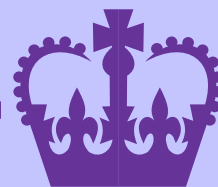


# BERKHAMSTED

Royal  
Connections



## A Hertfordshire town with strong royal associations since the Norman Conquest.

It is said that Berkhamsted is where Prince Edgar surrendered to William of Normandy and offered him the crown of England. It's not clear whether the location of the surrender was today's Berkhamsted (then known as Great Berkhamsted) or Little Berkhamsted (near Hatfield), but either way, William's half-brother, Roger of Mortain built a motte and bailey castle in Great Berkhamsted, which for centuries to follow was owned by royalty.

Both Henry I and Henry II held court at the castle in 1123 and 1163 respectively. The castle then passed through a number of royal hands including Richard I's queen, Berengaria of Navarre; King John's queen, Isabella of Angoulême; Henry III's brother, Richard, Earl of Cornwall; Edward I's second queen, Margaret of France and Edward II's queen, Isabella of France.

In 1337, Edward III gave the castle to his son Edward, the Black Prince, as part of the newly-created Duchy of Cornwall. The Black Prince hunted regularly in the deer park and he and his wife (and cousin), Joan, the Fair Maid of Kent, honeymooned at the castle in 1361, with the whole court entertaining for five days. The castle remains as part of the Duchy of Cornwall to this day, so although managed by English Heritage, it is in fact currently owned by Prince Charles.

In 1399, Henry IV granted the castle to his son, later Henry V. It then passed to Henry VI's queen Margaret of Anjou and then to Edward IV's mother Cecily, Duchess of York in 1469. After her death in 1495 it was no longer inhabited and fell into decay.

During the reign of Henry VIII, the castle was given in turn to three of his queens, Katherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour, but none of them ever lived there.



Berkhamsted Castle : Robert Stainfort

Edward VI eventually granted it to his sister, later Elizabeth I, who in 1580, leased the Manor (including the ruined castle and deer park) to Sir Edward Carey, Keeper of the Queen's Jewels, for the nominal rent of one red rose. He decided to build himself a new house, named Berkhamsted Place, on the hill above the castle using bricks and stone from the ruins.

Berkhamsted Place was later owned by Charles I, before he became king, and leased to his tutor Thomas Murray. Charles, aged 16, visited the Murrays there in 1616. By 1963 the house had become unoccupied and fell into dereliction

The most recent royal visit to the castle was in June 1935, by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) who met a large assembled gathering of ex-servicemen, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, school children and other representatives of the community.



Edward, the Black Prince

Berkhamsted town crest from 1859  
fireplace in town hall



### Further information

Berkhamsted Castle:  
[www.berkhamsted-castle.org.uk](http://www.berkhamsted-castle.org.uk)