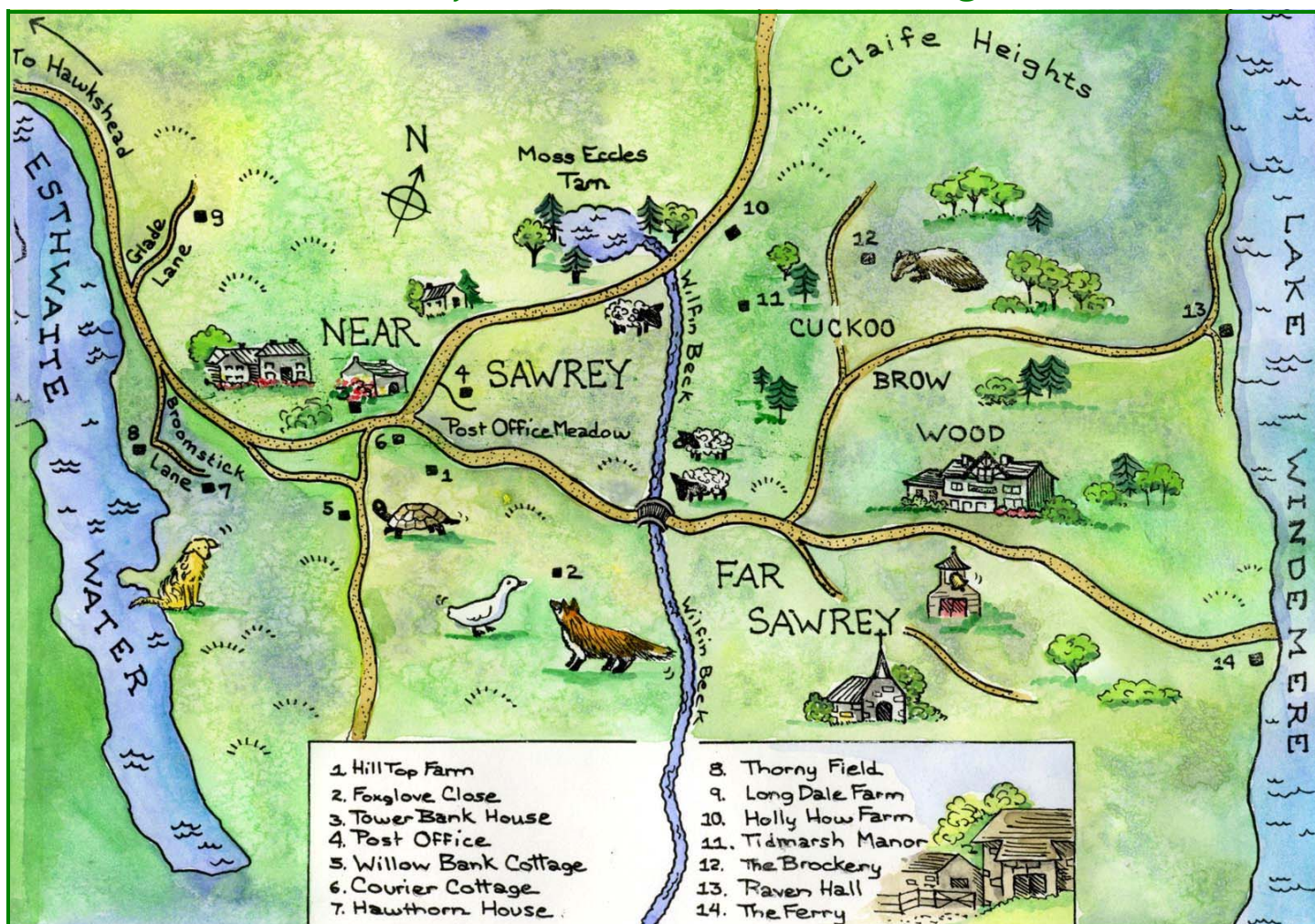


## Map for *The Tale of Hawthorn House* The Fourth of the *Beatrix Potter Cottage Tales*



### *The Village of Sawrey: Is it Real?*

One of the questions readers ask most often about the Cottage Tales is “How much of it is real?”

When it comes to the setting of the stories, the little village of Sawrey is very real! The houses that Beatrix and the villagers inhabit—Hill Top, Buckle Yeat, Courier Cottage, Anvil Cottage, High Green Gate, and so on—all existed in the little village of Sawrey during the time of the Cottage Tales, from 1905-1913. There are others, too, over two dozen houses and other structures in all.

In fact, all these houses still exist in the village, thanks to the National Trust, which now owns and maintains them. I think it is one of the unique features of this village: that we can see it now, a full

century later, pretty much as it was when Miss Potter found it so irresistible. The village was, she said, “as nearly perfect a little place as I ever lived in.”

My favorite house is Hill Top, of course. But in Book One, we also peek into Anvil Cottage, Belle Green, Castle Farm. In Book Two, Tower Bank House. In Book Three, the Sunnyside Cottages and the Post Office. And now, in Book Four, the Tower Bank Arms. As a source, I’ve relied on the Beatrix Potter Society’s booklet, “Near Sawrey: An Illustrated Map with Descriptive Text,” as well as note I’ve made during my visits.

Of course, I don’t know exactly how these places looked a century ago. But I can imagine. And so, I hope, can you!—*Susan Wittig Albert*



**Susan Wittig Albert** is the author of *The Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter* and the China Bayles herbal mysteries. She and her husband Bill, writing as Robin Paige, have co-authored a dozen Victorian-Edwardian mysteries featuring Kate and Charles Sheridan.

For a full list of the Alberts’ books, visit their website at [www.mysterypartners.com](http://www.mysterypartners.com)