

MEET THE COLLECTORS

This timeline follows key collectors in the family, who have all left their own mark on the Collection.

Elizabeth Talbot

Countess of Shrewsbury,
"Bess of Hardwick"

"Bess of Hardwick" amassed land and wealth through a series of four marriages. She had three sons, her 'bad son' Henry, William, who inherited Chatsworth, and Charles, who acquired Welbeck.

William Cavendish

1st Duke of Newcastle
1593 – 1676

Lady Margaret Cavendish

Duchess of Newcastle
1661 – 1716

Married

John Holles

4th Earl of Clare, Duke of Newcastle
1662 – 1711



Lady Henrietta Cavendish-Holles

Countess of Oxford
1694 – 1755

Married

Edward Harley,
2nd Earl of Oxford
1689 – 1741

Lady Margaret Cavendish-Holles-Harley

Duchess of Portland
1715 – 1785

Married

William Bentinck,
2nd Duke of Portland
1709 – 1762

The 5th Duke is famous for his building projects, including Welbeck Village and his network of underground rooms and tunnels. He had no children, so Welbeck passed to his cousin, Arthur.

Unusually, Margaret was the third female in a row to inherit the Estate. Like her father Edward Harley, Margaret was a renowned collector. She married William Bentinck, 2nd Duke of Portland — a dukedom that would remain in the family for six generations.

William Henry Cavendish-Bentinck

3rd Duke of Portland
1738 – 1809

William Henry Cavendish-Bentinck-Scott

4th Duke of Portland
1768 – 1854

Lord John Cavendish-Bentinck-Scott

5th Duke of Portland
1800 – 1879



The 6th Duke and his wife, Winifred, set about restoring the State Rooms at Welbeck Abbey and adorning them with objects from the Collection. They created a grand interior fit for Edwardian high society, and enjoyed entertaining guests who included royalty, politicians and socialites.

Arthur Cavendish-Bentinck

6th Duke of Portland
1857 – 1943

The Welbeck Estate continues to be owned by descendants of the Cavendish-Bentinck family. Welbeck Abbey remains their family home.