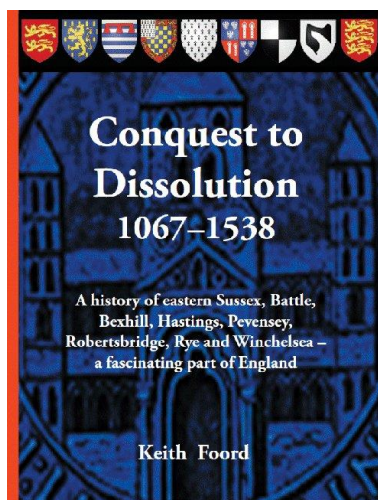


# Conquest to Dissolution 1067–1538

***A new history of eastern Sussex, Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Pevensey, Robertsbridge, Rye and Winchelsea – a fascinating part of England***



How did William and his successors, from the houses of Normandy and Blois, via the Angevin and Plantagenet kings, through the Wars of the Roses to the rise of the Tudors change eastern Sussex? Most of the history is hidden away in ancient documents, but some remains visible, in the ruins of old abbeys and castles and in the landscape itself.

The ways in which Battle and all of eastern Sussex evolved between 1067 and 1538 are covered in this book. It also acts as a guide book to further reading about the more complex issues.

Keith co-wrote the well-regarded *1066 and the Battle of Hastings – Preludes, Events and Postscripts* as part of the 950th commemoration of 1066. This book is its sequel.

**240 pages, 93 colour illustrations, 9 grayscale illustrations**

**Published by BDHS, with a cover price of £15**

**Members price £12. The book will be available to members at the BDHS meeting of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and all subsequent meetings until Christmas. After that it will remain available to members at later meetings and on request from Neil Clephane-Cameron or Keith Foord at the same price.**

After 12<sup>th</sup> September it will also be available via ordering from our website <http://www.battlehistory.btck.co.uk/BooksandArts/HowtobuyBDHSbooks>, from Rother Books and Battle Museum of Local History, and English Heritage may stock it at the Abbey shop. It will also become more widely available from booksellers.



The blazons on the front cover, left to right  
Norman kings – the count of Eu – the Lusignan counts of Eu  
Early dukes of Brittany – later dukes of Brittany – the Pelham family  
Sir Thomas Hoo – Lord Hastings of Hastings – Angevin kings



The blazons on the back cover, left to right  
Cinque Ports – early Sussex – the Laigle family – the de Luci family  
Simon de Montfort – Abbot Hamo de Offyngton – John of Gaunt  
Lancaster, York and early Tudor Royal kings – Sir Anthony Browne

These coats of arms (or blazons) are on the covers of the book.

Find out why inside!

## **Synopsis:**

The book covers events after the Norman Conquest from 1067 until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538. In particular there is discussion of the post-Conquest Normanisation of eastern Sussex and its townships including Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Pevensey, Robertsbridge, Rye and Winchelsea and the further development of the area as strategic needs change.

The impacts of kings, nobles, religious institutions and sociological factors on change, including the local roles of lords of the Rapes of Hastings and Pevensey, Battle and Robertsbridge abbeys and the Sussex Cinque Ports are discussed.

It examines and describes all types of religious institution, not just abbeys, but local priories, friaries and hospitals – and their influences on local life. A critical look is also taken at the ‘Rolls of Battle Abbey’.

The local population suffered plagues and rebellions during this period, and were sorely pressed by the demands of defending the shore, manning the navy, paying taxes, and the general burden of living, particularly during the 100 Years War. At certain points society nearly collapses.

At first Normanisation involved the imposition of new lords and the evolving feudal system, but following the plagues and revolts of the 1300s this gradually faded. The lordship of the Rape by the earls of Eu originally granted as part of William the Conquerors defensive system gradually faded. They were replaced by royal nominees and Dukes of Brittany and later granted by favour.

We also see an indirect role for eastern Sussex in the development of the parliamentary system and a description of the earliest parliaments and of how the first local members of parliament were chosen, with mini-biographies of a few to give a taste of the sort of people they were!

The events are introduced by a detailed timeline to set the chronology of the period, the associated appendices give much detail of many humble (and not so humble!) people, and an extensive bibliography is given for those who wish to follow up events in more detail. Throughout pointers are given to major texts on the matters being described

## **The chapters include:**

Local influences of the Norman and Angevin Kings 1067–1272

Abbots of Battle Abbey 1070–1538

A Critique of the Rolls of Battle Abbey

Not just Battle Abbey: other religious houses in eastern Sussex to 1538

The Great and Terrible King Edward I and his son: Battle and the Cinque Ports of eastern Sussex 1272–1327

Warrior Abbots, Wars, Revolts and the Black Death: Edward III to Henry VI's usurpation 1327–1461

Wars of the Roses, the rise of the Tudors and the Dissolution of the Monasteries 1461–1538

Rapes of Sussex and Hundreds of the Rape of Hastings

Lords and People of the Rape of Hastings to 1538

The Lowey or Liberty of Pevensey to 1538

Members of Parliament representing Sussex, Hastings, Rye and Winchelsea 1334 until 1538

**ISBN 978-1-903099-04-9**