

# ANGLO-SAXON AND NORMAN ENGLAND INTERACTIVE

## HARRYING OF THE NORTH CONSEQUENCES

❶ Orderic Vitalis claims that as many as 100,000 people perished as a result of famine in the following months – a significant proportion of the total population of England.

❷ The 12th-century chronicler John of Worcester wrote that food was so scarce in the aftermath that people were reduced to eating not just horses, dogs and cats but also human flesh.

❸ While Yorkshire and the north-east bore the brunt of William's wrath, parts of Lincolnshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire also suffered.

❹ Symeon of Durham, another 12th-century author, wrote that for nine years after the Harrying no village between York and Durham was inhabited, and that the countryside remained empty and uncultivated.

❺ Even 16 years after the event, in 1086, when the great systematic survey of England known as Domesday Book was compiled, one-third of the available land in Yorkshire was still listed as *vasta* (waste).

❻ William never again faced a crisis of the same magnitude as he did in 1069.