

1.1 How did William become King?

ENGLAND BEFORE 1066

- **Relatively new country**- only unified in 929 by King Athelstan
- **Wealthy**- natural resources and minted its own coins
- **Influenced by important groups:**

GODWINS

- **Most powerful family in England:** largest landowners, wealthiest, controlled a large army
- **Established by Earl Godwin,** Earl of Wessex and Harthacnut
- **Rebelled against Edward 1051** in a disagreement over Norman influence and forced into exile- returned in 1052 after displaying his power to Edward
- **Edith-** daughter of Earl Godwin- **married Edward the Confessor**
- **Held all the major Earldoms** of England and controlled the Witan

VIKINGS

- **Ruled England 1013-1042,** most famously Cnut and Harthacnut
- **Strong cultural ties with the north** of England (known as the "Danelaw")
- Strong trade links with England

NORMANS

- Strong trade links with England since the 950s
- Strong family ties to Edward: Edward's mother (Emma) was Norman and Edward grew up in Normandy
- Had significant power in England after Edward ascended to the throne
- Helped Edward when the Godwins revolted in 1051

- **Edward maintain peace-** before Edward invasion was common but Edward balanced the interests of other groups to keep peace. He paid off the Vikings (called the 'Danelaw'), and gave Normans and Godwins significant power to keep them happy.
- **Edward was pious-** Edward cared more about religion than ruling. This contributed to his making Harold Subregulus in 1060 and his building of Westminster Cathedral in the late 1050s.

WHY WAS EDWARD'S DEATH A CRISIS?

- **Edward had no children so no direct heir.**
- **There were multiple legitimate claimants to the throne-** Emma of Normandy's connection to Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Norman power meant that all three groups were closely connected to the throne; Edward made this worse by balancing each group's ambition and leaving the succession unclear.
- **There were multiple ways a person could become king making succession complicated-** someone could become King through blood relation, being promised the throne in advance (Post-Obitum), being promised the throne on the King's deathbed (Novissima Verba), or could fight and win the throne in battle.

BATTLE OF FULFORD GATE

Who?	Tostig Godwinson and Harold Hardrada vs Earl Edwin and Earl Morcar
When?	20 th September 1066
Where?	Germany Beck, Fulford
What happened?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both sides formed a shield wall at opposite banks of Germany Beck • Hardrada split his army in two and hid his best troops out of view • Hardrada used his hidden army to flank the Anglo-Saxon army • The Viking army went to Stamford Bridge to wait for hostages to be exchanged • Hardrada sent many of his troops with their armour back to their ships on the River Ouse leaving them exposed.

BATTLE OF STAMFORD BRIDGE

Who?	Tostig Godwinson and Harold Hardrada vs Harold Godwinson
When?	25 th September 1066
Where?	River Derwent
What happened?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Godwinson and his army marched 190miles in 4 days • Hardrada was caught off guard with a weaker army • A Viking berserker held the Anglo-Saxons back on the bridge • The Anglo-Saxons snuck under the bridge and took out the berserker • The Anglo-Saxon army outnumbered the Vikings • Tostig and Hardrada were killed • The Viking threat was ended • Harold's army were weakened and exhausted from the battle and travel- he lost approx. 1/3 of his men • The South of England was left relatively undefended
Significance	

BATTLE OF HASTINGS

Who?	William of Normandy vs Harold Godwinson
When?	14 th October 1066
Where?	Battle, Kent
What happened?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William landed in Pevensey on 28th Sept.- he built a castle and attacked the surrounding area, waiting for Harold • Harold marched south- 1/3 of his men had been killed at Stamford and 1/3 were too exhausted to march south • Harold stopped in London for 5 days to regroup- he recruited more men giving him an army of 7000 • Harold took up high ground on Senlac Hill on 14th October and formed a shield wall • The Normans struggled to break the wall on top of the hill using cavalry • A rumour spread that William was dead so he raised his helmet to prove his was alive • The Normans feigned a retreat- the English chased them breaking the shield wall • The Normans overpowered the Anglo-Saxons • Harold was shot in the eye with an arrow and died
Norman skill and preparation	
Why did William win?	
Anglo-Saxon mistakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-Saxon soldiers fell for the feigned retreat and broke the shield wall • Harold rushed south to meet William rather than taking his time to rebuild his army • Harold relied on the fyrd which had limited training and expertise
LUCK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong northerly winds had prevented William setting sail in Sept.- they changed just as Harold was fighting Hardrada • Harold had already been involved in the Battle of Stamford Bridge weakening his forces • Harold was hit by an arrow during the battle

Who were the claimants to the throne?

	Legal claim	Strengths of claim	Issues with claim
Edgar Atheling	Closest blood relative of Edward (great-nephew)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-Saxon royalty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too young (14)- no experience ruling or with military command
Harald Hardrada	His nephew (Magnus) was promised the throne previously by Harthacnut. Hardrada claimed Edward had pushed him aside to take the throne.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced ruler- King of Norway for 20 years • Experienced warrior- 'Hardrada' = 'Hard ruler' • Had support the of Tostig Godwinson • Much of the North of England had Scandinavian connections so might be accepting of him 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No support in the Witan • Legal claim was weaker than others
William of Normandy	Post-Obitum in 1051 Promised by Harold Godwinson on holy relics in 1064	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced ruler- Duke of Normandy from 7 years old • Experienced warrior- conquered Sicily and Maine • Support from the Pope- received the 'Papal banner' after Godwinson's 'betrayal' • Distant relative of Edward and knew him well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No support in the Witan (controlled by the Godwinson family) • There had never been a Norman king of England so an Anglo-Saxon or Viking was preferable
Harold Godwinson	Novissima Verba. Selected by the Witan and became King Harold II on 9th January 1066	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earl of Wessex- most powerful and richest man in England • Experienced leader- acted as subregulus for Edward since 1060 • Experienced warrior- represented Edward in battle as subregulus and defeated Welsh rebellions • Support of the Witan- related to the major earls and had influence over Bishops • Edward's brother-in-law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had promised William the throne in 1064- although he claimed it was through fear as he was stranded in Normandy • His claim of Novissima Verba is hard to prove as it wasn't witnessed.

1.2 How did William secure England after Hastings?

WILLIAM'S STRATEGIES TO SECURE ENGLAND
TERROR: The use of violence to forcibly suppress or spread fear

MILITARY PRESENCE: Using his military to intimidate or directly control

PATRONAGE: Giving land to those loyal to him

CONCESSIONS: Compromising with enemies to ensure their support

LEGALITY: Showing he was Edward's legitimate and legal successor

OCTOBER 1066

- William left soldiers at Hastings and went to Romney where he burned down the town and killed people to punish them for killing Normans.
- William travelled to Dover and surrounded the town; it surrendered, and he left an army there to protect it.
- William travelled to Canterbury, and he left it alone after the citizens promised loyalty.
- Troops were sent to Winchester to control the royal treasury (the money). Edith, Edward's wife, surrendered.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1066

- William attacked towns in Kent on his way to London
- Edwin, Morcar and many English nobles threw support behind Edgar to make him King
- The English earls realised they could not defeat William
- Edgar and Morcar travelled to Berkhamssted and swore loyalty to William
- William allowed English earls to keep their land/titles if they swore loyalty (like Edwin and Morcar)
- William was crowned King of England at Westminster Cathedral on 25th December, 1066
- Archbishop of Canterbury, Stigand is allowed to keep his place
- William continues to pass laws (known as Royal Writs) in England

1067- RETURN TO NORMANDY

- William returned to Normandy and left his brother, Bishop Odo in charge
- William took Edwin, Morcar, Stigand and Edgar Atheling with him to prevent challenges to power

1068: REBELLION IN THE SOUTH WEST

- The South West was a hotbed of Godwin support- the city of Exeter refused to surrender to William.
- William besieged Exeter for 18 days and they surrender
- William chose not to punish the city but build a castle and left his brother in charge
- When another rebellion arose in Exeter the people refused to support it.

1068: REBELLION OF EDWIN AND MORCAR

- Edwin and Morcar realised some of their land had been given away so rebelled
- William marched north and Edwin and Morcar surrendered
- William once again allowed Edwin and Morcar to keep their positions.

1068: REBELLIONS IN THE NORTH

- William replaced Gospatric as Earl of Northumbria with Robert Cumin- Cumin violently attacked the North
- Cumin was killed in Durham
- Edgar led a rebellion in York
- William put the rebellion down, building a castle and placing William FitzOsbert in charge
- King Sweyn of Denmark invaded with 240 ships to support Gospatric and Edgar and captured York
- William paid the Danes to leave
- William launched the Harrying of the North in retaliation

1069- 1070 HARRYING OF THE NORTH

- William waged terror to take revenge for the Rebellions in the North
- Towns were burned down
- Cattle were killed
- Crops were destroyed and salt ploughed into the ground to stop crops growing in the future
- William travelled to the North to see the destruction and celebrating whilst touring wasted land wearing his crown.
- The Domesday Book (1086) shows that many northern towns were still "wasteland".

1071-72: REBELLION IN EAST ANGLIA

- Hereward the Wake (an Anglo- Saxon thegn) raided Peterborough
- He was joined by Edwin and Morcar, and they continued to raid Norman positions
- The rebellions captured Ely which was covered in marsh and hard for William to attack
- The Normans defeated Hereward
- William killed Edwin and imprisoned Morcar for the rest of his life, but let Hereward keep his land

1075: REBELLION OF EARLS

- Roger, Earl of Hereford and Ralph de Gael (Norman barons) were unhappy with their territory and influence- neither fought for William at Hastings and were not as loyal
- English noble Walthoof and a Danish fleet of 200 ships joined the rebellion
- Walthoof fled to Normandy, Ralph and Roger didn't leave their earldoms and the Danes arrived too late.
- Ralph and Roger had their land seized and Walthoof was killed.

THE DOMESDAY BOOK (1086)

- Why?**
- William needed to know who owned what to solve land disputes
 - William needed to know what was happening in his country so he could raise taxes and rule efficiently.
 - William faced potential invasion from the Vikings and Count of Flanders and needed to know how much money he could raise and how many men he could call on.

How?

Commissioners travelled around the country (excluding areas like Westmorland, Durham, London and Winchester).

Commissioners were assigned 'circuits' and would ask key questions:

- Who owns the land?
- How much land do you own?
- How has land ownership changed since 1066?

Tenants- in- chief (knights) were asked to verify the information was correct for their area.

13,000 villages were included

Significance?

- Showed definitively who owned what and prevented land disputes
- Showed that the Norman Conquest was complete as all major landowners were Norman
- Landowners had to swear loyalty to William

CASTLES

Before 1066	Very few castles
Type	Anglo Saxons used burghs to defend against Viking raids Motte and Bailey
Construction	Initially wood as it was quick (could be built in a few days as they were flat pack) Later stone as it was stronger and safer
Where?	Across the country- the first at Pevensey as soon as William landed Focus on troubled areas, e.g. after a rebellion or where rebellion was likely (marchers)
Function 1: Defensive (Conquer- to fake control)	Provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A station to base soldiers that could prevent rebellion A safe place to house nobles/ knights/ Norman settlers
Function 2: Symbolic (Conquer- to keep control)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large structures built in prominent positions (on hills) to serve as a symbol of conquest and remind the local population of Norman power Unfamiliar to the local population so served to remind them of conquest Many homes were destroyed to build them reminding the local population of Norman power The local population were forced to build them


MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE



2. LIFE IN NORMAN ENGLAND

	Before	After	Key changes	Impact/ importance of change
Land ownership (Feudal System)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King owns all the land which is exchanged for loyalty, tax and military service. 6 major earls Thegns provided military service and had training Peasants worked sets days a week Slavery was common Earls land was divided amongst their sons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King owns all the land which is exchanged for loyalty, tax and military service. Land was given to barons/ bishops and the Church as a reward for loyalty and helping in the Battle of Hastings Barons/ Bishops could divide land in a process of subinfeudation in return for tax income and military service Knights acted as Lords of the Manor, had military training and provided military service. Peasants had few rights and worked sets days a week Slavery reduced but peasants could not leave land (even if free) without permission Land returned to William after a landowner's death Land was inherited by the eldest son (primogeniture) who paid a tax to retain it. Special rights were given to certain barons (e.g. the Marcher Earls and Prince Bishop of Durham- right to raise tax, raise an army, open a market, build castles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglo- Saxon landowners replaced (4000 thegns in 1066 and 4 in 1085) by Normans (200 landowners) There were more (smaller) earldoms and landowners land was divided up more Royal Forests grew Military service for knights was more formal (with a specific amount of time required to serve per year) Slavery reduced Life for peasants was harder as taxation was higher William directly controlled 20% of land, the Church 25% and the rest 200 barons/ bishops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William replaced Anglo- Saxons with Normans to ensure loyalty and control William divided up land more to prevent rebellion and ensure control Giving privileges to the Marcher Earls and Prince Bishops helped William defend the frontier and it incentivised them to spend money and time defending the land on his behalf Exploiting the peasants more gave him more control and increased tax income
Law and Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The court system- King's Court, Shire Court, Hundred Court, Manor Court The King has the authority to pass laws and issues Writs Shire- reeves ('Sheriffs') control law and order for an earl. Trial by ordeal (water and fire) Accused people had to swear and oath of innocence Inheritance: Earl's land was divided by all sons Used 'wergild' – a fine given to a victims family in case of serious crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The court system- King's Court, Shire Court, Hundred Court, Lord's Court, Manor Court The King has authority to pass laws and issues writs The King runs the country centrally and barons have little power to adapt (besides Marchers/ Prince Bishops) Shire- reeves ('Sheriffs') control law and order for a baron. Trial by ordeal kept (water and fire) and trial by battle introduced Oath system replaced with other systems- e.g. Murdrum fines (if a Norman was killed the entire population of the Hundred was fined) Inheritance: land was inherited by a baron's eldest son (primogeniture); if a tenant died without a son it would return to the lord and if a tenant's child wasn't old enough the lord could take the land and profit from it until the son was of age (known as 'feudal incidents'). Used wergild but introduced harsher punishments, e.g. mutilation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced Lord's Court Introduced Murdrum fines Change inheritance Introduced trial by combat Expanded Royal Forests under the Forest Laws Replaced Wergild with harsh punishments, e.g. mutilation Centralised power and gave barons less control over their land than earls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murdrum fines reduced the likelihood of crimes against Normans Forest Laws cut off a vital food supply for the Anglo- Saxons as they couldn't supplement their diets Trial by Combat reduced the likelihood of an Anglo- Saxon accusing a Norman of a crime as they would almost always lose Inheritance laws gave William more control and increased income Centralised power made the country more uniform and gave the King more direct power.
Towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very few (e.g. York, Norwich and London) 90% live in countryside Trade mostly with Scandinavia in the North Trade with Normandy in the South Urban/ rural life not that different 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% live in the countryside Towns grew in number: 21 new towns by 1100 Towns grew in size: 300 new homes in Bury St. Edmunds Grew around castles (e.g. Pontefract), Cathedrals (e.g. Ely), and Abbeys (e.g. Selby) Migrants were drawn to towns (e.g. from Normandy) to exploit trade and freedom Trade with Scandinavia decreased Trade with Normandy and mainland Europe (e.g. Flanders) increased- based on exports like wool- growing towns like York and Lincoln Markets grew- 2800 grants for markets granted Guilds (groups of workers) grew to protect skills, wages etc... (e.g. blacksmiths guild) Burgesses (important townspeople) were given responsibilities like helping defence and were given freedoms (e.g. freedom to move unlike peasants)- they developed into an early middle- class with higher wealth and education levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towns grew in number, size and importance Towns were an important part of the conquest Towns were built around castles and religious buildings Towns encouraged migrations especially from Normandy The gap between urban and rural population increased- burgesses were richer than village peasants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towns grew in number, size and importance Trade with Normandy and mainland Europe increased Towns were important in controlling England- especially in the Marcher regions The gap between the urban and rural population increased
Villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the population – essentially everyone was a farmer (crops- wheat, rye) Life dictated by the seasons- e.g. harvesting in summer and ploughing in autumn Houses were wattle and daub Diet: pottage, ale, no meat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the population – essentially everyone was a farmer (crops- wheat, rye) Life dictated by the seasons- e.g. harvesting in summer and ploughing in autumn Houses were wattle and daub Slavery declined but so did the number of free peasants Royal Forests grew and Forest laws restricted hunting Rent and tax increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lord of the Manor now Norman Manor house now built of stone Church built in the Romanesque style Royal Forests expanded and Forest laws prevented people supplementing diets Northern villages impacted by the Harrying of the North remained poor and underpopulated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little overall change Forest laws and increased taxes made life harder and led to some resentment Larger churches and manor houses were visible symbols of the conquest Many northern villages were poor due to the Harrying of the North

3. THE NORMAN CHURCH AND MONASTICISM

	BEFORE	AFTER	KEY CHANGES	IMPACT/ IMPORTANCE OF CHANGE
THE CHURCH	<p>Distanced itself from the Pope and Church in Europe- seen by William as corrupt</p> <p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pluralism: holding more than one role • Simony: selling religious posts to family/ friends • Marriage: many clergy were married • Too reliant on local lords who had influence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given 25% of England by William- giving it power and huge income • Bishops held significant power (e.g. Prince Bishop of Durham) and acted as feudal lords • Legitimised the conquest by 'showing' God was on William's side (e.g., Battle Abbey) • Initially kept Stigand as Archbishop of York but replaced him with Lanfranc • Replaced Anglo- Saxon bishops with Normans • Simony remained- Rufus sold the Bishop of Durham to Flambard for £1000 <p>Lanfranc led reforms...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage banned amongst clergy • Enforced stricter rules and crushed rebellions • Formalised the church structure so it was clear who had authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legitimised the conquest • Brought in line with mainland Europe and the wishes of the Pope • Powerful positions (e.g., Bishop and Abbot) given to Normans 	<p>The Church helped the conquest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legitimised it • Cathedrals/ Abbeys served the same functions as castles • Normans replaced Anglo- Saxons <p>The Church was brought in line with mainland Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lanfranc's reforms removed some of the problems • William had a close relationship with the Pope (at times)
CATHEDRALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housed relics- were places of pilgrimage (e.g., Durham) <p>Were in isolated areas and were not grand buildings- (looked like normal churches, were often wooden)</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Anglo- Saxon cathedrals destroyed by 1100 • Built in the Romanesque style in prominent positions in the centres of towns (e.g., Durham, York, Ely, Peterborough, Wakefield) • Built in the shape of a crucifix • Acted as symbols of conquest (like castles) and served to legitimise the conquest • Continued to house relics to ensure income from pilgrimages- allowed the Bishops to increase their income. • Often had monasteries attached to them (e.g., Durham) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much larger- built in Romanesque style on strategic/ prominent locations • Were large, built in strategic locations and were Romanesque, so they were visible everywhere and scared people • Protected the Bishop (e.g., Prince Bishop of Durham) 	<p>Helped to control because...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legitimise the conquest by showing God was on the Norman's side • Were large, built in strategic locations and were Romanesque, so they were visible everywhere and scared people • Protected the Bishop (e.g., Prince Bishop of Durham)
MONASTERIES (INCL. ABBEYS)	<p>Monasticism in decline- monasteries shutting and monastic life not being respected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distanced itself from the Pope and Church in Europe • Too reliant on local lords for land grants- they demanded a say in how monasteries were run <p>• Not following the Benedictine Vows (poverty, chastity, obedience, loyalty)- some monks were eating meat, wearing expensive clothing and having relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William built Battle Abbey as penance for violence shown at Hastings in Oct 1066 • Lanfranc led reforms (see below) <p>Increase in Monasticism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of monks/ nuns- 1000 to 5,000 • Number of monasteries- 60 to 250 • Number of cathedrals with monasteries- 4 to 19 <p>Reforms to Monasticism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normans replaced Anglo- Saxon abbots- in 1070 only 1 abbot had been replaced, by 1086 only 3 were Anglo- Saxon • Lanfranc introduced the Constitutions- Benedictine vows had to be followed strictly- knights were sent to enforce this if needed, e.g. at Glastonbury • The hierarchy of monasteries were formalised so that the Pope had ultimate authority. <p>Introduction of Cluniac monasteries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict monasteries formed in 910- Close relationship with the Pope • Introduced to Britain in 1077 by William de Warenne at Lewes Abbey • 24 in England by 1135 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in number of monasteries, monks and nuns • Anglo- Saxon abbots replaced with Normans • Reforms brought it in line with Europe and made it stricter • Abbots were important to the conquest (like cathedrals) • Cluniac monasteries introduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monasticism grew in size and number- which pleased the Pope as monasticism had been in decline before 1066. • Monasteries were brought in line with Europe and rules were enforced- which pleased the Pope. • Abbots legitimised the conquest- as they showed that God was on the Normans side- Monks were seen as the holiest of all members of the Church • Cluniac monasteries grew in number and importance- Cluniacs were the strictest Monks which shows that the Normans were pious (religious).
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few schools, e.g. King's • Canterbury established in 597 • Education designed to teach boys only for a religious life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cathedrals and many large schools had schools by 1100 • Education initially for teaching boys about religious life • Focus on: maths, Latin, astronomy, music • Oxford University opened in 1096, Cambridge in 1209 • Grammar schools opened in 1382 allowing a secular education- education broadened and knowledge grew 	<p>Short- Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth in number of schools • Opening of Oxford <p>Long- Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of grammar schools and secular education • Opening of Cambridge 	<p>Short- Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth in number of schools • All Anglo- Saxons excluded from schools giving Normans more control. <p>Long- Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of grammar schools and secular education- allowed knowledge to expand as the Church didn't restrict what was taught • Opening of Cambridge • Oxford and Cambridge inspire universities all over the world
LANGUAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old English (a Germanic language) used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin introduced as the language of the Church and government/law but was not used day-to-day • French used by the ruling class and those who wanted to climb the social ladder (e.g. well -ff bourgeois who were sent to school) • Old English still used by the peasants • Hybrid language develops as a mixture of French and Old English. • Two words for the same thing still used today ('cow' and 'beef') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 languages used • The rich speak French and the poor English • A hybrid language developed (40-50% of modern English words are French) 	<p>A hybrid language developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two words for the same thing, often the 'posh' sounding word ('chamber') is French and the 'normal' word ('room') is English. • Latin and French are the languages of law which only the Normans can read- strips Anglo- Saxons of the ability to defend themselves/ access the law.