

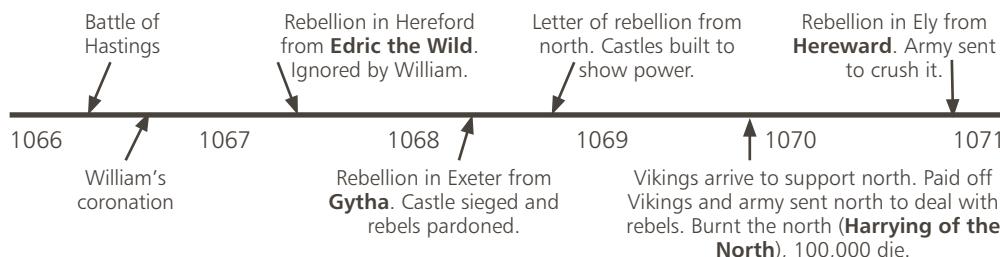
Knowledge Organiser

Did the Normans bring a 'truck-load of trouble' to England in 1066?

Background Information:

- The Normans were from Normandy in France.
- Their king was **King William** (also known as William the Conqueror). He ruled from **1066 to 1087**.
- They beat the Anglo-Saxons at the **Battle of Hastings** in 1066.

Between 1066 and 1071, the Normans asserted their authority by dealing with rebellions:



The impact of the Normans on society:

- Feudal system** introduced. This was good for the Normans, but bad for the English.
 - Tenants in chief** had to give army to William.
 - Sub-tenants** had to give soldiers.
- Nearly all **land went to the Normans**. Of the 1,000 land owners only 13 were English.
- Peasants: Many **freemen became villeins** due to high tax. Only 14% were freemen in 1086.
- Slavery** was abolished.

The key aspects of Norman rule:

- The Normans tackled corruption in the Church. Stigand was replaced with **Lanfranc** as Archbishop of Canterbury. Only one English bishop remained.
- Lots of **new monasteries** were built.
- Normans used Anglo-Saxon government, but changed personnel and introduced **Latin**.
- New laws introduced, including **trial by combat** and **murdrum**.
- Normans introduced a lot of **new taxes**.
- A survey was completed of landowners in England. This is known as the **Domesday Book**. It made tax effective.

The Normans built a lot of castles:

- Some historians think they built over 1,000.
- Most of these were **motte and bailey** castles and were made of wood.



- Some historians think they were built as **military fortresses**. Other historians think they were just **status symbols**.
- Chepstow Castle** is one of the first stone structures. It has a great keep.
- Old Sarum** is a very large motte and bailey. The bailey was so large it included a cathedral.

Keywords used in this unit:

- Archbishop** – a senior church leader
- Authority** – the power to give orders
- Earl** – a Norman lord
- Feudal system** – a system where land is loaned or rented in return for soldiers
- Harrying** – meaning to burn or destroy
- Monarch** – a king or queen of a country
- Monastery** – a place where monks or nuns live
- Peasant** – a poor person who lives and works in the countryside
- Sovereign** – another word for a monarch



Simon Schama's interpretation of the impact of the Norman Conquest:

'There are moments when history is unsubtle; when change arrives in a violent rush, decisive, bloody, traumatic; as a **truck-load of trouble**, wiping out everything that gives a culture its bearings – custom, language, law, loyalty. 1066 was one of those moments.'