Violence controlled the English: The Harrying of the North

- In **1069** William sent one of his barons, **Robert**, to the north of England to take control of that area;
- The north had only just been conquered by William;
- Robert and his **900** Norman soldiers were killed by the English;
- The **Vikings** decided to help the English drive the Normans out of the north – the resistance was led by the English Earls Edwin and Morcar;
- William paid the Vikings a bribe (the **Danegeld**) to get them to leave England, and executed the leaders of the rebellion;
- William ordered that the fields be **salted** so that no crops could be grown;
- **100,000** Anglo-Saxons died and William gained a fierce reputation.

Problems after the Battle of Hastings

- William only controlled south-east England;
- There were **2 million** Anglo-Saxons compared to **5,000** Normans;
- **Edgar the Atheling**, a nephew of the dead king, could lead the English against William;
- The **Vikings** could invade England in the north to aid the English;
- English soldiers and ships in Dover are blocking William's route back to Normandy.

Quick wins

- William destroyed villages outside London but treated people in Dover with mercy to get support;
- Edgar the Atheling accepted William as king;
- William was **crowned** on the **25th December 1066**.

Information controlled the English: The Domesday Book

- William **owned all the land** in England as king;
- He wanted to know what England was **worth**;
- William sent **inspectors** to every town and village with a set of questions to ask the eldest people in the village;
- Inspectors asked how many fields, fishponds and woods there were; who owned the land before 1066 and how much gold was the land worth;
- William got one man to write this all down in the **Domesday Book**;
- William could now work out how much **tax** he was owed and how many **soldiers** he could demand fight for him;
- Called the Domesday Book by Anglo-Saxons because it felt like they were being **judged by God**;
- **BUT**, William did not know how to read himself, and he was dead by 1087 so it was left to his sons to take advantage of the Domesday Book.

Year 7 Learn Sheet
Exam Week 2
How did William the Conqueror take control of England?
Remember, you could be assessed on any topic you have studied so far!

Violence controlled English: Castles

- William used **motte and bailey** castles to **quickly** and **temporarily** defend areas of England. It is thought he built over 500 of them;
- The **motte (mound)** was made out of heaping the soil dug to make the moat, and the **bailey (courtyard)** was where Norman soldiers lived and stabled their horses;
- **Strengths:** The motte and bailey also had a **keep** (a tower on the motte) providing archers with a watch over the area and a **drawbridge** that could be raised to stop enemies from coming in;
- **Weaknesses**: It was built out of **wood** so could burn or rot over time;
- Motte and bailey castles would be upgraded by using stone as a building material, adding curtain and concentric walls and adding circular towers to prevent mining beneath;
- William had the White Tower at the Tower of London built as a home.

Anglo-Saxon resistance continues

- **Hereward the Wake** caused problems for William in Cambridgeshire, until he was betrayed by a monk and William defeated his army;
- The legend of Robin Hood came from the idea of Anglo-Saxons fighting for their right to hunt in forests that were owned by Norman kings.

'Knowing your place' controlled the English: The Feudal System

- The Feudal System was a **hierarchy** with the **King** at the top, followed by the **Barons** and **Bishops**, the **Knights** and finally the **villeins**;
- It was used to keep the Anglo-Saxons in their place. Normans told them that if they went against it they were going against God;
- The King gave **land** to the barons, the barons to the knights and the villeins worked for free on this several days a week;
- In return the King got **taxes**, **soldiers** and **loyalty** from his Norman friends;
- This meant that the Anglo-Saxons were treated as slaves (**serfs**).