

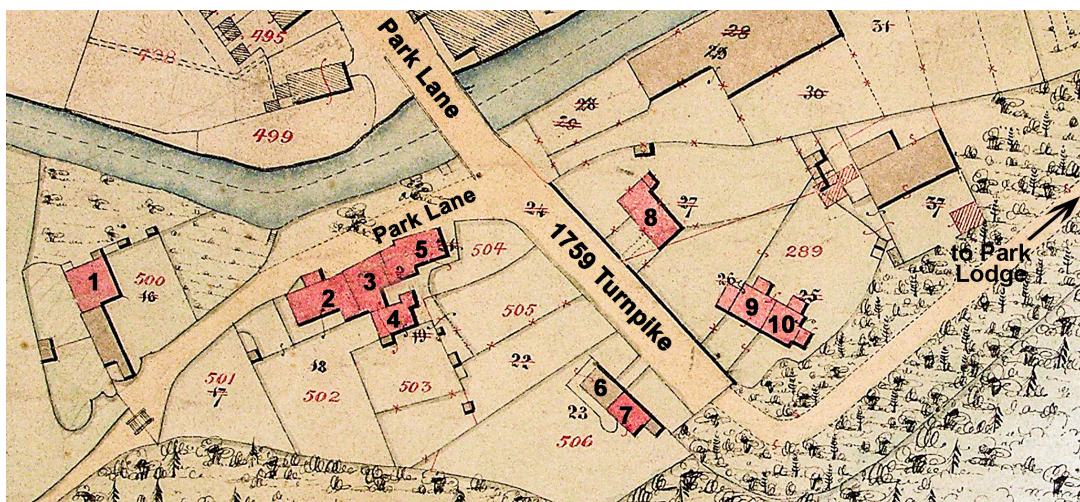
Thatch Cottage is one of a small group of buildings at Nether End in Baslow lying on the far (east) side of the Barbrook. They are all within 50 metres of the small bridge which connects them to the rest of the Nether End.

Nether End is the place where two ancient roads crossed the Barbrook. The first is the west east road from the bridge over the Derwent, past the Cavendish Hotel (it used to be The Peacock) and the Wheatsheaf, then up the hill to Robin Hood and Chesterfield – part of a long distance main road across the country. In 1759 it was upgraded to a turnpike. It took a new route to Robin Hood south of the Heathy Lea Brook with two new bridges, the first over the Barbrook at The Malt House and the next over the Heathy Lea Brook quarter of a mile below Robin Hood. The other ancient route was the main road up the valley from Chatsworth which continued across Goose Green, up Eaton Hill to Over End and on either to Stoney Middleton (Over Lane) or to Grindleford (Gorse Bank Lane).

The earliest map of the area, a Haddon Estate map dated 1799 shows 5 buildings near the bridge (then subdivided into say 10 dwellings). The three neatly on either side of the old turnpike may have been built after 1759. The other two by the brook may have been earlier.

In 1824 the Duke of Devonshire “Exchanged Lands” with the Duke of Rutland the Lord of the Manor of Baslow. Part of the exchange was the land between the Barbrook, Heathy Lea Brook and Dobb Edge which the Duke desired for an extension to his Park and a new drive up to Chatsworth House. The Turnpike was moved once again to a new route now the A619 which became the northern boundary of the park. This entire area was then cleared of fields roads and houses for the new Park and associated plantations. All that remained was short sections of the old road south to Chatsworth and of the 1759 turnpike together with the houses mentioned above.

### Nether End Baslow



*The map (Courtesy of Chatsworth Archives) shows part of Nether End  
and of the Barbrook in the 1870s*

*The numbers 1 to 10 refer to the houses described in the text*

The schedule of the "Exchange of Lands" lists the houses and their occupants. Further information comes from the Tithe Award of 1848, the Censuses and a later Chatsworth rent book.

All the houses will have been restored over the centuries, some more than others. Probably all were thatched, with Thatch Cottage itself the only one remaining with this type of roof. Several have cruck frames.

Park Lane Farm (No 1) is the converted farmhouse at the end of Park Lane on the right close to the river. In 1823 the occupant was Thomas Boam an agricultural labourer. The next was John Holmes who in 1851 was a "Surgeon's man" to Dr Condell: later he is described in the census as a bailiff then a farmer. At the end of the century it was the home of the Peters family who were Chatsworth gamekeepers and gardeners

There are today two adjoining buildings on Park Lane facing the brook, the well known Thatch Cottage (Nos 2,3,4), and nearer to the bridge Thatch End which is taller with a tiled roof. In the mid 1800s Thatch Cottage itself housed three families

In the far section (2) there was Benjamin Hollingworth an agricultural labourer. His daughter Jane a dressmaker remained in the house after he died but she had gone before the 1871 census.

To the rear (No 4) was the Brown Family. Isaac was a stone Mason. It must have been crowded as he had nine children. The census records them in the cottage in 1851 but they left before 1861

The main central section ( No 3) was the home of the Watson family, first David a sawyer and then Charles a stonemason. About 1880s the Watsons moved to one of the "Gas Cottages" across the Barbrook (near Sweet Genes), to be succeeded by James Elliott a labourer who later became a stone mason. He died in 1909 and his wife Jane died in 1916. The tenancy was taken over by his daughter, also called Jane. "Miss Elliott" as she was known converted it into a tearoom probably after the 1st World War. It soon became a popular venue, attracting visitors from far and wide. Her speciality was potato scones. She also kept a distinctive type of cat whose fluff was the same colour as the scones - confusing for the guests. Later it became a small shop selling sweets to passers by before closing in the late 1930s. Jane died in 1952 at the age of 82. Some time during the late 1800s this central section was enlarged to include the adjoining houses, (Nos 2 and 4).

In 1823 Thatch End (No 5) was a shop and the tenant William Daniel. The family remained there until the 1870s. Daniel died in the 1840s. His widow was described in the 1851 census as a Proprietor of House and in 1861 she "Takes in Boarders". John Staley a joiner and his wife Ann were tenants in 1881 and 1891.

Park Cottage (6) is the only house on the right or south side of the old turnpike. It was the home and work place of the Bettneys a family of sawyers. Like others in this paper the date the family arrived is not known but the schedule for the "Exchange of Lands" confirms Joseph Bettney was there in 1824. The last Bettney in the house was Ann a widow who was still there in 1891. It is now a Chatsworth holiday cottage. It had been restored internally to show off the original cruck frames.

Parkside (7,8), opposite Park Cottage was originally two adjoining dwellings. One housed a branch of the Hulley family who were there from 1824 until at least 1911

when there are entries for Maria then aged 90 and her son Joe aged 48. The other part of the cottage belonged to the Bamptons with entries from 1841 to 1861. James Bampton was a cordwainer (shoemaker). By 1871 William Singleton a labourer had moved in. His son William remained in the cottage and his widow Sarah Jane was still there in 1939. It was eventually demolished in the 1960s and replaced by the modern building of the same name.

There used to be another cottage north of the turnpike close to the brook (No 9). James Beswick an agricultural labourer was tenant in 1824 and his widow was still paying rent in the mid 1850s. The 1879 OS map shows that the building had been demolished to make way for the garden of Park Lodge which at that time extended right up to the road.

Park Lodge is a large villa now a grade 2 listed building situated between the Barbrook and the Golden Gates. Despite its name it never had any responsibility for the entrance to the Park and drive to Chatsworth. It was built in 1840s as part of the redevelopment of the area following the creation of the New Park. The architect was John Robertson who lived at Nether End, in the house just behind the Italian Restaurant. The first tenant was William Condell Physician to the Duke and General Practitioner until he died in 1872. He was followed by Dr Edward Wrench who inherited both house and practice his death in 1912.

The last house in the area is Plantation Cottage, on Park Lane south west of Thatch Cottage. It was built between 1848 and 1879 following the creation of the new Park. An early occupant, in 1881, was Jane Bacon, widow of a Chatsworth employee.

The older houses described above have changed little externally over the last 200 years. It is now part of the Baslow Conservation area, so we can expect it to keep its special character for many years to come.

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June 2021

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