

Conquest of the Castles

Chapter 1 - Introduction



Who is William:

William was born in Circa 1028 Falaise, Normandy, France. At the age of eight, William the Conqueror became duke of Normandy and later King of England. Violence plagued his early reign, but with the help of King Henry I of France, William managed to survive his early years. William was knighted by Henry at the age of 14. By 1064 he had Conquered two neighbouring provinces, Brittany and Maine.

Battle for the Throne:

While this was happening the Childless king, Edward the Confessor was dieing.

William had a weak link to Edward as his mother was William's Grandfather's sister. And Edward had promised William the throne. But once Edward had passed the most powerful lord in England, Harold Godwinson (Edward's brother-in-law) crowned himself king as he didnt want a foreigner to take the English throne, despite the oath that Edward made to Willam. William in his rage decided to assemble an army to invade England. William was ready to set off on his voyage to conquer England when the winds changed so he had to delay his trip for several weeks. In the meantime there was another claim to the throne by a Norewegian King, Harold Hardrada who invaded England from the North Sea which meant Harold Godwins and his men had to quickly march up to York to defend England from Norway. When William heard that Harold had to march all the way up to York to defeat another enemy the winds changed so he was able to Invade England from the south. In the Opposite direction to where Harold had gone.



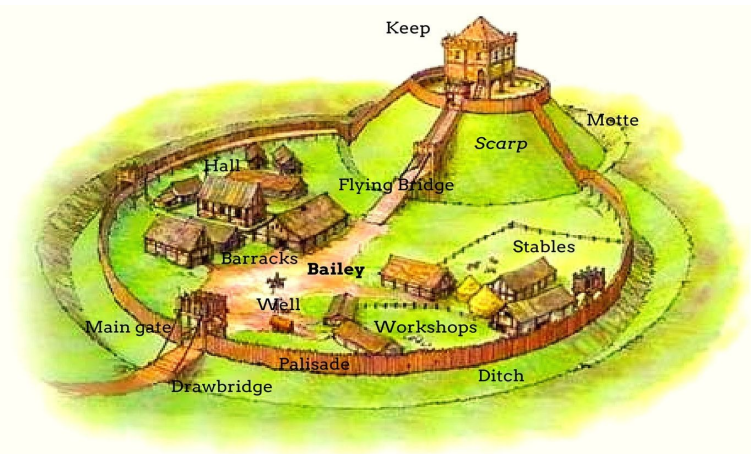
Battle of Hastings:

As soon as Harold Heard that William had invaded England he and his men had to march all the way back down Nouth to Devon. Where the Battle of Hastings Began. On October 14, 1066, the two armies met in the famous Battle of Hastings. King Harold and his two brothers were killed in the battle, and since no one of stature remained to raise a new army, William's path to the throne was clear. He was crowned king of England on Christmas Day. And from this day on he has been known as King William the Conqueror.

Chapter 2 - Motte and Bailey Castles

What is a Motte and Bailey Castle?:

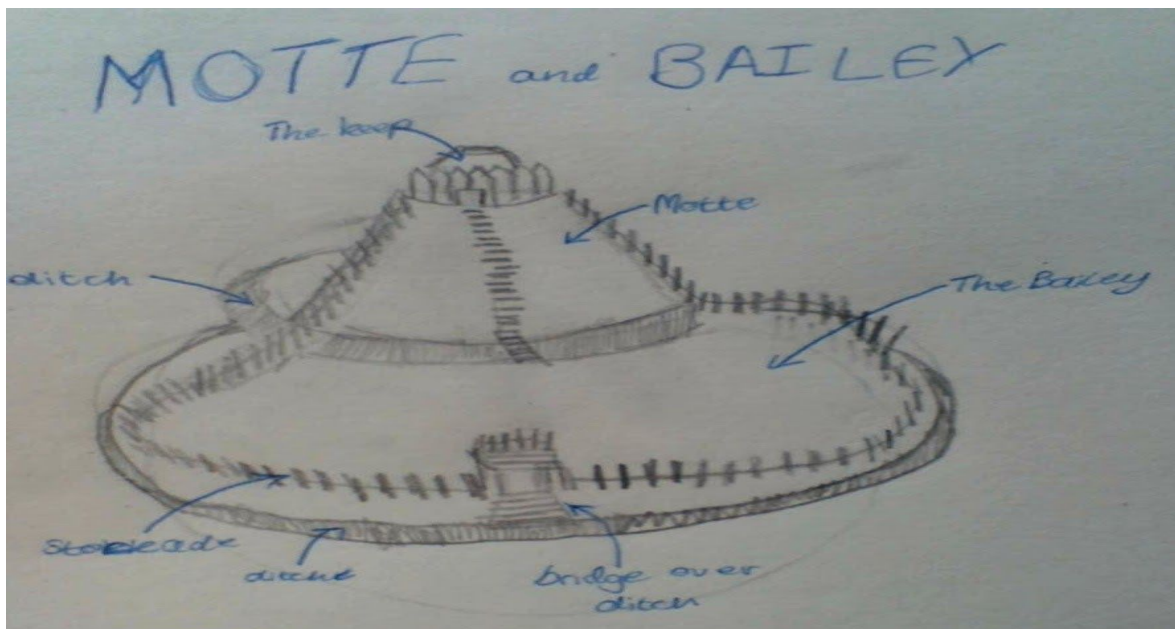
A Motte and Bailey castle is a fortification with a wooden or stone keep placed on a raised area of ground called a motte, accompanied by a walled courtyard, or bailey, surrounded by a protective ditch and palisade.



Why did William have them made?:

Building Motte and bailey castles were an effective way of securing towns that had submitted to William the Conqueror's power. Although the wooden structure was much more vulnerable to damage than a stone structure, a motte and bailey castle could be built quickly until the Normans had the time and money to build more permanent stone structures. William built a significant number of motte and bailey castles to help maintain peace. In northern England and elsewhere, William seized land from rebellious Saxon nobles and reassigned it to Norman nobles and knights. In return, they had to build a motte and bailey to protect William's interests in the local area. And to house many over 8000 Norman soldiers.

MOTTE AND BAILEY SKETCH



Motte And Bailey Castle

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheap and easy to build • Did not require expensive materials • Could be built by anyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made of wood which burns easily • Wood rots so have to rebuild again • Mottes had broad base which

- Not a difficult design
- Could be built quickly
- The height of the ditch gave a big advantage so pretty hard to capture

- means enemy can climb up it from and direction
- Building a large motte is a difficult task and takes a lot of manpower
- The living spaces were very small
- Disease could spread easily

Chapter 3 - What is a Stone Keep Castle

Stone Keep Castles - were built because they were stronger and much more sturdy than motte and bailey castles, the stone is more durable and resistant than wood. Stone keep castles are much harder to break into and attack.



Advantages:

- Stone castles have a lot of advantages over wooden Motte and bailey structures
 - They could be built inside the walls of the Motte and Bailey castles, this meant that the castle was still operational whilst it was being rebuilt
 - Unlike a wooden castle the new stone keeps did not rot or go up in flames
 - They were built taller and stronger

Disadvantages:

- Despite stone keep castles being exceptionally stone they had their disadvantages
 - Very Expensive to build - an average stone keep castle costs around 3000 - 4000 when the average person earned two pence a day
 - Only the wealthiest lords could afford this
 - They could be broken into by digging tunnels underneath
 - They could take a good few years to build
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Chapter 4 - What is life like Inside and Outside the Castles?

What was the Castle like Inside?:

A motte-and-bailey castle was made up of two structures: a motte (a type of mound, often artificial, topped with a wooden or stone structure known as a keep) and at least one bailey (a fortified enclosure built next to the motte). Inside the Bailey where the followers of the Lord who ran the castle. There were many buildings inside the bailey including stables, storehouses, bakeries, kitchens, houses, and quarters for soldiers.



Life for the Villagers

Changes - For the people who lived in villages and towns that high ranking life

changed a lot but for the peasants there wasn't much of a difference. Under the Norman control trade increased and the number of towns and size of towns gradually increased. Trade increased because the Norman Lords had greater links with mainland Europe. After the Norman Conquest some existing towns grew in military, religious and administrative centres. Before villages started to grow they dropped dramatically as the Normans would burn down houses and crops to make room for new castles. By 1086 only 5% of the population lived in towns and villages.

Jobs - There weren't many jobs on offer after William Conquered England, most of the peasants had to try and regrow their crops after the Harrying of the north so many people were farmers having barely enough money to feed their families. Another job was cleaning stables and barns which was never a pleasant one but one of the only jobs available.

Positive Impacts of Castles in England - They were much better defensively as they were all over the country and before this, towns and villages had both sort of defense from attacks and invasions trying to conquer England. Because of their new defence it would make invading England much harder. William had used Castles to take control of the country and put it back in order which he did and made England a better place.

Negative Impacts of Castles in England and how William Controlled England - Although The stone castle seemed impenetrable at first soon enough the attackers saw weaknesses in the build and they were able to attack and rebel. William was a ruthless king which made him very disliked by the English people. In the north east of England, from 1069 to 1070 William ordered villagers to be destroyed and people to be



destroyed and people to be killed. Herds of animals and crops were burnt and most of the people who survived died of starvation. (There were even rumors that some turned into cannibals.) Not only was the population reduced by 75% but land was poisoned to prevent people growing crops in the future. This was called the Harrying of the north.