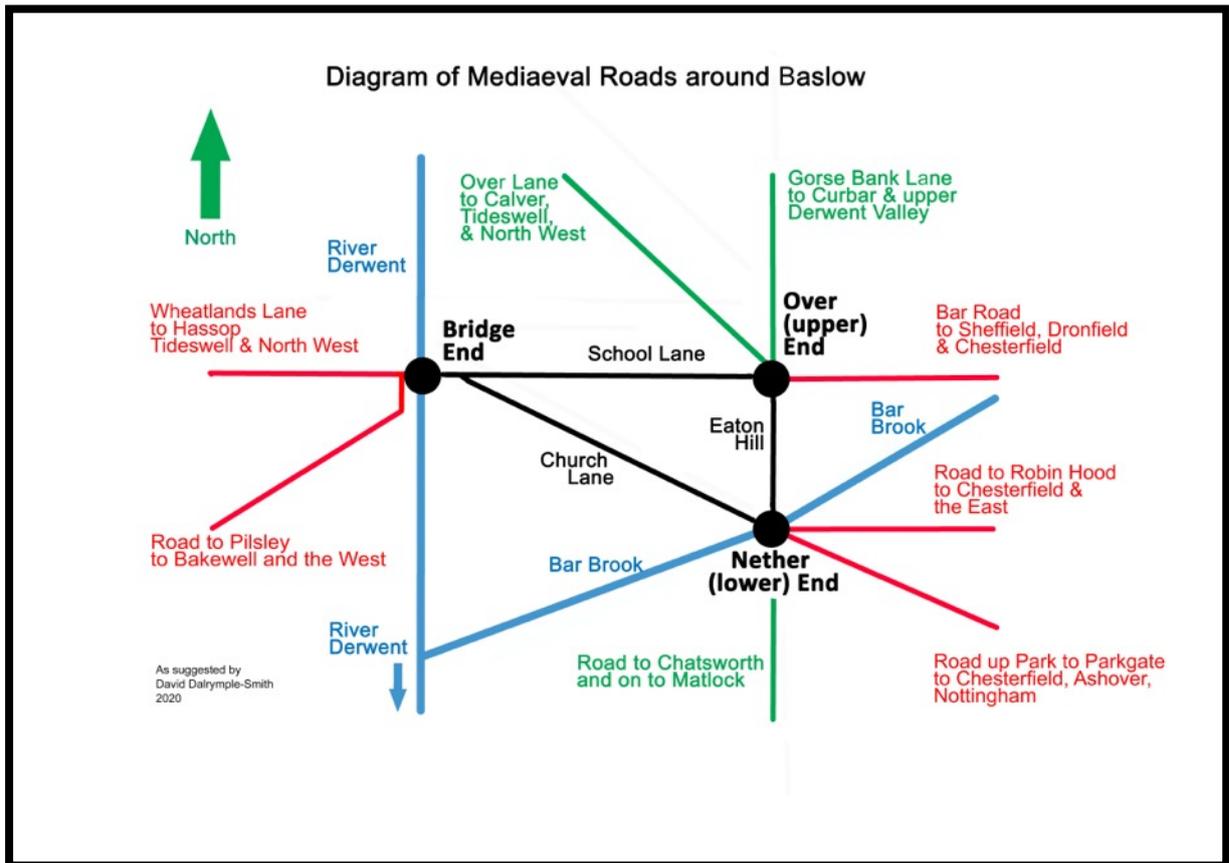


## Baslow Mediaeval Roads and Ends



Communities often develop at crossroads or at river crossings. Baslow is typical. The key is the bridge over the river Derwent known to have been present at least since the 1300s, and there is also the ford which accompanied it and must have preceded it.

The bridge was essential for villagers to reach the main church at Bakewell. It was also a focal point for east west travellers, skirting round the southern hills of the Peak District, and finding a reasonable way up the long barrier of the "Edges" west of the river Derwent. There were also smaller bridge(s) in the village over the Bar Brook at Nether End

*Note - the roads were a network and even in early times many alternative ways were available.*

There were two roads to the west from Baslow bridge.

- One via Pilsley and Ball Cross to Bakewell, and beyond to the west including Cheshire and its salt mines.
- The other through Hassop to Tideswell and on to Lancashire.

Towards the east there were three roads.

- The long relatively easy slope up Bar Road, with options at the top to Sheffield Dronfield and Chesterfield, and also to the important river port of Bawtry.

## **Baslow**

### **Mediaeval Roads and Ends**

- The route from Nether End to Robin Hood and on to Chesterfield, which was the most important town in the area, now the A619.
- The third route from Nether End up through the Park to Parkgate and on to the east and south - Chesterfield, East Anglia, Nottingham and London. Traces remain on Dobb Edge and Gibbett Moor

There was also the less important road up the valley from Matlock and Chatsworth, reaching the village at Nether End where it crossed the Bar Brook. It continued up Eaton Hill to Over End where it divided, with one branch via Over Lane to Calver and Tideswell, the other via Gorse Bank Lane to Curbar, Grindleford and the upper Derwent Valley

There were three parts to Baslow. Bridge End is at the main (old) bridge. Over (Upper) End and Nether (Lower) End are both at crossroads, with Nether End lower down and also at a river crossing. The names came into use in the early 1800s

Each were distinct communities with green fields between them until the mid 1900s.

This is summarised in the diagram

David Dalrymple-Smith

May 2020

**Baslow**  
**Mediaeval Roads and Ends**