

Barnard Castle + Gainford

Richard acquired the Lordship in 1474 and spent a significant amount of time and money here. His boar badge can be seen on several buildings, including the castle and church. Another stone boar is in the town's Bowes Museum. On The Bank is Blagraves House, known as The Boar's Head in the early C16th and once the residence of Miles Forrest, Keeper of the King's Wardrobe. In 1478 Richard set about founding a Collegiate Chapel at St Mary's Church, with a huge building project including a chancel arch with sculpted heads of Edward IV and Richard as Duke of Gloucester, a stone boar and an effigy of St Anthony. Recently-installed etched glass windows featuring Richard's favoured saints and boars commemorate the 550th anniversary of his lordship. Nearby Egglestone Abbey hosts the black Tees marble tomb of Ralph Bowes, knighted by Richard, and St Mary's Church, Gainford is the likely resting-place of Sir Robert Brackenbury, who died at Bosworth.

Raby Castle

Ralph Neville of Raby was created 1st Earl Westmorland by Richard II, and married as his second wife, Joan Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt. Ralph's daughter Cecily married Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York. Their sons, Edward and Richard, became respectively Edward IV and Richard III. It was to Ralph Neville, 3rd Earl Westmorland, that Richard sent his urgent request for assistance in June 1483. Richard III's mother Cecily may well have been born in Raby and is sometimes called 'the rose of Raby', although sadly this is a C18th invention. A Victorian painting of Cecily can be found in the castle chapel. Nearby, St Mary's Staindrop, houses the tomb of Sir Ralph Neville, 1st Earl Westmorland and Richard's grandfather alongside its pre-Reformation chancel screen and misericords.

Durham Cathedral

During Richard's life the Bishops of Durham were Lawrence Booth (1457-76); William Dudley (1476—83); and John Sherwood (1483—94). Richard was invited to the confraternity of Durham Priory in 1474 and given hospitality there on several occasions, visiting the shrine of St Cuthbert in 1479 and mustering troops in the city for war with Scotland in 1480. Richard was one of the last monarchs to visit St Cuthbert's Shrine. On St Brendan's Day (16 May) in 1484, after an offering at the High Altar, *'kyng Richard did geve his parlamente Robe of blew vellet wrowght with great Lyons of pure gould a merveilouse rich Cope'*. Buried here is Richard's great-grandfather, John Neville, who commissioned the magnificent Neville Screen (1380).

Berwick

Berwick on the River Tweed once marked the border between England and Scotland, changing hands many times. After the battle of Towton Henry VI and his wife Margaret of Anjou retreated to Berwick and Margaret handed over the town in return for Scottish aid with the Lancastrian cause. A 45 year truce agreed between James III and Edward IV in 1474 was later breached with piracy and murderous destructive raids, resulted in an English demand for the return of Berwick.

From Oct 1480 to May 1481 Edward IV prepared for a major campaign, and the following year Richard of Gloucester, supported by many of the northern nobility, led forces 20,000 strong in an invasion. Thomas Lord Stanley and his company from Cheshire provoked Berwick's surrender but its castle held out. After reaching Edinburgh and concluding terms with its burgesses, Richard resumed

the siege of Berwick Castle in early August 1482, gaining it on 24 August. The town has continued as English since this time. Some ruins of C13th Berwick Castle remain just outside the town's ancient rampart walls by the river. Holy Trinity church was built in the mid-C17th with stone from the castle.

Hexham

A town notable for the Battle of Hexham in May 1464, when John Neville, Marquess Montagu, and his forces fought successfully against the Lancastrians. Henry Beaufort, 3rd Duke of Somerset, was captured in a local barn and beheaded in the marketplace before burial in the Abbey.