

In 1066 **Edward the Confessor** died with no heir leaving the **Witan** to decide who would be the next King.

Claim to the throne?

Claimed Edward promised him the throne on his death bed.

Strong alliances with other nobles

Harold Godwinson
Anglo-Saxon.
Edwards closest advisor & brother in law.
Earl of Wessex.



Harald Hardrada

King of Norway

Viking Warrior

Claimants to the throne 1066

Edgar the Aethling



Saxon Prince.

The great nephew of Edward.

15 years old.

William Duke of Normandy



A Norman.

Distant cousin of Edward who knew him well.

Claimed Godwinson had sword loyalty to him.

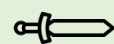
Has royal blood.

Edwards father had been promised the throne by Edward but had died under mysterious circumstances.

Claimed Edward promised him the throne.

The last Viking king of England had named Magnus, Haralds father, as heir to the throne.

The crown went to Edward the confessor instead!



The Battle of Stamford Bridge.

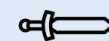


In September 1066 King Harold Godwinson and Harald Hardrada fought in the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

The Viking army was caught by surprise and many had left their armour on their ships after winning another battle a few days earlier.

At first, the Vikings held the bridge with one strong warrior, but the English managed to break through and surround them.

Harald Hardrada was killed and the Vikings were defeated. This was the last time that the Vikings threatened England.



The Battle of Hastings.



In October 1066, Harold Godwinson & William of Normandy fought in Hastings.

Harold's men fought mainly on foot with axes and spears, forming a **strong shield wall** on top of a hill.



Williams army was mixed, with knights on horseback (Cavalry), archers with crossbows and foot soldiers

At first, none of William's attacks could not break through the strong English shield wall.



William then used a **feigned retreat**. Some of his men pretended to run away, and when Harold's army chased them, the shield wall was broken.

With the wall weakened, William's knights attacked again. Harold was killed, and William won, becoming William the Conqueror, King of England

Norman control



Castles

The Normans built castles across England to scare people and keep soldiers ready.



Feudal system

William gave English land to his Norman supporters, who promised him loyalty and soldiers in return.



Domesday Book

William ordered a great survey to record who owned land, animals, and resources, so he could tax and control the country



Churches

William replaced many English bishops with Normans and built great stone cathedrals, giving the Church Norman control.