Why was William angry about Harold Godwinson being crowned King?

- > William of Normandy expected the throne to pass to him, not Harold Godwinson.
- William claimed he was promised the throne by Edward in 1051 during a dispute with the Godwin family.
- > William also said that Harold had sworn a sacred (before God) oath of allegiance (loyalty) and so should NOT have taken the throne over him.
- Harold had sworn an oath at Rouen in the Presence of Norman Nobles.
- Harold did not deny making the oath but he said that he only swore loyalty to William personally (not as a potential King of England).
- > He argued that he had been forced to swear the oath because he had been ship wrecked and landed in Normandy and was held prisoner and being threatened by William.

When King Edward the Confessor died on 5th January 1066, Harold Godwinson was crowned King of England the very next day. However the Duke of Normandy expected the throne to pass to him.

- What do I need to know:
- William's preparations for the invasion
- > The strengths of his invasion plan
- Where he landed.

King King Edward King Fulford beats Harald Duke of Harold Hastings disband his Hardrada's Normandy. arrives invading Godwinson fleet and lands at back in crowned southern forces at London the Battle armu

Bridge

of Stamford

Key Words:

- Coronation
- Holy War
- Mobilise
- Papal Banner



William's preparation for invasion

William sent Lanfranc, a leading member of the Norman church, to Rome, where he persuaded the Pope that the English Church needed reforming and William was the man to do it. This led to the Pope giving a Papal Banner to William, which meant William had the Pope's support in what was now a Holy War.

Military preparations: the fleet

William did not have a navy so he built a large number of flat-bottomed boats that

could transport horses. Weapons were produced and 'flat pack' castles were made, so

that when the Normans landed, they could put up the temporary castles very quickly.

How did William prepare to invade England?

from all over France - from Aguitaine, Flanders, Central France, Maine and Brittany - and also Sicily. Many men joined because they wanted to be part of a Holy War, but recruits were also promised

land and riches. Eventually,

around 8000 men were ready

to cross the English Channel.

ilitary preparations:

the army

Once William had the Papal

Banner, he recruited men

Gonfanon - a battle Shield - kite shaped to protect left side pennant used for signalling and leg

Elite skills - years of training to fight on horseback, special manoeuvres

Weapons - lance, also javelin, sword, mace

manoeuvres

Horse - specially bred to be strong enough to carry an armoured knight and trained for battle. William had to bring his war horses (destriers) across the Channel.

How prepared were the Normans?

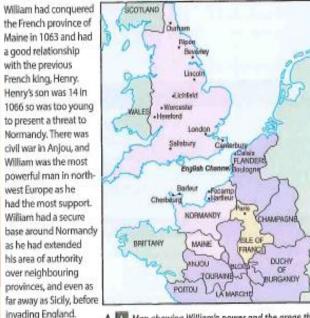
Armour - chain mail. conical helmet with nose piece



arms freely

William's invasion preparations

French support



▲ Map showing William's power and the areas that he controlled

Getting across the channel The ships and men were gathered

together for a long period, but William ensured that they were well fed so they did not suffer. He also moved his fleet from the mouth of the River Dives to the mouth of the River Somme at Valery, halving the journey to England to around 33km (20 miles)



▲ B Map showing the relocation of William's fleet

Landing in England!

The wind had been blowing the wrong direction at the River Dives and this led to the relocation of the Norman fleet. William eventually landed at Pevensey on 28th September 1066. During the summer months Harold had waited in the south with an army but when William didn't come, many of the English soldiers were allowed to return home. Harold himself had travelled North to face Harada. On arrival William's troops immediately stating building wooden castles structures and could defend their landing spot.