

WELBECK – ANCESTRAL HOME OF THE EARLS AND DUKES OF PORTLAND

Welbeck Abby, in North Nottinghamshire, was built in 1086, which was the site of a monastery belonging to the Premonstratensian order of monks. The Abby is mentioned in the Domesday Book as belonging to Hugh FitzBaldric, Thomas de Cuckney, who founded the religious house in 1140. After the dissolution of the monasteries and through marriage to an heiress, Welbeck Abby and its mansion in the grounds passed to the Bentinck family, to then become the seat of the Earls and Dukes of Portland.

Welbeck Abby is one of four contiguous ducal establishments in North Nottinghamshire and is a grade 1 listed building. The earliest Portland title was in 1576 when the 1st Earl of Portland was created. In 1633 the title was elevated to Marquis of Titchfield and Duke of Portland. There was an unbroken line of Dukes of Portland until the death of the 9th Duke and with his death in 1990 the honour became extinct.