

## Hereward the Wake and the rebellion at Ely 1070-71

- In 1070 King Sweyn of Denmark returned with a fleet to England
- Sweyn went to the Isle of Ely in East Anglia
- This area was a marshy/swampy region in the east of England, it was difficult ground where local knowledge of safe paths was essential
- King Sweyn joined up with English rebels who were also based at Ely led by a rebel leader named Hereward the Wake, he was a local thegn (local lord), he'd been exiled under Edward the Confessor and when he came back in 1069 he found his land had been given to a Norman.
- Hereward used the treacherous (awful) terrain (ground) to his advantage and began fighting a guerrilla war
- The Danes & Hereward raided Peterborough Abbey together. They did not want its riches falling into the hands of the Normans. The Danes though then sailed off with the treasure back to Denmark
- Morcar joined Hereward (Edwin had been murdered by this point).
- William then surrounded the island of Ely and built a causeway so his men could cross. William bribed local monks to show them a safe way through the marshes. The first attempt failed and his men drowned when the bridge collapsed but the second attempt was more successful.
- During the fighting Hereward escaped and was not heard of again. Morcar was imprisoned, prisoners were dealt with harshly (eyes put out, feet and hands cut off).
- This rebellion marked the end of the large-scale Anglo Saxon rebellions.



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