

# ALVERTON

The earliest references to a town here are to 'Alverton', a name that probably comes from the Old English for 'Aelfhere's settlement'. Little is known about Northallerton in the early medieval period, but carved stones found at All Saints suggest there was a church on the site before the Norman Conquest. Alverton is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'waste', signifying that it had been destroyed or depopulated during William the Conqueror's Harrying of the North in 1069.

In the years that followed, Allertonshire was given to the Bishop of Durham, and the town began to acquire its current layout. Under the bishops, a planned new town was laid out with 200 'burgage plots' flanking the high street, which had a wider section to accommodate a market. At least one Norman castle was established at Northallerton, at the site currently occupied by the town cemetery.

The castle may have been a focus for military activity during the civil war known as 'the Anarchy'; it was at this time, in 1138, that the Battle of the Standard took place just north of the town, and an invading Scottish army was repelled. The oldest parts of All Saints belong to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, as does a grave marker now displayed inside, decorated with foliage patterns and a mythical beast, and bearing the names of Nicholas Scayl and Alverton.

