

A Timeline of Events influencing Eastern Sussex to 1538



- 75 BCE** Atrobates move into southern Britain
- 54 BCE** Second of Julius Caesars expedition to Britain
- 31 BCE** Roman coins for this date and before found at Ashburnham
 - 1** Iron working at Upper Wilting
 - 43** Romans invade
- 250** Major Roman iron working ends in eastern Sussex
- 286** Count of the Saxon Shore appointed
- 293** Anderita (Pevensey) Roman castle built
- 410** Romans abandon Britain
- 447** First Germanic settlement in Kent
- 477** Aelle lands in western Sussex
- 485** Battle of Mearcredburn between South-Saxons and Romano-Britons (possibly at Penhurst)
- 488** Oisc becomes king of Kent
- 491** South Saxons wipe out Romano-Britons at Pevensey
- 568** Wessex expanding aggressively
- 597** St Augustine arrives in Kent
- 600** Possible first use of term Hastingas to describe eastern Sussex
- 607** West Saxons under Ceolwulf attack South Saxons
- 661** Sub-king Aethelwulf of Sussex (under Wulfhere of Mercia)
- 675** Meonwara (S. Hampshire) and Wihtwara (Isle of Wight) added to Sussex by Wulfhere
- 681** Selsey Abbey founded
- 685** Eadric of Kent may have ceded Hastingas to the South Saxons
- 686** Caedwalla of Wessex takes control of Surrey, Sussex and Kent
- 692** Sub-king Nunna of Sussex
- 694** Wihtred of Kent and Ine of Wessex agree borders of Sussex
- 764** Offa of Mercia turns on Kent
- 770** Offa subjugates Sussex, except Hastingas
- 771** Offa defeats the Hastingas
- 772** Offa establishes a minster church at Bexhill
- 790** Offa grants lands at Pevensey, Hastings and Rotherfield to the Abbey of St Denis in Paris
- 800** Old Winchelsea may have been established
- 825** Wessex takes control of Sussex which becomes a province of Wessex
- 843** Large Viking raid near Romney
- 870** Vikings attack all of Wessex
- 871** Alfred routs Vikings at the battle of Ashdown, becomes King of Wessex
- 878** Danes defeated at Battle of Edington, Treaty of Wedmore
- 886** Partition treaty creates the Danelaw, Sussex remains under English laws
- 890** Burghal forts at Haestingaceastre and Eorpeburnan (possibly Newenden)
- 892** Danish fleet lands at Appledore, Kent. Probably attack Eorpeburnan which was incomplete
- 899** King Alfred dies
- 900** Alfred's will gives Beckley and Rotherfield to his cousin Osferth
- 928** Mint recorded at Haestingaceastre
- 980** Viking raids resume

- 982** Eadwine, Ealdorman of Sussex dies. Rameslie bequeathed to Æthelmaer, the founder of Eynsham Abbey (*Rameslie large estate east of Hastings*)
- 994** Massive Viking raids along south coast
- 999** Viking raids into Kent probably affected Hastings
- 1002** King Æthelred II marries Princess Emma of Normandy. May promise to give Rameslie to the Abbey of Fécamp
- 1005** King Æthelred II confirms Eynsham Abbey, founded by Aethelmaer - endowments include Rameslie
- 1009** Large Viking army lands in Kent, paid off and ravage Sussex instead
- 1011** Vikings overrun all Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hastings
- 1013** Æthelmaer dies. Æthelred II fails to pass Rameslie to the Abbey of Fécamp. King Sweyn of Denmark invades, becomes king and dies 5 weeks later
- 1014** Æthelred II returns
- 1015** Cnut, son of Sweyn invades, by winter Wessex submits
- 1016** Fighting between Edmund Ironside and Cnut. Æthelred II dies. Rule shared but Ironside dies and Cnut is king of all England
- 1017** Executions of high ranking Englishmen. Godwin Wulfnothson survives. Cnut married Æthelred II's widow, Emma. Emma persuades Cnut to give Rameslie to Fécamp.
- 1018** Godwin appointed Earl of eastern Wessex, excluding Kent
- 1020** Godwin appointed Earl of all Wessex, still excluding Kent. Godwin marries Cnut's brother in law's sister
- 1022** Harold Godwinson born
- 1027** maybe 1028 or 1029 William of Normandy born
- 1028** Second charters give manor of Brede to Fécamp, expanding Rameslie
- 1035** King Cnut dies. Harold I (Harefoot), son of Æthelred II and his first wife holds England. William becomes Duke of Normandy
- 1036** Alfred, younger son of Æthelred II and Emma murdered
- 1040** Harefoot dies. Harthacnut, son of Cnut and Emma becomes king.
- 1041** Edward, son of Æthelred II and Emma who has lived a life of exile in Normandy invited to join mother and half-brother in England
- 1042** Harthacnut dies
- 1043** Edward becomes king
- 1044** Harold Godwinson made Earl of East Anglia
- 1047** Battle of Val ès Dunes, victory for Henri of France and William of Normandy
- 1048** Viking raids on Kent, chased off by English navy from the future Cinque Ports
- 1049** Edward arranges blockade of the Channel to assist Emperor Henry III against Baldwin of Flanders
- 1051** Near civil war between Edward and the Godwins. Godwins banished. William of Normandy may have visited Edward
- 1052** Godwins restored. Edward's hostages – the youngest son of Godwin, Wulfnoth and his grandson Håkon Sweynson taken to Normandy
- 1053** Earl Godwin Wulfnothson dies. Harold Godwinson becomes Earl of Wessex
- 1054** Battle of Mortemer, victory for William of Normandy
- 1057** Battle of Dives, another victory for William
- 1064** Harold visits Normandy, returns with nephew Håkon but not his youngest brother Wulfnoth
- 1066** Edward dies. Harold crowned king. Battle of Hastings. William crowned at Christmas
- 1067** William returns to Normandy from Pevensey, on return lands at Old Winchelsea
- 1070** Erminfred's Penitentiary imposed on William and the Normans. Building of Battle Abbey starts
- 1085** Charter by William I to the Abbey of Fécamp, of Steyning and the Manor of Bury
- 1090** Probable date of foundation of College of St. Mary of the Castle of Hastings by Robert, count of Eu
- 1091** Rufus uses Hastings as a base
- 1093** Rufus again uses Hastings as a base from which to invade Normandy
- 1095** Rufus holds court at Hastings. Consecration of first part of Battle Abbey. Abbot Gausbert of Battle dies.
- 1096** Rufus administers the Rape of Hastings directly after the holder, William of Eu became involved in a rebellion. Henry appointed Abbot of Battle
- 1100** Rufus dies in a hunting accident. Younger brother Henry rapidly has himself crowned
- 1101** Henry I encamps at Wartling expecting his brother Robert Curthose's army from Normandy. Curthose later landed at Portsmouth and paid off by Henry
- 1102** Death of Abbot Henry of Battle. No new abbot appointed, in interabbacy a start is made on building St Marys Church in Battle
- 1105** Henry I invades Normandy
- 1106** Henry invades Normandy again, wins the Battle of Tinchebrai and captures and imprisons Curthose

- 1107** Abbot Ralph of Caen appointed abbot of Battle
- 1115** Possible consecration of St Marys Church, Battle
- 1120** Henry I's son William drowns
- 1124** Abbot Ralph dies
- 1125** Abbot Warner of Canterbury appointed to Battle
- 1133** Last recorded notifications concerning Battle Abbey from Henry I, who had helped the abbey since 1101
- 1135** Henry I dies, nephew Stephen crowned over Henry's daughter Matilda
- 1138** Abbot Warner induced to resign and abbacy of Battle given to Walter de Luci
- 1147** Pevensey castle besieged by Stephen. When taken given to his son, Eustace
- 1148** Dispute between Battle Abbey and the Bishop of Chichester about Battle's unique position as a Royal Peculiar
- 1153** Henry of Anjou, Matilda's son invaded England, Eustance died and Stephen recognised Henry as his heir.
- 1155** Stephen died and Henry of Anjou became King Henry II
- 1156** First three Cinque Ports established by Royal Charter. Abbot Walter travels to Saumur on the Loire to meet King Henry II
- 1157** Pevensey castle surrendered to the crown by Stephen's second son William of Blois who had been set aside from the monarchy. Legal case before the king re-states Battle Abbey's Royal Peculiar status
- 1171** Abbot Walter de Luci died. Until 1175 his brother Richard de Luci, chief Justiciar of England 'presided ' over the abbey
- 1175** Odo of Canterbury appointed abbot of Battle
- 1176** Abbey of Robertsbridge established. First abbot called Denis.
- 1180** Church at Brede founded by Fécamp Abbey
- 1189** Henry II dies, Richard I (Lionheart) becomes king
- 1190** Approximate date of founding of the Austin Priory of the Holy Trinity at Hastings
- 1192** Abbot Denis of Robertsbridge sent with the Abbot of Boxley to find King Richard I
- 1198** The same two abbots acted as agents to the Pope for the Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1199** Richard I dies at Chinon, John becomes king
- 1200** Odo died. John of Dover elected abbot of Battle
- 1206** John visits Battle Abbey
- 1207** Pevensey granted Royal Charter by King John
- 1211** John commissions new ships for the navy to be built at Winchelsea
- 1212** Abbot William of Robertsbridge acted as Kings messenger
- 1213** John visits Battle Abbey twice whilst preparing defences at the Cinque Ports
- 1215** 1st Magna Carta. Richard of Horwode elected abbot of Battle
- 1216** Civil war. Louis of France, (married to Blanche, John's niece) invited by the barons to invade. John orders Hastings and Pevensey castles to be slighted. John dies in October. Henry III becomes king
- 1217** Civil war continued. Louis took refuge at Winchelsea but escapes via Rye as William Marshall closed in. Peace treaty signed in September. 3rd Magna Carta issued.
- 1222** The Abbot of Robertsbridge was sent as a messenger by the king, probably to the Pope
- 1225** Henry III visits Cinque Ports. New version of Magna carta issued
- 1235** Abbot Richard dies and Ralph of Coventry elected abbot of Battle
- 1240** Abbot Ralph of Battle joins group protesting to the king about papal extortion
- 1247** Henry III resumes ownership of Rye and Winchelsea from the Abbey of Fécamp for strategic defensive reasons. Fécamp retained manor of Brede.
- 1252** Last mention of Abbot Ralph of Coventry
- 1253** Probable year of foundation of Franciscan (Greyfriars) Priory at Old Winchelsea
- 1257** Earliest year Friary of the Sack established at Rye
- 1258** Barons demanded sweeping reforms and Provisions of Oxford agreed.
- 1261** Henry III obtains papal bull proclaiming Barons' reforms unconstitutional. De Montfort, Henry's brother in law, retires to France. Reginald of Brecon appointed abbot of Battle
- 1263** De Montfort returns
- 1264** Full civil war. Henry III moves aggressively through Ticehurst, Robertsbridge, Battle, Old Winchelsea and Herstmonceux on way to Battle of Lewes, which he loses. Henry brought back to Battle Abbey then taken to London.
- 1265** Barons defeated at Battle of Evesham by Henry's son Edward
- 1266** Dictum of Kenilworth issued ending the Barons War. Cinque ports had to send grovelling apologies for supporting the barons. Winchelsea refused and its leading citizens were executed in an assault led by Prince Edward
- 1272** Henry II died and Edward I king but away on the 8th Crusade

- 1274** Edward I crowned. Old Winchelsea storm damaged. Appeals for help. Edward possibly visits Hastings, but there is no record of a visit to Winchelsea
- 1276** Edward I visits Battle Abbey then goes on to Winchelsea
- 1278** Edward I issued a Great Charter to the Cinque Ports
- 1280** Abbot Reginald resigns from Battle Abbey, Henry of Aylesford becomes abbot. Edward gave instructions to buy land on the hill of Iham for the purpose of building New Winchelsea
- 1283** Edward instructs to start building New Winchelsea
- 1288** Freehold of New Winchelsea granted to the local barons
- 1295** Ship service demanded from the Cinque Ports. Edward visits his fleet staying at Udimore and visiting Winchelsea
- 1297** Edward returns, holding a court at Brede and again staying at Udimore. Left with the fleet to Flanders
- 1302** Edwards final visit to eastern Sussex, although he later visited mid Sussex in 1305
- 1307** Death of Edward I. Edward II became king
- 1312** Edward II confirmed new well crafted charters for Battle Abbey which were of future legal value
- 1315** Edward II with Queen Isabella visited Hastings and Winchelsea. Whilst at Winchelsea they bought 6000 litres of wine.
- 1318** Edward II approved the building of a church and priory at Winchelsea for the Dominican order (Blackfriars)
- 1324** Edward II visited Battle Abbey and possibly also Robertsbridge Abbey. Manor of Brede temporarily taken into the King's hands from Fécamp Abbey
- 1325** Queen Isabella sent to France to negotiate and refused to return
- 1326** Edward's regime collapsed. He fled to Wales.
- 1327** Edward made to abdicate and murdered. Edward III became king
- 1337** Start of '100 Years War'. King commanded Abbot Alan de Retlyng of Battle to defend the eastern Sussex coasts and to fortify Battle Abbey
- 1338** Licence to crenellate Battle Abbey issued
- 1339** French raids on eastern Sussex. Rye and Hastings burnt
- 1348** Outbreak of Black Death. Abbot Alan a victim
- 1350** Local population and numbers of monks at Battle Abbey reduced by about 35%
- 1358** Recorded that 94 properties abandoned and 90 derelict in Winchelsea - total 184
- 1360** Treaty of Bretigny gave a brief respite from war until 1369
- 1363** 409 properties in Winchelsea now abandoned or derelict
- 1367** Economic stress causes Battle town to shrink
- 1368** Austin Friar's priory established at Rye soon before this date
- 1372** French and Castilian allies make lightning raids on the ports
- 1377** Edward II died and Richard II became king. French capture Rye with 66 deaths and burn it, they also burn Hastings again. Winchelsea defended by Abbot Hamo de Offyngton of Battle. Poll tax imposed and repeated three times to 1380
- 1381** Peasants Revolt
- 1382** Abbot Hamo de Offyngton died and John Crane was elected to take his place
- 1385** Richard II granted Sir Edward Dallingridge permission to crenellate his manor house (Bodiam Castle)
- 1399** Richard II deposed by Henry IV
- 1413** Hastings Priory removed to Warbleton because of sea damage. Henry IV died and Henry V crowned
- 1416** Henry V dissolved all alien priories and the manor of Brede was confiscated from Fécamp Abbey, passing eventually to the Monastery of Syon
- 1422** Henry V died and Henry VI became king
- 1441** Sir Roger Fiennes granted permission to build a crenelated castle at Herstmonceux
- 1447** Hastings Collegiate College lost Royal Free chapel status
- 1448** Possible burning of Rye and Winchelsea
- 1449** Robertsbridge Abbey fair attacked by supporters of Cade
- 1450** Cade's rebellion
- 1451** Abbot Richard Dertmouth and Battle Abbey pardoned for supporting Cade
- 1453** Battle of Castillon lost by England. End of '100 Years War'
- 1455** Start of 'Wars of the Roses'
- 1460** Cinque Ports support Yorkists
- 1461** Edward IV visits Battle
- 1470** Edward IV visits Battle again, soon before his six month deposition

- 1471** Edward IV issues general pardon to Abbot John Newton of Battle
- 1475** Inner port at Winchelsea no longer accessible to larger ships
- 1488** Henry VII visits Battle Abbey and Rye
- 1509** Henry VII dies, Henry VIII becomes king
- 1512** Construction of round artillery tower to protect Rye Camber (precursor of Camber Castle)
- 1520** Henry VIII meets with king of France at Field of Cloth of Gold. Winchelsea supplies four ships.
- 1524** Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1524/5 give insight into Battle High Street
- 1538** Suppression of Battle Abbey, Robertsbridge Abbey, Friaries at Winchelsea and Rye