

What happened in 1066?

5th January

The King of England, Edward the Confessor, dies.

6th January

Harold Godwinson is crowned King Harold II, despite three other men also claiming the right to rule England – William of Normandy, Harald Hardrada and Edgar Ætheling.



Summer

The Viking King of Norway, Harald Hardrada, invades the north of England to try and seize the throne from Harold II. He sets up camp near York.

20th September

Harold II sends some of his men to confront Harald Hardrada's troops outside York. Harold II's men are defeated at the Battle of Fulford, so in just four days he marches 180 miles north with another army to stop the Vikings himself.

25th September

Harold II and his army defeat the Vikings at the Battle of Stamford Bridge near York. Harald Hardrada is killed.

25th September

Harold II marches his exhausted army south again to meet William of Normandy, who has invaded England. They meet at Hastings.

14th October

The Battle of Hastings takes place. William of Normandy is victorious and Harold II is killed.

Mid-October

After the Battle of Hastings, 15 year old Edgar Ætheling is proposed as King of England by the Witan, but there is no coronation to make it official.

25th December

William of Normandy is officially crowned King of England. He then becomes known as William the Conqueror.