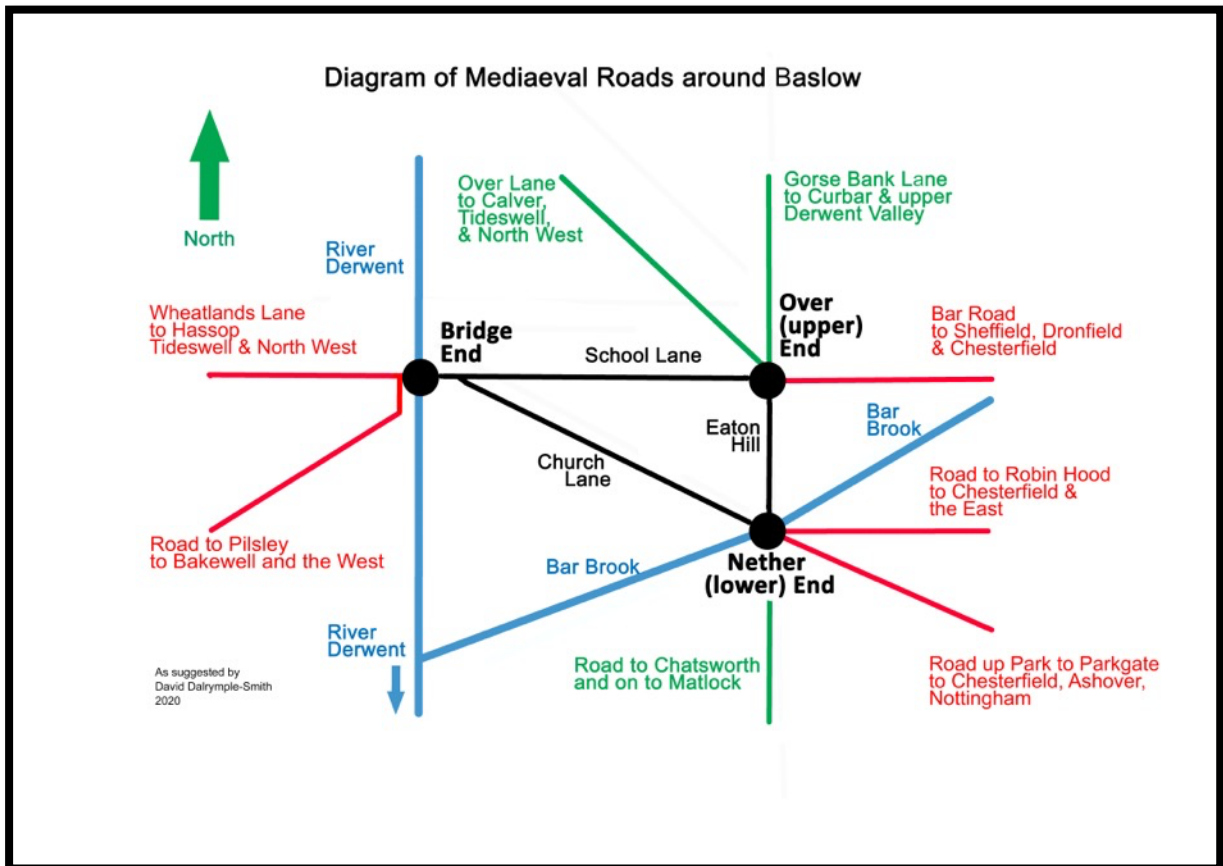


Baslow Mediaeval Roads and Ends



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 the ford which must have preceded it.

This main bridge was essential for villagers to reach their parish 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 bridges in the village over the Bar Brook at Nether End

There were two roads from the west to Baslow bridge. One from Bakewell via Ball Cross and Pilsley, and the other from Tideswell and Hassop

To the east from the bridge 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.
- The route from Nether End to Robin Hood and on Chesterfield, which was the most important town in the area, now the A619.
- The third route from Nether End went 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

Baslow Mediaeval Roads and Ends

Eaton Hill to Over End where it divided, with one branch via Over Lane to Calver and Tideswell, the other to Gorse Bank Lane and on to Curbar, Grindleford and the upper Derwent Valley

Three groups of houses or “Ends” developed at the main river and road crossings.

- Bridge End is at the main (old) bridge.
- Over (Upper) End was the place where the main east west and north south roads crossed
- Nether End, downhill from Upper End, is at the crossing place of several roads and the bridge(s) over the Bar Brook.

The names came into use in the early 1800s. Far End appeared later and West End is fairly modern – about 1930

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

This is summarised in the diagram

David Dalrymple-Smith

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