

### Anglo-Saxon Social Order:

1. The King
2. Earls
3. Thegns
4. Ceorls
5. Peasant Farmers
6. Slaves



### Context of Anglo-Saxon England

- Legal System -  
No police, could raise hue & cry if witness crime  
Criminals could face trial by jury or by ordeal  
Most punishments based on violence
- Towns & Villages -  
10% of population lived in towns - majority lived in countryside
- Church -  
Archbishop for North & South England  
Bishops controlled Churches and were powerful  
Local priests were usually poor



### Edward the Confessor

- King 1042-1066
- Struggled to control Earl of Wessex
- Had power over law-making, production of money, landownership, taxation & military

### Harold Godwinson

- Earl of Wessex
- From a very wealthy, influential family
- Gets shipwrecked and is rescued by William of Normandy
- Harold takes oath to help William become King of England



# 1. ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND & THE NORMAN CONQUEST

### Battle of Hastings

On 14th October 1066 William launched an attack  
**William won and Harold was killed**  
 Harold's soldiers had little preparation and were tired  
 William had element of surprise and tried the Anglo-Saxons by pretending to retreat



### Tostig Godwinson

- Earl of Northumbria in 1055
- in 1065 Northumbrians revolted against Tostig
- Harold ignored King's request to revoke him
- Was exiled by King

### Battle of Gate Fulford

Tostig and Harald Hardrada joined forces to attack England  
 Hardrada's troops crossed the protective River Ouse and defeated the Anglo-Saxons



Edward left no heir, these were the competitors for the throne:

**Harald Hardrada**  
 Viking King of Norway  
 Supported by Tostig

**William, Duke of Normandy**  
 Harold promised him he could take the throne  
 Distant cousin of Edward  
 Not English - unfavorable

**Harold Godwinson**  
 Chosen to be next king by Wiltan  
 Had Anglo-Saxon background  
 Edward's brother in law

**Edgar Ætheling**  
 Edward's nephew  
 Strongest blood claim  
 Only 14



### Battle of Stamford Bridge

Harold marched his army to North to surprise vikings  
 Vikings were defeated and Tostig and Hardrada were killed

