

## King Harold's Grave Stone found.

In 2014 I had decided to look for bodies at the Battle of Hastings site in Sussex, which had eluded the finest minds over a thousand years. It was clear to me, if no-one else, that the experts were looking in the wrong place. In the meantime I had identified that there were anomalies at the top of the slope on the Crowhurst battlefield, where it meets the level plain half way up the massive hill that distinguishes it as the largest hill in the area for twenty miles. Before the railway was built in Victorian times the anomalies occupied a prime position overlooking the lower battlefield all the way to Hastings old port at Wilting. When I was working on the upper battlefield I had noticed a very large stone right next to where I had dug an exploratory pit. The stone looked out of place, because it was so large and there were no others anywhere around the site.



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/digemma.jpg>

Excavation 2014

Like many activities that took place over the years you might look once and decide it is the wrong place and then go back later, because new information comes to you. This was one of those times and you may ask yourself again, with the benefit of hindsight, why did I stop digging in the first place?

When digging I had dug between the two fields where the second defence had been built, as detailed by *Wace*, towards the top of the ridge at Crowhurst. It was next to the track that became the London Road and despite that it was quite isolated, because the track moved away from the road, which went down the valley and round to the railway station.

The excavation I dug was very similar to a grave in size and dictated that it was probably a body, which was identified through my dowsing. Whilst unreliable in a scientific sense dowsing had never let me down. Perhaps it was because I had a direct involvement in the history I was investigating.

The excavation was a couple of feet wide by in the region of five feet long and getting to five feet deep before I abandoned it. It was deep by the standards of the day. It took several months to dig, on and off on weekdays which were no wet, because I was removing sections just a few inches deep at a time. I did not want to mess it up, because it had such a strong 'grave' response to my dowsing. Unlike conventional excavations I had learned over the years that you needed to feel the excavation with a metal pick before removing the detritus that piled up as you went along. If you did not do this you would simply dig straight through what was there, unable to see anything. What was left was exceedingly invisible to

the eye and hung together in the same way that the Sutton Hoo<sup>1</sup> excavation only became visible because it was excavated by an expert Basil Brown<sup>2</sup>, who knew how to do it. He was airbrushed out of history by the experts of the time and I was determined not to let that happen to me, because I had been treated like Basil Brown in my 1066 research for over thirty years. Heavy boots or an enthusiastic trowel could leave you with nothing to look at. Those who came forward as experts in my case displayed the same arrogance that cannot be excused when they have never excavated anything from this age. Having believed that I had already succumbed to this treatment when I first excavated the crossbow in 1985 I was determined to get it right this time and decided I had seen enough and would abandon the dig.

To make matters worse the area involved kept filling with water, flooding off the plain behind it, making the excavation process very laborious, muddy and difficult. The land was owned by the Christian Centre and I was most grateful for their patience in doing something that took a lot longer than planned. It took a strange sort of courage to allow me to dig knowing that it might have unforeseen implications.

The dowsing of the excavation continued to show a body, but all I could find four to five feet down was a layer of what looked like pieces of corroded iron oxide. It was very compact and there was no sign of any body in the immediate excavation. There was no iron response to the metal detector I brought with me indicating it was ancient, but was an anomaly that should not be there. It had no specific structure other than it was hard and brown, so I decided for what-ever reason to leave it, because of the poor condition it was in. I assumed what was there had been absorbed, or been moved over the centuries, it clearly had been there at some stage. It was found directly in the hedge line where the trees had grown, where a lynchet had formed between one and two feet high to the north. It was not an obvious place for a lynchet to form, because there was no slope in the current field behind the excavation looking north.

Despite this you are forced to ignore the evidence of your own eyes, having been told by Dr Gardiner at the 1989 public Inquiry that lynchets form at the top of hills. His view was in my view prejudiced by his own position, as a supporter of the road being built (the A259 Bexhill Bypass). I never felt that his explanation carried any weight in that particular instance and told the Inspector of the Inquiry. My word on this matter was ignored in the summing up and as a result the road was built.



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<sup>1</sup>. [Sutton Hoo](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/suffolk/sutton-hoo/history-of-sutton-hoo) <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/suffolk/sutton-hoo/history-of-sutton-hoo>

<sup>2</sup>. [Brown](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-55877934) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-55877934>

It looked like Iron Oxide at the bottom of the excavation before being stopped.

I have had a lot more experience now looking into excavations than I did then, and thought later after closing the excavation that perhaps I might be wrong, because I later thought that the hard metallic type material at the bottom of the excavated hole might be the corroded remains of 1066 armour. It seemed unlikely, but the experience in the *Malfosse* a few years earlier made me think the oxide might be metal that had severely degraded. Whatever it was it should not be nearly six foot down in a field near the top of the ridge and was right next to the very large semi-rectangular stone that also seemed completely out of place. At the time I was so taken with the excavation that I did not even look at the stone, because nothing made it stand out in that area of grassland. From a distance it looked just like an outcrop of rock cutting through the grass.

The stone was lying flat and wedged next to another large oak tree. It had an irregular shape and was covered in green moss. You could easily pass it by and probably many thousands have done so over the years, being next to the old London to Hastings road. I thought there might be an inscription on it providing some detail of where it had come from. It was too big to be moved by a single man, but a team could probably get it off the ground and take a look. It had been five years since I dug that original hole, because I had decided it was not on my list of priorities. Prior to that I needed to do some more research:

The first breakthrough came when doing research into the name of the field that the stone was in and finding out that it was called Apple Tree Field, which was immediately adjacent to what I had called the "*marker stone*". Much has been written about the Hoary Apple tree, since it was the first name used to describe the Hastings battle site.<sup>3</sup> A pollard tree of some sort was given as the probable muster point for *King Harold's* army by the *D version of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*.<sup>4</sup>

The first Secrets book<sup>5</sup> noted that nineteen similar sites had been identified over the years. It therefore seemed likely that the Battle of Hastings may have followed a well-trodden route. It is possible to see from the tithe map (below) that this field was also next to the old crossroads at the rectory, half way down the Great Field in Crowhurst.

In a secondary line of enquiry the ancient tree expert Janis Fry<sup>6</sup> confirmed that trees in ancient times, such as described in the Saxon Chronicles, did not refer specifically to apple trees, because all fruit on a tree was assumed to be apples in those days. Whilst seeming to be unlikely good cause is given and to some extent provides an understanding of the differences between then and now. People may find this hard to reconcile, but it is a fact of life that many things in the Saxon way of life fill us with surprises now.

This leads to the conclusion that the Hoar Apple of the Battle of Hastings must also be the yew tree that *King Harold* has behind him in the Bayeux Tapestry, when the Norman army

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<sup>3</sup>. [Battle](#) The Hoar Apple Tree, Rebecca Welshman

[https://www.academia.edu/40098317/The\\_Hoar\\_Apple\\_Tree\\_of\\_the\\_Battle\\_of\\_Hastings\\_A\\_New\\_Translation](https://www.academia.edu/40098317/The_Hoar_Apple_Tree_of_the_Battle_of_Hastings_A_New_Translation)

<sup>4</sup>. [Chronicles](#) Angle Saxon Chronicle [https://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/saxon\\_20.htm](https://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/saxon_20.htm)

<sup>5</sup>. [Book](#) [www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com](http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com)

<sup>6</sup>. [Fry](#) The God Tree

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/God-Tree-Janis-Fry/dp/1861633459>

arrives at the battle site. Whilst some might consider this just a lucky coincidence I believe it is factual reporting in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle, which is known for its accuracy. The battle of the Hoar Apple Tree was almost certainly the original name of the battlefield, because of the prominence of the apple tree on the site.



<http://www.secretsofthenormandinvasion.com/newbook/appletreefield/yewtreebt.jpg>

Pollard tree behind Harold with stones in branches and trunk tied.

None the less Apple Tree field now runs down to the Great Field in the centre of Crowhurst next to the London Road, where the ancient pollard yew tree still stands. It was originally the Great Field of Crowhurst and became known as Apple Tree Field to the Normans who used it as a landmark, in order to plunder the area. The yew was also a pollard yew tree and the coincidences were starting to stack up. The railway cut the field up further when it was built in the late 1840s. The tree in the Bayeux Tapestry is definitely a pollard tree, because of its stylised shape and the iron bands around the trunk exactly as found in the Crowhurst Yew. It stands next to the low stone wall mentioned in the Chronicle of Battle Abbey identifying the site, which is confirmed in the visual branches shown in the Bayeux Tapestry. The fact that it is drawn in that document makes it highly unlikely that the story was invention. Identifying that site now appears to be confirmed where no reference to the hoar apple is found at Battle Abbey or the Bayeux Tapestry.

The excavation in 2014 showed me that the depth of soil on the upper field was far more than you would expect. In an average field you might get between a foot and three foot of top soil. Here in the site on the battlefield, two thirds of the way up the field at Crowhurst, it was at least five feet of soil deep at the edge and possibly more in the centre due to excessive slope wash. This soil was compact and had never been disturbed. The defence line must have held back the soil that had flowed from higher up on the ridge or come from the graves dug in that field that did the same thing.

The green stone was on the edge of what looked like the small lynchet type structure, which had grown up around the tree line between the fields, as it dropped off the edge to head towards the church, down the then London Road. This is where the second line of defence had been dug, according to my plan of the battlefield, which followed *Wace's* descriptions. It was in many ways camouflaged by the colour of the grass being the same in the landscape. Grass had grown around the edges making it blend with the soil and therefore no-one sought to look closely at it. Why would they? It looked more or less like an outcrop of stone that had no special function until I came along.





<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/marker5b.jpg>  
Moss covered marker stone under tree

It was in the shadow of an oak tree growing in the tree line of the second defence (out of three defined by Wace<sup>7</sup>) and now covered in green moss. The difference in field levels was around a foot or so, with the field to the south dropping twenty to thirty feet to the southeast after crossing an old Roman track leading from the iron workings of Crowhurst Park to Forewood bloomeries.



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/seconddefence.jpg>  
Second defence line

The rise in field line offered a commanding view of the field below and also as far as the port (when the trees were not there). The stone was a strange shape, since it was neither rectangular nor circular, with a projection on one side, giving to me the appearance of a Norman helmet when stood upon its end.

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<sup>7</sup> [Wace](#)

[https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Master\\_Wace\\_his\\_chronicle\\_of\\_the\\_Norman/bV8EAAAAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Master_Wace_his_chronicle_of_the_Norman/bV8EAAAAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/markermen.jpg>

Turning the stone over required a lever, regrettably caused a little damage.

The first job was to clean off the layers of green moss. This revealed a stone that had been cut with a strange design on it. The only obvious element was that it looked to me like an armoured knight in attack pose. No-one else could see it what I could see when they visited the site to help me. I have put the two images together so that you can switch between the two to see the elements upon a computer.

Upon first impressions it had no visible text upon it that could be read. I therefore decided to turn it over and the team who came to assist me were required to pull out all the stops, because of its weight. They could not raise it but managed to use some wood as levers to stand it up. The question arose as to how it got there, since four men could not lift it off the ground. The land belonged to the Christian charity, which was half a mile from the church down the hill and the image was a little spooky, since it raised more questions than answers. Fortunately I had taken an image on my mobile phone before the damage which was caused in the turning over process:



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/marker8.jpg>

<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/marker8a.jpg>

A warrior knight with sword drawn in front of shield

Examination of the digital images later showed the person I believed had been cut onto the stones face was shown to be holding a sword drawn in front of a shield. The shield appeared



to have a simple design upon it featuring a number of circles. The back showed that it looked like it had been dragged there, because of the scratch marks, which were very indistinct and showed signs of rough treatment, probably featuring a plough.



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/marker4a.jpg>

Back shows possible erased text.

Whilst the front of the stone looked like solid sandstone the back looked like it was composite or perhaps had been filled with some sort of mortar. There was a variety of text written on the back, but none was easily discernible at that time. The *Chronicle of Battle Abbey* sprang to mind as I looked at the back searching for clues. It said according to Oxford Medieval Texts, who did the translation:

*'Accordingly, the spot was marked where the standard of the enemy's rash usurpation fell,'*<sup>8</sup>

I realised that this there were two references in the *Chronicle of Battle Abbey* to marking the site. The first is to where the '*enemy's rash usurpation fell*'. The words in the text are:

*Designato igitur loco quo hostilis temerarie insuasionis cecidit signum, dux ulterius propere progrediens quecumque adire ualebat suo iuri mancipari festinabat*<sup>9</sup>

It translates in the online version to

*Having then designated the place where the signal of the enemy's reckless disobedience had fallen, the general advancing further hastily, wherever he was able to go, hastened to assert his right.*<sup>10</sup>

Here there is a difference between the original published by Oxford and my understanding of what this says. Oxford has assumed the subject matter is the standard, but the word '*standard*' is not present in the text. It is poetic prose interpreted as '*standard*' by Oxford and to my mind is very misleading because it finishes after the battle scene.

I take the view that the original intention was to refer to Harold's **body falling**, not his standard, but then how could Oxford know this? Does it make any difference? Yes I suppose it does. The standard was held until the battle was lost after Harold's death according to

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<sup>8</sup>. Fell Chronicle of Battle Abbey Translation Eleanor Searle p.41

<sup>9</sup>. [Festinabat](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4563976-the-chronicle-of-battle-abbey) <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4563976-the-chronicle-of-battle-abbey> see also

<sup>10</sup>. [Right](https://www.translate.com/latin-english) <https://www.translate.com/latin-english>

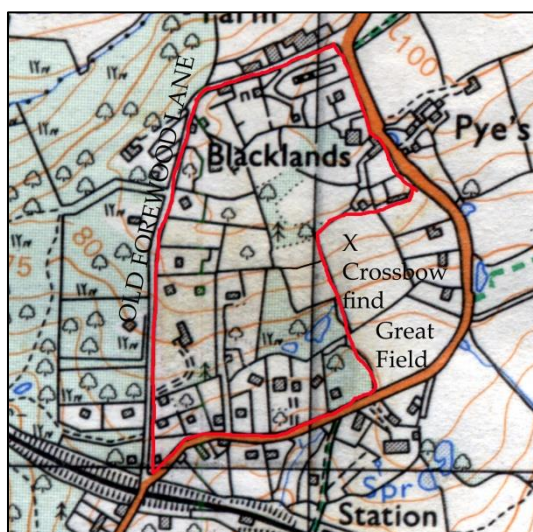
Wace. The important issue is that it was noted where Harold had fallen, without any reference to the standard, similar to the interpretation used for '*monumentum*'<sup>11</sup> later.

What this means is the stone that was used to bury Harold at his death might have been placed exactly where Harold fell as a marker of his death and the battlefield as detailed in the *Chronicle of Battle Abbey* as well as the *Carmen*. I had the feeling that we were closing in upon the grave site, since the finding of a marker for the battlefield was not something that anyone had ever looked for, or even suspected. It had not been translated this way because it was not known to the translators where the battle had been fought, but might have been the intention in the text. It seemed to be a good time to be returning to the battlefield. I was going to get to work finding the bodies.

A quick calculation on a computer estimated that between six and eight tons of bodies needed to be buried after the battle had taken place. People had dug in most of the valley at some stage over the last thirty-seven years and I knew how large that grave must be. No bodies have been found in any site to date.

The story put out by historians was that there were no bodies left, because the acid in the soil had decomposed them. This might seem reasonable upon first inspection, but at the same time there was a complete record of Roman occupation in the Crowhurst Valley, as well as a more or less complete record for the Saxons. Recently finds have come forth from Stamford Bridge because they now knew where to look. The part that was missing was the Normans, because there were none in Battle, Hastings, Lewes or Pevensey which seemed a little odd. No bodies, no swords, indeed nothing not even the buckle from a belt in the official record.

Despite this the manors had been ravaged according to the Domesday Book<sup>12</sup> data, whilst castles were built at Hastings and Pevensey. Even those produced nothing to support the Invasion and battle. I decided therefore to widen my search. I decided I needed to look in those woods, which were off to the east of *Old Forewood Lane* and to the west of where the crossbow had been found in 1985.



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/crowhurst.jpg>

West    Excluded area of Battlefield    East

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<sup>11</sup>. Monumentum Momentum discussed previously, original p.283

<sup>12</sup>. [Domesday Book](http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/part7.htm) <http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/part7.htm>



I had assumed the battlefield went from the Forewood in the west as far as the green fields that run down the centre of the Ordnance Survey map (above). This is where the black line is shown on the map with the rest to the west of that, having been cleared in the last 1,000 years. It was clearly a glaring omission in my search of the Crowhurst valley for the bodies, which I knew had to be somewhere in this vicinity. When I was digging up the crossbow in 1985 I was told that the name *Blacklands* was a special Saxon name which meant land where dead bodies were buried and it was associated with battles by Saxons. I could find no reference to it, but I never forgot this, because the land was part of the *Forewood*, or so I believed, I never looked in the *Blacklands* for anything associated with the Battle. There were houses now built in the woodland which encroached eastwards from Old Forewood Lane. That Lane was built when the abbey took over the land, where the main road ran, keeping everyone off of the main battlefield for five centuries until the dissolution of the monasteries.

I wrongly assumed it meant that *Blacklands* was named after the field across the road to the east, upon which Pyes Farm had been built. Having found a dowsing response there I did not look across the road, until I searched for the crossbow and the crossbow field finished at the boundary to the north where Mary Oliver lived. I did not know if it was open fields to the west or the north from there in earlier times. Having concluded many investigations south of the London to Hastings railway line by 2020 I had come to the conclusion that the burial must have taken place between the railway and the top of the hill. The buried bodies must therefore be north of the railway and west of the London Road, because of all the work done in the *Malfosse* to the east showed no human bones. There was no-where left where it was possible to bury such a large number of dead. It was a failing I now recognise in my research.

First I would need to examine what was said about the burial and to try to reconcile this with what was known. My view of the written documents had also led me to the conclusion that the *Bayeux Tapestry* was the best version of events of the landing, because all the detail was there, including the map of the terrain.<sup>13</sup> However there is no mention of the bodies, because they were probably included in the end section of the Tapestry, which was lost, showing two levels of activity.<sup>14</sup>

Wace was definitely the best textual version of the battle, because of the mass of detail, including ten thousand lines of verse. However, despite telling the complete story of the battle he tells us:

*'King Harold was carried and buried at Varham but I know not who it was that carried him thither neither do I know who buried him.'*<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>. Terrain see *Secrets of the Norman Invasion* v.1. Chapter 73 The Ground.

<sup>14</sup>. [Activity](#) Bayeux Tapestry end section

<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/bayeuxend.jpg>

<sup>15</sup>. [Him](#) Wace Edgar Taylor page 259.

<https://archive.org/details/masterwacehischr00waceuoft/page/258/mode/2up?q=%22king+harold+was%22>

Reading between the lines it appears to tell me that he did not know if this was true, since all other statements made by Wace were specific. It was the only statement about the battle in his book the *Roman de Rou*, which said he did not know the answer.

*The Carmen* includes this information in the chronology, which appears to be important, because it tells us the order of events. To start with it says:

*'The duke buried two thousand men.  
Leaving the enemy dead in countless thousands.'*<sup>16</sup>

The question arises are these two thousand men Normans? The flow of the text suggests this is what happened, as they are mentioned at the end of the battle. It suggests that only two thousand Norman men were lost and this is the first realistic evidence I have found of numbers of Norman men killed.

The story follows the agreed view of events whereupon some of the English escape death through the second *Malfosse* incident at the end of the battle. The *Carmen* does not name the *Malfosse* incident, where Norman Knights are killed in a ravine, but alludes to it with these words;

*'Darkness on the land availed the English in fleeing  
Obscuring their retreat and providing cover in the wood.'*<sup>17</sup>

It continues nine lines later:

*'Lighting the camp, their Caesar gathered the Norman dead  
And consigned them to the bosom of the earth.'*<sup>18</sup>

This appears to confirm that the Normans were buried together low down in the area of the battlefield called the *Bosom of the Earth* in the translation of the text. There was only one place that could be called the Bosom of the Earth on the battlefield and this was where the railway had been built. It was the lowest place and I suspected that the 13 mounds built there were now under the railway, which held the secrets of the Norman dead.

Then it says:

*He recovered the torn remnants of Harold's body  
Wrapped the collection in purple linen  
And returned with it to his camp by the shore.'*<sup>19</sup>

This effectively confirms the story in the other Chronicles that *King Harold* was hacked to death by four knights and did not die from an arrow in the eye. Wace tells us it was a wound that effectively crippled *King Harold*, but he was killed later by four knights. Thus the *Carmen* and *Wace* are correct and the *Bayeux Tapestry* also confirms the same statement, because of the ambiguity upon which it is drawn.

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<sup>16</sup>. [Thousands](#) The Carmen K.Tyson translation Line 555/556

<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/newhastings/Song%20of%20the%20Norman%20Conquest%20-%20English%20and%20Latin.pdf>

<sup>17</sup>. [Woods](#) Ibid. K.Tyson translation Line 559/560

<sup>18</sup>. [Earth](#) Ibid. K.Tyson translation Line 569/570

<sup>19</sup>. [Shore](#) Ibid. K.Tyson translation Line 573/575

Then the text expands upon this by telling us that having taken the request from *King Harold's* mother that:

*'Harold be buried on the coast of the landing site  
to be marked only with a mound of stones.'*<sup>20</sup>

This amounts to an act of disrespect by William, since only heathen Vikings, who did not believe in God, were buried under a pile of stones without ceremony. At this time in history it would have been taken as showing William's anger at Harold.

The *Carmen* continues:

*Therefore, as he had vowed, high on a cliff  
He ordered the mutilated body buried on the summit.*<sup>21</sup>

We now know that the correct translation says that he ordered the body to be buried in a *high place*, without any reference to cliffs in the Oxford translation and leaves out the discovery of the body by Eadgyth Swanneshals known as Edith Swan-Neck.<sup>22</sup> This presumed later story being well researched by Freeman in his now reinstated book *The History of the Norman Conquest of England*. It is now understood to be written by a '*late compiler*'. None the less it has value in identifying Edith as Harold's Danish law wife, who was able to identify the body on the battlefield.

A curious element to this story is it is reported that she identified him through marks on his body '*known only to her*', despite the body being hacked to pieces and not identifiable from the face alone. This recent revelation has come about because it is no longer accepted by academics that Harold died from the wound to the eye.

It would be necessary to remove the chain mail before being able to make an identification of any tattoos or hypothesised love bites and consequently I must ask a rhetorical question: what where these marks? Clearly they were important, because they were never revealed and the text says they were marks upon his body and not his neck. After the battle Edith was disinherited and probably moved back with her sons to Ireland or Denmark. I follow the view of those who live in the village (of Crowhurst) that Edith was shown in the Bayeux Tapestry and was Harold's Danish law wife, who lived in the Manor House in Crowhurst. Unrecorded she lived there before returning to her homeland with Harold's youngest son Magnus, who survived to marry and live in Kiev<sup>23</sup> where the blood line survived.

The *Carmen* also mentions a man:

*Immediately a man part Norman and part English  
Harold's companion, volunteered to carry out the order  
The body of the King was swiftly retrieved and buried  
Placing a stone, he wrote an inscription  
By order of the Duke, lie here peacefully King Harold*

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<sup>20</sup>. [Stones](#) Ibid. K.Tyson translation Line 583/584

<sup>21</sup>. [Summit](#) Ibid K.Tyson translation Line 585/586

<sup>22</sup>. [Edith Swan-Neck](#) *The History of Norman Conquest of England* Freeman p.790  
<https://archive.org/details/historynormanco05freegoog/page/790/mode/2up>

<sup>23</sup>. [Kiev](#) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mstislav\\_I\\_of\\_Kiev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mstislav_I_of_Kiev)



*And keep guard over sea and shore.*<sup>24</sup>

I have used the Kathleen Tyson translation throughout this last section because it is clearly more correct than the one published in the very expensive Oxford Edition by Morton and Muntz. In particular that translation states:

*'Hastinge portus castris ter quinque diebus'*

*'For a fortnight William remained in camp at the port of Hastings.'*

The same text in Ms Tyson's translation states:

*'Hastinge portus castris tum quinque diebus'*

*'He remained at the port camp near Hastings five days'*<sup>25</sup>

That difference of a '*ter*' or a '*tum*' in the source document is the difference between five days and two weeks, which throws up the issue of how the translation is achieved. It is covered in the footnotes where the editors appear to have changed the original text of the document again. Do you prefer to think William sat around in the camp at Hastings for two weeks or do you think he would have marched on as soon as possible, irrespective of the Latinists giving their considered view of the translation? I am not as you know an academic who must kowtow to every person who has ever written on the subject. Reasons are given in the Oxford footnotes, none of which mean anything to me, but since there are no experts alive any more who can be relied upon I prefer to give Ms Tyson the gold award for translating the text, because that is what appears to be written in the original. It should not take this nonsense to establish that William would not sit in Hastings, waiting to be attacked again for a further two weeks twiddling his thumbs, when he has a country to tame, before heading to Dover. Any sort of military person should agree. It just shows the nonsense of the translation methods used in the past that escape criticism, because they have been put together by a fine mind, or even a team with a fixed view of written history that they can all agree upon, even if it may be blatantly wrong to anyone who studies military tactics.

Lastly the '*Quedam Exceptiones de Historia Normannorum et Anglorum*'<sup>26</sup>("QE") describes the terrain beyond the battlefield as:

*'the steeps of the mountains and the hollows of the valleys'*<sup>27</sup>

Which the translator Kathleen Tyson comments:

*'Given the scribe's diligence adding geographic details elsewhere, it may be an important clue to finding a battlefield that has evaded archaeological detection for nearly 200 years'*

A study of the map of the area that relates to the Crowhurst Valley throws up another important clue, because '*The Mountain*'<sup>28</sup> is present in the Parish of Crowhurst and marked

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<sup>24</sup>. [Ibid](#) shore K.Tyson translation Line 585/586

<sup>25</sup>. [Ibid](#) Five days K.Tyson translation Line 597

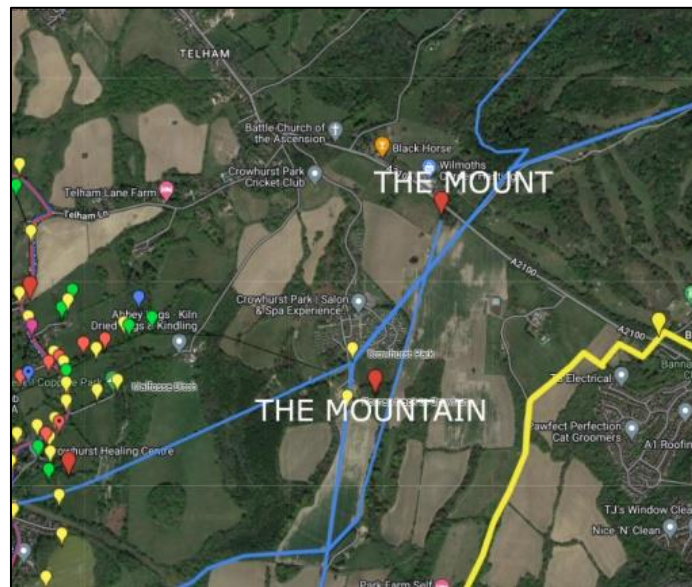
<sup>26</sup>. [Anglorum](#)

[http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/history/Quedam\\_Exceptiones\\_de\\_Historia\\_Normannorum.pdf](http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/history/Quedam_Exceptiones_de_Historia_Normannorum.pdf)

<sup>27</sup>. [Valleys](#) *ibid* page 6.

on the Ordnance Survey map of the path from the site of the battlefield to the Mount above Telham.

The mountain is next to Pelham Gates in Crowhurst Park, up near the peak of the Ridge (but not the top). There are persistent rumours in the valley that the Normans buried some of their dead at the Mount. If you try to tie this down it is an impossible task, none the less word of mouth is incredibly good at passing on old information father to son and the discovery confirms a connection between the battlefield in Crowhurst and the Mount.



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/mountain.jpg>

The Mountain named in Crowhurst

I am reminded that even in Victorian times the story of ghostly footmen marching across the fields to battle at Telham Hill<sup>29</sup> (not Telham) on the anniversary of the battle (14<sup>th</sup> October) were still rife. I had previously dowsed the Mount on the Telham road when I was looking for the route the Normans took. I followed the old Coach Road from the battlefield in Crowhurst across the railway up to the Mount and up via the southern route past Crowhurst Park. I did not know that the field off to the left was called '*the Mountain*' then, because it was not marked on the Ordnance Survey map that I had. It is a very strange name for a place in Sussex and one of significance because of the *Carmen* comments naming it.

The view from the Mount at the top of the hill is quite astounding, but it was a steep climb with a truck or horse to get there, taking in excess of an hour each way. I know because I have done it. There was also the story circulating that a pile of horse bones were found when they built the tower next to the Mount. Whether they were horse bones remains to be seen and it did go through my head that this sounded like a way of deflecting any interest that would have been generated.

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<sup>28</sup>. [The Mountain](#)

[http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/telham\\_mountain.jpg](http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/telham_mountain.jpg)

<sup>29</sup>. [Telham Hill](#) Ordnance Survey map

<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/telhamhill.jpg>

After considering these things I decided there was probably an element of truth in what we were being told, in the translation provided by Ms Tyson. Whilst the *Carmen* had only recently been accepted as an authentic document from the time, most historians still treated it with great suspicion, because the approval had only come in the last thirty years. Few have written about it, because no-one likes to be told they were wrong previously. Ms van Houts must take credit for the revival of the *Carmen* text. But you have to note that the *Carmen*, *Poitiers* and *Orderic Vitalis* all mention the same story that William meets with Harold's mother after the battle and William refuses her request for the body. It further endorses the story by stating that William takes with him recovered parts of Harold – which until very recently ran contrary to the authorised version that Harold had died with an arrow in the eye. Now it is assumed he was hacked to pieces, because of what the *Carmen* and *Wace* tell us, as well as the *Bayeux Tapestry* where each text supports the other.

Most enlightened historians have changed their minds about what the images on the *Bayeux Tapestry* show us, despite the image staying the same, which shows that it is possible to change history simply by understanding what you have read. There is no shame in this, as it is a brave man who will admit his mistakes in the past. It further endorsed what William should have done in order to retain the expected respect that should have been shown for the dead king. However, the *Carmen* now tells us a lot more about what happened at the battle and after. It can be seen that a little rethinking of all of the documents makes the Crowhurst site agree on all of the stories. I cannot accept those who disbelieve the true source documents, because of fake contradictions, which are little more than recent historical inventions usually by people who have never visited the site.

This is further confirmed because research into the man who was described by the *Carmen* as 'part Norman and part English' is shown to be a nobleman called 'Malet'<sup>30</sup>, who fought with the French, giving the story told by the other chroniclers an undeniable element of truth. 'Malet' had an English grandmother and was part French. He also engraved the stone that was buried with *King Harold*. It then struck me that the marker stone mentioned in the *Battle Chronicle*<sup>31</sup> might also be the same marker stone for the grave mentioned in the *Carmen*, since no-one apart from Malet might really know where *King Harold* was buried. The high cliff and an image of the shore and the sea could also be fictional romance given the romantic nature of the *Carmen* text and romantic notions held by those who translated it. I had assumed Harold had originally been buried in the Hye House car park under a pile of stones, but was then dug up and taken back to the camp where William handed his body over to Malet – hence the different versions – all of which fit the different texts, but are all probably true due to the unknown chronology of what really happened.

Bearing in mind the topography of the battlefield the stone that I had found was found right on the edge of the flat land, where you could see the shore of the port area and the sea in the distance in those days. Now the view was slightly obscured by high growing trees. A good view was obtained from the drone we used when looking at the site.<sup>32</sup> It therefore

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<sup>30</sup>. [Malet](https://www.brepolonline.net/doi/abs/10.1484/J.NMS.3.267) Nottingham Medieval Studies 41

<https://www.brepolonline.net/doi/abs/10.1484/J.NMS.3.267>

<sup>31</sup>. [Chronicle](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89096990114&view=1up&seq=28), First translation folio 10.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89096990114&view=1up&seq=28>

<sup>32</sup>. [Site](http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/seconddefence.jpg) <http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/seconddefence.jpg>



became imperative to find someone who would look at the possible text on the back of the stone to determine what was there. The stone looked like it had stood up at some stage in the past, but had fallen flat as the oak tree had grown. Neither I nor any of those who attended the event of turning it over ever felt sure it had any wording upon it. However, after I looked at the pictures I had taken out of the drawer and examining them again later in Photoshop, it definitely showed elements of text. The probability existed that *King Harold* had been buried under that very stone. If correct it was one artefact from the time that was linked directly to the battle location and detailed exactly where King Harold had been buried.

The stone which I had found was not native to the area of the battlefield and would go some way to explain the strange ghostly figure carved by someone on its front. It would serve as a marker for the site, as recorded in the *Chronicle of Battle Abbey* and also for King Harold's grave in *Poitiers*, as well as the *Carmen*.

A consequence of this is the original source Latin, which has no punctuation marks, leaves it to the translator to choose the correct words. The art of translation is therefore to choose the word that best fits the description based upon one's knowledge of the text used and the events being described at the time and the place involved.



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/hara.jpg>

Back of Marker Stone where text is also found

This sounds all well and good but '*monumentum*' is a challenged word in the earlier instance, which we have covered earlier. However, where the sentence is extended and there are a variety of nouns to choose from, such as '*torn remnants*', '*Harold's body*', '*purple linen*' and '*camp by the shore*' it is easy to be influenced by previous translations, all of which have already made assumptions based upon what they have learnt right or wrong. In the *Carmen* we have the words '*castra marina*' meaning '*camp by the shore*' in one version and '*camp by the sea*' in another. The shore suits an inland port whereas the sea does not. Similarly Oxford has not translated the word '*claudi*' meaning '*mutilated*' or '*lame*' in regards to the body. This is because most English historians at the time would not accept *King Harold* had been hacked to bits by the Normans and consequently she left out that part of the translation. How are we to trust these translations when they make comments that do not tell the audience what has been left out or what is really written? It does not speak well for historians who accept these translations without comment.

Similarly the Oxford translation at line 436 refers to:

*'ten thousand suffered destruction in that place'*

because the original source material translates:

*'Milia namque decem sunt ibi passa necei'.*

Whereas Ms Tyson tells us it is ten people who die, because she uses the word '*mili*'<sup>33</sup> and not '*milia*'. Are we starting to see something here that has eluded most researchers to date – a dispute over the original Latin text providing a major difference in the story line? I cannot tell you who is right and who is wrong, but it is not possible for this to be resolved without proper evaluation. Clearly we know that ten thousand did not die in this early incident in the battle, yet we have one version which states that this is what is read by us all. I put the matter in the hands of the experts, but must comment that it should not take nearly a thousand years to get the correct answer, because it influences the thinking of all those involved. Ms Tyson refers to these issues in her preface and it was one of the reasons she took up Latin translation, which is admirable.

I had included *William Malet*<sup>34</sup> in my list of people to research, but had not intended to use it. Now his involvement in the burial made me look again at his role, but I was unable to identify any specific connection, other than ancestry that went back to England. *Poitiers* and *Orderic* both mention the incident naming Malet. In the study of the ancestral *Malets* it confirms the French connection to the Lincolnshire estates prior to 1066, but that is all. However, the Oxford translation of the '*Carmen*' tells us that the man was *King Harold's* '*comrade*'<sup>35</sup> rather than '*companion*' as detailed by Ms Tyson. It is therefore likely that *Malet* may have travelled with *King Harold* and therefore I conclude he was a suitable person to engage in the burial process.

As I read Ms Tyson's translation of the *Carmen* and the '*QE*' I realised there were some important differences between them and the Catherine Morton and Hope Muntz version, as well as that written by Searle in *the Chronicle of Battle Abbey*. I like everyone associated with historical research had assumed that the Oxford versions were correct, but Ms Tyson clearly has a different take upon how these were translated:

First of all Ms Tyson translates as follows:

*'Hostibus ergo terga uertentibus et per abrupta montium et concaua vallium fugientibus Normannis fortior insistentibus ad mediam fere noctem strages ad Anglis parata est immensa.*

*The Normans, therefore, turning their backs on the enemy and fleeing through the precipitous mountains and hollows of the valleys, standing firmer, until about midnight, an immense slaughter was prepared for the English.*

Here the automated translation tells us something else. The description tells us that there are '*precipices of mountains*' and '*concave (or hollow) valleys*'. Again there are no mountains or precipices, or anything approaching such a description in the immediate vicinity of Battle Abbey are there?

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<sup>33</sup>. [Mili](#) The Carmen Kathleen Tyson line.436

<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/newhastings/Song%20of%20the%20Norman%20Conquest%20-%20English%20and%20Latin.pdf>

<sup>34</sup>. [Malet](#) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Malet\\_\(companions\\_of\\_William\\_the\\_Conqueror\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Malet_(companions_of_William_the_Conqueror))

<sup>35</sup>. Comrade Morton/Muntz the Carmen de Hastingae Proelio p39.

In the 'Du Yorkshire' text discussed earlier *Beachy Head*<sup>36</sup> on the other hand is referred to in Latin as a 'mountain' and it can be clearly seen from *Telham Hill* where the battle ended. In other words a 'mountain' at this time or context meant a very big hill, bigger than a normal hill. The hill in question is approaching the same size as the hill on the other side of *Pevensey Bay*, called *Beachy Head*, but further inland. This is important because it is claimed that Battle Abbey was built on the 'steeps of the Mountain'. Everyone will agree that this is a sort of poetic nonsense and consequently inappropriate use of the word 'steeps', because it mitigates the description. Not only does one understand that 'steeps' means the slope, but you immediately disregard the issue of how high this slope is and if there is a mountain behind it? The choice of the word steeps appears to have been made without choice, because to identify the issue would have caused great damage to the so called Norman community who evaluated such material in the annual Battle Conference. Now that the site is known, as I said earlier, it is a brave man or woman who owns up to the issues that arise.

In regards to the precipices there are also none anywhere near Battle Abbey. However the is one immediately adjacent to the Malfosse in Crowhurst. It is near the top of the Malfosse. As regards to concave or hollow valleys described in the on-line translation, these are also in the Crowhurst Valley, which is a concave shape. Again there are no concave valleys around Battle Abbey. The only valley is behind the abbey field and is a sharp descent and so the hollows of the valleys leaves out the important detail that the valleys are concave or hollow. The problem with Latin is of course finding an appropriate word, none of which are suitable to the Battle Abbey site and this is the problem and how it has been dealt with in the past.

Then Ms Tyson translates:

*Ergo uelut fuerat testatus, rupis in alto precepit claudi vertice corpus humi*

*Therefore, as he had vowed, he ordered the mutilated body buried on the summit. (Tyson Translation)*<sup>37</sup>

And the same text in the Oxford version:

*Therefore, even as he had sworn, he commanded the body to be buried in the earth on the high summit of a cliff (Oxford Translation)*

However the Oxford version has not translated the word 'Mutilated' and 'Cliff' is present in one version only:

The machine translation says:

*therefore, as if he had witnessed a rock on high, he commanded the body to be closed on the ground (Google translate)*

Because the text had no punctuation it was up to the translator to decide what the subject of the sentence should be. The author was actually talking about the stone, or 'rock' as the subject matter if you prefer. In other words the whole academic fraternity is getting the wrong information upon which to make a significant judgement. They should have identified the stone and it being closed on the ground. What was closed you might ask? How could they know? They chose the man, irrespective of the fact that the previous

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<sup>36</sup>. [Head](#) p. 144

<sup>37</sup>. [Translation](#) The Carmen Kathleen Tyson line.585

<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/newhastings/Song%20of%20the%20Norman%20Conquest%20-%20English%20and%20Latin.pdf>



sentence involved the stone. The answer may have seemed unlikely at that time, but it was about the grave of *King Harold*.

Line 570 of the *Carmen* gets to the nitty gritty it states:

*Corpora, dux terrae condidit in gremio (line 570)*

*And consigned them to the Bosom of the Earth (Tyson Translation)*

*He buried them in the Bosom of the Earth (Oxford Translation)*

*The bodies of the leader of the earth he placed in his lap (Online Google)*

The key to understanding this is to ignore Oxford's romantic wash over the original text and Tyson's attempt to provide something similar, since neither have translated what is in the text. This is prose, which was written to describe the event of the burial. '*Bosom of the Earth*' is not written in the text here, nor in the '*Carmen*' and is something I have taken as correct for the translation of such an important eye witness account for over thirty years – it is made up to give a feel for what was not known. It certainly is correct that it is low down on the battlefield and therefore has an element of correctness, but in all other respects the correct word should be translated as an equivalent. I and my academic colleagues have been severely let down. The correct word to use was chosen by the automatic translation – my goodness this is truly disturbing for all concerned, because Google uses a neural network<sup>38</sup> connected to AI translation services. The correct word is '*lap*', as chosen by the on-line Google Translate version, because it is in the middle of the body exactly where the Norman dead were buried – '*low down in the middle of the body of the battlefield*.' This is the conclusion that I am drawn to, which I explain here.

This is not in any way aimed at the translators in an attempt to create any blame. They could not know and chose the words that appeared to suit the circumstances – which they like all others have assumed wrongly to be the Battle Abbey site. But Google translate uses AI (artificial intelligence) and confirms what I say, because it uses the facts that are known and is only in the text and not imagined. It chooses nouns and verses in connection with other verses and in this instance chose a different subject matter. Finding the bodies as detailed in this text will endorse what I say and also the power of Artificial Intelligence compared to the guesswork employed by those who thought they could better guess AI.

I have established there are thirteen mounds that run under the railway and there are more on the hillside to the east at this point, which are easily accessible to the authorities. They are all buried on private land, but I see nothing to stop the process of discovery being completed by a competent authority. Permission has been granted to me for an excavation to take place there, the only requirement is funds to conduct the excavation. This is backed up by LIDAR which shows the bodies buried next to the *Malfosse* and also under the railway. They are clearly visible in an area on the hillside (where the text '*Bodies*' is found next to the railway).<sup>39</sup>

A study of the text recorded as written on the stone used by *Malet* to mark *King Harold's* grave is given in the *Carmen*. It is again slightly different, because the Oxford version says:

*'By the duke's command, O' Harold, you rest here a king,*

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<sup>38</sup>. [Neural Network](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Neural_Machine_Translation) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google\\_Neural\\_Machine\\_Translation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Neural_Machine_Translation)

<sup>39</sup>. [Railway](http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/lidarnormans.jpg) <http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/lidarnormans.jpg>

*That you may be guardian of the shore and sea'*  
Whereas the new translation by Ms Tyson says:  
*By order of the duke, lie here peacefully **King Harold***  
*And keep guard over sea and shore.*<sup>40</sup>

The words appear to say the same thing, but I recognised a key difference for which I am grateful to Ms Tyson. The new translation tells us that it was the grave stone of *King Harold*, because his name was written on the stone. If '*Malet*' wrote those words he would have put *King Harold's* name upon the stone as a mark of respect. Despite fighting for the Normans his sympathies towards *King Harold* were known. It was something I recognise. Without his name on the stone there was no proof of either the battlefield or the battle. With it the whole pack of lies implemented by the church in 1066.

At the same time that this happened I realised neither *Oxford* nor *Ms. Tyson* had read the word '*cliff*' into their translation, since the actual translation that they were looking for was '*high ground*'. The difference being marginal except a cliff is a noun and has unique value it tends to lie by the coast in this area. High ground could be anywhere with a clear view of the sea or shore and without the need for a cliff face. The translation process was not something that I should take too seriously, but it would be relevant in determining whether the site for the discovery of this marker stone was correct and whether it was *King Harold's* grave marker stone? It was indeed absolutely correct, because it was found on '*high ground*', something that could not be achieved at Battle Abbey site where English Heritage had created a false plaque to commemorate the site.

So I opened the picture I had of the stone and took a look at it again. This time I opened it in Photoshop where I had tweaked the colours, like I have done before, when trying to see things that appear at first hidden. I could see the shield in front of the body, which was difficult to see before, with a number of circular marks on it, just like in the images of the Bayeux Tapestry of King Harold in the battle.<sup>41</sup> Also the sword was better shown leaning at 45degrees across his shield, with a glove on its right hand. It was definitely a Knight because of the armour, which was of a style associated with that time.

I looked at the head of the image of the knight and could see that some of the jaw had been lost, along with some of the helmet on the right hand side, as you look at it. The problem was the image gave a distorted view, because the hole, which is there in the middle of the face, looks just like a mouth with eyes above it upon first impression. However, the original image was taken when the stone was flat on the ground. It shows what looks like the eye sockets in the same position, because the face is lower down in the frame. In order to put the face in the right position you need to superimpose the original picture onto the cleaned up image lower down.

I noticed the strange shape on the left of the forehead (the right hand side of the person being displayed) leading down to what looked at first like an eye socket. I needed to go back to the field and actually look at it close up. When I got there I suddenly realised the mark was not an outline of hair on the forehead, as I had originally thought, but it was an arrow

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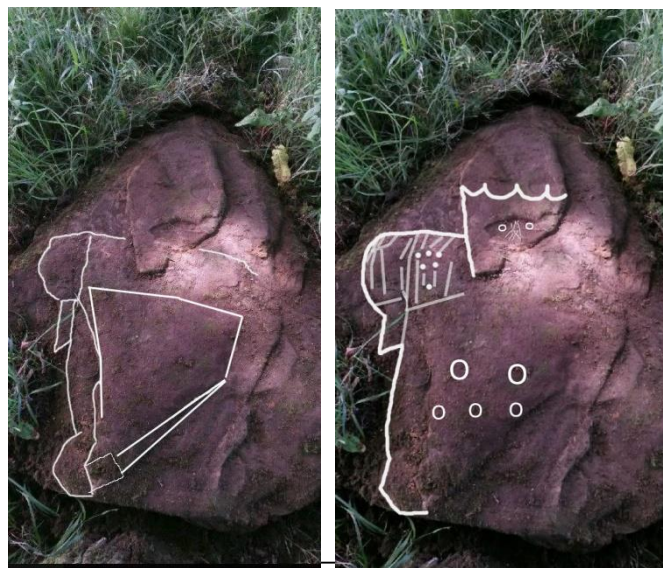
<sup>40</sup>. [Shore](#) The Carmen Kathleen Tyson line.591

<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/newhastings/Song%20of%20the%20Norman%20Conquest%20-%20English%20and%20Latin.pdf>

<sup>41</sup>. [Battle](#) [www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/appletreefield/yewtreebt.jpg](http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/appletreefield/yewtreebt.jpg)

head. A closer look indicated a short shaft with an arrow head entering the end of the shaft above the right eye. It was obviously an attempt to show that it was an arrow and it is difficult to interpret it otherwise. Then when I returned to my office desk as I looked more carefully at the image portrayed there I realised there was another outline, much fainter running parallel to it between and above the eyes. Three sunken balls connected the outline. It was the outline of a crown. There was no great reveal, but I got there in the end and you will too, because it was this process that leads to discovery.

Once you reposition your understanding of the image you suddenly get it. It was not obvious upon first impression and only observable if you knew what you were looking at. After all it is clearly a thousand years old and very worn. You will need to look at this on a computer to understand that contrary to a brief impression I am right. The colour image will allow you to know the truth, which has been lost in time awaiting rediscovery, thanks to Photoshop's acute colour differentiation of the algae on the original rock.



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/c.jpg>  
<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/marker8.jpg>

I first traced out the body work a number of times, followed by locating the eyes and realised the knight was wearing a crown with a different helmet from any shown in the Bayeux Tapestry. None of this was obvious on the original photograph.





<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/frontenh.jpg>

### The Marker Stone process

The shadows on the top of the head made the image look like a face with an open gaping but unreal mouth. However the head together with the armour he was wearing made it look like a face on a normal size body. The body was showing through the area that was the mouth of a Saxon in armour with a full metal helmet. The helmet was half missing and actually distorting the image. It was necessary to see how the original was made.



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/marker8ab.jpg>

It is *King Harold* – no doubt about it, because of the crown on the head, with three balls on a coronet (not drawn), clearly visible with the arrow above the right eye. Irrespective of the wording I knew this is *King Harold's* gravestone and the marker for the burial site.

I was certain that the Marker stone was a gravestone for *King Harold*, because I could see the crown on the knight with the arrow above the eye, as detailed in *Wace*, in the photograph and that was enough for me to confirm it was used to bury *King Harold*. I spent some time analysing the image, which showed a number of different elements. More important than this was the fact that I could confirm there was lettering on the front of the stone. I could not make out what it said without treating the photograph. It ran down the left hand side of the head and was also on the helmet across the front below the eye slit, there may be more on the body, which was invisible to the naked eye and also on the back of the stone. A copy is photographed below in black and white and colour for independent study:





(1) <http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/haroldhead.jpg>

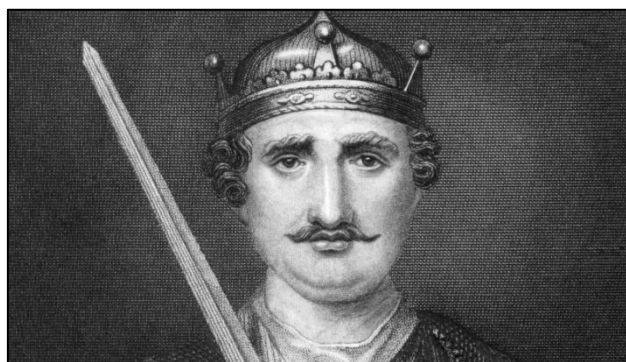
(2) <http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/haroldheadcol.jpg>

Inverse, reversed image of Head, decoloured and colour tweaked showing text.

There is Latin below the eyes, which are below the eye slit and also down the left hand side of the head. The image of the head (above) was distorted, because of where the photo was taken from. These images identified *King Harold*, because the Normans knew what *King Harold* was wearing in battle. They might not have known the shape of his shield, but recorded the circles on his shield as his design, along with the unique shape of his helmet and crown, which were not recorded correctly in the *Bayeux Tapestry*. This is the one element that was wrong.

The crown is clearly identifiable with three raised balls, which have been carved into the stone face above a central cluster and is better viewable on the inverse image on the left (above) disregarding the shape of the stone.

The place the marker stone was found was also in the correct place, because you could just see the sea on a clear day from that sacred place. It is a high place and not a cliff, although the shore was now partially hidden. The *Port of Hastings* would have been visible explaining the title of the battlefield, which is in the same valley.



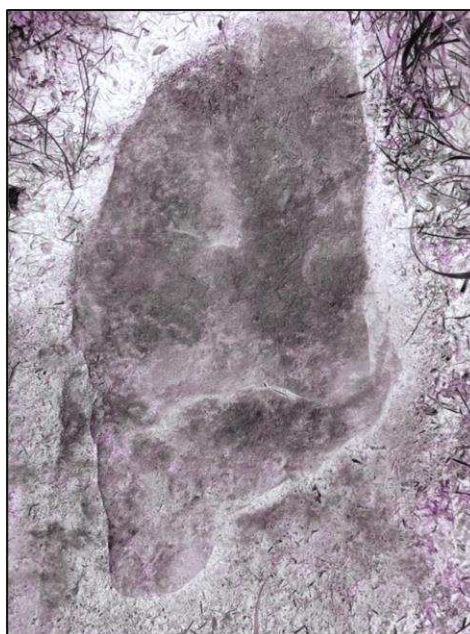
<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/haroldgodwinson.jpg>

Artist impression of Harold II with ball crown

It is a very special place high in the landscape, which has its own tranquillity and seems far away from the beaten track, yet it is only ten minutes' walk from the train to Charing Cross near Crowhurst station. I published the image on the web through our secrets web site expecting someone to identify the wording written on the face, but no-one came forward, despite attracting a lot of comments.

It didn't take me long to identify that the reported wording in the Chronicle of Battle Abbey was slightly different to that reported. Oxford assumed the epitaph carried the words *"By the Duke's commands, O Harold, you rest here a king"* The correct understanding of this phrase was in regards to William he wrote as epitaph *"by the Duke's command, O Harold, you rest here a king"*. The correct wording shows as almost the same in Latin *'Per mandata ducis rex hic Haralde quiescis'* but the previous punctuation has been added and Harold spelt the English way with two 'a's in his name.

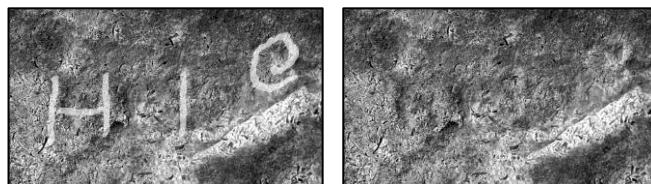
Using Photoshop I set the parameters to mimic the infra-red filter using the Digital Photography web site.<sup>42</sup> This produced a greyish-pink image where the definition had increased:



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/infrared.jpg>

Infrared image of Marker Stone

The obvious wording that jumped out was the line across the bottom of the face.



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/HIChere.jpg>  
<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/HICa.jpg>

H I C (Latin) 'Here'

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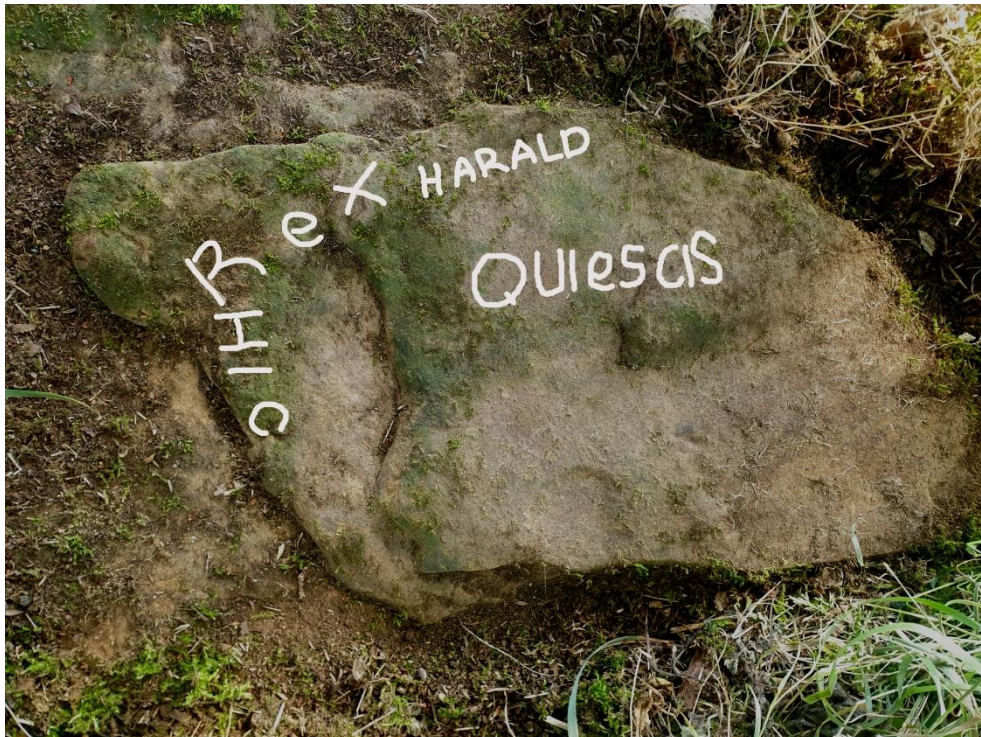
<sup>42</sup>. [Site](https://digital-photography-school.com/create-infrared-effect-photoshop/) <https://digital-photography-school.com/create-infrared-effect-photoshop/>





<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/marker/REX.jpg>

REX (Latin) 'King'



<http://www.secretsofthenormaninvasion.com/newbook/bodies/haroldheadcolblank.jpg>

Identifiable wording upon marker stone (turned to right)

The engraved words were the same as recorded in the Norman document *Quedam Chronicle of Battle Abbey* and the *Carmen*. Not surprisingly the epitaph on the stone did not refer to William, as detailed in the Oxford translation. The wording upon the stone reads;

Hic Rex Harald Quiescis  
Here King Harold rests.

There are more words, but the definition was starting to get into guesswork. It was clear that this was the right stone. The other words will be found when it is examined properly in a scientific study:

*Vt custos maneat littoris et pelagi*  
As guardian of the coast and sea

It looked like the carving had been done in a hurry and I suppose it probably was, because the Normans were in the Crowhurst valley only five days after the battle. It effectively confirmed the authenticity of the *Carmen*, which has not been well received by

historians who had put it in doubt. Now that doubt is removed and the documents written at the time seen as authentic.

This find lays open the way for the study of the body and grave of King Harold, formerly Harold Godwinson. Unlike the body of Richard the Third who was found in the car park this stone was laid at his burial and recorded in 1066 meaning the body must be below or close to the stone. It is my belief that the authorities now have a duty to recover the body and to bury it with due ceremony in the chapel of Westminster, as behoves a deceased monarch of the realm who died defending his country.

Nick Austin

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