

1066 and the Norman Tower of London

Chronology

From AD50	The walls of the Roman city of Londinium are built by the river on the site now occupied by the Tower.
4 January 1066	Edward the Confessor dies childless leaving several claimants vying for the throne. Edwards brother-in-law, Harold Godwinson is crowned King.
September 1066	200 Viking longboats carrying Harald Hardrada's invasion force land on the north east coast of England, joining forces with the English king's own brother, Tostig, and descending on York.
25 September 1066	The Battle of Stamford Bridge takes place between the English army under Harold Godwinson and the invading Norwegian force led by King Harald Hardrada. The English army finally emerge triumphant. Both Harald Hardrada and Tostig are killed on the battlefield.
28 September 1066	William of Normandy lands on the Pevensy coast near Hastings together with 7,000 men, 2,000 horses and five portable wooden forts.
14 October 1066	The Battle of Hastings takes place between the Norman-French army of Duke William II of Normandy and the English army. William's soldiers are well trained and well equipped whereas Harold's have recently endured the long march south from Yorkshire following their victory at Stamford Bridge. The battle lasts all day but finally the Normans are victorious.
25 December 1066	Duke William II of Normandy is crowned William I at Westminster Abbey.
May 1068	William's wife Matilda is crowned queen at Westminster Abbey. Matilda bears William nine children and rules as regent in his absence.
1078	Bishop Gundulf is commissioned by William I to oversee the building of the Tower of London, designed to 'keep hostile Londoners at bay.'



1080s	<p>Work on the White Tower begins. It is not clear exactly when work began but the first phase was certainly underway by this point.</p> <p>Norman masons are employed and some of the building stone is specially imported from Normandy. Labour is provided by Englishmen.</p>
1085	<p>William commissions a survey to document the resources and taxable values of all the boroughs and manors in England. He wants to know who owns what, how much it is worth and how much is owed to him in tax and military service.</p> <p>This survey is later compiled into a book by his son William II and given the title 'Domesday Book'.</p>
1087	<p>William dies whilst on a campaign in France and is buried in Normandy.</p>
1100	<p>The White Tower is completed.</p>

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