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| **CLAIMANT** | **CLAIM** | **THINGS IN FAVOUR** | **THINGS AGAINST** |
| Harold Godwinsson, Earl of Wessex | Brother in law to Edward. | * He is English * The most powerful noble in England * Apparently Edward favoured Harold from his deathbed. | * He had rebelled against Edward earlier in his reign. * Not well favoured by other nobles. |
| Harald Hardrada, King of Norway | ‘Right to rule’ in line of Viking rulers since King Cnut. | * Viking rulers had ruled in England but Edward had seized the throne from them in 1042. * Many Viking descendents lived in Northern England. | * Not a blood relation to Edward. * A ‘foreigner’ * - An ‘enemy’ as he planned to invade. |
| William, Duke of Normandy | Cousin to Edward | * Edward had promised him the throne (apparently) * Harold Godwinsson had sworn an oath to let William become King. * William helped Edward in times of trouble with the Vikings and Earls of Wessex. | * A foreigner * Harold’s ‘oath’ to help William become king made under threat (duress). Hence, it was not freely given. |

WHY WAS 1066 A YEAR OF CRISIS? In 1066, Edward the Confessor died without a direct heir – who would succeed him?

**Who should become king?**