

LOCAL INDUSTRIES

Tanning (converting animal skins to leather) and linen weaving were important cottage industries in Northallerton in the 18th and 19th centuries, before Brompton's purpose-built mills became the local focus for linen production. In the middle years of the 19th century, Northallerton was briefly a centre for carpet weaving, apparently by a community who had migrated from Barnard Castle, where the trade was already established.

The production of floor-coverings continued in Northallerton at the Alverton Works linoleum factory, first established alongside the railway to make tarpaulins and sail cloth in the 1860s. In the 1920s the factory employed 320 people, and it continued in business until 1938; subsequently the site was used for the production of mattress springs.

Although all of these industries have since ceased or relocated, Northallerton's flourishing retail sector is one sign of the town's ongoing prosperity. A number of local shops have their roots in the 19th century, including Barkers department store (first established as Oxendale's drapery shop in 1875) and the Lewis and Cooper fine food and wine store (established 1899). The presence of a number of other distinctive outlets, combined with the elegant Georgian architecture of the high street, makes Northallerton a very attractive destination for shopping and tourism.

