



Video transcript

Viking raiders from the north

Over a 1,000 years ago, on the 8 of June AD793, a small band of Vikings sailed down the eastern coast of England.

Their target was a monastery called Lindisfarne, and they decided to launch a surprise attack.

It's likely that the first thing the monks saw was the outline of two or three ships on the horizon, but that would hardly have been unusual.

Living here, they would have been accustomed to the arrival of ships from all sorts of places.

Maybe a few of the monks came down onto the beach to welcome the newcomers, with open arms.

But the monks weren't prepared for visitors like these... because these were Viking warriors.

And they had come to kill the monks and steal the monastery's treasure.

Life in England was about to change forever, because the savage attack on Lindisfarne was just the beginning.

50 years after the attack on the Lindisfarne monastery, a huge force of around 3,000 Vikings arrived on our shores, and they wanted to conquer the whole of England.

This was truly a force to be reckoned with. The Anglo-Saxons called it the Great Heathen Army, and it wasn't just a raiding party intent on slaves and gold.

The Great Heathen Army wanted everything, and to get it, they would have to take on the Anglo-Saxons.