

Q4. "The main **cause** of castle building was X". How far do you agree?
How far does your study of Pevensey Castle support this statement?

PEVENSEY BEFORE 1066	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sussex was under the control of Wessex- it was Harold Godwinson's land and he felt protective over it. Any contact of Sussex would be a very visible symbol of the power of the conqueror. Interior (The Weald) mostly uninhabited dense woodland which acted as a natural barrier to the rest of England Coastline was developed with relatively high population density Coast economically developed: strong trade based on fishing and agriculture (pig and cattle) from surrounding area. Evidence of strong trade links with Europe six coin mints in Sussex alone (Coins minted in Sussex found as far away as Rome). Strategically located- on England's Southern Coast opposite Normandy. A Roman fort had been built on a Peninsula in Pevensey in 290- it had fallen into disrepair, but the exterior walls and D-towers remained intact. The Roman fort was an easily defensible position (surrounded on 3 sides by water and connected to the mainland by only a narrow strip of land). 	

CAUSE- Why do they want to build it there?	
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<p>Economics Relating to money- how it is made, controlled or distributed.</p> <p>Including concepts such as trade, employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already developed economy (based on herring fishing) gave William a reason to build a castle and develop a town in the local area. Castles provide protection for towns and allow them to grow in size and population. This results in a growth in employment, trade and taxation. Sussex was already rich and densely populated with six mints (their coins were found as far away as Rome). Castles were often built close to trade routes to ensure they were protected this might include roads, harbours or rivers. There was a harbour North and South of Pevensey castle with shallow beaches which were perfect for offloading cargo. The castle also had access to a Roman road that connected Pevensey to London and the rest of England.
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<p>Military/ Defend Relating to how the Normans used physical force to defend their land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motte and bailey castles were famed for the fact that they could be pre-built elsewhere and shipped to a location for fast construction. This allowed Norman armies a safe base from which to attack their enemies. The castle was built in one-day on the grounds of the former Roman Fort- William didn't need to build a wooden palisade due to the existing Roman walls and only needed to repair the walls and build a keep. Motte and bailey castles would use natural features of the land (e.g. hills and rivers) as well as human made earthworks to make it even harder to attack (e.g. building of a ditch or moat in front of the walls). Pevensey was already surrounded on three sides by water (a peninsula in the sea) and only connected by a narrow strip of land. This meant that William could defend against English counter- attacks if they came. Pevensey as also surrounded by marshland which was difficult to navigate.
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<p>Control/ Power (Intimidation) Relating to how the Normans used castles to control the population without physical force.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pevensey and the rest of Sussex were formerly Harold Godwinson's lands- he was protective of them and the people knew that they lived on his land. By invading their and building a castle William could provide a very clear symbol of this conquest and power. Pevensey was one of the largest buildings in the area which towered over the local population. Its Roman stone walls were 20ft high and 10ft thick with prominent D-towers. Pevensey was located close to Normandy- it was a main landing sight when sailing between the two, so acted as a key link between them, helping William to rule both. Castles were not found in Anglo-Saxon England (they only had walled towns, known as 'Burhs'). Castles were a new military building designed to intimidate Anglo-Saxons. Pevensey allowed for an easy conversion to a motte-and bailey castle.
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Q4. "The main consequence of castle building was X". How far do you agree?
How far does your study of Pevensey Castle support this statement?

PEVENSEY BEFORE 1066

- Sussex was under the control of Wessex- it was Harold Godwinson's land and he felt protective over it. Any contact of Sussex would be a very visible symbol of the power of the conqueror.
- Interior (The Weald) mostly uninhabited dense woodland which acted as a natural barrier to the rest of England
- Coastline was developed with relatively high population density
- **Coast economically developed:** strong trade based on fishing and agriculture (pig and cattle) from surrounding area. Evidence of strong trade links with Europe six coin mints in Sussex alone (Coins minted in Sussex found as far away as Rome).
- Strategically located- on England's Southern Coast opposite Normandy.
- A Roman fort had been built on a Peninsula in Pevensey in 290- it had fallen into disrepair, but the exterior walls and D-towers remained intact. The Roman fort was an easily defensible position (surrounded on 3 sides by water and connected to the mainland by only a narrow strip of land).

CONSEQUENCE- What was the impact of building it there?

Economics
 Relating to money- how it is made, controlled or distributed.

 Including concepts such as trade, employment

- In the short- term Norman Conquest decreased economic activity due to the harsh reality of war. The value of estates (land and assets owned by Earls) decreased 40% immediately after 1066- by 1086 the wealth of Sussex in general was 10-25% lower than it had been in 1066.
- However, **the economy directly around castles** was a different matter (this highlights how important castles were in developing the local economy and developing new towns):
 - Robert Count of Mortain developed a nearby town (either Pevensey or Westham)- it became one of the top 20% largest settlements
 - Population in the town increased: 1070- 27 burgesses, 1086- 60 burgesses
 - Tax in the town increased: 1070- 14 shillings collected in total tax, 1086- 39 shillings in total tax
 - The Sussex coast in general developed- population density was 20 per square mile, twice the national average

Military/ Defend
 Relating to how the Normans used physical force to defend their land.

- William (and later Robert) developed the castle. The D- forts were extended in height to provide visibility around the castle and to the Weald, ditches were dug around the inner and outer- baileys and whole castle was rebuilt in stone.
 - The castle provided excellent visibility of the surrounding area and could be the base of an army if rebellions occurred.
 - Castles changed the nature of warfare. Long sieges became more common instead of pitched battle in the open field. For example, Robert of Mortain and Bishop Odo were able to hold out for six weeks before eventually running out of supplies and surrendering to William Rufus.
- THERE WERE NO ANGLO- SAXON REBELLIONS IN OR AROUND PEVENSEY**, however Pevensey was put to action twice in the Norman period:
- **Rebellion of 1088:**
 - William died in 1087, and his lands were split between two of his sons; William Rufus was given England and Robert Curthose was given Normandy.
 - Norman nobles preferred one to rule over both areas. Robert Count of Mortain, and Bishop Odo, chose to support Curthose, basing themselves at Pevensey and planning to help Robert Curthose use it as a base for his invasion and rebellion against Rufus.
 - Curthose set sail but his invasion fleet was blown back to Normandy in poor weather. King Rufus besieged Pevensey in an attempt to remove Odo and Robert Mortain- Rufus's army battered Pevensey with trebuchets but the defences were too strong. After 6 weeks Odo and Robert Mortain surrendered to Rufus due to a lack of food (the castle defences were never broken).
 - **Succession crisis 1101**
 - William Rufus died in 1100. His brother Henry I became King of England, but Robert Curthose still believed it should be him.
 - Robert of Mortain's son, William, sided with Robert Curthose, just like his father had done- he left Pevensey Castle and travelled to Normandy to support Curthose's invasion
 - Henry I stationed his army at the now empty Pevensey Castle, expecting Curthoses and Mortain's invasion. When the invasion did come they did not land in Pevensey (like William had done in 1066) but moved along the coast and landed at Portsmouth. This decision was probably the result of not wanting to invade and face a fully defended Pevensey Castle.

Control/ Power (Intimidation)
 Relating to how the Normans used castles to control the population without physical force.

- The castle was developed (the D tower on the North-West corner was heightened for a clear view of the Weald), and rebuilt in stone by Robert. It was the largest structure around and was elevated above other buildings. Its scale provided a constant visible reminder of the conquest, and the new architectural style (Anglo- Saxons had not seen Romanesque, stone Motte- and- Bailey castles before) reinforced that they were under new leadership.
- Castles were now able to be used to intimidate foreign invaders e.g. Durham Castle and the castles of the Marcher Earls. Pevensey proves this as Robert Curthose didn't bother to attack Henry I when he attempted another invasion due to the defensive features of Pevensey.
- Castles became administrative centres for local sheriffs who would use the castle as a base for their tax collection and law enforcement. Tax money would be stored at the castle before being sent to a regional treasury (Winchester for Sussex). Castles would also house the sheriff's men and often the local courts which were run by the sheriff.
- **THERE WERE NO ANGLO- SAXON REBELLIONS IN OR AROUND PEVENSEY** suggesting the castles, including Pevensey were an effective deterrent

Q4. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT- PEVENSEY CASTLE (2026)

'DURING THE NORMAN PERIOD, THE MAIN CONSEQUENCE OF CASTLE BUILDING WAS CONTROL.

HOW FAR DOES A STUDY OF PEVENSEY CASTLE SUPPORT THIS STATEMENT?

EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.

YOU SHOULD REFER TO PEVENSEY CASTLE AND YOUR CONTEXTUAL KNOWLEDGE. [16 MARKS]

One consequence of castle building was control. Norman Motte and Bailey castles were alien to the Anglo-Saxon population (who had only seen 'Burhs' and Roman forts). They were often large, Romanesque and built in strategic locations, such as on hills or by rivers and main roads, to ensure that they were a visible to all, such as Pontefract Castle. Control was a consequence of castle building therefore as they scared the local population and served as a visible reminder of Norman power, deterring rebellion. Pevensey Castle developed an existing Roman fort by heightening the D tower in the North-West corner for a clear view of the Weald and it was also rebuilt in Stone by Robert, Count of Mortain. It was the largest structure around and was elevated above other buildings. Its scale provided a constant visible reminder of the conquest so much so that Sussex faced no Anglo-Saxon rebellions, proving that control was an essential consequence. In the wider context, castles were also used to intimidate potential foreign invaders. Durham Castle and the castles of the Marcher Earls prevented invasion from Malcolm III of Scotland and the Welsh princes, respectively. Pevensey further proves this as in 1101 Robert Curthose landed in Portsmouth instead of Pevensey due to Henry I garrisoning his army at Pevensey Castle. Furthermore, sheriffs would use the castle as a base for law enforcement as they would house the sheriff's men and often the local Hundred Courts and sometimes Shire Courts which were run by the sheriff.

Another consequence of castle building was military defence. Norman Motte and Bailey castles had many effective defensive features, such as a palisade (a large fence) that protected the castle and kept out attackers, and the motte (a large mound of earth) with a keep (a mini- castle) on top, which was incredibly difficult to attack and would provide a final layer of defence even if the castle were breached. In addition, castles housed soldiers, who could respond quickly to local unrest or rebellion. Military defence was a main consequence of castle building therefore, as they could effectively protect the Norman lords stationed in Britain after the conquest and ensure that rebellion could be managed. Pevensey Castle was already an effective defensive structure, as it was built on the remains of a Roman Fort from 290, and on a peninsula. Robert of Mortain further strengthened its defences by rebuilding the castle in stone, extending the Roman walls, heightening the D- Towers for visibility, and digging a ditch around the site. While the castle never came under attack by the Anglo- Saxons, it did successfully protect Robert Mortain and Bishop Odo during the Rebellion of 1088, when they supported the succession of Robert Curthose, and as a result came under attack from William Rufus. Rufus attempted to take the castle but found it impossible to breach its defences. Military defence was therefore a main consequence of castle building as it secured the conquest and protected those in power. In the wider context, this was a similar to the way that castles protected the Normans against Welsh raiders in the Marcher Earldoms, and in the long-term allowed them to eventually conquer Wales.

A final consequence of castle building was economic growth. Castles provided protection to surrounding areas, allowing towns to be developed, leading to population growth and the development of markets. By 1100 21 new towns had been created, such as Pontefract and Conwy, and 2800 markets had been established. Some towns saw significant growth, such as Bury St. Edmunds, which saw 300 new homes built. Economic growth was therefore a consequence of castle building as the rapid growth of towns and trade led to an increase in taxation and the development of wealth in general. After developing Pevensey Castle, Robert of Mortain oversaw the establishment of a new town (either Pevensey or Westham). This town saw a rapid growth in population, with the number of burgesses increasing from 27 to 60 between 1070 to 1086, eventually becoming one of the top 20% of largest settlements in England. This led to an increase in trade and tax income, which rose from 14 to 39 shillings in the same time- period. Economic growth is therefore a consequence of castle building, as castles allowed for the expansion of population, trade and tax income. In the wider context, the growth of towns around Pevensey mirrors the Sussex region, which was an important link back to Normandy, and saw a significant growth in towns, eventually leading to a population density double the national average.

Overall, control is the most important consequence of castle building. While castles had impressive defensive features, and Pevensey did help Robert and Odo during the rebellion of 1088, almost all castles, like Pevensey, never came under attack from Anglo- Saxons, and rarely, if ever, needed to actually protect Normans. This is because castles were so effective as scaring the Anglo- Saxons and controlled them so well. Likewise, although economic growth was a significant consequence, the development of towns and trade was only possible because the local population were kept safe by the castle through the control that it provided. As a result, control made the defensive function of castles unnecessary, and enabled the economic growth, meaning it is the most important.

Q4. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT- PEVENSEY CASTLE (2026)

‘DURING THE NORMAN PERIOD, THE MAIN CAUSE OF CASTLE BUILDING WAS MILITARY DEFENCE’.

HOW FAR DOES A STUDY OF PEVENSEY CASTLE SUPPORT THIS STATEMENT? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.

YOU SHOULD REFER TO PEVENSEY CASTLE AND YOUR CONTEXTUAL KNOWLEDGE. [16 MARKS]

One cause of castle building was military defence. Motte and Bailey castles were famed for the fact that they could be pre-built elsewhere (the wooden palisade and keep could be pre-cut to size) and shipped to a location for fast construction; usually they could be built within one to two weeks. This allowed Norman armies the ability to quickly create a safe base from which to attack their enemies. For example, Pevensey Castle was used as a base for William from which to launch attacks on Harold Godwinson and hold onto Sussex. Motte and Bailey castles would use natural features of the land (e.g. hills and rivers) as well as human made earthworks to make it even harder to attack (e.g. building of a ditch or moat in front of the walls). Pevensey was already surrounded on three sides by water (a peninsula in the sea) and only connected by a narrow spit of land. Due to the existing Roman fort, William didn't need to build a wooden palisade due to the existing Roman stone walls and only needed to repair the walls and build a wooden keep. This meant that William could defend against English counter-attacks if they came. Pevensey also made use of the local marshland which was difficult to navigate. From 1066 onwards, the Normans built castles across England to hold onto what they had gained and the area from attacks. In the wider context, this is similar to how the castle next to Durham Cathedral and the various castles along the Welsh Marches were used to prevent attacks from the princes in Wales and King Malcolm III in Scotland.

Another cause of castle building was economics. For example, castles were often built close to trade routes (rivers, roads and harbours) and towns or rich areas such as the case with Clifford's Tower which protected the River Ouse and the town of York. In Pevensey, the castle was built close to two harbours (to the North and South) and on an old Roman road which went to London. This allowed the Normans to gain supplies from Normandy as Pevensey was directly opposite the Norman coastline. In the wider context of Norman England this was important as at the time of Pevensey being built, William only had control of Sussex whilst the rest of England was still under Anglo-Saxon rule. Therefore, they had to rely heavily on resources from Normandy to sustain their conquest of England. Furthermore, the Sussex coastline was rich before the Conquest (with six mints, a herring fishing industry and rich cattle and pig farming). This would allow the Normans to pay and feed themselves for a period of time.

A final cause of castle building was control. For example, they were intimidating because they were often the tallest building, and the keep was built on a motte to make them even taller and would often be surrounded by a tall palisade wall. Also, when the Normans arrived there were no Motte and Bailey castles, the Anglo-Saxons had only seen 'Burhs/Boroughs' which were walled towns or abandoned Roman forts. These buildings were built as primarily military buildings, and which would house Barons and knights who's only job was to control the Anglo-Saxon population which as a result was intimidating for the local population so much so that they did not even want to fight. At Pevensey, it was in a prominent position on a peninsula which could be seen along the coast it was also tall enough to tower over the Weald. Also, the walls were 10ft thick and 20ft tall and would require siege engines (machines) to attack, which the Anglo-Saxons would not have. In the wider context, Pevensey was built in Sussex which as part of the Earldom of Wessex. This was particularly intimidating as they had been allowed to set up a base on land owned by the Godwin family including Harold Godwinson, the king at the time of the invasion and showed that even the King couldn't stand up to the Normans.

Overall, the main cause of castle building was control. While Norman motte and bailey castles served multiple functions, their role in intimidation was arguably the most significant in securing Norman control over England. These castles were not just defensive structures; they were deliberate symbols of power, strategically placed to assert dominance over the local Anglo-Saxon population. By constructing these fortifications in key locations—such as towns, trade routes, and areas prone to rebellion—the Normans ensured that their presence was both seen and felt. The sheer size and visibility of these castles played a psychological role, reminding the local people that resistance was pointless. For many Anglo-Saxons, the rapid appearance of motte and bailey castles following the Norman Conquest was a clear and unsettling sign that they were now ruled by a foreign power. The garrisons stationed within these castles could swiftly put down any signs of rebellion, reinforcing the idea that Norman rule was absolute and unchallengeable. In addition, the castles were often built on confiscated land, further alienating the Anglo-Saxon nobility and demonstrating the Normans' control over England's wealth and resources.