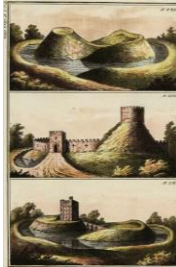


### 1. Why did the Earls surrender to William?

- William and all surviving troops returned to Hastings. He waited to see if Anglo-Saxon nobles would accept his victory, but no one came. Survivor's of Harold's army fled back to London. The Witan elected Edgar Aetheling as King. Stigand (Archbishop of Canterbury) and Ealdred (Archbishop of York) supported Edgar, so did Earls Edwin and Morcar.
- It was important that William got the south coast under his control so that reinforcements and supplies could be brought over. William led his troops from the south coast to London. If the Anglo-Saxons were not going to surrender, William had to make them. Normans destroyed homes and farms. Towns on the way to London surrendered, but London did not. Instead of attacking, William led his troops to Berkhamstead.
- William met Edgar Aetheling at Berkhamstead along with Edwin and Morcar. They submitted to William and swore oaths to obey him. They offered him the crown. The earls felt that submission was better than fighting.
- **Strength of the Earls** – London was strongly fortified, many Earls and Nobles supported Edgar's claim and Mercia and Northumbria were two strong Earldoms (1/2 country)
- **Weaknesses of the Earls** – Edgar had little support and took no decisive action as King, many Anglo-Saxons thought God had decided to punish them as they were defeated at Hastings.
- **Strengths of William** – he was quick to seize the royal treasury, he was a very effective leader and used terror to make people submit to him
- **Weaknesses of William** – he had no secure place for him and his troops, the Witan had already chosen Edgar as the next King and his army was weak and small after battle of Hastings.

### 2. How did the Marcher Earldoms differ to Saxon earldoms?

- Wales had been a threat to Edward the Confessor's rule and William wanted the border between England and Wales made safe. Previous Anglo-Saxon Kings had built defences, but William established three new Earldoms – Hereford, Shrewsbury and Chester – they were called Marcher Earldoms.
- Marcher Earldoms were smaller and more compact, making them easier to control. The Marcher Earldoms gave their Earls the rights the King normally had to encourage people to settle. In Marcher Earldoms the sheriffs worked for the Earl which meant Earls became key figures in law. Earls did not have to pay tax to the King in Marcher Earldoms, unlike Earls in England which was seen as a reward for their loyalty. Marcher Earls were also free to build castles wherever, whereas Earls in England has to apply to the King.
- Marcher Earls had a lot more independence from the King. They were not the King's equals and still had to provide military service.



### 3. How hostile were Norman castles?

- Castles were key for William to establish control over England. 500 were built during his reign. Castles were common in Normandy, but no in Anglo-Saxon England – they were also different from burhs and shires. One of first things William did when he invaded was to build a castle at Pevensey, where he landed.
- Castles were often built in strategic locations – near river crossings/ hills. They were used as a base by the lord. They were used to dominate territory newly brought under Norman control and were often built in towns (e.g. Warwick and York). Castles were symbol of Norman power. Everyone in the area would see the castle towering over them.
- Many houses were demolished to make them. Local people were made to build. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 1067 says the Normans built many castles, oppressing the unhappy people.

**Key features of castles:** The design of motte and bailey castles made them quick to build and difficult to attack. A palisade (strong fence) made castles protected. Access to the castle was controlled through the gatehouse. The bailey was the enclosure below the motte and also protected by the palisade and outer defences. A ditch was cut that surrounded both the bailey and the motte, Sometimes the ditch was filled with water, protecting the palisade. A strong wooden tower called the keep provided a lookout point. The motte was a large mound of earth around 5-7 metres high. Motte and bailey castles took between 4-9 months to construct,

### 4. How did William reward his followers?

- On the 25th December 1066 William was crowned King. He swore an oath that he would rule England fairly if English people were loyal to him. He wanted a trouble-free takeover as so allowed some Earls (such as Edwin and Morcar) keep their Earldoms.
- William also needed to reward his own followers with the promise of land and money. He sent rich gifts to the Pope, he set a geld tax and declared that all land in England now belonged to him. He was free to grant land to those who served him. All those that fought against him lost their lands (inc Wessex, which had once belonged to the Godwins).
- William heavily rewarded his family and closest advisers – all were Normans. William's half brother (Odo) received all of Kent, William FitzOsbern (close adviser) was given the Isle of Wight and Hampshire and Robert of Montgomery was given Essex and Sussex.

### 5. How did William maintain his royal power?

- **Military strength** – he was ruthless and crushed rebellions. He was respected by many Anglo -Saxons because he was a great warrior and crushed his enemies.
- **Legitimate Successor** – reminded people that he was promised the throne by Edward the Confessor. He was close to Edward , Harold had broken his oath and God had chosen William.
- **Royal ceremonies** – William swore to preserve Edward the Confessor's laws, protect the Church and rule with justice. He wore his crown three times a year (e.g. Easter and Christmas) and also when he put down Edgar Aethling's rebellion in 1069 to show his power as King of England.
- **Coinage and writs** – took control of minting coins, with the image of William on them.
- **Journey's across England** – he and the royal court travelled around the country meeting important families and officials to remind people of who was King.
- **Owning the land** – he owned all land in England. He took back land from rebels or those who died without heirs, granted it again and made judgements on how land should be used.
- **Oath-taking** – all men would swear to serve him. These oaths were taken very seriously by William.