

Barnard Castle Town

Background

Barnard Castle is a historic thriving market town, located to the north of the Yorkshire Dales. The town developed in the protective shadow of its famous Castle, set on a high rock above the River Tees, which takes its name from its 12th century founder, Bernard de Balliol. It later passed into the hands of King Richard III.

In the town centre, the octagonal Market cross, or Butter Market, served a number of purposes. Dairy produce was sold here and it was also the town's lock up, Town Hall and Court House.

Today, the town is a popular tourist attraction with its elegant Georgian and Victorian architecture, medieval castle, riverside walks, specialist shopping and antiques area. It is also home to the magnificent Josephine and John Bowes Museum built in the style of a French chateau, which houses one of England's finest art collections. The Museum is situated next to Barnard Castle School.