

# 1.3

## The Normans

### Invasion!

● SOURCE 1



● SOURCE 2



- Look at Sources 1–3. What is happening here? Describe what you see. Forget anything you may know about these images. Write down just what you can see and what conclusions you can draw from what you see.

● SOURCE 3



Did you say that there was an invasion going on? If you did, you will need to be very careful. How do you *know*, from these images, that this is what was happening? Ships are being built, sailing somewhere with men and horses, and then disembarking. That an invasion was happening may have been a reasonable conclusion, but you need more evidence to be really sure.

● SOURCE 4



- Look at Source 4. Now can you be sure? Why?

## Why did the Normans invade England in 1066?

A Norman writer tells of a message sent from King Edward of England to Duke William of Normandy:

### ● SOURCE 5

*Edward, king of the English, according to the dispensation of God, without an heir, sent Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the duke with a message appointing the duke as heir to the kingdom which God had entrusted him.*

William of Jumièges, 1070s.

Another Norman writing at the same time seems to give us a very strong steer. In Source 6 he is writing about a meeting between Duke William of Normandy and Harold Godwinsson, Earl of Wessex. At the time of the meeting, Harold was the most powerful man in England apart from King Edward, and could reasonably hope to succeed him.

### ● SOURCE 6

*When they had come together in conference at Bonneville, Harold in that place swore loyalty to the duke. And as is testified by the most truthful and most honourable men who were there present, he took an oath of his own free will in the following terms: firstly that he would be the representative of Duke William at the court of his lord, King Edward, as long as the king lived; secondly that he would employ all his influence and wealth to ensure that after the death of King Edward the kingdom of England should be confirmed in the possession of the Duke.*

William of Poitiers, 1070s.

The Bayeux Tapestry was made on the orders of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and half-brother of Duke William of Normandy.

### ● SOURCE 7



Harold making an oath to Duke William.

- Use Sources 5–8 to explain what you think has been happening. Can you be sure?

Did the dying King Edward offer the throne of England to Harold Godwinsson? The Bayeux Tapestry (Source 8) certainly shows the dying Edward touching hands with someone, but can we be sure it was Harold?

### ● SOURCE 8



Edward the Confessor on his deathbed.

## **PART 1 RAIDERS AND INVADERS**

Maybe written sources can help here.

### ● SOURCE 9

*Harold knows that this kingdom is his by right, as granted to him by gift of that same king his lord Edward upon his deathbed. For since the time when the blessed Augustine came into England it has been the common custom of this nation that a gift made at the point of death is held as valid.*

This is what the Norman, William of Poitiers, writing in 1070, has to say.

What about English sources? By this time there were five different versions of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, written by different monks across the country.

### ● SOURCE 10

C version: *Yet did the wise king entrust his kingdom to a man of high rank, to Harold himself.*

E version: *King Harold succeeded to the kingdom of England as the king granted it to him and he was elected thereto.*

This is what two of them have as entries for 1066.

Harold was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey on 6 January 1066. At the same time, and in the same place, the old king, Edward the Confessor, was buried. Whether or not Edward had promised anything to Harold, it seems clear that the assembled nobility and clergy were content with the outcome. Harold had popular support and, probably, the agreement of his predecessor. Nothing more was needed. What did an oath matter if it was made a couple of years earlier, may or may not have been about the succession to the English throne and may or may not have been made under duress? As it happened, it mattered very much indeed.

### Discussion point

We know the Normans invaded England in 1066. How helpful are Sources 9 and 10 as evidence of their reasons for doing this?

### **Why was the Norman invasion successful?**

In the short term, we know that the invasion of 1066 was successful. Both Norman and English sources tell us so:

### ● SOURCE 11

*Realising that they could not, without severe loss, overcome an army massed so strongly in close formation, the Normans and their allies feigned flight and simulated a retreat. The barbarians [English], thinking victory within their grasp, shouted with triumph. They gave rapid pursuit to those who they thought to be in flight. But the Normans, suddenly wheeling their horses, surrounded them and cut down their pursuers so that not one was left alive. Twice was this tactic employed, with the greatest success.*

William of Poitiers,

### ● SOURCE 12

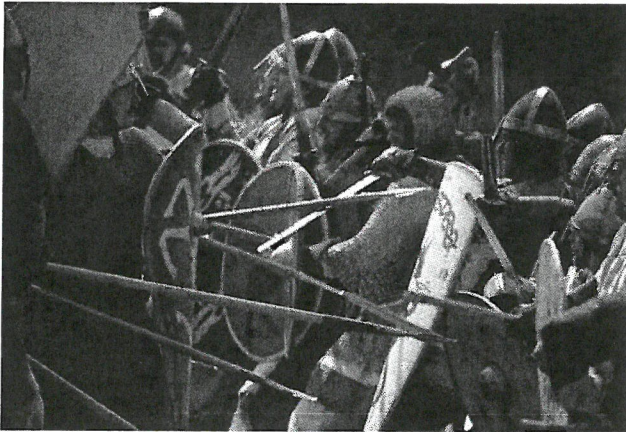
*King Harold assembled a large army and came against him at the hoary apple tree. But William took him by surprise before his army was drawn up in battle array. But the King nevertheless fought hard against him, with the men who were willing to support him, and there were heavy casualties on both sides. There King Harold was killed and Earl Leofwine his brother, and Earl Gyrth his brother and many good men. The French remained masters of the field, even as God granted it to them because of the sins of the people.*

The D version of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*,

- How do the two accounts (Sources 11 and 12) differ in the reasons they give for the Norman victory?
- Have we any reason to trust one account more than the other?

Source 13 shows how axes, knives and swords were used in hand-to-hand fighting. The heavy, two-handed axe was a frightening weapon, but in order to use it effectively, the soldier had to sling his shield over his back so as to leave both arms free.

### ● SOURCE 13



A re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings.

- Do re-enactments of the Battle of Hastings show it is still significant today?

The Battle of Hastings was the only pitched battle fought by the Saxons to try to prevent the Norman invasion. Harold Godwinsson was killed along with his brothers Leofwine and Gyrth. Although the Normans had to work hard to establish themselves in England, they never again had to face serious, organised, Saxon opposition. How was it that Hastings had been so successful?

- **William's preparations** William had prepared well. His army was superbly fit and well equipped. He shipped over hundreds of horses and archers in specially designed ships. He even brought with him prefabricated wooden castles.
- **Harold's circumstances** Harold was expecting two invasions: from Harald Hardrada in the north and from William of Normandy in the south. This put tremendous strain on his resources. He had, for example, to keep his armies mobilised from May through to September. He managed to put down Hardrada's invasion with speed and skill on 20 September, massacring the invaders outside York at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, even though his brother Tostig was killed. When Harold and William met at Hastings, their armies were equal in size.
- **Harold's mistakes** Harold could have waited. His men were exhausted after the battle of Stamford Bridge and the long march south. Edwin and Morcar, his loyal brothers-in-law, were marching south with fresh troops. Harold had no need to fight when he did.
- **Generalship** William was the better general. He wasn't afraid to try out new tactics – like pretending to retreat. Harold was used to fighting straightforward pitched battles and had no idea how to outwit William.
- **Luck** The wind changed for William at exactly the right moment, enabling him to cross the Channel just when Harold and his army were at their most vulnerable.
- **God** William used what he saw as Harold's oath-breaking as a reason for enlisting the Pope's support for his invasion of England. The psychological advantage of this was enormous because most people at the time believed that it was God who granted victory in battle.

### Discussion point

In your view, was any one factor more important than the others in ensuring a successful invasion for the Normans?

## How well did the Normans establish control?

Winning the Battle of Hastings was one thing. Establishing Norman rule throughout England was quite another. William began as he meant to go on. Slashing and burning, ruthlessly putting down opposition, he marched on London. Even during his coronation in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066, there was hand-to-hand fighting between Saxons and Normans in the streets of London. Not an auspicious beginning.

In the years 1067 to 1071 a series of revolts threatened the very existence of the new regime. Each one was put down with great brutality, ending any pretence that William was the legitimate heir of Edward the Confessor.

### Putting down rebellions

Rebellions broke out across all England:

**The South-West 1068** The city of Exeter refused to accept William's rule and held out against a Norman siege for eighteen days. William installed his half-brother Robert of Mortain as Earl of Cornwall and forced Bristol and Gloucester to submit to him.

**The North 1069–70** The Saxon leaders who remained – Edwin, Morcar and Edgar Aethling – fled north during 1068. Raising a huge force (remember, the North had always been separatist and semi-independent) they burned the Norman bishop Robert of Commines in his bishop's house in Durham and marched on York. Then the Vikings, never far away, intervened. A fleet of 240 ships sailed up the River Humber and Viking warriors fought with the Saxons against the Normans, managing in the end to seize York. Malcolm, King of Scotland, promptly married Edgar Aethling's sister, Margaret. William was now faced with the very real prospect of a separate Scandinavian kingdom in northern England.

What would William do? The answer was simple. He responded in the only way he knew how.

**Harrying of the North** is a phrase used by historians to describe a revenge so terrible that chroniclers, writing about it fifty years later, couldn't hide their horror. One of these was the chronicler Orderic Vitalis. Read William's deathbed confession in Source 14. William marched north with crack troops; he burned York and set about the destruction of Yorkshire itself. Men, women and children were massacred, their bodies left to rot where they died. Where the people could flee, they did; those who survived faced famine as the Normans fired their homes and fields and slaughtered their animals. If famine didn't kill those who remained, disease did. The Danes, seeing their Saxon allies defeated, sailed away.

**East Anglia 1070–71** England wasn't quite subdued. In the Fens of East Anglia, Edwin, Morcar and a thegn called Hereward made one last stand. Together with King Swein of Denmark and a sizeable Danish force, they attacked Peterborough Cathedral, sacked it and made off with much treasure. It wasn't, in the end, much of a rebellion. William bought off the Danes, who left. With a Norman army advancing on Ely, the monks, anxious to retain their lands, betrayed the Saxons. Morcar surrendered to William; Edwin fled and was later murdered; and Hereward simply disappeared.

● SOURCE 14

*I fell on the English of the northern shires like a ravening lion. I commanded their houses and corn, with all their implements and chattels, to be burned without distinction, and large herds of cattle and beasts of burden to be butchered wherever they were found. And by so doing, alas, I became the barbarous murderer of many thousands, both young and old, of that fine race of people.*

William's deathbed confession, recorded by a chronicler Orderic Vitalis writing between 1123 and 1141. William died in 1087.

● SOURCE 15



A nineteenth-century drawing showing Hereward the Wake attacking the Normans.

Look at Sources 14 and 15.

- How problematical are these sources for someone trying to find out about the Normans?
- How could both sources be used to show the Normans' importance?

● SOURCE 16



This painting by Simon Hayfield is of the first Norman castle built at Pickering in North Yorkshire.

### Building castles

It was over. In less than ten years the Normans had subdued Saxon England. But how could they keep control? One of the answers was by building castles. Before the time of William I, castles were virtually unheard of and unseen in England. True, the Romans had built large fortresses and the Saxons had built burhs, but neither of these were castles in the Norman sense of the word.

- Look at this reconstruction of one of the first Norman castles. What, just looking at the reconstruction, was it for?

## ● SOURCE 17

*He then went to Nottingham and built a castle there, so from there to York, and there built castles, also in Lincoln and elsewhere in those parts. He built castles widely throughout this nation and oppressed the people wretchedly and afterwards it grew much more evil.*

An entry from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* for 1067.

- How far do these written sources support what you said castles were for?

## ● SOURCE 18

*They [the Normans] filled the whole land with these castles. They burdened the unhappy people of the country with forced labour on the castles. And when the castles were made, they filled them with wicked men.*

An entry from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* in 1137.

William built hundreds of castles throughout England. He had even brought pre-fabricated ones with him from Normandy and they proved useful refuges on his march to London. The first castles were built from wood and, although most were eventually replaced by stone, a well-built and well-maintained wooden castle could last for up to 200 years.

So, to return to the first question: what were castles for? They were obviously useful refuges for soldiers and storage places for weapons and ammunition. But they were far more than that. Castles controlled the countryside surrounding them: forests, fields, port, river crossing or border; they were a visible, and therefore psychological reminder of the conquest and of which group of people was in charge. Indeed, it was William's habit to build castles in the middle of large towns that involved pulling down hundreds of houses. Lincoln, Gloucester, Oxford and Cambridge, for example, lost houses in this way. What point was William trying to make?

Many of William's castles later became substantial centres of local administration, of tax collection and of ensuring that Norman laws were upheld. It was obviously essential that castles were run by people in whom William had absolute trust.

### *Discussion point*

Was William's castle-building programme a sign of strength or weakness?

## What was the impact of the Normans on the government of England?

Probably the best evidence for the impact the Normans had on the way England was governed comes from the Domesday Book, a survey completed in 1086. The immediate trigger for the Domesday survey seems to have been the threat of yet another Danish invasion, which did not, in fact, materialise.

Domesday is a rich source, and is particularly useful because from it we can learn how land ownership and land use changed from the time of Edward the Confessor (pre-1066) to 1085/6 when the survey was compiled. By looking at land ownership, we are on the way to working out what the impact of the Normans was on the old Saxon system of government.

### ● SOURCE 19

*In the city of York, before 1066 were 6 shires besides the Archbishop's. One of these has been laid waste for the castles. In 5 shires there were 1418 inhabited dwellings. Out of the aforementioned dwellings there are now inhabited, and paying customary dues, 400 less 9, both large and small; 400 dwellings not inhabited of which the better ones pay 1 penny and the others less; and 540 dwellings so empty that they pay nothing at all; and the Frenchmen hold 145 dwellings.*

*Ralph holds Langelei from the Count [Count Robert of Mortain, half brother of William I]. It answers for 1.5 hides. Land for 16 ploughs. 1 Frenchman with 4 villagers and 5 smallholders have 2 ploughs; 12 ploughs possible. 2 mills at 16 shillings; 2 slaves; meadow for 3 ploughs; pasture for the livestock; woodland; 240 pigs. Total value 40 shillings; when acquired £4; before 1066 £8. Thorir and Seric, two of Earl Leofwine's men, held this manor.*

*In this manor [at Thetford] there used to be a market on Saturdays. But William Malet [William's Chamberlain] made his castle at Eye, and he made another market in his castle on Saturdays, and thereby the bishop's market has been so far spoilt that it was of little value.*

Extracts from the Domesday Book,

- How had land use in these three areas of England changed after the Conquest?
- How had land ownership changed in these three areas after the Conquest?
- Would you expect to find these changes throughout the country? How could you check?

It seems clear that by 1100 the entire Saxon ruling class – earls, bishops and thegns – had been replaced by Normans. But how far had the Saxon system of government changed?

- Under Edward the Confessor a body of royal clerks worked in the royal **chancery**, writing up official documents. One man, the **chancellor**, was in charge, and was responsible for the royal seal. This kind of arrangement was unheard of in Normandy. William took it over and established Norman chancellors. But there was not a lot of point in writing out royal instructions, writs and laws if they couldn't be translated into action out in the country.
- By the time of Edward the Confessor, England was divided into administrative **shires**, with a **sheriff** in each shire being responsible for making sure the King's will was carried out there. It was a system that worked, and William saw no reason to change it. He simply replaced Saxon sheriffs with Norman appointees.
- The most important law courts under Edward were the **shire courts** that met twice a year to hear and decide important cases and were attended by all the great landowners of the shire. Nothing like this existed in Normandy but, again, it was a system that worked and William saw no need to change it. Eventually, all the great landowners were Norman, anyway. It was the same with the **hundred courts**. The old Saxon division of shires into hundreds continued unchanged into Norman times and it was these hundred courts that heard and decided most of the day-to-day disputes, and continued to do so. The old system of trial by ordeal continued but was increasingly replaced by decisions of a jury.

- The Saxons had developed a system of taxation that was based on the **geld** and the Danegeld, a geld paid to keep the Danes away (look back to page 29). Traditionally, the king and his advisers decided each year on the size of the geld that was needed to run the country, and apportioned it amongst the shires. Again, William saw no need to change this system that so obviously worked. Coinage could only be made in royal mints and William, as king, quickly took control of them.

William made no changes to the Saxon system of government, except for making sure it was run by Normans. It wasn't simply that the old system worked, although that had a lot to do with it. William, although he had won England by conquest, was anxious to show that he was, in fact, the true heir to Edward the Confessor and so he couldn't be seen to change too much – he had to make sure there was more continuity than change in the ways in which the Normans governed England.

William did, however, introduce two laws that had never before been heard of in England. These were:

- **The Forest Laws** protected William's hunting. Deer, boar and the vegetation they ate became protected and there were severe punishments for poaching. Huge areas of England were forest; William increased the forested area of the country by creating the New Forest in Hampshire, destroying several villages to do so.
- A **Murdrum Fine** was imposed on any hundred where a Norman was murdered and the killer had not been caught.

### *Discussion point*

Which of these changes would have the greatest impact on Saxon society? Why?

### What impact did the Normans have on English society?

We have seen how the Normans kept the structures of Saxon government more or less unchanged, except for the people who were running it. Here Normans replaced Saxons. But what the Normans did bring with them was a very different sort of social structure.

### Who owned the land?

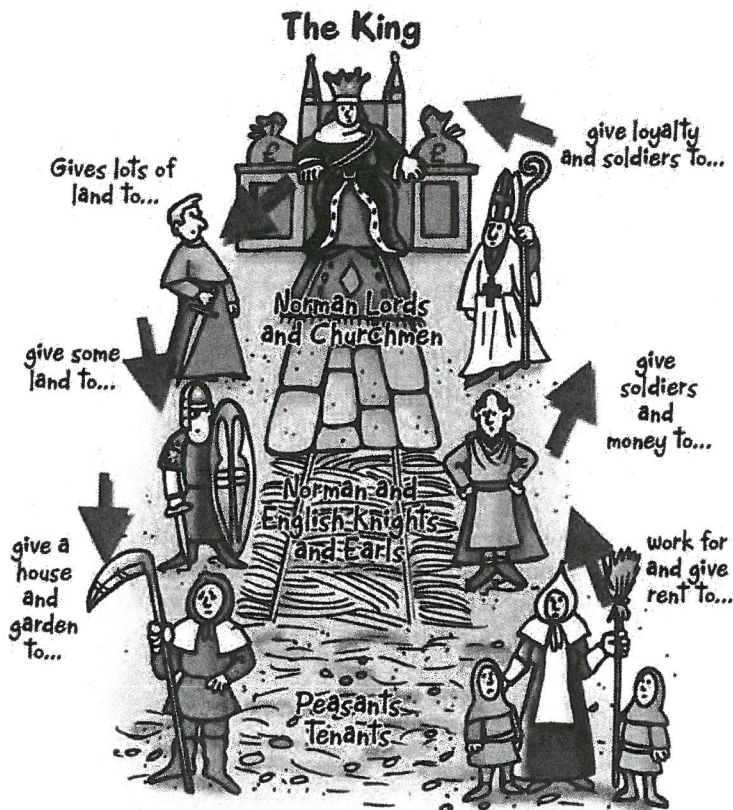
Sources 20 and 21 describe what happened.

### ● SOURCE 20



An illustration, from about 1400, showing William giving land to his son-in-law, Alan of Brittany. The land has been taken from the English Earl of Mercia.

# SOURCE 21



A diagram setting out the Norman feudal system.

- How could Sources 20 and 21 be used to explain the Norman land-holding system?
- In what ways was it different from the Saxon system? (Look back to pages 8–9.)
- In 1100, 90 per cent of people lived in villages and farmed the land. In what ways might the new Norman system have changed the lives of these people? How could you find out?

## What happened to the Church?

The Normans behaved towards the Church in much the same way that they behaved towards other Saxon institutions. English bishops and abbots were replaced by French ones, and there was some tinkering with Church organisation. Some of the English dioceses were changed; new cathedrals, abbeys and monasteries were built in the Norman style and with Normans at their head. All in all, a more hierarchical structure was created but at the bottom, unchanged, was the village parish priest.

# SOURCE 22



This painting by Ivan Lapper shows William I's son, William Rufus, inspecting stonework being carved for the nave of a new church. With him are the Archbishop of Canterbury and the master mason. William I commissioned the building of an abbey at Battle in Sussex as a penance for the slaughter that had led to his victory over Harold in 1066.

- How far does this painting help explain the Normans' attitude to the Church in England?

## *Research task*

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### **The Normans in Wales**

You now know a lot about the Normans in England, but what about Wales? Did the Normans behave in the same way there? How are you going to find out?

One way, of course, would be to type 'Normans in Wales' into whatever search engine you use. A lot of sites would come up, from Saga holidays and pubs through to plumbers and poodle parlours. You would waste a lot of time checking each one out. These might be good sites to begin with:

[www.bbc.co.uk/wales/storyofwelsh/content/thenormans.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/storyofwelsh/content/thenormans.shtml)

Lively, informative and with useful links.

[www.castlewales.com/norman.html](http://www.castlewales.com/norman.html)

A good opening page with some excellent links.

[www.bbc.co.uk/wales/nature/sites/naturalhistoryofwales/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/nature/sites/naturalhistoryofwales/)

Focused on nature, but some interesting information you don't get anywhere else.

[www.britainexpress.com/wales/history/marcher-lords.htm](http://www.britainexpress.com/wales/history/marcher-lords.htm)

Basically a tourist guide, but 'The Norman Invasion of Wales' is a useful page.

But if you are going to read an e-book, why not try real ones? Look in your library for books on Norman or early medieval history. Use the index of the first one to find what information there is in it on Wales and make notes. Then develop these by using the index of the second book – and so on until you have a complete set of notes on the Normans in Wales. You'll need to cross-reference between the books as you will between internet sites and work out what really happened.

You could mix internet sites with real books!

Now you should have enough information to answer the question:

How far was the Norman settlement of Wales different from the Norman settlement of England?

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## *Summary task*

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- 1 In what ways was the Norman invasion different from the Viking invasions?
  - 2 How did the ways in which the Normans settled differ from the ways in which the Saxons settled?
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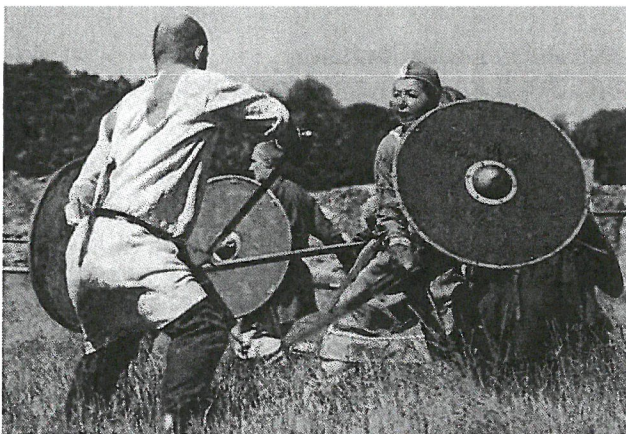
# A ragbag of sources

## ● SOURCE 1

*In that time the Saxons grew strong by virtue of their large number and increased power in Britain. Hengist having died, however, his son Othta crossed from the northern part of Britain to the kingdom of Kent and from him are descended the kings of Kent. Then Arthur along with the kings of Britain fought against them in those days, but Arthur himself was the military commander ... The twelfth battle was on Mount Badon on which there fell in one day 960 men from one charge by Arthur, and no one struck them down but Arthur himself, as in all the wars he emerged as victor. While they were being defeated in all the battles, the Saxons were seeking help from Germany and their numbers were increased many times over without interruption.*

Nennius was writing somewhere around 800. His writings are the first to mention Arthur, but these can't be relied upon as he was a very inventive writer. However, we can't ignore him because he used fifth-century documents that have now been lost.

## ● SOURCE 2



A modern photograph of a re-enactment of the attack in 491 by the Saxon King Aella on the Romano-British fort of Anderida (Pevensey Castle).

## ● SOURCE 3

*This is how the present life of man on earth, King, appears to me in comparison with that time which is unknown to us. You are sitting feasting with your ealdormen and thegns in winter time; the fire is burning on the hearth in the middle of the hall and all inside is warm, while outside the wintry storms of rain and snow are raging; and a sparrow flies swiftly through the hall. It enters in at one door and quickly flies out through the other. For the few moments it is inside, the storm and wintry tempest cannot touch it, but after the briefest moment of calm, it flits from your sight, out of the wintry storm and into it again. So this life of man appears but for a moment; what follows or indeed what went before, we know not at all.*

The Venerable Bede, writing in the 730s, tells a story about King Eadwine and his conversion to Christianity. This is part of what a nobleman says to his king,

## ● SOURCE 4

*But there was more to early Anglo-Saxon society than warfare, savage loyalties and ostentatious splendour. In some ways this was a surprisingly ordered world. The institutions which made the English state so exceptionally strong in the central Middle Ages have their roots in the seventh century or even earlier: the efficiency of 'local government' was one important reason why new overlords could establish power so quickly. The kingdoms seem to have been sub-divided into coherent administrative districts, great blocks of 50 to 100 square miles. To a central settlement, the inhabitants of each district would have looked for justice, and there they would have paid their dues and other public burdens in accordance with a complex system of assessment.*

A historian, John Blair, explains the lasting impact of Saxon society.



## 44 PART 1 RAIDERS AND INVADERS

### ● SOURCE 5

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/anglo\\_saxons](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/anglo_saxons)

*A lot of source material with information written by specialists.*

[www.brown.edu/Departments/Medieval\\_Studies/anglos.html](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Medieval_Studies/anglos.html)

*An excellent site with lots of information and a wide range of sources.*

[www.pastperfect.org.uk/sites/yeaivering/index.html](http://www.pastperfect.org.uk/sites/yeaivering/index.html)

*Archaeological exploration of a recently discovered royal Saxon palace at Yeavinger in Northumberland.*

[www.regia.org](http://www.regia.org)

*A re-enactment society that gives lots of information about Saxon life and the ways in which this is interpreted.*

[www.bedesworld.co.uk/](http://www.bedesworld.co.uk/)

*Provides a fascinating insight into Christian life in Saxon England.*

There are literally hundreds of websites dealing with different aspects of Anglo-Saxon life. Some have been suggested to you in the text. These are a selection of ones that you should find useful and interesting.

### ● SOURCE 6

*Lo, it is nearly 350 years that we and our fathers have inhabited this most lovely land, and never before has such terror appeared in Britain ... nor was it thought that such an inroad from the sea could be made. Behold the church of St Cuthbert spattered with the blood of the priests of God, despoiled of all its ornaments; a place more venerable than all in Britain is given as a prey to pagan peoples.*

*[Alcuin blames the Saxons for what was happening:]*

*From the days of King Aelfwald, fornications, adulteries and incest have poured over the land ... Consider the way of trimming the beard and hair, the luxurious habits of the princes and the people ...*

Part of a letter written by the Northumbrian scholar, Alcuin, to Ethelred, King of Northumbria, in 793, after the beginning of the Viking raids.

### ● SOURCE 7



Photograph of the Lindisfarne stone, showing carvings of Viking warriors.

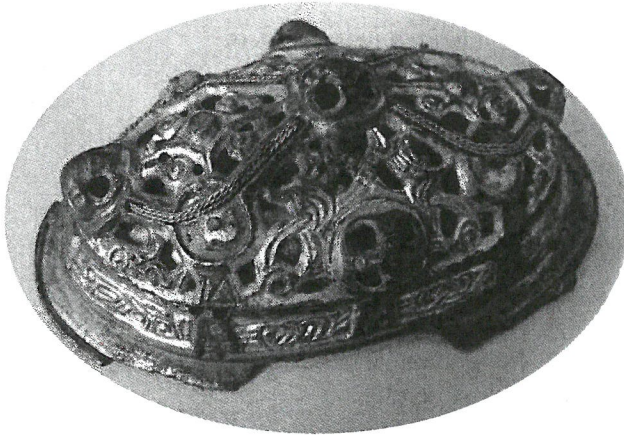
### ● SOURCE 8

*The Vikings are doing what they seem to do best: not simply trading but adopting a wide variety of cultural influences from the areas with which they were in contact. This image of the Vikings as easy-going travellers, keen to adopt new traditions and styles, is not one we may be used to and, yet, adaptability has always been one of their strengths.*

An archaeologist, Julian Richards, on the Vikings who settled in the Danelaw.



● SOURCE 9



An oval brooch found in the grave of a Viking woman at Santon Downham, Norfolk.

● SOURCE 11

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/vikings](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/vikings)

*Standard BBC site: sound and well worth a visit.*

[www.battle1066.com/vikings2.shtml](http://www.battle1066.com/vikings2.shtml)

*Get beyond 1066 when typing this in, otherwise you'll get stuck in the Battle of Hastings! An excellent site.*

[www.vikingsonline.org.uk](http://www.vikingsonline.org.uk)

*A re-enactment society but a lot of useful information.*

There are a lot of websites that can give useful information and ideas about the Vikings. These are some of the most reliable ones. Access them and follow the links.

● SOURCE 10



A photograph of some of the chessmen carved by the Vikings and found on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland.



## ● SOURCE 12

*It is always a temptation to an armed and agile nation  
To call upon a neighbour and to say –  
“We invaded you last night – and we are quite prepared to fight,  
Unless you pay us cash to go away.”*

*And that is called asking for Dane-geld,  
And the people who ask it explain  
That you’ve only to pay ‘em the Dane-geld  
And then you’ll get rid of the Dane!*

*It is always a temptation to a rich and lazy nation,  
To puff and look important and to say –  
“Though we know we should defeat you, we have not the time to meet you  
We will therefore pay you cash to go away.”*

*And that is called paying the Dane-geld;  
But we’ve proved it again and again,  
That if once you have paid him the Dane-geld  
You never get rid of the Dane.*

In 1911, the poet Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem called ‘Danegeld’. These are the first four verses,

## ● SOURCE 13



A model reconstruction of the Battle of Hastings.

## ● SOURCE 14

*And there came to meet them [the Danes] prince Edgar and earl Waltheof and Gospatric with the Northumbrians and all the people riding and marching with an immense army rejoicing exceedingly and so they all went resolutely to York and stormed and razed the castle and captured an incalculable treasure in it and killed many hundreds of Frenchmen and took many with them to the ships. When the King [William] found out about this he went northwards with all his army that he could collect, and utterly ravaged and laid waste to that shire.*

*The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, 1069.*



● SOURCE 15

*King William rode to all the remote parts of his kingdom and fortified strategic sites against enemy attack. For the fortifications called castles by the Normans were scarcely known in the English provinces, and so the English – in spite of their courage and love of fighting – could put up only a weak resistance to their enemies.*

Written by Orderic Vitalis (c.1114–51).

● SOURCE 16

*William, King of the English, to Ethelwig, abbot of Evesham, greeting.  
I order you to summon all those who are subject to your administration and jurisdiction that they bring before me at Clarendon at Pentecost all the knights they owe me, duly equipped. You, also, on that day, shall come to me and bring with you fully equipped those five knights which you owe me in respect of your abbacy.*

A writ, issued in about 1072, from William to the Abbot of Evesham.

● SOURCE 17

*We poor wretches destroy the works of our forefathers only to get praise ourselves. The happy age of holy men knew not how to build stately churches: under any roof they offered themselves as living temples to God. But we neglect the care of souls, and labour to heap up stones.*

Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester and the last Saxon bishop left in England, writing in 1095 about the rebuilding of his own cathedral.

● SOURCE 18

*Verily, William I was a very great prince: full of hope to undertake great enterprises, full of courage to achieve them: in most of his actions commendable, and excusable in all. The kings of England which succeeded him, did count their order only from him. This was not because of his victory in England, but generally in respect of his virtue and valour.*

John Hayward, in his book *The Lives of the Three Normans, Kings of England*, from 1613, writing about William I.

● SOURCE 19

*Alfred's dynasty, which had survived Danes, Norsemen, and Danes again, has succumbed at last to foreign invasion. It was the end of the road for the House of Wessex, but not for Anglo-Saxon society, nor for its institutions and culture. It was essentially by English means that the Norman kings ruled England, and, after the traumatic interlude of conquest, the structures which had made the state so strong between Eadgar and Edward the Confessor reasserted themselves. In a variety of ways, England in 1400 looks startlingly like England in 1000. Hundreds [areas] survived into modern times; shires and sheriffs are still with us; the English language is still spoken. Most fundamentally, it was in the years between 600 and 1100 that English towns, villages and the road-system, and much of the distinctive character of the countryside, took shape.*

John Blair in his book *The Anglo-Saxon Age*, published in 1984, writing about the lasting impact of the Saxons into Norman times.

