The origins of the Lordship are thought to have been created by William Rufus (William I, 1087–1100) and was granted to his Roger de Poitou. After 1351, it was administrated as part of the Duchy of Lancaster and, from 1991, a possession of the Crown. The Lordship of Bowland eventually descended through the Montagu and Buccleuch and Towneley families. Ownership of the title became confused after it was lost in 1888.

Robert Parker, of Browsholme Hall, was appointed the steward of the estate. His relatives held the position for almost 200 years. However, the most venerated Bowbearer of the Forest of Bowland was Sir Nicholas Tenement, executed at Tyburn in 1537, who was one of the northern leaders of a Catholic uprising against Henry VIII.

Since he took on the title ‘for a few months of work looking at the whole area and the lords of Bowland and I didn't agree what to do.’

William, 16th Lord of Bowland, is a fellow at one of the older Cambridge colleges. The university’s students and dons will no longer be any strangers to farming as the land around some of the colleges lies here at King’s pie cattle farms the Old Norse ‘bær’ or ‘bæn’, meaning a bend in a river. In this case, the Hodder.

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