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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 as 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 descendants 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 Vikings and Earls of Wessex. | * A ‘foreigner’ * Harold’s ‘oath’ to help William become king was made under threat. Hence, it was not freely given (under duress) and could not stand. |
| Edgar Aetheling | Nephew of Edward | * Member of the English royal family. | * Only 12 years old * Unknown in England as born in Hungary. |