

Timeline of the Cavendish family and some of their principal properties

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		7th century: Monastery founded at Lismore. 1154: Bolton Abbey founded. c.1180: Castle built at Lismore.
	—1500—	
1547: Bess of Hardwick marries Sir William Cavendish (1505-1557)		1539: Bolton Abbey bought by the Clifford family. 1549: Lands at Chatsworth bought by Sir William Cavendish. c.1550: First house on site of current Compton Place built by James Burton. 1552: Construction starts on new Tudor house at Chatsworth. 1585-1590: Hardwick Old Hall built. 1590-1597: Hardwick New Hall built. 1593: Oldcotes construction starts.
	—1600—	
1618: William Cavendish (b. 1552) 2nd son of Bess and Sir William made 1 st Earl of Devonshire. 1626: William Cavendish (b.1590) becomes 2 nd Earl. 1628: William Cavendish (b. 1617) becomes 3 rd Earl.		1602: Lismore Castle bought by Richard Boyle from Sir Walter Raleigh. 1625: 'Old' Devonshire House bought by 1st Earl of Devonshire. 1639: Oldcotes sold to Roger Pierrepont.
1684: William Cavendish (b.1641) 4 th Earl of Devonshire. 1694: 4th Earl of Devonshire made 1st Duke of Devonshire.		1666: 1st Earl of Burlington buys Sir Denham's house in Piccadilly — Burlington House. 1676: 'Old' Devonshire house sold. 1682: 1st Earl of Burlington buys Jacobean house at Chiswick. 1687-1707: Chatsworth altered by 1st Duke. 1696: Berkley House bought and renamed Devonshire House.
1707: William Cavendish (b.1673) becomes 2nd Duke of Devonshire.	—1700—	1712: Burlington House remodelled by 3rd Earl of Burlington.
1729: William Cavendish (b.1698) becomes 3rd Duke of Devonshire.		1726: 3rd Earl of Burlington builds Villa next to Chiswick House. 1727-1730: Compton Place improved by Colen Campbell. 1733: Devonshire House burns down and rebuilt by William Kent.
1755: William Cavendish (b. 1720) becomes 4th Duke of Devonshire. 1764: William Cavendish (b. 1748) becomes 5th Duke of Devonshire.		1758: Bolton Abbey Estate, Burlington House, Chiswick House, Lismore Castle, and Londesborough Hall inherited by the Dukes of Devonshire from the 3rd Earl of Burlington via his daughter, Charlotte Boyle . 1788: 5th Duke of Devonshire adds two wings to Chiswick Villa and demolishes old house.
1811: William George Spencer Cavendish (b.1790) becomes 6th Duke of Devonshire.	—1800—	1809: Burlington House sold to Lord George Henry August Cavendish. 1818: Londesborough Hall demolished by 6th Duke of Devonshire. 1820s-1840s: North wing added at Chatsworth by the 6th Duke.
1858: William Cavendish (b.1808) becomes 7th Duke of Devonshire. 1891: Spencer Compton Cavendish (b.1833) becomes 8th Duke of Devonshire. 1908: Victor Christian William Cavendish (b.1868) becomes 9th Duke of Devonshire. 1938: Edward William Spencer Cavendish (b.1868) becomes 10th Duke of Devonshire. 1950: Andrew Robert Buxton Cavendish (b.1920) becomes 11th Duke of Devonshire.	—1900—	1858: William Cavendish, grandson of the 5th Duke's brother becomes the 7th Duke, Compton Place has been in his line of the family since 1782, and Holker Hall since 1834. 1908: Holker Hall bequeathed to 2nd son of 8th Duke. 1919: Devonshire House sold by 9th Duke. 1924-5: Devonshire House demolished. 1929: Chiswick House sold to Middlesex County Council.
2004: Peregrine Andrew Morny Cavendish (b.1944) becomes 12 th Duke of Devonshire.	—2000—	1954: Compton Place let as a language school. 1959: Hardwick Hall given to the Nation in lieu of death duties.

Some notes on the houses:

Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire.

Priory founded, 1154.

Bought by the Clifford family, 1539.

Inherited, 1758.

The Priory at Bolton dates from 1154 (an earlier monastery had been based in Embsay from 1120), built on lands given by Lady Alice de Romille of Skipton Castle. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, in 1539 the priory and its estates were sold to the Clifford family, Earls of Cumberland, by Henry VIII. On the death of the 5th Earl of Cumberland in 1643 the priory passed to the Earl's daughter Elizabeth Clifford. Elizabeth Clifford had married Richard Boyle, the 1st Earl of Burlington and 2nd Earl of Cork in 1635. The house then passed along the Burlington line until 1758 as, with other Burlington properties, Bolton Abbey and its estate came into the possession of Dukes of Devonshire through the inheritance of Charlotte Boyle. The Hall at Bolton Abbey, formed out of former monastic buildings, remains the property of the Dukes of Devonshire.

Burlington House, London.

Built 1665.

Remodelled 1712.

Inherited 1758.

Sold 1809.

Of all the great ducal houses in London - Burlington House, Devonshire House, Montague House, Lansdowne House, Londonderry House, Northumberland House and Norfolk House – Burlington House is one of only two that remain standing (Lansdowne House being the other, although much altered).

The original house was begun c.1665 by Sir John Denham, the poet. Following the death of his wife (amid rumours of poison) Denham sold the house to Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Burlington in 1666. Burlington completed the house with the aid of the architect Hugh May. Boyle's great-grandson, the 3rd Earl of Burlington employed Colen Campbell and James Gibbs to remodel the house in Palladian style, starting 1712. The Venetian painters Sebastiano Ricci and Antonio Pellegrini were commissioned to paint decorative wall and ceiling panels, along with William Kent. A semi-circular colonnade was included to enclose the forecourt, and was much admired, but this has since been demolished. The 3rd Earl of Burlington moved much of his collection to Chiswick Villa in the 1730s.

Following the Devonshires' inheritance of the house in 1758, the family owned two great London residences a mere two hundred yards from each other (Devonshire House being just a little further along Picadilly), so the house was rented out. Lord George Cavendish (the 5th Duke's younger brother) was there 1782-1785, but it was primarily rented by the Duke of Portland. Following Portland's death in 1809, the house was bought outright by the same Lord George Cavendish for £70,000, who commissioned an interior remodelling of the house

by Samuel Ware. On Lord George's death (by then 1st Earl of Burlington, 2nd Creation), his youngest son Charles inherited the site and he sold it in 1854 to the government for £150,000.

The main block of the house became home to the Royal Academy of Arts in 1866, with which the house is still primarily associated.

Chatsworth, Derbyshire.

Bought 1549.

Altered in the 1680s-1700s, 1750s and 1820s-1840s.

“In the reign of Edward the Confessor a certain Chetel, whose name is said to suggest a Norse origin, held lands, jointly with Leofnoth, a Saxon, in three neighbouring townships, Ednesoure on the west side of the Derwent and Chetesuorde and Langeleie on the east. Chetesuorde, meaning Chetel's manor, was the name given to that portion of the tenure which in some sense was peculiarly his own.”¹

The name Chetesuorde evolved over time, and by the late 12th and the mid-13th centuries Chattisworth was being recorded.

In 1549, at the behest of his wife, Bess of Hardwick, Sir William Cavendish bought the land from the Leche family (relations of Bess's) in 1549 for £600. No discernable trace of the Leche house has ever been found. Sir William started construction of the house in 1552, but he did not live to see its completion, as he died in 1557. Although Bess of Hardwick completed the building work, the house was entailed to the eldest son from her marriage to William Cavendish, “my bad son Henry” and she made Hardwick her primary residence in 1590. Henry sold the house to his younger brother William (who became the 1st Earl of Devonshire in 1618). The Elizabethan house was successively rebuilt by the 1st, 4th and 6th Dukes, obtaining its current form with the 6th Duke's major additions and alterations as designed by Sir Jeffry Wyatville, which were implemented c.1820-1841. The Elizabethan gardens were swept away by the 3rd Duke and William Kent, and were further altered by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown in the 1760s. From 1827 Joseph Paxton (later Sir Joseph Paxton, and architect of the 1851 Crystal Palace) added, among a variety of green and hot houses, “The Great Stove” (or Great Conservatory, the largest in existence at the time), the rockery, the pinetum, the Emperor Fountain, and also greatly increased the number, and variety, of plants, either by purchase or by funding of plant collecting expeditions in India and America.

Chiswick House, Middlesex

Jacobean house bought in 1682.

Villa built 1726.

Inherited 1758.

Sold 1929.

A Jacobean house in Chiswick was bought by Richard Boyle, the 1st Earl of Burlington in November 1682. His great-grandson, the 3rd Earl of Burlington, added a Palladian façade, but

¹ Thompson, Francis “A History of Chatsworth” (1949) p.21

the house caught fire in 1725 and the west wing had to be demolished. In 1726 Burlington started a new 'villa' some 18 metres west of the old house. The reasons for building the villa are obscure. The house had no servants' quarters or kitchens, whilst the rooms upstairs were adjoining and some lacked fireplaces, which would suggest that it was not designed as a house to be lived in. Despite this, Burlington made Chiswick his primary London residence in 1733. As with other Burlington property, the house passed to the 5th Duke of Devonshire in 1758 following the death of Lady Burlington.

Chiswick was a favourite home of the 5th Duke, and his duchess, Georgiana. The couple (along with Elizabeth Foster) retreated often to the house; there is a period of at least decade where the couple barely visited Chatsworth, if at all. In 1788 they demolished the old Jacobean house and added two wings to the villa built by the 3rd Earl of Burlington. On the death of the 5th Duke in 1811 the house passed to their son 'Hart' who, as at Chatsworth, made alterations and additions to the garden under the direction of Sir Joseph Paxton.

On the death of the 6th Duke, the house was left to his sister Georgiana, by then Lady Carlisle, for her lifetime; she died only seven months later so the house then passed to the 6th Duke's younger sister, Harriet. She used the house intermittently for the last 4 years of her life. The house was then rented to the Duchess of Sutherland (1863-1868); the Prince of Wales (1869-1877) and finally The Marquess of Bute, (1881-1892). From 1892-1928 it became home to an asylum, a private and expensive institution. In 1929, the 9th Duke sold the house to Middlesex County Council (who in turned leased it for 999 years to Brentford and Chiswick Urban District Council). The two wings added by the 5th Duke of Devonshire were demolished in 1952. Chiswick House is now managed by English Heritage and the grounds are a public park.

Compton Place, Eastbourne.

Built 1550.

Improved 1727-1730.

Inherited 1858.

Let to language school, 1954.

A Tudor house was built, on or near the site of the present house by James Burton c.1550. The house passed through various families until 1724, when it was bought by Sir Spencer Compton, Speaker of the House Commons and 3rd son of the 2nd Earl of Northampton and later (1727) Earl of Wilmington. Wilmington added considerably to the house 1727-1730, with Colen Campbell acting as his architect.

On Wilmington's death in 1753 the house passed to his nephew James, 5th Earl of Northampton and then successively to James' brother George, 6th Earl, and then Charles, 7th Earl and nephew of the 6th Earl. The 7th Earl died in 1763 and the estate passed to his daughter, Lady Elizabeth Compton, at that point a minor. In 1782 she married Lord George Augustus Henry Cavendish, 3rd son of the 4th Duke of Devonshire. The couple moved the stables and the kitchens and servants quarters were extended. They also added stucco and other embellishments to the house, so that it largely appears as it does today. Lord George's

grandson, William, became 7th Duke of Devonshire in 1858 and as such the house passed into the Dukes of Devonshire's possession by descent.

The house remains the property of the Duke of Devonshire, but was let to a language school in 1954 as part of the strategy to pay of the 10th Duke's death duties. It continues to be used as such.

Devonshire House, London²

Berkley House bought 1696.

Burns down and rebuilt 1733.

Sold 1919.

Demolished 1924-5.

In 1696 the 1st Duke bought Berkeley House in Portugal St (later called Piccadilly), renamed the house Devonshire House and spent some £2,000 on alterations by Talman – despite “4 reception rooms and 3 dining rooms this house had little convenience and Lord Hartington was encouraged to live elsewhere”. This house burnt down in 1733 and was replaced with one designed by William Kent. As a result of the impact of death duties following the 8th Duke's death in 1908, the family eventually sold the house in 1919 for £750,000. The house was demolished in 1924-1925 and the site redeveloped.

Old Devonshire House, and other Devonshire residences in London.

Bought 1625.

Sold 1675.

Before the purchase of Devonshire house in 1696, the Cavendishes had held various other London properties. An inventory of 1617 records a house in Aldersgate, but little else is known of it. C.1625 the 2nd Earl bought a house on Bishopsgate. This house had been built in the 1560s by Jasper Fisher, a goldsmith. The house, large, with extensive gardens, had stretched the builder's finances and was known for a while, as “Fisher's Folly”. Before its purchase by the Cavendish family the house had a succession of owners, including Sir Roger Manners, the Earl of Oxford, the Earl of Argyll and the Marquis of Hamilton. The house, by then known as Devonshire House, was sold in 1675 and redeveloped as Devonshire Square.

There were several other properties in London, and the Home Counties that the Devonshire occupied in the 17th century. During the Civil War and Interregnum the 3rd Earl lived in exile 1642-1645, before paying delinquency fines and returning to live at Latimers, Buckinghamshire, with his mother Countess Christian. The Countess also owned Roehampton, which was a centre of Royalism during Charles II's exile. The 3rd Earl also had his own London property in the 1660s, but this is yet to be definitively identified. In 1672 he is known to have rented Newport House. The 3rd Earl died at Roehampton in 1684. The 4th Earl/1st Duke appears to have lived at No. 3 St James Square which was bought for him by his father in 1675, it was sold in 1710. The 4th Earl was, by 1685, renting Montagu House in

² Most information on the various London houses of the Devonshires has come from Mitchell, Roger “The Devonshires in London 1600-1740” an unpublished paper (1998) held by the Collections Department at Chatsworth.

Bloomsbury, but this was destroyed by fire in 1686, costing some £40,000 plus £6,000 for plate. In 1690, the family rented Arlington House (later Buckingham House and, later again, Buckingham Palace). This house also suffered from a fire in 1694 (the 2nd of three at the Devonshires' London Properties, there being fires in 1686, 1694 and 1733.)

Two centuries later, after Devonshire House was sold, the 9th Duke took 2 Carlton Gardens as his London residence, buying the house in 1920. The family did not take up residence before 1923, after having altered and furnished the house. In November 1950, the 10th Duke was planning to move from 85 Eaton Square to 19 Hill Street, but he died suddenly on 26 November 1950. It seems that the move went ahead, as there is an *Inventory of paintings at 19 Hill Street, W1 (since removed to Chatsworth), as at 26 November 1950*. In December 1951 the Dowager Duchess Mary moved from 19 Hill Street to 5 Cheyne Walk which was sold on her death.³

Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire.

Old Hall Built, 1585-1590.

New Hall Built, 1590-1597.

Given to Nation, 1959.

Although born at Hardwick c.1521, it was not until 1583 that Bess bought the property from her brother James, who had been in debt for many years. Following increasing acrimony in her marriage to her fourth husband, George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, Bess made Hardwick her primary home around the same time. From 1585-1590 she replaced the existing Hardwick house with what is now known as Hardwick Old Hall. Following Shrewsbury's death in 1590 Bess's finances were considerably improved and she set about building the new hall at Hardwick. Finished in 1597, Hardwick Hall still stands as one of the country's finest examples of Elizabethan architecture. On Bess's death the house was bequeathed to her second and favourite son, William. The house remained the property of the Dukes of Devonshire until 1959 when it was given to the nation in lieu of death duties, before being transferred to The National Trust.

Holker Hall, Cartmel.

Inherited 1834.

Bequeathed 1908.

After the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, the Preston family bought the lands that once belonged to Cartmel Priory and built the first recorded house on the site where Holker Hall now stands. In the late 17th century the house passed, by marriage, to the Lowthers. The Hall came into the possession of the Cavendish family when Sir William Lowther died unmarried in 1756 and left Holker to his first cousin, Lord George Augustus Cavendish, 2nd son of the 3rd Duke of Devonshire.

³ See "The Devonshires in London, 1600-1740" by Roger Mitchell, which discusses the various London houses of the Devonshires in more detail. An unpublished article in the "Devonshire House" secondary sources file.

Lord George Augustus Cavendish was succeeded by his brother, Lord Frederick Cavendish. He died unmarried in 1803 and left Holker to his nephew, Lord George Augustus Henry Cavendish, later (1831) created Earl of Burlington (2nd creation). On his death in 1834, Holker passed to his grandson, William Cavendish, 2nd Earl of Burlington and (1858-1891) 7th Duke of Devonshire.

Holker then passed to his eldest son, the 8th Duke of Devonshire, who in turn left Holker to his nephew, Lord Richard Cavendish, brother of Victor, 9th Duke. The 9th Duke had preferred living at Holker to Chatsworth, and when he lost out in his father's will and was forced to leave "the Duke muttered bitterly 'Holker, the best loved house in England'."⁴ The house is currently the home of Hugh Cavendish, Baron Cavendish of Furness, created life peer in 1990 and grandson of Lord Richard Cavendish.

Lismore Castle, County Waterford, Ireland.

Monastery founded 7th century.

Castle built c.1180.

Bought by Richard Boyle from Sir Walter Raleigh in 1602.

Inherited 1758.

Lismore's history dates back to the 7th century when Saint Mo Chutu mac Fínaill (anglicized as St Carthage) founded Lismore monastery. Following his invasion of Ireland in 1171, Henry II stayed at what was still a monastic centre. A castle was built shortly afterwards, but mainly remained an episcopal residence for the Bishops of Waterford. During the reformation the monastery passed into Protestant hands and in 1589 the castle was first leased, and then later acquired by, Sir Walter Raleigh. Raleigh's continual absence from the area meant he could never make the estate pay and, following his imprisonment, he sold the castle in 1602 to Richard Boyle. Boyle, another Englishman speculating on making a vast fortune in Ireland (and successfully so, shortly becoming the 1st Earl of Cork), restored the castle from the dilapidation it had fallen to under Raleigh and his predecessors, only for it to be sacked by Irish rebels in 1645. His son, the 2nd Earl of Cork undertook further restoration. The castle remained in the Boyle family until 1758 when it passed to the Dukes of Devonshire.

It was the 6th Duke of Devonshire who was responsible for most of the castle's present appearance, employing the architect William Atkinson to virtually rebuild the castle in the gothic style in the 1810s, whilst his gardener, Paxton worked on the grounds between 1850 and 1858.

The castle was briefly occupied in 1922 by the IRA. Lord Charles Cavendish, great-uncle of the present Duke, made Lismore his home with his wife, Adele Astaire. Lord Charles died in 1944, but Adele paid annual visits with her second husband, Kingman Douglass, sometimes bringing her brother - Fred.

⁴ Holker Hall History <http://www.holker.co.uk/holker-estate/holker-hall-history/#sthash.SvyM9T0z.dpuf>, [accessed 28 January 2014]

Londesborough Hall, Yorkshire.⁵

Inherited 1758.

Demolished 1818.

It is presumed that the Fitzherberts, descended from Herbert, brother-in-law of King Stephen, had a manor house at Londesborough by the 14th century. From the Fitzherberts the house passed to the Broomfleets, active Lancastrians in the War of the Roses. Ownership passed from the Broomfleets to the Clifford family in 1469. The Cliffords, one of the major landowning families in the north of England, made little use of the house until the 16th Century, when it became one of their chief places of residence. They enlarged the estate through purchases of adjoining land and in 1589 built a new house on the site. In 1643 the house passed through marriage to the Boyles, Earls of Burlington and Cork.

The Boyles spent a great deal of time at, and money on, Londesborough, especially during the 1670s and 1680s and it appears to have been a family favourite, despite their ownership of numerous other properties. The opening of the family vault at Londesborough in 1905 showed that 12 members of the Boyle family had been buried there, including the 3rd Earl of Burlington.

The house passed to the Devonshires in 1758, but the family visited little in the 66 years that it was in their ownership. The 6th Duke spent no more than a few months at the house, but in 1818 ordered “what must have been the East Riding’s greatest country house” to be pulled down.⁶ The Duke sold the remainder of the estate in 1845. An abundance of property, and the expense of building work at Chatsworth and Lismore, seem the likely reason for the house’s demolition.

Oldcotes, Derbyshire.

Built 1593.

Sold 1639.

Commemorated on her tombstone in Derby Cathedral, Oldcotes was another of Bess of Hardwick’s building projects. The house was started in 1593, shortly after the Old Hall at Hardwick had been completed and work on the New Hall had begun. A letter in the Devonshire Collection Archives records this legend of the house, as told by Francis Thompson, curator of the collections 1921-1953:

“The name is a corruption of Owlcotes. According to tradition, she [Bess] built the house to score off her neighbour Sir Francis Leake, who was building a house at Sutton [Scarsdale] which she considered an attempt to outshine Hardwick. She declared that she would build as good a house ‘for owls’ as he for men, and Owlcotes was the result.”

Never as grand as Hardwick, Oldcotes was sold to Robert Pierrepont in 1639. The house is no longer standing.

⁵ Notes largely taken from David Neave’s “Londesborough: History of a East Yorkshire Estate Village” (1977)

⁶ Neave, David, “Londesborough Hall” *Lost Houses* (No.4, May 1978)

Note on the inheritance of the Burlington properties by the Dukes of Devonshire:

In 1745 Charlotte Boyle, the only surviving daughter of Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington and 4th Earl of Cork, married William Cavendish, the eldest son of the 3rd Duke of Devonshire (and 4th Duke of Devonshire from 1755). On the death of the 3rd Earl of Burlington in 1753, he bequeathed his property to his wife to be held in trust for Charlotte. Charlotte, however, died in 1754, predeceasing her mother, so on the death of Lady Burlington in 1758, Bolton Abbey, Burlington House, Chiswick House, Lismore Castle, and Londesborough Hall passed directly to Charlotte's husband, the 4th Duke of Devonshire.

Many of the Burlingtons' Yorkshire estates had themselves come to the family through the inheritance of Lady Anne Clifford, daughter of the 5th Earl of Cumberland, who had married Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Burlington in 1634 – this inheritance had included Bolton Abbey and Londesborough Hall.

On the 3rd Earl of Burlington's death, the Earldom of Burlington became extinct (the second creation in 1831 is the one that remains in the Cavendish family). The Earldom of Cork, being an earlier creation than the Earldom of Burlington, passed to a descendant of the 1st Earl of Cork's third son.

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