

Timeline

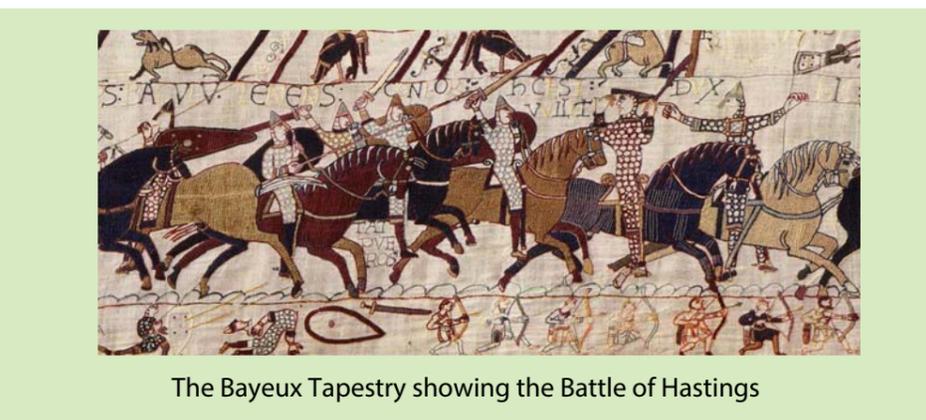
5 January 1066	The King of England, Edward the Confessor, dies after a series of strokes.
6 January 1066	Harold Godwinson is named King of England.
20 September 1066	Harald Hardrada invades England with around 10,000 men.
25 September 1066	The Battle of Stamford Bridge is fought.
28 September 1066	William of Normandy invades England and orders the creation of Hastings Castle (a Motte and Bailey Castle).
14 October 1066	The Battle of Hastings is fought.
1069	After a rebellion from the North, William orders villages to be destroyed and people to be killed.
1086	The Domesday book is completed.

Key people

Edward the Confessor	Edward the Confessor was the King of England between 1042 and 1066. Edward had no sons or daughters which meant there was no clear heir to the throne. This led to a crisis.
Harold Godwinson	Harold Godwinson was a powerful and rich English nobleman. Apparently, Edward named Godwinson as his successor on his deathbed. The day after Edward's death, the royal council, known as the Witan, met and declared Godwinson king.
Harald Hardrada	Hardrada was the King of Norway and a Viking warrior. Hardrada believed he should be king based on the fact that his ancestor, King Cnut, had once ruled England. He invaded England to challenge Godwinson's rule.
William of Normandy	William of Normandy was already Duke of Normandy which was the most powerful part of France. His army had helped Edward the Confessor take control of England in 1042 and due to this help he said Edward had promised him the throne. William of Normandy became known as William the Conqueror in 1066 after he defeated Harold Godwinson.

Key Terms

Heir	A person allowed, by law, to take the title or property of somebody after death.
Saxon	A group settled in England in the 5th century. They were in control until the 11th century.
Viking	A group of pirates and traders who were living in Norway, Sweden and Denmark between the 8th and 11th century.
Norman	A group that settled in Normandy, France, in the 9th century and became dominant in the 11th century.
Surrender	To give up. An army may surrender in a battle which means they have lost the battle.
Retreat	To run away. An army may retreat if they are losing. This means their troops can fight again in another battle.
Motte	A wooden castle on top of a hill. This allows increased vision and protection from enemies.
Bailey	A large yard surrounded by a wooden fence. This offered increased protection for villagers and armies inside.
Cavalry	These were very important men in William's army. Around 2,000 of them fought at Hastings. They rode on the back of large horses carrying a sword or spear.
Housecarl	These were the well-trained fighters of Harold's army. Around 3,000 of them fought at Hastings. They fought with a battle axe.



Key Events

<p>The Battle of Stamford Bridge—25 September 1066</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 Viking long boats carried Harald Hardrada's army from Norway to England. They attacked and took over York by 24 September. Godwinson's army marched quickly north to meet the Viking threat. They travelled 210 miles in 5 days. Godwinson's army caught Hardrada by surprise. Hardrada is defeated and the Vikings surrender.
<p>The Battle of Hastings—14 October 1066</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William of Normandy's army of 10,000 soldiers arrived at Pevensey on 29 September. They begin to march north. Godwinson's Saxon army are on top of Senlac Hill blocking William of Normandy's route to London. At 9:30am, the Norman knights charge up the hill. William of Normandy pretends to retreat, encouraging the Saxons to run down the hill, giving up the high position. Harold Godwinson is then killed. On 25 December 1066, William of Normandy is crowned King of England.
<p>Motte and Bailey Castles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motte and Bailey castles were wooden structures built into two parts: a high tower (motte) and a large yard surrounded by a wooden fence (bailey). These structures only took seven to fourteen days to build and gave the defender a strategic advantage. These could be problematic if the enemy used fire. Also, the wood could rot which meant that Motte and Baileys were only temporary.
<p>The Feudal System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was a system which helped to control the population of England by encouraging the loyalty of the people. Land was given to 200 Barons and 4000 Knights and farmed by 1.5 million Villeins (peasants). Life for Villeins was tough.
<p>Methods of control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1069, William crushes a rebellion in the North by poisoning 75% of land and killing up to 100,000 people. This is called the Harrying of the North. The Domesday book is created in 1086 and contains all the property that people living in England own. 13,000 villages are visited.