

Bolsover Castle

Historical Timeline

Bolsover Castle was originally constructed on a hilltop which was once occupied by a medieval fortress built by the Perevel family in the early 12th century.

In 1216 King John gave the property to the Ferrers to secure their support. However the castellan, Brian de Lislem, refused to hand it over so King John gave the Ferrers permission to take the property by force.



George Talbot
6th Earl of Shrewsbury

The manor and castle of Bolsover were purchased by Sir George Talbot, later 6th Earl of Shrewsbury.

Sir Charles Cavendish bought the old fortress from Gilbert Talbot and began work on his 'Little Castle' project.

Cavendish invited King Charles I and his court to 'Love's Welcome' to Bolsover, a masque specially written by Ben Jonson for performance in the Fountain Garden. Finally, he constructed the cavernous Riding House with its magnificent roof and viewing galleries.

After the reformation of the Monarchy, Sir William Cavendish was able to return to England and his now ruinous Bolsover Castle.

1642 - Sir William Cavendish, was given command of Royalist troops in the four northern counties; maintaining them at his own expense.

The castle was inherited by Margaret (Cavendish) Holles & her husband John Holles, 1st Duke of Newcastle (2nd creation of title)

The lead was stripped from the roof of the Terrace Range to repair the roof at Welbeck Abbey.

The Castle became uninhabited again.



1155
The Castle became Crown property when William Perevel III fled into exile. Shortly afterward, the Ferrers family – who were Earls of Derby – laid claim to the Perevel property.

1217
After a nearly year long siege, Bolsover Castle was finally taken by the Ferrers family after which it was neglected and eventually fell into ruin for more than three centuries.

1608
Gilbert Talbot, the 7th Earl of Shrewsbury, leased the castle to Sir Charles Cavendish.



Gilbert Talbot
7th Earl of Shrewsbury

1617
William Cavendish, a Civil War Royalist general and later 1st Duke of Newcastle, inherited his father's estates including the 'Little Castle' and set about its completion, assisted by the architect John Smythson

1644
Sir William was forced to flee into exile. As a result, Bolsover Castle was surrendered to Parliamentary troops in August of the same year and fell into disrepair.



Sir William Cavendish
1st Duke of Newcastle

1676
By the time of Sir William's death in 1676, Bolsover Castle had been restored to good condition.

The Castle was inherited by his son Henry Cavendish 2nd Duke of Newcastle He died in 1691.

1711
The Castle passed to Lady Henrietta Cavendish Holles who, in 1713, married Edward Harley the 2nd Earl of Oxford

1741
The Castle was inherited by Lady Margaret Cavendish (Harley) Bentinck & her husband William Bentinck 2nd Duke of Portland and remained in the Bentinck family; although they lived at Welbeck Abbey.

1834
Having been vacant for many years the Castle was let to the Curate of Bolsover.

1883
The Castle became uninhabited again.



William Arthur Henry Cavendish- Bentinck
7th Duke of Portland

