

# What do we mean by Landholding and Lordship?

We mean who control and owned the land, how William used the Feudal system to distribute land and how he divided it up between his Lords in Lordships.

**For example:**

Although William's distribution of land made lordships more compact the impact of this would have been affected by nobles who then granted out pieces of land to their followers. When there were revolts by nobles William broke up the compact lordships such as with the Earl of Shrewsbury, who controlled most of Shropshire.



How did landholding change?

Anglo-Saxon	Normans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They had about 4,000 Thegns.</li> <li>• Edward the Confessor granted very large areas of land to his earls. They got too big and powerful.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landholding became more concentrated.</li> <li>- By 1086 only 4 English Thegns still had any land.</li> <li>- The King, the Church and 200 Norman Barons and Bishops held the land.</li> <li>- William did not let any one person have too much land.</li> <li>- Apart from the Marcher Lords- who were a special case.</li> <li>- Barons were granted smaller amounts of land- often confined to one county. This made it much harder for them to build a power base from which to challenge the King's position.</li> </ul>

# Landholding and Lordship!

William and his barons had more power than their predecessors, but the basic framework of Anglo-Saxon state remained the same.

**Lordship!**

It was important that the king gave out land to his followers it was given out in much more compact units rather than the old Anglo-Saxon estates which tend to be more widely scattered. William would lump together the lands of small landholders and give them to a single new Norman Lord. This was important because it would have been a big change.

**What do I need to know:**

- To define the 'Landholding' and 'Lordship'.
- To understand how William used this to gain control
- To know who the Marcher Lords are.
- To understand how landownership changed.

**Key Words:**

- Barons
- Bishops
- Earldoms
- Lords
- Patronage
- Thanes

Wales was not a united country with a single leader but 5 kingdoms each ruled by a warrior prince. William could not conquer it as he had England.



## Wales and the Marcher Lords?

On several occasions William attempted to take over north and west Wales using his army, but he failed. The princes did in theory swear loyalty to him in exchange for his protection. However, they were not very co-operative and the border was an area of attack.

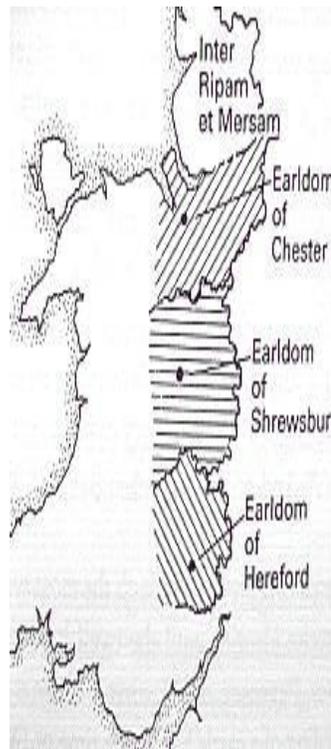
The borders between Wales and England needed to be powerful. Where William feared invasion or rebellion he granted large pieces of land to his most trusted followers. He granted land to the Earls of:

- Shrewsbury
- Hereford
- Chester

The border area was known as the Marches and so the barons were known as the Marcher Lords.

**The role of the Marcher Lords!**

The Marcher Lords were almost independent rulers in their areas. They were tasked with preventing any raid by the Welsh. Their extra powers including: Keeping their own armies, building castles without the Kings permission and making laws in their area.



## How was land controlled by the Anglo-Saxons?

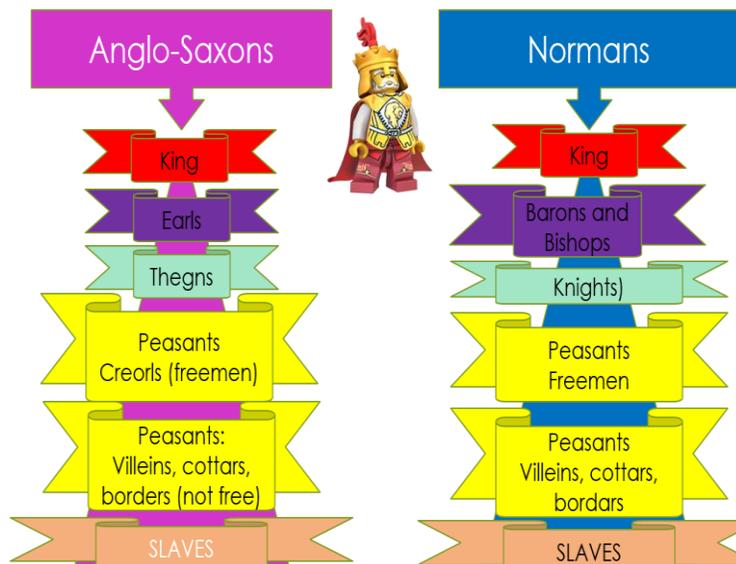
Before the Normans arrived in 1066, the English were ruled by the King Edward the Confessor and the Anglo-Saxon-aristocracy- the earls. England was divided into earldoms (areas of land). The King could make anyone an earl, and given them an earldom, but he could also take land away. He could request troops from earls during times of war and service of their Housecarls and Fyrd if they were to keep the King happy!

## What happened to English Landowners?

- William wanted to reward mercenaries loyal service with land as well as money.
- By 1076 the last English Earl Waltheof had been beheaded.
- There were only 2 Englishmen who held land directly from the King: Thurkill of Arden and Colswein of Lincoln.
- By 1096 all of the Senoir positions in the Church were held by Normans.
- Anglo-Saxons lack of loyalty meant that they were replaced by Normans.
- William instead used the Feudal system to favour those who had helped him conquer his new Kingdom.

## Landholding and Lordship!

The Feudal System was how William used land to ensure loyalty.



### What do I need to know:

- To define the 'Feudal System'
- To explain why William tried to retain leading Anglo-Saxons and failed.
- To know the roles, rights and responsibilities of government.

#### King:

- William directly owned 20% of the land.
- 25% was owned by the Church.
- The rest was shared out amongst William's supported.
- 200 Bishops and Barons.



#### Barons and Bishops:

- They were granted land (they did not own it- they held it in tenure)
- In return they swore fealty and paid homage to William.
- They also promised money and service.



#### Knights:

- Under-tenants
- They promised to be loyal to their baron or bishop.
- A knight also be called a LORD OF THE MANOR.
- They served as knights in the army.
- They granted some of their land to the peasant.



#### Peasants

- They had to obey the Lord their manor in return for their land.
- They also gave the lord some of their crops and worked a certain number of days on his lands without pay.
- Most could not leave the Lord's land without permission- therefore most were not freemen.



#### Slaves

- They made up 10% of the population in 1086
- Rapidly declined as they were expensive to keep and the Church disapproved.

### Oath of Fealty:

The Oath of Fealty was an oath of loyalty. IT was a promise to serve the Lord and be faithful. IT was a religious act

#### Key Words:

- Administration
- Aristocracy
- Earldoms
- Feudalism
- Lords
- Patronage
- Social hierarchy
- Thanes
- Villein



William developed the system to his advantage:

1. Norman Lords replaced Anglo-Saxons.
2. The King had far more power.
3. The peasants were more exploited.

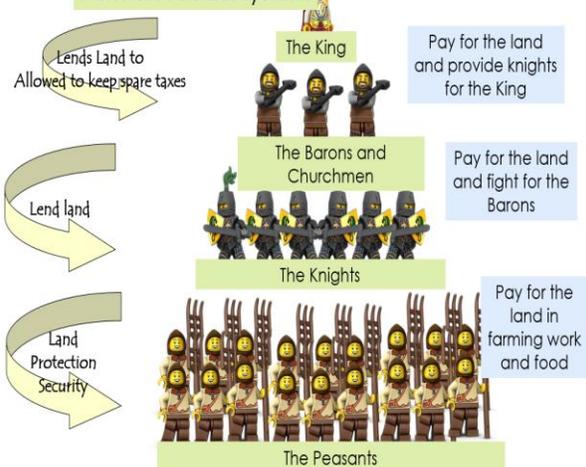
The Norman Feudal system was more formal than the Anglo-Saxon system.

For example the Anglo-Saxon kings had raised armies for their tenants as they were needed.

This continued but was more formal with knights guaranteeing a certain number of days service.

It was the organisation of society whereby the higher layers of society gave land to the lower in return for an oath (a promise).

### Norman Feudal system



The feudal system provided William with an army and made sure the population was kept under control. Loyalty to the King was the first obligation of all noblemen and knights.