

Prehistory 20,000 - 200BC	Romans 55BC - 410AD	Saxons/Vikings 450 - 1066	Norman 1066 - 1485					
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THE ANSTY TIMELINE – The general context – Prehistoric Times

- 20,000 BC Wiltshire (as we know it today) was covered in sheets of snow and ice – similar to the Polar Arctic today (although maybe for not much longer...)
- 10,000 BC A warmer phase began, melting the ice and allowing vegetation to grow. England was still connected to the European land mass and some nomadic hunters migrated via Europe to our area. The world has had global warming phases before but these episodes lasted over many thousands if not millions of years...
- 6,000 BC Small groups of nomadic hunter-gatherers started to settle in Wiltshire. The water from the melting polar caps flooded the straits of Dover and immigration became more difficult but it didn't stop.
- 5,000 BC Settlers began to clear some of the forests that had grown
- 4,000 BC New immigrants of Mediterranean descent started to arrive. Historians call these people 'Neolithic' or New Stone Age and they introduced early farming practices: growing cereals, rearing animals such as cattle, sheep, pigs and goats and kept domesticated dogs. They also hunted wild boar, pigs, horses, even brown bears.
- 3,000 BC Neolithic settlers had developed a sophisticated kind of burial for their important dead in tombs known today as 'long barrows'
- 2,800 BC First phase in the building of Stonehenge
- 2,100 BC Stonehenge is tweaked into its final phase. The Bronze Age begins as more immigrants from the continent and other parts of our country developed metal work skills making tools, weapons and adornments. Trade routes began to be established. 'Beaker folk' a specific culture lived in round huts with low stone based walls with a roof of thatch, hide or turf; distinctive for their pots found in their burial mounds.
- 1200 BC More groups began to settle in small village communities. Small enclosed rectangular fields began to be established nearby.
- 750 BC Iron replaces Bronze as the most useful metal. So began the 'Iron Age'. In times of skirmishes with other tribes whole village settlements would escape to live in large fortified mounds they constructed we now call 'hill forts'. Steep slopes; ringed with deep trenches to prevent attack whilst affording an excellent lookout for enemies.
- 500 BC Warlike Celtic tribes arrived from Central Europe. They were skilled farmers with a strong social culture – but they fought against other tribes, including their own!
- 200 BC The Wiltshire Celts were pushed out of Wiltshire by even more immigrants from the Rhine delta lands.

Click on the Prehistory tab on the top of the page timeline to see specific details relating to Ansty Parish

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THE ANSTY TIMELINE – The general context – The Romans

- 55, 54 BC Julius Caesar leads exploratory invasions of Britain but later leaves: mission not accomplished.
- 43 AD Romans invade Britain and it becomes part of the Roman Empire. Emperor Claudius organised the final and successful Roman invasion of Britain. General Aulus Plautius led four legions with 25,000 men, plus an equal number of auxiliary soldiers.
- 47-50 The foundation of Londinium: also known as Roman London, it was the capital of Roman Britain during most of the period of Roman rule. It was originally a settlement established on the current site of the City of London.
- 60 or 61 Boadicea leads the Celtic Iceni tribe up in revolt against the Romans in what is now East Anglia. 70,000 Romans and Romano British perished. Boudicca was defeated by a Roman army led by Paulinus. An equal number of Britons were killed and Boudicca is thought to have poisoned herself to avoid capture.
- 70-78 Romans conquer Wales and the North, led by Sextus Julius Frontinus and Agricola. By this time most of the ancient cultures of Britain had become 'romanised'. They copied the ways of the Romans.
- 117 Roman Empire at its peak under Emperor Trajan
- 122-128 Emperor Hadrian builds a wall along the Scottish Border with England to keep out the ferocious Celtic Picts and Scots tribes. Despite further campaigns the Romans never really conquered Scotland
- 209 St Alban becomes the first Christian Martyr, beheaded by the Romans for his Christian beliefs
- 306-313 Constantine the Great declared Emperor at York. Constantine attempted to Christianise the Roman Empire by the Edict of Milan.
- 350 Picts and Scots attack the border. Just one of many tribes and groups nibbling away at the Roman Empire and its frontiers.
- 400 Rome was really struggling under the weight of its giant empire.
- 402 – 410 Romans withdraw from Britain as the Empire fails: Anglo Saxon migrants from Europe begin to settle in Britain
- 476 City of Rome falls

Click on Romans tab on top of page line to see specific timelines details relating to Ansty Parish and its locality

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THE ANSTY TIMELINE – The general context – Saxon/Viking Times

- **410 – 600** First invasions/migrations of the pagan Angles, Saxons and Jutes from the continent: Angles from south Demark; Saxons from Germany and the Jutes from Jutland. Saxons Horsa and Hengist settle in Kent. They were brutish and warlike. Migration continued via landings on the East and south coast of Britain. The pagan settlers migrated inland westwards usually following river valleys. The Angles tended to settle in the east around East Anglia; the Saxons moved further west and north to settle in northern England, the Midlands and large areas of central southern and south east England. The Celtic Britons were forced to retreat further west into SW England, Wales and NW England. Scotland remained largely untouched. England was divided into seven major kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Wessex, Essex, Sussex, Mercia and Kent. There were skirmishes between these kingdoms as they jostled for more land and supremacy. There were adventures into the Celtic dominated Welsh kingdoms and Devon and Cornwall.
- **634** Northumbria converted to Christianity, followed by Essex (653), Sussex (681) and Wessex (686)
- **789** First known landing of Vikings/Norse people investigating the south coast of Dorset – Britain was about to be attacked and raided by yet another group of invaders from the near continent.
- **793** Norse or Viking raid at Lindisfarne, Northumbria. The Norse people were migrants from southern Scandinavia who raided and settled our country in a similar manner to the Anglo-Saxons. Many Saxon Christian monasteries were initially raided by the new pagan settlers - spreading alarm and despondency through the Christianised Saxon population. Culturally all these tribes – Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Vikings or Norsemen and Normans are very similar – they were all North Germanic/Scandinavian tribes. The Normans were direct descendants from the Norsemen.
- **865-867** Viking 'Great Army' raids across England – capturing York. Viking people begin to settle in England – gradually the warring factions began to integrate.
- **879** Wessex, led by its Saxon King Alfred repels the advance of the Vikings into Wessex which by now has expanded across southern and south west England and has become a dominant region.
- **924-939** Athelstan rules England
- **959** Unification of England under King Edgar of Wessex
- **1013 -1042** Danish Kings rule England
- **1042 – 1066** Edward the Confessor is king of England: Harold Godwinson becomes king on his death
- **1066** Anglo- Saxons defeat Vikings at Stamford Bridge but Normans defeat Anglo Saxons at Battle of Hastings: conquer England and begins the start of Norman rule.



Click on Saxons/Vikings tab on top time line to see specific timelines details relating to Ansty Parish and its locality

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THE ANSTY TIMELINE – The general context: The Normans into Medieval Times

- **1066** Mid-September: Harald Hardrada, King of Norway invades England: defeats the northern Anglo Saxon-English army at the [Battle of Fulford](#). King Harold II and his southern army defeats Hardrada and his army at the [Battle of Stamford Bridge](#). Meanwhile, William of Normandy lands his army at Pevensey on the south coast of England. Click [here](#) to view a summary map.
- On 14th October the invading Normans defeat the Saxon army at the [Battle of Hastings](#).
- **1066** Christmas Day: William of Normandy is crowned King William I of England. All the land is now owned by the King. The Normans are here to stay and rule!
- **1066- C1300** [The Age of Castles](#) – built to defend, protects and control.
- **1040 - C1485** [The Age of Cathedrals](#) The Church became very powerful landowners and Catholic Christian religion absolutely dominated all people's lives. In effect it was another form of control.
- **1085** [The Domesday Book\(s\)](#) are compiled – resulting in the most detailed inventory of Britain – and a fantastic insight into the social and economic nature of our country – unsurpassed by any other country in the world for its detail.
- **1086** The 'day of judgement' surveys resulted in the implementation of the [Feudal System](#) (similar to a social structure used during Saxon times). A few modern historians suggest that there wasn't a 'feudal system' but there is well documented evidence of a tight control over the country from the King downwards – and we can still observe similar hierarchical structures today that dominate society and economics. The Feudal system led to a relative few 'owning' vast tracts of land and a very powerful Church – completely dominating the lives of the many who had to work the land, provide rent/income or services to both.
- **1095 - 1291** The beginning of the '[Holy War](#)' originally called by Pope Urban II that lasted for centuries : Christian ' Crusaders' mounted endless military campaigns against Muslims in the Holy Land as well as the Moors in Spain, Mongols and pagan Slavs in Eastern Europe. These wars affected all walks of life in medieval Britain including Wiltshire. The link given seems the simplest explanation of 'The Crusades' and Britain's involvement. The constant to and froing to wage war against the Muslims led to the dramatic rise of two great military orders: (the Hospitallers and Templars) at home and in Europe.
- **1135** Henry I died, leaving a daughter Matilda. Stephen of Blois, son of William the Conqueror's daughter Adela, crowned King
- **1141-1154** A dispute over the rightful successor to Henry I between his daughter Matilda and Stephen of Blois led to [Civil War](#).
- **1154** Henry II, first 'Plantagenet' king : the [Plantagenets](#) dominated from 1216 – 1485)
- **1215** [Magna Carta](#) signed
- **1348** Pandemic: [The Black Death](#). The disease is estimated to have killed between a third and half the population with far reaching consequences and impact (not all bad) on the social and economic landscape of Britain for many decades to come.
- **1381** [Peasants'revolt](#)
- **1455-85** The [Wars of the Roses](#) **1485** Richard III, the last Plantagenet King of England was defeated at the [Battle of Bosworth](#) by Henry Tudor and led to the end of 331 years of dynastic rule and so began the reign of the Tudors.
[Click on image on this page for more information.](#)



Click the Normans tab on top timeline bar to view details of Medieval Ansty