



Samuel Johnson (1709–84)
by Edward Hodges Baily (1788–1867)
after a bust by Joseph Nollekens
(1737–1823)
Marble, 1828 (1777)
NPG 996



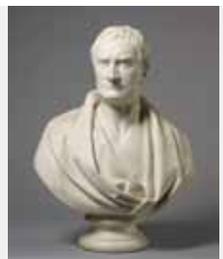
Sir Peter Warren (1703/4–52)
by Thomas Hudson (1701–79)
Oil on canvas, c.1751
NPG 5158



**The North Front
of Beningbrough Hall**
by J. Bouttats and J. Chapman
Oil on canvas, 1751
NT



A Girl with a Mask
British school
Oil on canvas, c.1750–60
NT



Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727)
by Edward Hodges Baily (1788–1867)
after a bust by Louis François Roubiliac
(1702–62)
Marble, 1828 (1751)
NPG 995



James Cornewall (1698–1744)
by an unknown artist
Oil on canvas, 1730s
NPG 5323

Further Information

If there are other things that interest you, please ask the Room Steward.

More information on the portraits can be found on the Portrait Explorer upstairs.

Great Staircase A Feat of Engineering



This grand, self-supporting 'cantilevered' staircase is one of the most important features of the house. It is constructed entirely of oak and strengthened internally with wrought-iron. The balustrade looks like wrought-iron, but is wood. This craftsmanship is the expert work of William Thornton (1670–1720) and his team of carvers. Although Thornton was the architect of Beningbrough, he trained as a joiner and carver and the quality of his woodcarving is evident throughout the house.

Isaac Newton & Samuel Johnson



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Isaac Newton (1642–1727) and Samuel Johnson (1709–84) were the giants of eighteenth-century science and literature. Newton discovered the nature of light and colour and set out the laws of motion and gravity. Johnson was a wit, an essayist and a critic; his most celebrated work was his *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755). These two commemorative marble busts are copies of eighteenth-century sculptures. They were commissioned by the collector Robert Vernon, who left them to the nation in 1845.

Beningbrough Hall The North Front



**The North Front
of Beningbrough Hall**
by J. Bouttats
and J. Chapman, 1751
NT

It was common practice in the eighteenth century for a family to display a view of their country seat at their town house. This painting was commissioned by John Bouchier the younger (1710–59) for his newly-built Micklegate House in York, where it stayed until the 1880s. Bought by Lewis Payan Dawnay (1846–1910) in 1896, the painting hung briefly at Beningbrough until the estate was sold in 1917. It was purchased by the National Trust in 2004.

The painting is a remarkably accurate depiction of the main block of the house, but it is unknown whether the two flanking pavilions were ever built. They may be the artists' invention, or stables demolished in the 1780s when the park was remodelled. It is curious that the forecourt – designed to exclude park animals – is shown with grazing deer. The figures outside the gates may be returning from hunting and the deer may have been brought in to separate them from the one selected for the chase.

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