

The Normans in Norwich

William I: William The Conqueror



William the Conqueror, the first Norman King of England, took the throne after his victory in the Battle of Hastings, 1066. He invaded England after the death of king Edward the Confessor.

William was born in France and reigned from 25th December, 1066, until his death in 1087.

King

Baron

Villein



he created a whole new power structure. Norman feudalism was based on royal strength. The king owned all the land but gave some to the barons who supported him. The barons had to fight for the king and train knights for him. The knights then received some land from the barons. The villeins worked on the land for the knights and barons. They paid them taxes and gave them some of their crops, as well as fines if they broke

Norman Influence On Language and Culture:

Illiterate, like most nobles of his time, William the Conqueror spoke no English when he ascended the throne. Thanks to the Norman invasion, French was spoken in England's courts and it became the official language of England, for almost 300 years, from 1066 to 1362. This completely transformed the English language, from its roots in the Old Norse languages of Scandinavia to the modern British we speak today.



Domesday Book:

The Domesday Book, the Middle English spelling of 'Doomsday Book', is a record of the "Great Survey" of England and Wales, started by William the Conqueror in 1085. The king sent agents to survey every shire in England, reporting on the annual value of every piece of property and its resources, manpower and livestock. It is considered to be the oldest public record in England.

Norwich was a settlement in Domesday Book. It had a recorded population of 1358 households in 1086, putting it in the largest 20% of settlements recorded in Domesday, and is listed under 7 owners in Domesday Book.

The Feudal System:

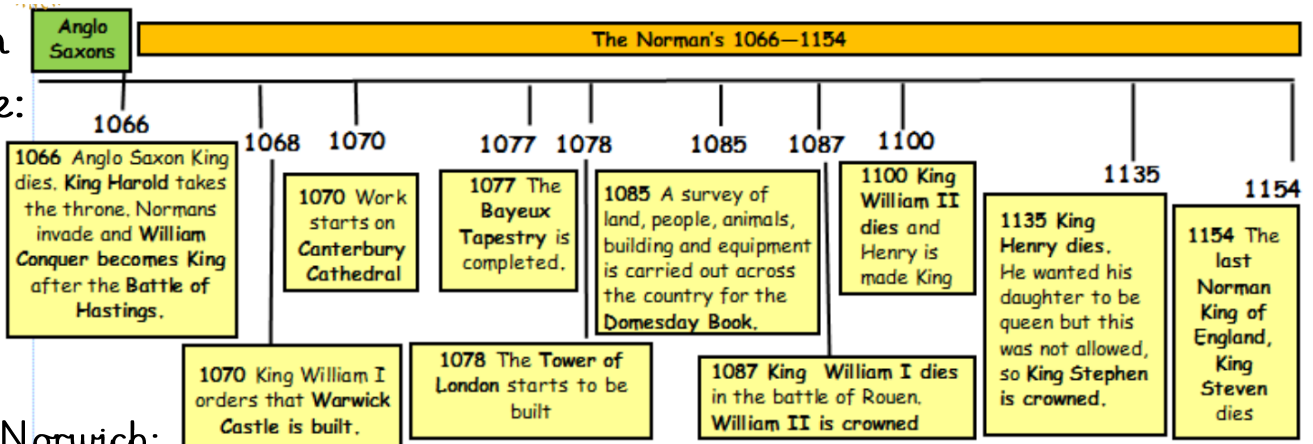
The greatest change introduced after the conquest of 1066 was the introduction of the feudal system. Norman feudalism was different from the Anglo-Saxon system in one important way: King William owned all of the land. William could now decide who to lease the land to.

After William confiscated land from Anglo-Saxons,



Norman

Timeline:



Norman Norwich:

The river Wensum, useful for water supplies and defence.

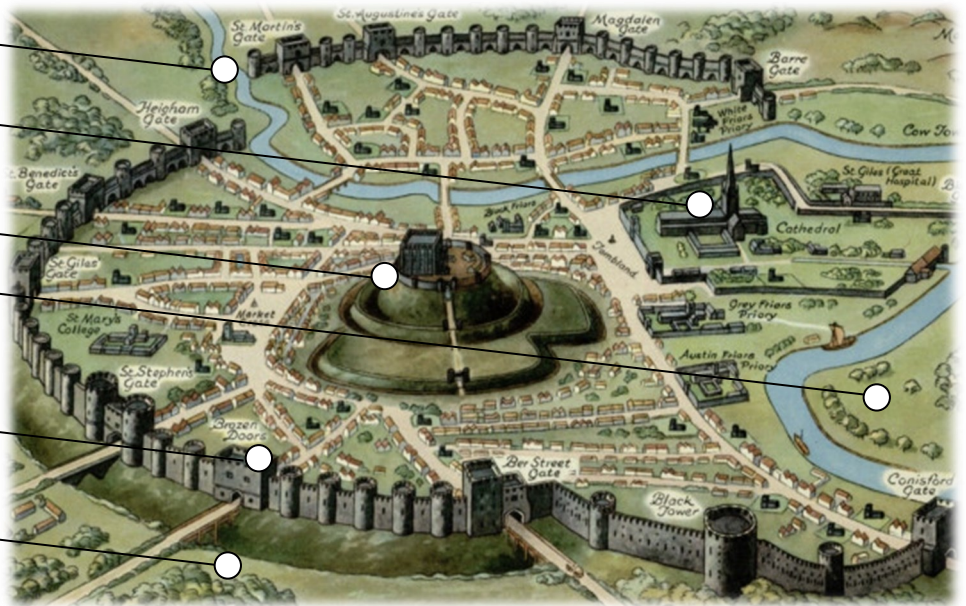
Norwich Cathedral.

Norwich Castle, situated on a hilly area, good for defence.

Flat, green spaces, good for farming.

A wall surrounding the city, great for defending against invaders.

A lot of nearby woodland, good for resources, such as hunting and wood for building.



Norman Architecture In Norwich:

Under Norman rule, Norwich was the largest and wealthiest provincial city in England, second only in importance to London.

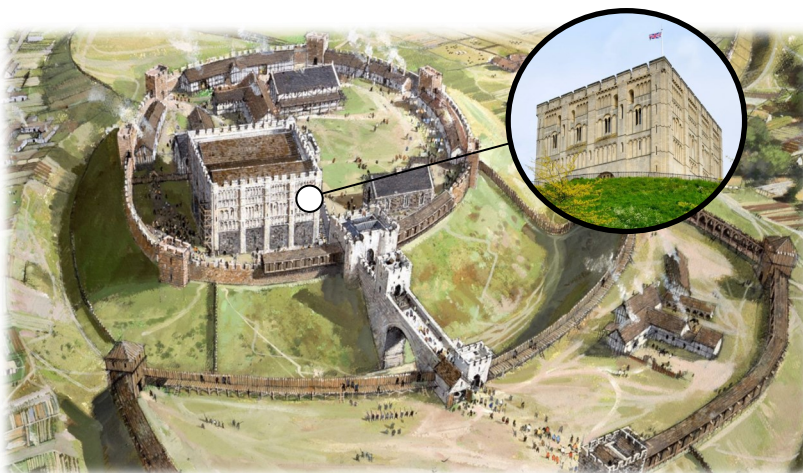
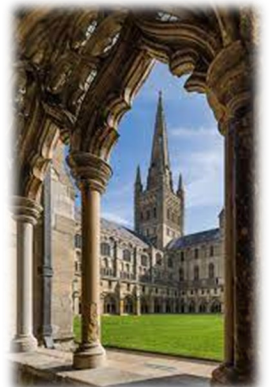


Norwich Churches:

Norwich has one of the highest concentrations of medieval religious buildings of any city in the world. Fifty-eight parish churches are known to have stood within the walls of medieval Norwich. Despite damage and loss, thirty-one remain today.

Norwich Cathedral:

Norwich Cathedral was built at the behest of the Bishop of Norwich, the Norman Herbert de Losinga, who was invited to England by William Rufus II, the son of William the Conqueror. Building started in 1096, thirty years after the Normans established rule over England. However, the impressive structure took nearly 50 years to complete.



Norwich Castle:

One of the finest secular buildings of its period in Europe. From around 1067 the Normans demolished at least 98 Anglo-Saxon homes in Norwich to make way for the castle earthworks, within which they built a wooden fort, surrounded by deep defensive dry ditches.

Once the land had settled, work was begun on the stone keep in 1094 by the son of William the Conqueror, King William (Rufus) II.