

The Norman Conquest

Who will be King?



HARALD HARDRADA

King of Norway
Age: 50

Not related to Edward BUT his grandfather had been a previous king of England so he thought he had the right to rule.

The most famous soldier in Europe

His supporters wanted land and wealth in England. 30 years earlier England had been ruled by Canute who was also King of Denmark and Norway. Harald said, 'Canute's son promised England to the Kings of Norway.'



WILLIAM,
DUKE OF NORMANDY

Age: 39

A very distant relative of Edward.

William became Duke of Normandy aged eight.

William had won land by attacking neighbours whenever he had the chance.

Becoming King of England would make him even more powerful and rich. His supporters hoped they would be rewarded with land and wealth in England. William said: 'Fifteen years ago King Edward promised that I would be the next King of England. Then Harold swore that he would help me become King.'



HAROLD GODWINSON

Age: 44

Brother of King Edward's wife.

Harold Godwinson was a great soldier. Many English lords had fought in the same army as Harold.

He owned land all over the south and was the richest man in England. His two brothers controlled a lot of the south too.

Harold said: 'When Edward was dying he said he wanted me to be the next king.'

Key Terms:

Anglo-Saxons: People who ruled England between 450-1066

Normans: People from Normandy in France

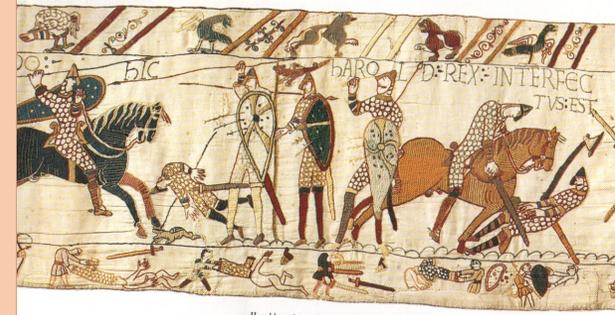
Vikings - People from Scandinavia

Harald Hardrada - Leader of the Vikings and King of Norway

King Harold - Leader of Anglo Saxons and king in 1066

William of Normandy - Duke of Normandy and became king after the Battle of Hastings

The Conqueror - Name given to William after 1066.



The Norman Conquest - Battle Order

Harold is crowned king of England on 6th January 1066, just one day after Edward the confessor dies

But not everyone is delighted by this.

So the Vikings invade from Scandinavia and land in the north of England Harold hears about this and the armies travel until they meet

Meanwhile in France someone else is not happy.

So the Normans travel to England and land on the south coast.

Harold of Wessex is still in the north and hears about this and the Anglo-Saxons are on the march again going south.

The two armies eventually meet at Hastings

The battle for the crown of England now gets underway

The battle is going well for the Anglo-Saxons, but then Normans try new tactics. This works a bit but the Anglo-Saxons still have a good position at the top of the hill until the Norman army retreats and then the critical moment

The Anglo-Saxons break their shield wall and leave the top of the hill.

The armies come together again and the fighting is much more even until Harold is shot in the eye by an arrow.

This completely changes things for the Anglo-Saxon army

So everyone who is not already dead gives up and leaves

The army march to London and William of Normandy gets his new name:

William the Conqueror