

### What happened when Edward the Confessor died?

- 5<sup>th</sup> January 1066 – Edward the Confessor dies
- 6<sup>th</sup> January 1066 – Harold Godwinson crowned King of England

### What happened to the 4 contenders?

- William, Duke of Normandy claims the throne was promised to him – he mobilises his troops in preparation for an invasion of Britain
- Edgar Aethling considered too young to be King or challenge the decision
- Harald Hardrada prepares to invade in the North
- 8<sup>th</sup> September – peasant soldiers, known as the fyrd, sent home to harvest the crops
- Harald Hardrada invades the north of England
- Earls Edwin and Morcar wait with the northern army to prevent the Norwegian forces from advancing

# Harald Hardrada invades

From the moment that Harold Godwinson was crowned, he was aware that he faced a number of challenges to his throne. He marched south which part of his army to prepare for an invasion by William. He left the rest of his army under the command of his brothers in law earls Edwin and Morcar.

### Harold prepares to strike!

- Haralf Hardrada of Norway invaded England in the September.
- He sailed up the river Humber with 300 ships and landed 16 km (10 miles) from the city of York. Earls Edwin and Morcar were waiting for him with the northern army and attempted to prevent the Norwegian forces from advancing to York

### What do I need to know:

- The events of the Battles of Fulford Gate and Stamford Bridge
- Why Hardrada won Fulford
- Why he lost Stamford Bridge.

### Key Words:

- Fulford gate
- Fyrd
- Hardrada
- Stamford Bridge
- Viking



## The Battle of Stamford Bridge



## Were the battles significant?



## The Battle of Fulford Gate

### Battle 1!

- 20<sup>th</sup> September 1066
- Fulford, just outside York
- Invaders – Hardrada, King of Norway, Tostig (younger brother of King Harold) and around 7000 Viking soldiers
- Defenders – Anglo – Saxon earls. Edwin and Morcar, and around 3500 members of the English Northern army
- Outline of the Battle: Only a few Norweigians arrived at the Battleground at first and the English won an advantage through superior numbers and the element of surprise. However, as the battle continued, more Viking troops arrived and their numbers eventually overwhelmed the Anglo-Saxons.
- Outcome – Hardrada and the Vikings won, but both sides suffered losses, the northern army were disorganised and scattered and Edwin and Morcar were forced to flee

The loss at Fulford meant that King Harold had to move quickly to deal with the Viking invasion. Harold had already disbanded the Sothern army earlier in the month, so he moved north with his private army and gathered forces as he went. The journey of 306km was covered in 4 days, and King Harold reached Tadcaster, a town on the outskirts of York, on 24<sup>th</sup> September. He waited overnight with his troops and on 25<sup>th</sup> September he entered York and came upon the Viking troops at Stamford Bridge. The Anglo-Saxons had the advantage that the Vikings were not expecting King Harold to reach York so quickly.

- 25<sup>th</sup> September 1066
- Stamford Bridge, near York
- Invaders – Hardrada, King of Norway, Tostig (younger brother of King Harold) and Viking soldiers left from the Battle of Fulford Gate,
- Defenders – Anglo – Saxons with the support of King Harold and his private army who had marched from the south to the north (190 miles in 4 days) to deal with the Viking invasion
- Events: Hardrada was not expecting Harold so soon. His army was split on both sides of the river Derwent and more were not wearing armour.
- Outcome – The Anglo – Saxons had the element of surprise, King Harold's army, the Vikings did not defend the bridge properly, long and bloody battle, Harald Hardrada and Tostig were killed, King Harold victory
- According to sources only 24 of Hardrada's 300 ships were needed to return the survivors to Norway.

Significant because...	However...
Hardrada and Tostig's invasion meant that Harold was not in place to prevent William's invasion.	Harold had already sent the peasant soldiers (fyrd) home.
Edwin and Morcar made errors that meant the loss of thousands of men at Fulford Gate.	Harold was already on his way to support the northern army that suggests he did not think that Edwin and Morcar could defeat the Vikings.
Edwin and Morcar survived Fulford Gate, but they were unable or did not want to fight in further battles.	There is limited evidence to support this from the next battle.
Harold's success at taking the Vikings by surprise might have made him overconfident.	Harold had already planned for a further invasion in the south, he also needed the success in the north to remain King.