

How did William the Conqueror keep control of England?

Key Knowledge

These were the main problems facing King William I after his coronation on 25 December 1066.

Viking threat

There is still a possibility that Vikings will invade from Norway and Denmark. If they join up with angry Englishmen in the north, they will be a very serious threat.

Getting to London

Anyone wishing to control England must control London. Some of Harold's army did not go with him to the Battle of Hastings; instead they stayed in London to guard it. Two powerful Anglo-Saxon earls, Edwin and Morcar, had not fought at the Battle of Hastings and were also in London.

Defeating Dover

There is a fort at the port of Dover full of tough and angry English soldiers. William must defeat these men before he marches to London or else they may attack him from behind.

A tired army

William's army is very tired. The Battle of Hastings was fierce. Some supplies are running low.

William's Short-term Problems

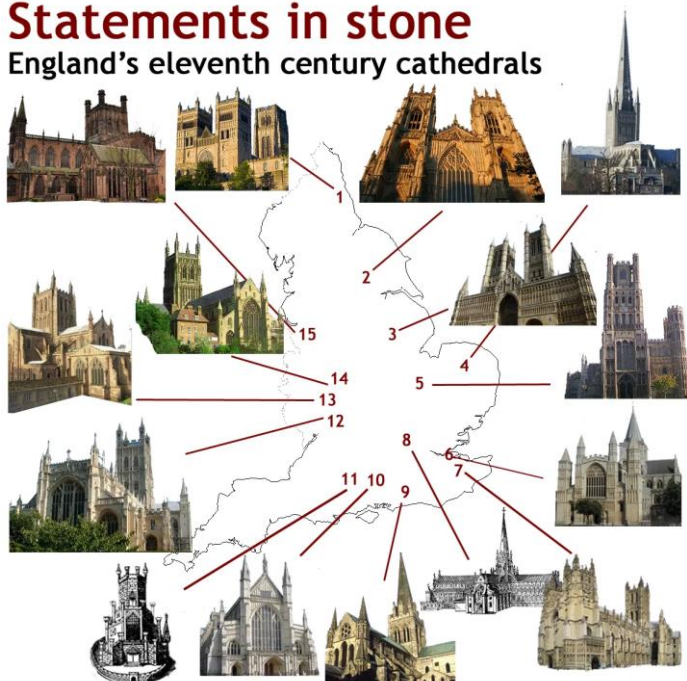
William used a number of different methods to gain and keep control over the long-term.

- He rewarded the nobles and bishops who had supported his conquest
- He divided the land into shires to be ruled by his nobles
- He created the feudal system of government
- He built motte and bailey castles to intimidate the English
- He built grand Norman churches to prove his wealth
- He conducted a survey of who owned what called the Domesday Book

William's Long-term problems

Statements in stone

England's eleventh century cathedrals



1. Durham (1093-1133)
2. York Minster (c.1080 – 1100)
3. Lincoln (1074 – 1092)
4. Norwich (1096-1145)
5. Ely (1083-1109)
6. Rochester (1083-1130)
7. Canterbury (1070 – 1077)
8. St. Pauls (1087- 1240)
9. Chichester (1075 – 1108)
10. Winchester (1079 – 1093)
11. Old Sarum Cathedral (1066 – 1092)
12. Gloucester (1089-1412)
13. Hereford (1107-c.1158)
14. Worcester (1084 – 1089)
15. Chester (1093 – 1250)

Famous Norman Cathedrals

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Motte and bailey castles

Norman castles were designed for a different purpose, they were not defensive structures like the *burhs*, they were designed to intimidate the conquered Anglo-Saxons and remind them of Norman power.

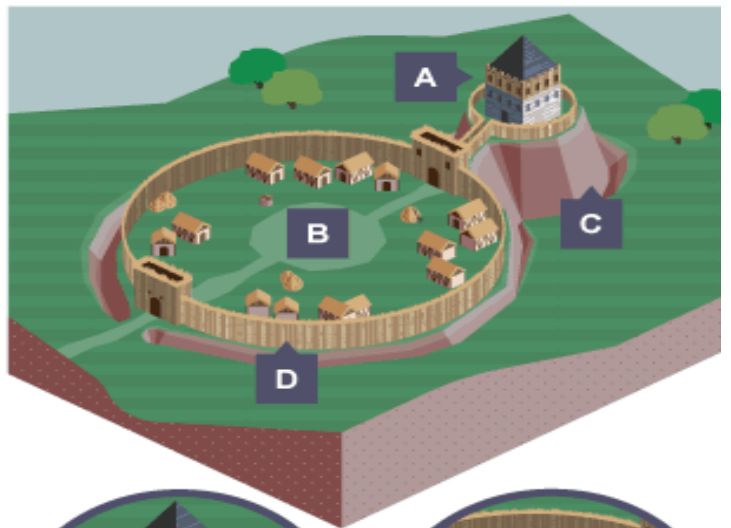
Norman castles were often built in locations that were considered of strategic value. The first Norman castle in England was built a few miles from where William landed and was used as a base for soldiers to terrorise the local population and gather supplies.

Unlike Anglo-Saxon fortified towns, a Norman *motte and bailey* castle could be built very quickly, in some cases it only took a few days.

William had 8000 men to try and consolidate his power in England. Building motte and bailey castles were an effective way of securing towns that had submitted to his power.

Although the wooden structure was much more vulnerable to damage than a stone structure, a motte and bailey castle could be built quickly until the Normans had the time to build more permanent stone structures.

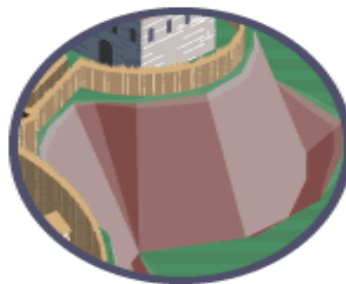
The major weakness of the motte and bailey castle was the likelihood of the *keep* rotting or burning down. The solution was to build stone keeps but these could not always be built on the same site since the weight of the stone would sink into the motte.



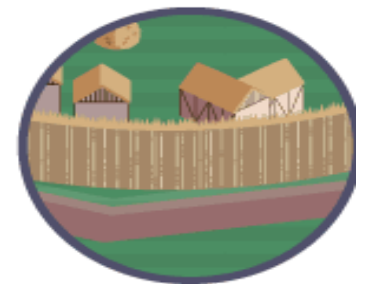
A Keep



B Bailey



C Motte



D Palisade

Motte and bailey castles

Think Like a Historian – Big Ideas

Chronology - The order that events happen. This allows us to understand how and why events unfold in the way they do, and how they are related. For example, William's conquest of 1066 led to a period of rebellion and revolt.

Interpretation and Sources - Interpreting a source requires you to think a bit more about what a source says or shows about a topic. This requires you to identify implicit ('hidden' or less obvious) meanings in historical sources. You will need to do this most often with visual sources (for example, The Bayeux Tapestry) that take time to interpret. However, some written sources will often not be explicit enough for you and they will require your interpretation of the information (for example, sources relating to King William's behaviour not written at the time).

Historical Enquiry - This is the research that enables you to answer a key historical question: for example, how did a French Norman become King of England in 1066?

Year 7 – History – Spring 2 2024 – Anglo-Saxon England

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Questions

Who was crowned King of England on 25 December 1066?	William I.
Which two powerful Anglo-Saxon earls were waiting for William in London?	Edwin and Morcar.
In which port was a fort full of English soldiers resisting William?	Dover.
What did William divide his new kingdom into?	Shires.
What type of castle did William build to intimidate the English?	Motte and bailey.
Why did William build lots of new churches?	To prove his wealth.
What was the name of the great survey commissioned by William to assess what was owned and by whom?	The Domesday Book.
Which system of government did William create to help him rule England?	The Feudal System.
When was Winchester Cathedral built?	Between 1079 and 1093.
Which English cathedral was built between 1066 and 1092?	Old Sarum.
Why did William build so many Norman castles in England?	To intimidate the conquered Anglo-Saxons and remind them of Norman power.
What was the name of the man-made hill that Norman castles built their keeps upon?	The Motte.
Which was the name of the walled outdoor living space beneath the keep of a Norman castle?	The Bailey.
What was the name of the wooden wall that surrounded a motte and bailey castle?	A palisade.
What were the major weaknesses of a motte and bailey castle?	A wooden keep might rot and burn down whereas a stone keep might be too heavy and sink into the motte.

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You could create and colour your own version of the above map.