

Welbeck Abbey

Historical Timeline

Welbeck Abbey was founded in the 12th century as a Religious House for Premonstratensian Canons.

Over the next four decades the property was let to a succession of tenants. Surviving parts of two ranges of the medieval cloister buildings were adapted as a residence. Some 12th century vaulted rooms survive.



Gilbert Talbot
7th Earl of Shrewsbury

Gilbert Talbot, the 7th Earl of Shrewsbury, purchased the Welbeck property and lands.

Sir William Cavendish inherited his father's estates - he was created successively Earl, Marquess and Duke of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, he became the trusted friend of King Charles I, who appointed him Governor of the young Prince of Wales.

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

Following the death her husband, Margaret, dowager Countess of Oxford retired to Welbeck, her ancestral Cavendish home, and began a campaign of restoration and decoration.

The reclusive William Cavendish Scott Bentinck, 5th Duke of Portland, vastly extended the house with subterranean rooms, corridors and tunnels.

William Arthur Henry Cavendish-Bentinck 7th Duke of Portland inherited the estate.

Lady Anne Cavendish-Bentinck, the eldest daughter of the 7th Duke of Portland, died at Welbeck on the 29th December 2008, aged 92.



For four centuries Welbeck Abbey was a flourishing seat of the White Canons of the Premonstratensian Order

Like all other monastic houses it fell by order of Henry VIII and the Abbey Church was destroyed.

Work on a continuation of The Old wing was commenced westwards. Its mason-architect was almost certainly Robert Smythson

Sir Charles Cavendish acquired the Welbeck the land and estates.

The work of adaptation of Welbeck continued under Sir William, this was prompted by his passion for horses and riding. He added a stable range to the west of the house, and a large Riding House to the north.

Completion of The Riding House (now the Titchfield Library and Chapel)

Welbeck passed to Lady Henrietta Cavendish Holles who, in 1713, married Edward Harley the 2nd Earl of Oxford Their main residence was Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire

The 3rd Duke of Portland began his own programme of change at Welbeck. With the help of John Carr of York he created The Swan and Red Tapestry Drawing Rooms. The landscape architect Humphry Repton entirely changed the entrance front of the house.

Following a serious fire in the Oxford Wing. Sir Ernest George created an ideal backdrop to Edwardian social life for the 6th Duke of Portland.

After the Second World War, Welbeck was leased by the Dukes of Portland to the Ministry of Defence and was operated as Welbeck College, an army training college until 2005.

Welbeck is home to William Henry Parente the nephew of Lady Anne Cavendish-Bentinck, from whom he inherited the estate. He is the son of Lady Victoria Margaret Cavendish-Bentinck and Gaetano Parente, Prince of Castel Viscardo.



William Cavendish-Bentinck
6th Duke of Portland