

Gani230

Lore Bible

The Anarchy



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Introduction.

This Lore bible covers 'The Anarchy', which was an English civil war taking place in mid-12th century. The main protagonists in the war were the Angevin faction led by Empress Matilda and the Royalist faction led by Stephen. Both of whom were grandchildren¹ of William the Conqueror.

This project will be broken down into two parts. The first is this document the Lore bible, and the second is a Unity project using Fungus to show the player choices throughout the main story.

[Lore Bible.](#)

The aim of the lore Bible is twofold.

Firstly, to help a potential future team ensure that the world building process is historically accurate and contains as few inconsistencies as possible.

Secondly, to provide an educational guide that educators can use alongside the game. Ideally this game would have an educational mode allowing people to explore this historical period in an interactive way. To enhance this further the game could have a castle, manor house builder element to it which could be used to show students how buildings were developed and used within this period. It could also be potentially further enhanced using virtual reality.

In this Lore bible text is highlighted in three ways to focus attention on differing aspects of the game as follows.

Text in bold red explains the actions a player may take during the main story line.

Text in red italics explains the actions a player may take for side quests.

Text in purple explains the context of the information below.

[Unity Project.](#)

This will show the possible player choices and paths throughout the game. It will not include the story text in any detail, or any side quests. See Figure 1: Story structure.

Due to the complexity of the prestige system (see page 4) allowing players to switch factions whenever they feel is in their best interests, as well as time constraints means that the Unity project has been stopped. However, it did provide insight as to how the story would flow as well as give an early visual look into a possible style for the UI and HUD elements of the game.

¹ For more details see the [Family Tree](#).

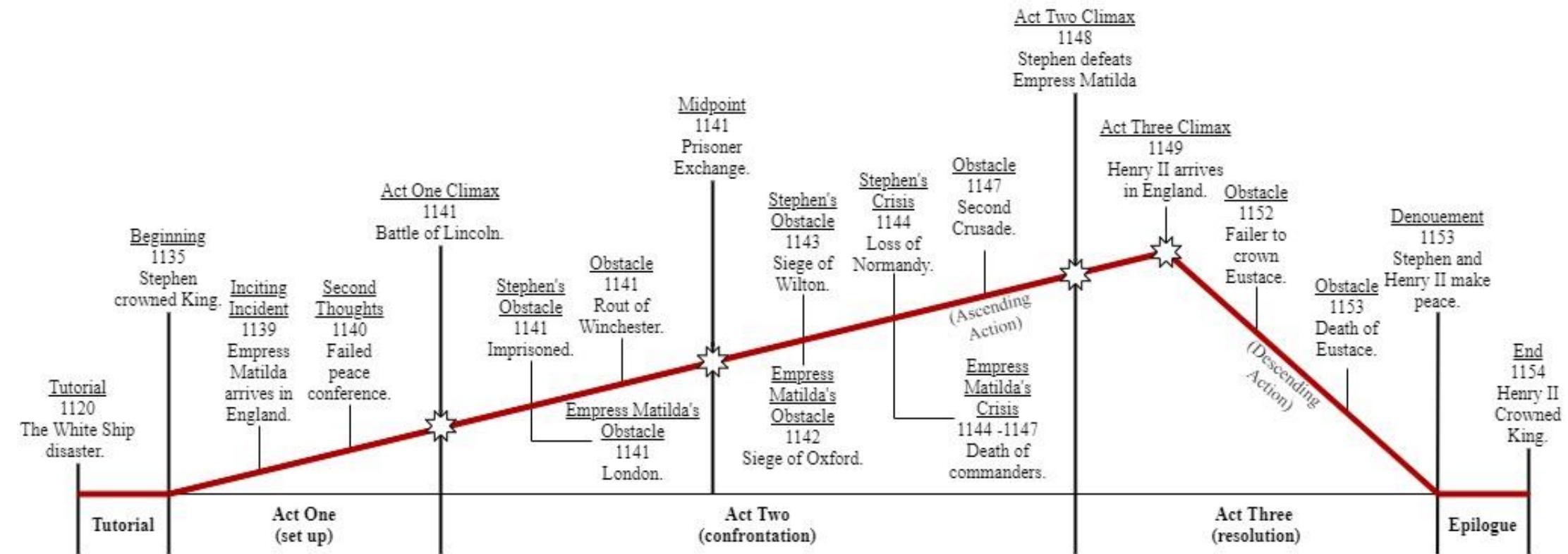


Figure 1: Story structure.

The prestige system

One of the features of this game is the ability for the player to switch factions whenever they feel it is in their best interests to do so. However there needs to be consequences for this, to achieve this the game will make use of a prestige system.

All actions will either grant or remove points to each faction, pleasing one faction will displease the other. The rewards, and quests that will be available to the player will be based on the current level of prestige you have with that faction. The flow diagram below shows the basic logic to control gaining and losing faction standing.

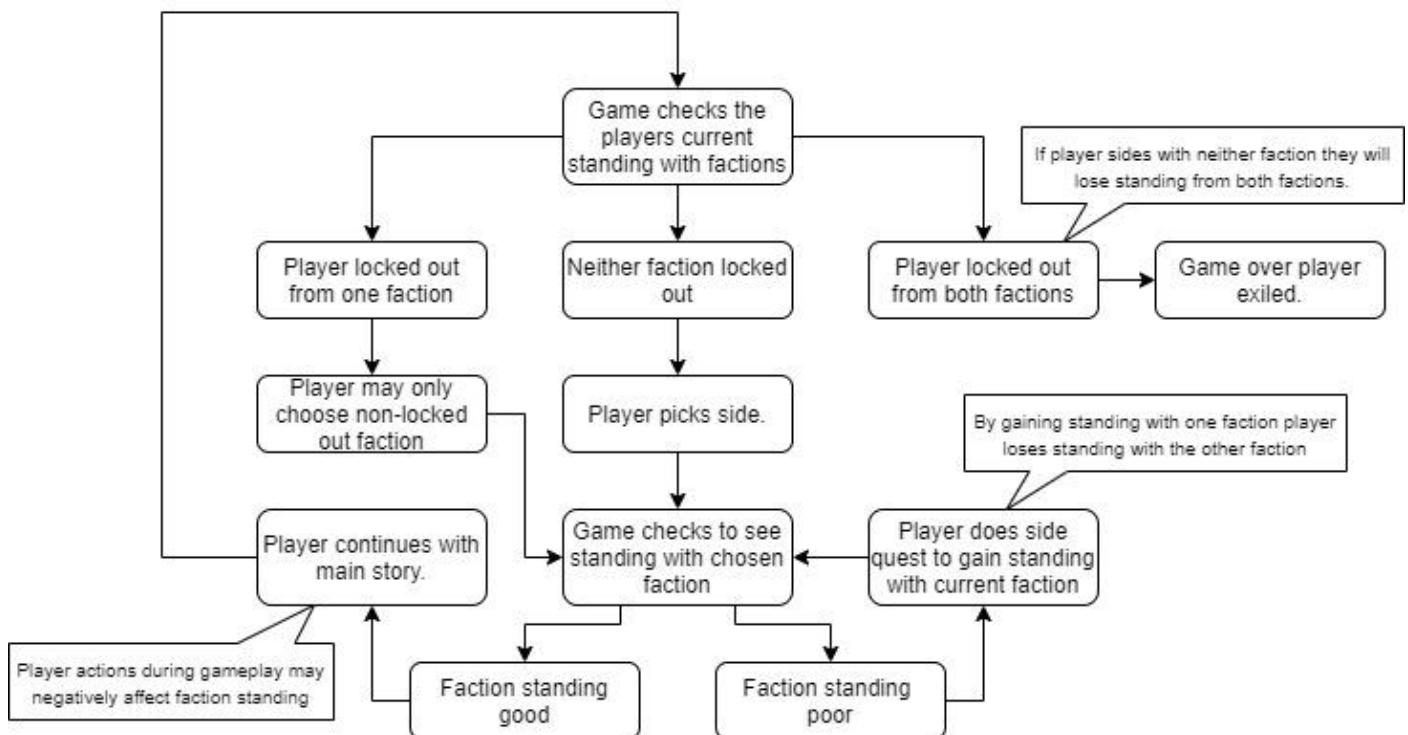


Figure 2: Flow diagram showing the logic of the Prestige system.

The points will be stored using an integer allowing for it to go up and down over time depending on the players choices, there will be one integer variable for each faction.

Depending on the players faction rating, they may need to do several side quests to rebuild prestige with that faction before they can continue with the story line for the faction.

If the player displeases a faction too much, they will be declared a traitor, and be stripped of all rewards and titles they have received from the faction. All faction NPC's will now attack the player character upon sight.

[Possible Endings to the Game.](#)

There are several endings to the players story based on the prestige they have with both factions they are.

1. The player has sided with one faction remaining totally loyal to them. This will give them the best possible rewards for that faction. But the other faction will hate the player character and be actively hunting them down.
2. The player switches loyalty between factions as and when it suits them. They will receive rewards from both factions but will not be able to get the best rewards as both factions know the player cannot be totally trusted.
3. Both factions hate the player, and the player is forced into exile. This is the only ending that can happen at any point in the game and it will trigger as soon as both factions declare the player a traitor.

[A word on all the Matilda's and Henry's.](#)

The two leading females involved during The Anarchy were both called Matilda. To prevent confusion, they will be referred to in the following ways.

Empress Matilda – Daughter of Henry I and leader of Angevin faction one of the protagonists of the war.

Queen Matilda – King Stephen's wife.

There were several other Matilda's however they did not play a role within the war.

Likewise, there were several Henry's.

Henry I – King of England

Henry of Winchester – Stephen's brother and Bishop of Winchester.

Henry II – Empress Matilda's son, and King of England.

[Disclaimer.](#)

I have tried to keep the events contained within this document as historically accurate as possible. However, some small changes have been made to some events for gameplay purposes and to ensure the player engagement is as good as possible.

Some NPC images are of other people this is because there is not a known image of them.

Any changes made to the historical events or characters are noted in the footnotes.

Overview.

The Anarchy is an English Civil war fought between King Stephen and Empress Matilda, from 1139 to 1153 AD the prize was the English throne, and the Dukedom of Normandy. It came about due to a succession crisis when Henry I died in 1135 AD². Empress Matilda was Henry I's only surviving legitimate child. In 1127-29 Henry I gathered the Norman barons, and they swore to recognise Empress Matilda as his heir. However, Stephen had a claim through his mother Adela of Normandy, the daughter of William the Conqueror.

The Leaders.

During The Anarchy, the two factions followed either King Stephen or the Empress Matilda.³



Figure 3: King Stephen.

Stephen.

House of Blois



Stephen was well liked by his subjects but was at odds with the church throughout his reign.

He was known to make rash choices and was too honour bound to make a good king.



Figure 4: Empress Matilda.

Empress Matilda.

House of Normandy



Empress Matilda was the rightful heir to the English throne yet was excluded as she was female.

She was a strong woman who knew how to rule but she was arrogant and dismissive of people.

² See the appendix for a detailed Family Tree. Showing the relationship, the claimants had, and the link they had to the throne.

³ Other Main NPCs will have their introduction when they are first referred to within this document. For a more detailed biography of all NPCs see

[People](#).

The Game world.

The game will take place in the West Country within the historic counties of Berkshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Wiltshire, and Worcestershire. A small part of Wales will also be included.⁴ As shown in Figure 5 some areas (in green) will be instances as they are a large distance away from the main game area (in blue).

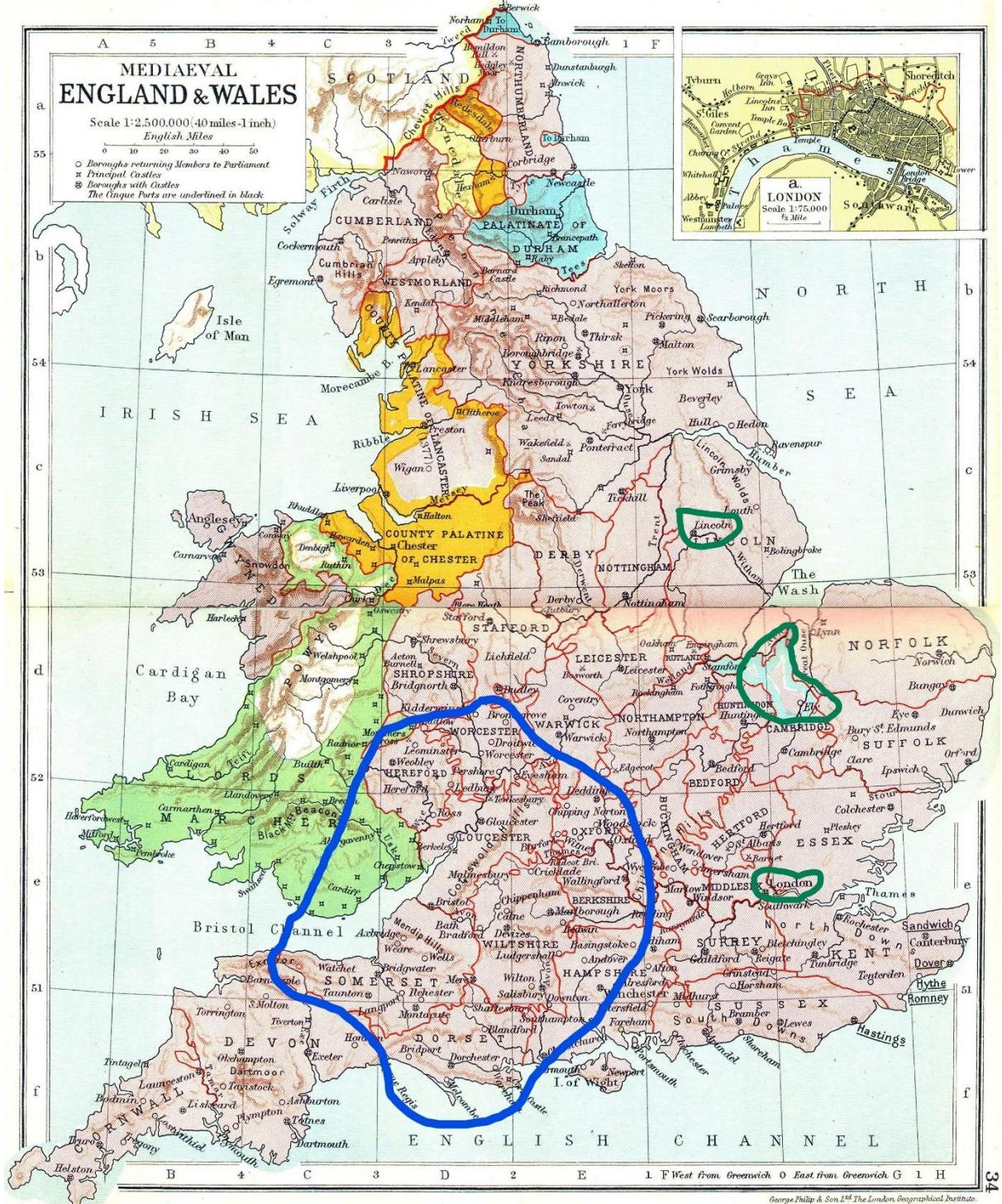


Figure 5: England in 1100 the game will take place within the blue circle instanced areas are circled in green.

⁴ See the appendix for more Maps.

England in the 12th Century.

Events that happen within the following areas could be used for worldbuilding i.e., NPC's ambient conversation about another raid by the Scots on the North.

England during this time was not a stable or unified country, even though the following areas will not be playable with in the game they affected the war to some extent.



Figure 6: Ranulf de Gernon.

Ranulf de Gernon.

Arms of Ranulf de Gernon



Ranulf de Gernon was a powerful Earl who had grievances towards Stephen whom he felt had failed him.

The Earldom of Chester.

The Earldom of Chester in the 12th century was one of several palatinates, (William the Conqueror created palatinates to protect the North of England from the Scots and Chester was created to provide a base from which to strike the Welsh) meaning that although he swore allegiance to the king, he had special authority and autonomy and could in effect rule independently with very little oversite from the Crown. In modern terms this would function as being devolved from the government. Ranulf de Gernon who was the Earl at the time of the war supported both King Stephen and Empress Matilda at various points within the war. He was responsible for the Battle of Lincoln, but this was like all his other actions only to further his own ends to reclaim lands he believed were his.

The Welsh.

Side Quest: The Welsh could be used as radiant Quests for both factions. For example, defending against Welsh incursions.

Wales was an independent country and there was constant tension between the Welsh and the English. The constant Welsh raids across the border were a constant issue for both Stephen and Matilda throughout the war.

The Scottish.

Scotland like Wales was an independent country and there had been several battles during this time. King David openly supported Empress Matilda during the war but gave very little real support. He made use of the war to gain lands in the north of England.

Normandy.

The events in Normandy are not planned to be included within the game however could be added to the game through DLC.

Normandy was a constant issue for King Stephen. From as early as 1136 Geoffrey Plantagenet held Castles on the southern border and supported several rebellions. Stephen failed to dislodge him and eventually by January 1144 he had lost Normandy to Geoffrey. Henry II became Duke of Normandy in 1150/51 when Geoffrey died. Thus, reuniting the Kingdom of England and the Dukedom of Normandy.

Main Events.

Tutorial and events before the main game.

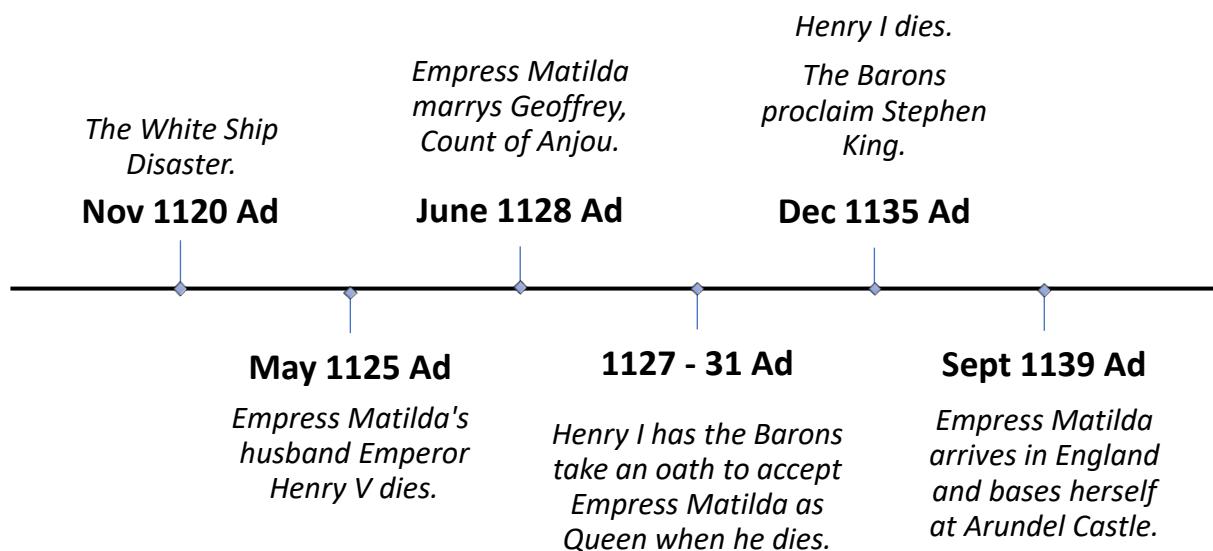


Figure 7: Timeline of the lead up to the war.

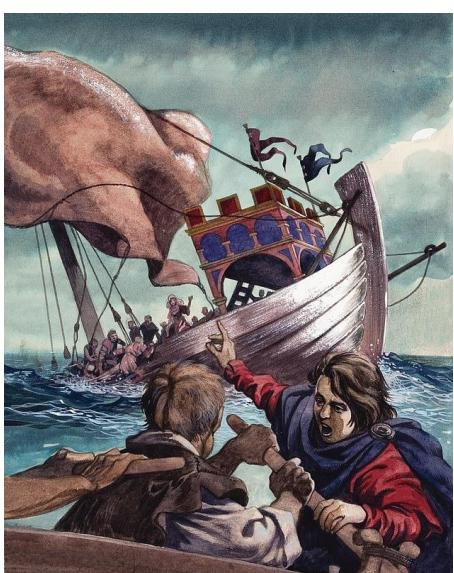


Figure 8: The sinking of the White Ship.

The White ship disaster.

Tutorial: Will take place just before the White ship disaster. The player will take the role of William Atheling shortly before his death.

On the night of November 25th, 1120 the White ship sank just off the coast of Barfleur, in Normandy France, there was only one survivor out of approximately 300 souls, a Rouen butcher called Berold. Among the dead was Henry I's oldest son the heir to the English throne William Atheling, as well as two of his illegitimate sons, his eldest illegitimate daughter Matilda, and most of his royal household. Also, on board was Matilda Countess of Chester, and the sister of the future King Stephen, who himself had a lucky escape as he chose not to board the ship.⁵

⁵ Bradbury, J *Stephen and Matilda the Civil War of 1139 – 53*, pp1-3, gives a more detailed account of the disaster.

Interim years 1121 – 1135 Ad.

The following events will not be playable within the game but will need to be narrated to the player early on so that it is clear how events led up to the current situation. This will be done by using two emissaries who will come to the player to entreat for their master's cause. This will take place during the Main story event "The Empress and Robert arrive."

Henry I's first wife Matilda of Scotland had died in 1118 he then married Adeliza of Louvain in 1121, however they had no children.

Empress Matilda's first husband died in 1125 so Henry I arranged for her marriage to Geoffrey Plantagenet. They had three children the eldest son, Henry, would eventually become Henry II.

Henry I makes his barons and other leading people of the day swear an oath to accept Empress Matilda as his heir. He repeated this oath taking three times in 1127, 1128, and 1131.

Henry I empowers by marriage and by granting the title of Earl of Gloucester to his eldest illegitimate child Robert, thus creating a future powerful ally for Empress Matilda.

Henry I empowers two of his nephews Stephen of Blois and his brother Henry of Winchester, thus creating a powerful faction with a claim to the throne through their grandmother Matilda of Flanders. (William the conqueror's wife)

Henry I dies after eating to many lampreys (eels) against the advice of his physician.

The main story will follow the events shown on the timelines for Act 1, 2, and 3. Other events mentioned below could be side quests (unless stated otherwise)

Act 1.

Act 1: This part of the game will introduce the player to the main NPCs and set the scene leading up to the first large battle of the war.

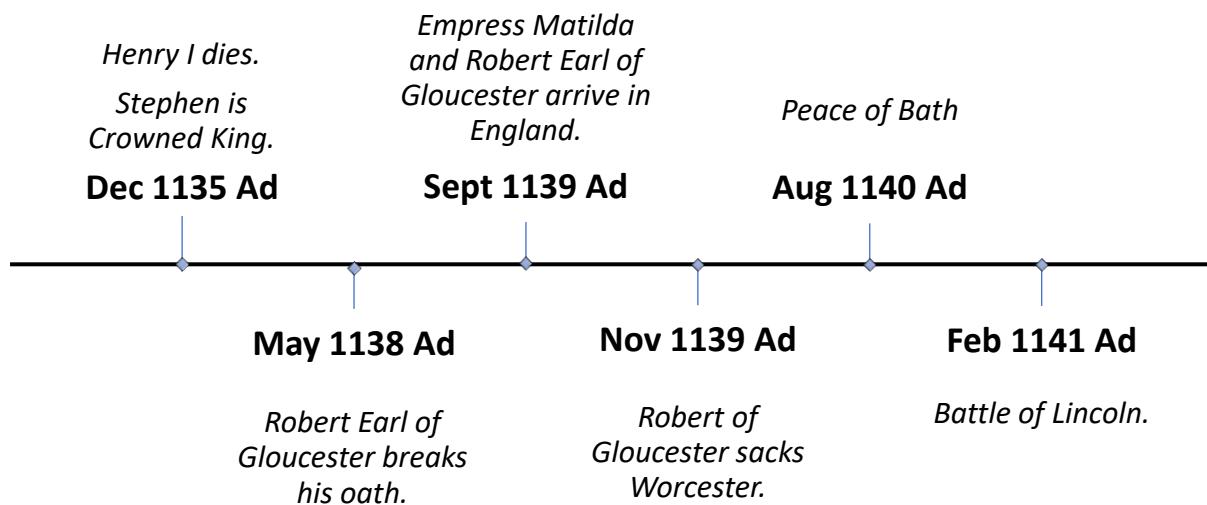


Figure 9: Timeline of Act 1. (note side quests are not shown)

Stephen is Crowned King.

Main Story: This event will introduce the player to Stephen and establish you as one of his vassals. This event will take place within an instanced version of Westminster Abby where you will swear your loyalty to him.

Only Stephen was in a good position to claim the throne on the death of Henry I, Empress Matilda was pregnant at the time and did not have the support of the barons (even though the Barons had sworn oaths to accept her as Queen once Henry I died). Stephen quickly gained the support of the populous of London, as well as the Royal treasury at Winchester, and convinced Willian of Corbeil, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to crown him (the three things needed to become a King of England at the time). For three years he reigned well with only minor threats from the Welsh and a few battles with King David of Scotland. (Par for the course for any King of England during this time)



Figure 10: Robert of Gloucester.

Robert of Gloucester.

House of Normandy



Robert was Empress Matilda's half-brother and one of the best commanders of the war.

Robert breaks his oath.

Main Story: News begins to spread through NPC's and the player is made aware that there is a war on the horizon.

In 1138 Robert of Gloucester declared his support for his half-sister Empress Matilda breaking his oath to Stephen, this was in effect a declaration of war. He leaves England to meet with his half-sister Empress Matilda in Rouen and plan their next moves.

The Fall of the Bishops.

Major Side quest: Important event but not essential for the main story.

In 1139 Stephen arrested three of the most powerful bishops in England. (Roger of Salisbury, Nigel of Ely, and Alexander of Lincoln) These bishops had made up much of Henry I's administration, but their loyalty to Stephen was in question. After he seized their lands and castles, he released them, however this considerably lowered the trust that the church had in Stephen. In the short term this served Stephen well as he gained several good defensive castles.

Early Rebellions.

Side Quests: The player could accept to put down one or more of the following rebellions or could join the rebels. Depending on if the player involves themselves in this side quest it would be the first time the player can choose who to fight for, as well as the first time the Prestige system will come into play.

During 1138 and early 1139 there were several rebellions by minor nobles like Geoffrey Talbot and Miles Beauchamp. They were all crushed by forces loyal to Stephen. Areas that are known to have rebelled within the playable area are.

- Bristol (stone keep)
- Castle Cary (stone keep)
- Dunster Castle
- Wareham
- Bath
- Corfe Castle (stone keep) (Stephen failed to take Corfe because he had to rush to Arundel as Matilda and Robert had landed)



Henry of Winchester.



House of Blois

Henry was Stephen's younger brother and the Bishop of Winchester. He manipulated both sides for his own gain.

Figure 11: Henry of Winchester.

The Empress and Robert arrive.

Main Quest: The player is told of Empress Matilda's arrival and at this point must pick a faction if they have not done earlier (although if they have already, they can switch.) This will be the only time the player is forced to pick a faction, after this is it up to them as and when they want to switch factions or not.

Empress Matilda and Robert arrive in England, they stay in Arundel castle. Robert leaves shortly after with plans for Empress Matilda to join him in Gloucester. However, before she can leave she is betrayed by her host Adeliza, Queen consort of England who informs Stephen. Strangely Stephen on the advice of his brother Henry of Winchester, lets her go free and she re-joins her half-brother in Gloucester.⁶

⁶ The historical view is that at this time Matilda had done nothing wrong as it was only her brother who had taken up arms, she had been invited as a guest by Adeliza, so Stephen felt honour bound to let her go free. He was also advised to by his brother Henry of Winchester, who probably had his own agenda.

The Castle at Wallingford.

Side Quest: The player could help with the defence, or the attack (depending on the faction they are currently supporting), this quest could become available several times throughout the game.

Stephen besieged Wallingford Castle in mid-1139 it was a strong castle and was defended by [Brian fitz Count](#).⁷ Throughout the entire war Stephen was unable to take the castle. Accepting that he could not capture the castle, he built two counter castles and left a small besieging force to keep Brian contained within the walls of the castle. In late summer of 1139 [Miles of Gloucester](#)⁸ attacked the besieging forces taking them by surprise and killing most of them. Throughout the war Stephen made more attempts to capture the Castle.



Robert sacks Worcester.⁹

Main Story: The player takes part in the first real battle of the civil war. Helping with the defence, or the attack (depending on the faction they are currently supporting).

In November 1139, Robert of Gloucester attacked and captured the city of Worcester. He proceeded to loot and burn it principally because he knew he could not hold it. Stephen arrived sometime later and reclaimed the City.

Side Quest: The player could take part in the raids or try to prevent them from happening. (depending on the faction they are currently supporting).

He then attempted to raid Bristol, but he found it to well defended so raided several towns in the surrounding area that were held by Empress Matilda.¹⁰

Ely and the return of the Bishop.

Major Side Quest: (could only be unlocked if the player has completed "The Fall of the Bishops" Side quest) The player could help with the defence, or the attack (depending on the faction they are currently supporting). Ely is in Cambridgeshire and is therefore not within the playable area so this Quest would be an instanced area. (as it is an instance it could be cut with no loss of game play as this is the only time the player will go to Ely.)

Nigel of Ely made his move in January 1140 when he openly declared in favour of Empress Matilda and fortified the Island of Ely (it was an Island in the 12th century surrounded by marsh land.) with its two castles and was considered very hard to capture. However, as the Bishop did not have many men and had not informed Empress Matilda of his plans to support her. Stephen was able to take the island although he did sustain casualties.

⁷ His Image and introduction are before The siege of Wallingford.

⁸ No Image but is an important commander for Empress Matilda see [Miles of Gloucester](#).

⁹ Image of Rioters pillaging a house in Paris.

¹⁰ Graphically the game would need to show the destruction of the countryside and how the war affected the populous. As the raids would have spread hardship and poverty to the local people most who probably did not care who was on the throne.



Figure 13: Theobald of Canterbury.

Theobald of Canterbury.¹¹

Arms of the Archbishop of Canterbury



Theobald of Canterbury was the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was patron of Thomas Becket and crowned Henry II.

Peace of Bath.

Main Story: The player will have some minor input by trying to convince Queen Matilda to accept the peace talks. They will see the last chance for peace fail.

Around April 1140, Henry of Winchester arranged a conference in Bath to mediate a peace deal. Robert of Gloucester attended for Empress Matilda, and Henry of Winchester, Theobald of Canterbury, and Queen Matilda attended for Stephen. The conference was a failure due to Queen Matilda refusing to allow the settlement to be dictated by the church.

Raiding.

Side Quests: Constant raids were taking place by both factions.

Through all of 1139 and 1140 both factions were constantly raiding the other to gain any advantage possible, although Stephen seemed to have gained a slight advantage over this time. Worcester was raided again by Stephen and Robert returned the 'favour' by raiding Nottingham. By the end of 1140 both factions seemed to have settled in and accepted this was going to be a long war.



Figure 14: Queen Matilda.

Queen Matilda.¹²



Queen Matilda was the wife of King Stephen a strong woman in her own right. When he was captured, she led the fight back.

Elsewhere.

These events may not be included with in the game but can be used for worldbuilding.

Queen Matilda besieged the port of Dover in late 1139 as it was held by Robert of Gloucester, and it could be used as a landing point for Geoffrey Plantagenet, once it became clear that he was concentrating on taking Normandy she lifted the siege and departed.

In Cornwall Alan of Penthievre was made Earl of Cornwall by Stephen, at the same time Empress Matilda named her half-brother Reginald of Dunstanville Earl of Cornwall. They spent all of 1140 fighting over the county and eventually Reginald pushed Alan out and gained full control of the county.

¹¹ Image of St Thomas Becket. However, it is likely his image would look the same as St Thomas succeeded him as Archbishop.

¹² Image possibility of Empress Matilda sources are unclear.

The Battle of Lincoln.

Main Story: Act one finale. First major battle of the war, and one of the most important events. The City of Lincoln is not within the main playable area so this quest would be an instanced area. The player has the chance to be a hero and save either Robert of Gloucester if you are part of Empress Matilda's faction or William of Ypres if you are part of Stephen's faction.

Stephen made William of Albini the Earl of Lincoln. This was an issue as Ranulf de Gernon believed that he had a claim on Lincoln. Ranulf was already unhappy with Stephen as he had lost lands in the latest settlement with Scotland.

In November 1140 Ranulf and his half-brother William seized Lincoln Castle by a ruse, shortly afterwards Stephen visited them and accepted their argument, granting Ranulf's half-brother William the Earldom, and granted William of Albini the Earldom of Sussex.

Ranulf then decided to attack the town,¹³ so in February 1141 Stephen returned, and having been welcomed into the town by its citizens, laid siege to the Castle. Ranulf who had already left Lincoln appealed to his stepfather Robert of Gloucester¹⁴ to aid him in assaulting Stephen.

Stephen was now in an unfavourable position he had control of the town and the small garrison in the Castle was not an issue, however two armies were surrounding him. He had two choices leave or fight. He along with his commander William of Ypres chose to fight, as if he won here the war would be over.

However, he was captured along with several other Nobles like Alan of Penthievre, or Gilbert de Gant. After being sent to Gloucester to see the Empress Matilda, he was sent to and imprisoned in Bristol Castle.¹⁵

Main Story: During the battle that takes place this would be the point where the player would save a major NPC for their faction. The player would also be able to capture Nobles from the opposing side to gain lands of Income through there ransom.

Lincoln town was burned to the ground and most of its citizens were murdered or drowned trying to flee.



Figure 15: Lincoln Castle with attackers fleeing. (image is from the 1217 battle)

¹³ It is unknown why he did this as he had gained what he wanted from Stephen, but it is thought that it was because he was still unhappy with Stephen over the Scottish settlement, and he just wanted Stephen to pay.

¹⁴ Ranulf was married to Robert's daughter Maud, and he had left her at Lincoln trapping her there when Stephen besieged the Castle, it is thought that one of the reasons Robert was so eager to help was to save his daughter.

¹⁵ Battlefields of Britain (http://www.battlefieldsofbritain.co.uk/battle_lincoln_1141.html) have a detailed description of the battle and troop movements during it.

Act 2 first phase.

Act 2 first phase: This part of the game is the shortest with limited chances for the player to do other things. Some side quests will fail if not completed before the start of Act 2. Others will become be locked until the beginning of Act 2 second phase.

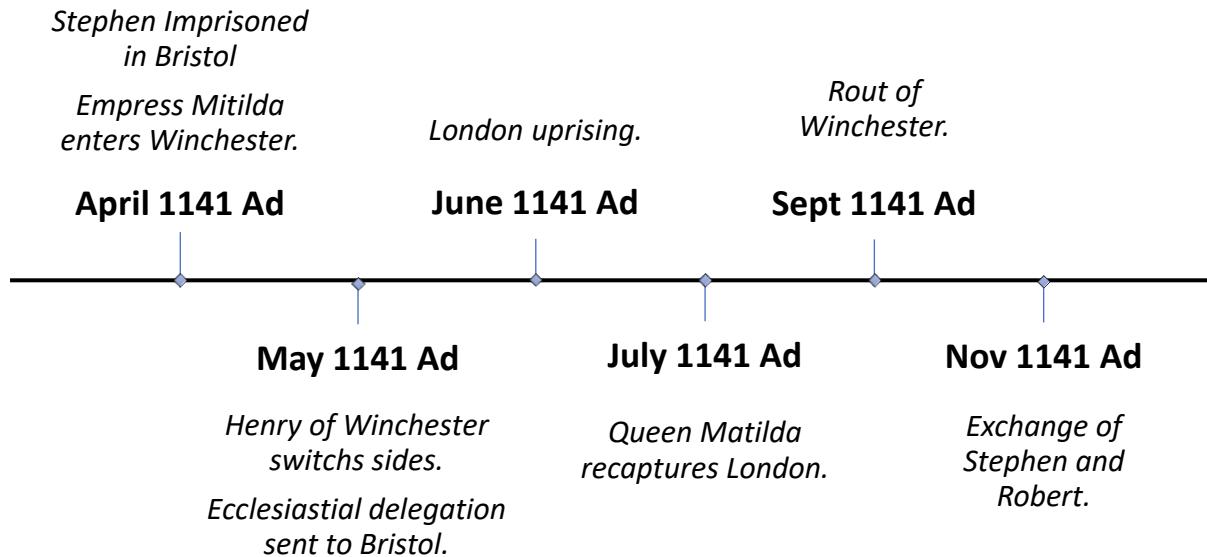


Figure 16: Timeline of Act 2 first phase. (please note that side quests are not shown)

Devizes Castle.

Side Quest: The player could help with the defence, or the attack (depending on the faction they are currently supporting)

Devizes Castle was held by Harvey, Earl of Wiltshire, who was married to Stephen's illegitimate daughter and continued to resist Empress Matilda. The Empress Matilda besieged it in Mid-1141 and he was forced to surrender the castle to her.

Winchester and Bristol.

Main Story: This event covers both the April and May events shown in Figure 16: Timeline of Act 2 first phase. (please note that side quests are not shown) If the player was loyal to Stephen, they must decide if they will remain so, or will they switch to Empress Matilda's faction? The choice they make will decide what part of the story they witness next. Those supporting Empress Matilda will head to Winchester, however those supporting Stephen will head to Bristol.

After the battle of Lincoln, with Stephen imprisoned in Bristol Castle, and The Empress Matilda heading to Winchester it seemed to everyone that it was only a matter of time before the Empress Matilda would be crowned Queen of England.

Empress Matilda enters Winchester.

Main Story, Empress Matilda: The player will witness how fickle most of the English nobility was during the 12th century. As most of them (possibly including the player) switched sides as soon as it seemed that Empress Matilda had won.

In March 1141 Empress Matilda headed to Winchester to claim the royal treasury. And gain the support of the Bishops including Stephen's brother Henry bishop of Winchester. This was not difficult as Henry of Winchester was unhappy with his brother over the arrest of the Bishops in 1139 (Act 1: The Fall of the Bishops.) Once Empress Matilda had his support, he handed over the treasury, the crown, and the keys to the royal castle. The populous declared her Queen of England however she also needed the support of Theobald Archbishop of Canterbury. However, he would not switch his allegiance until he had talked to Stephen. As several other bishops also had concerns, she allowed an ecclesiastical delegation with a few minor barons to go and see him in Bristol.



William of Ypres.¹⁶

Arms of William of Ypres



William of Ypres was a mercenary captain and one of Stephen's best commanders. He was deeply unpopular as he was a foreigner.

Figure 17: William of Ypres.

Stephen is imprisoned at Bristol.

Main Story, Stephen: The player would be summoned to join the delegation and witness how Stephen and other high-ranking prisoners were treated during this time. At the end of the meeting the player can either break their oath or remain loyal.

At first Stephen was kept in some comfort but shortly after his arrival in Bristol he was caught wandering outside his place of confinement and was placed in chains and locked in a cell. When the delegation arrived, Stephen gave his blessing for them to break their oaths to him. Most did but a few like William of Ypres and Queen Matilda refused and would remain loyal to Stephen for the rest of the war.

¹⁶ Image of the mercenary group The Catalan Grand Company.

London Calling.

Main Story: This event covers both the London uprising and its recapture by Queen Matilda. Depending on the faction you are currently supporting will allow you to see a different side to the story. The events that happened in London are important as it was the closest Empress Matilda would ever get to becoming Queen. (although the player will not know this at the time) It also highlights the total loyalty Queen Matilda had to her husband Stephen.

London was an important step to becoming Queen and both factions knew this. With Stephen a prisoner his future rested on the actions of both Matilda's.

Main Story, Empress Matilda: Here the player will see for the first time Empress Matilde's arrogance, a failing that would make her an unsuitable Queen.

London uprising.

London was Empress Matilda's last step to becoming Queen. At first the populous of London welcomed her. However, she upset the citizens by refusing to grant London 'commune' status¹⁷ something Stephen had allowed. She wanted to be able to control how her taxes were collected and give herself more control over London. Because of her arrogant attitude she managed to alienate some of her followers including David of Scotland, and Henry of Winchester.

When word reached London that Queen Matilda and William of Ypres were heading to London with a large force, the people of London rebelled against the Empress Matilda and she was forced to flee.

Queen Matilda recaptures London.

Main Story, Stephen: Here the player will join with Queen Matilda, and forces still loyal to Stephen, and will get to take part in the diplomatic negotiations she conducted.



Figure 18: The tower of London as it looked in approximately 1200 Ad.

Henry of Winchester had secretly met with Queen Matilda shortly before Empress Matilda was forced to flee and had invited the Queen to London to reclaim it for Stephen. The populous welcomed her warmly however the Tower of London refused her entry. As the tower was one of the most fortified places in England, she used diplomacy to convince the Tower castellan to switch factions back to the Royalist.

¹⁷ A commune controlled its own tax collection.



John fitz Gilbert.¹⁸

Arms of John fitz Gilbert



John fitz Gilbert supported Matilda he was instrumental in her escape from Winchester, even though he had been blinded in a fire.

Figure 19: John fitz Gilbert.

The Rout of Winchester.

Main Story: The player gets to fight or defend the City of Winchester. If they are currently part of Empress Matilda's faction, then they will help her to flee the city. If they are currently part of Stephen's faction, then they will take part in the capture of Robert of Gloucester.

Winchester had two castles, The Royal one and the Bishop's one. In July 1141 Henry of Winchester besieged the royal castle from his own one. Upon hearing this Empress Matilda swiftly arrived and prepared to lay siege to the city. Henry fled the city leaving the way open for Empress Matilda to enter the city and relieve the Royal castle. However, Henry had left troops within his castle, so Empress Matilda settled in to siege it.

Henry then messaged Queen Matilda who arrived and laid siege to the city trapping Empress Matilda with in. At this point he set fire to the city.

Side Quest, Stephen: The player could be the messenger.

John fitz Gilbert of Pembroke had been garrisoned outside the city in a nunnery until William of Ypres burnt it to the ground. John fitz Gilbert barely escaped with his life but he was blinded from the flames.

Side Quest, Empress Matilda: The player could save John fitz Gilbert.

After two months Empress Matilda and her army were starving. Robert of Gloucester launched an attack on Queen Matilda's forces drawing them away with the aim of allowing Empress Matilda to escape, with the help of John fitz Gilbert. Henry of Winchester, as always playing both factions, had ordered the gates open for her, he also however ordered his troops to defend Queen Matilda. Robert stayed until he knew Empress Matilda was free and as he attempted to follow; he was captured.

Exchange of Prisoners.

Main Story: The player is sent to arrange the prisoner exchange.

By October 1141 it was clear that neither faction could gain the upper hand. Both factions needed a leading male figure that the other nobles would follow. Both factions agreed to the 1141 Treaty of Winchester allowing for a mutual exchange of prisoners, Stephen for Robert.

¹⁸ Image is of his more famous son William Marshal.

Act 2 second phase.

Act 2 second phase: This part of the game is spaced out over several years. The war has settled down by this point, it is envisioned that this is the time the player will explore the game world, do side quests, and experience the other areas of the game.

Side Quests: During this phase both factions were constantly raiding and capturing towns this could be worked into a zone of control style of mechanic where you take and retake areas trying to gain as much control of the region as possible.

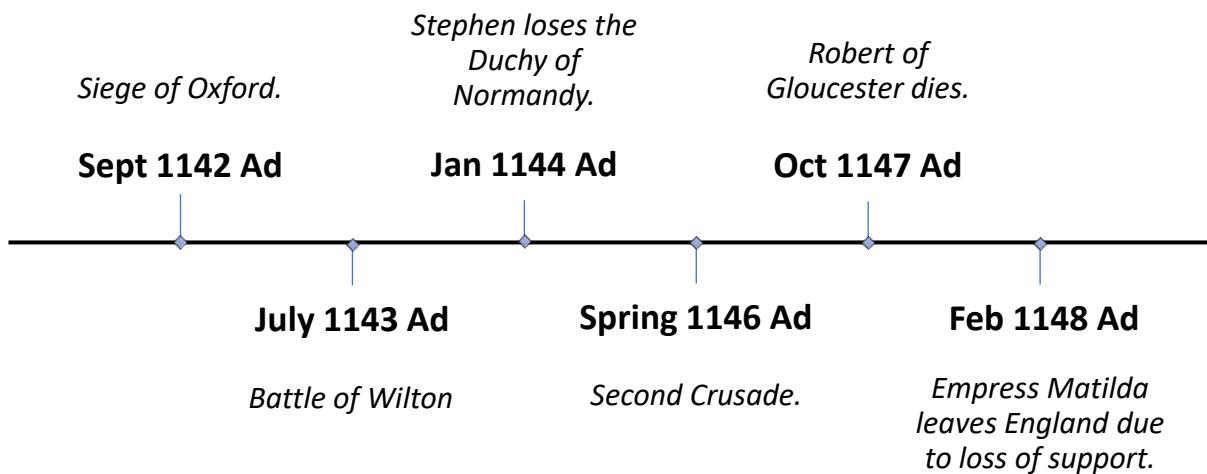


Figure 20: Timeline of Act 2 second phase. (please note that side quests are not shown)

Siege of Oxford.

DLC: Here would make a good point for a potential DLC of the Normandy war to start, as the player could be sent along with Robert. If the player is currently part of Stephen's faction then they could be sent to help his cause in Normandy.

Main Story: The player would join the defence or the attack on the City (depending on the faction they are currently supporting).

Empress Matilda made Oxford her new base and in March 1142 Robert of Gloucester was sent to Normandy to ask her husband Geoffrey of Anjou for support.

Stephen took advantage of the fact Robert was in Normandy to besiege Oxford in September 1142, trapping Empress Matilda. The Castle was strong and well defended and the siege lasted over 3 months.

Main Story, Empress Matilda: The player would help and join Matilda in her escape.

In December Empress Matilda escaped the castle by climbing down a rope¹⁹ in the night and crossing the frozen Thames dressed in white to hide herself. Once across she fled to Wallingford.

Once Stephen found out Empress Matilda had yet again slipped through his fingers he forced the Castle to surrender.

¹⁹ This is a story, and it is more likely she escaped through the postern gate.



William Martel.²⁰

*One of Stephens most loyal supporters
Stephen was willing to give up a Castle for his freedom.*

Figure 21:
William Martel

The Battle of Wilton.

Main Story: Here the player will see Stephen making another rash decision that like in Lincoln could have cost him a lot more than it did. They will also see Robert's command skill once again. The player would also take part in the defence of attack of the castle (depending on the faction they are currently supporting)

Stephen spent the rest of the winter in Wilton Castle, but in early 1143 Robert of Gloucester was back in England and besieged the castle. Stephen made the rash decision to make a sortie and break out. Robert was ready for this and arranged his army to prevent him from doing so.

Stephen was forced to draw back and flee and only escaped capture because his loyal steward William Martel sacrificed his own freedom giving Stephen time to escape.

Main Story Stephen: The player would be sent to arrange for William's release.

Stephen valued this sacrifice so much he gave up Sherborne Castle to obtain his release. This was the only time in the war that Stephen was willing to give up so much for one man.

Other events

Side Quest, Stephen: The player could be sent to remove Miles and make it look like an accident. Miles will die no matter what though.

On December 24th, 1143 Miles of Gloucester one of Empress Matilda's most loyal followers and one of her best commanders dies in a hunting accident.²¹

Side Quest, Empress Matilda: The player could be sent to reinforce Lincoln castle and arrange for the destruction of Stephens siege engines.

Stephen tries to take Lincoln again as Ranulf de Gernon had once again switched factions. However, after a siege tower collapses, killing 80 men he abandons the attempt.

Side Quest, Empress Matilda: The player can join John fitz Gilbert as he pillages and loots towns in the southern part of the playable area.

John fitz Gilbert embarks on a devastating reign of destruction on the south of England according to the chroniclers of the time this was in revenge for his damaged sight.

²⁰ Image of Edward II receiving the English crown.

²¹ There is no evidence that Stephen arranged his death. Deaths during hunting were not uncommon but to add some intrigue into the gameplay I borrowed a possible earlier historical event the death of William II King of England. (William II, died in this way in 1100 however there is some speculation that Henry I arranged this as he was also in the hunting party that day)

Side Quest, Stephen: The player can join William of Ypres as he pillages and loots towns in the northern part of the playable area.

Stephen's forces under William of Ypres make inroads in Gloucestershire taking towns and villages.



Henry II aged 9.²²



House of Plantagenet

Henry the future King of England and the eldest son of Empress Matilda meets his Uncle for the first time.

Figure 22: Henry II
age 9.

These events will not be included with in the game but can be used for worldbuilding.

Robert Marmion a minor noble and follower of Stephen dies during a raid. He was with his men when he fell from his horse, into a pit his men had dug, he broke his thigh and was beheaded by a common soldier. He was the only person to die in the raid.

Stephen tries to besiege Tetbury, but Robert of Gloucester arrives to relieve the castle. Stephen having finally learnt that he cannot better Robert in open battle abandons the siege.

In 1142 Empress Matilda's son Henry Plantagenet is sent to England, aged 9, to be tutored by his Uncle Robert of Gloucester.

The loss of Normandy.

Even though the player will have no input regarding Normandy in the base game (It would be the end of the DLC mentioned earlier) it is still a very important event as Stephen's loss of Normandy meant that the young Henry Plantagenet would go from a young man with few prospects to one of the most powerful men in Europe (once his farther died). It effectively meant that Stephen's sons had very little chance to inherit the throne after him. However, at the time this event did not seem that important.

Main Story: The player witnesses Stephens reaction to him losing Normandy, and Matilda's reaction to learning that her husband would not help her.

In 1144 Geoffrey Plantagenet completes the conquest of Normandy becoming Duke of Normandy.

Side Quest, Stephen: The player can be sent to Corfe Castle to build up its defences.

However, he showed no inclination to help his wife Empress Matilda in her conquest of England. Stephen worried that Empress Matilda would have fresh troops from Normandy, fortifies Corfe Castle.²³

Empress Matilda upon hearing that her husband had conquered Normandy sent messengers to him asking for his aid, he refused stating he needed his troops in Normandy to ensure control.

²² Image of young child, Henry II is in the non-cropped image behind the child as a young man.

²³ There is no evidence he this or did anything in reaction to losing Normandy, however for gameplay purposes it would make a lot of sense for him to do something.



Roger, Earl of Hereford.²⁴

Arms of Hereford



Roger was the son of Miles of Gloucester; He was an unprincipled opportunist willing to back stab people to achieve his goals.

Figure 23: Roger, Earl of Hereford.

The Second Crusade.

DLC: Here would make a good point for a potential DLC or a full game explaining the Second Crusade and this history.

Main Story: Here the player gains more power for the faction they are currently supporting as many nobles leave England for the Crusade.

Both factions lost several nobles to the Crusade this effectively dragged the war to a halt as both factions could not afford to risk more than light raids.

Side Quest, Empress Matilda: The player can be sent With Roger Earl of Hereford to deal with Walter Pinkeney.

Empress Matilda however lost less and was able to use it to her advantage, One of Stephens nobles Walter de Pinkeney had been causing considerable problems for her. He was tracked down to Dunster Castle where Roger Earl of Hereford captured him. He was tortured and left to die in Bristol castle.²⁵

Henry returns.

Side Quest, Empress Matilda: The player could be sent to meet with him and escort him to safety. This quest would change once you find out he needs cash to pay for his troops.

In early 1147 Henry Plantagenet arrives in England in response to an urgent request for troops. However, he only brought a small number of mercenaries whom he could not afford to pay. Neither his uncle Robert of Gloucester, nor his mother the Empress could underwrite his costs. In the end he sent a secret message to Stephen asking him for help to pay the mercenaries.

Side Quest, Stephen: The player could be sent with the funds.

Stephen yet again acted strangely and said yes and paid for Henry's mercenaries²⁶ allowing Henry to return to Normandy.

²⁴ Image of an unknown noble.

²⁵ It is not known why he was treated in this way when it was the norm during the 12th century to ransom Nobles back during war time.

²⁶ How Stephen acted here would have been considered, during peace time, very honourable one noble helping a distant relation. However, as Stephen was at war with Henry it was viewed as weakness, better to let Henry deal with his own problems. However, Stephen in 1147 could afford to do this as it was an easier way to get rid of Henry rather than fighting him.

Robert of Gloucester dies.

Main Story: The player witnesses what is widely considered the end of Empress Matilda's chance to claim the Throne. Depending on the faction they are currently supporting they could be the messenger sent to inform Matilda, or the one to inform Stephen.

In late 1147 Robert of Gloucester dies in Bristol Castle.

Empress Matilda leaves England.

Main Story: The player escorts Empress Matilda to the coast as she departs England.

In early 1148 Empress Matilda decided her cause was over, she had lost her two best commanders, (Robert of Gloucester, and Miles of Gloucester) there was no chance of support from her husband Geoffrey Plantagenet, many of her former supporters had switched their loyalty to Stephen as he was currently clearly winning. Stephen once he heard of this sent troops to ensure she left England, she was never to return.

From this point on all events that would have been marked as the Empress Matilda's will now be marked as Henry's. Empress Matilda does not appear in the rest of the game or story.

Act3: This part of the game is the final stage where the war winds down. The player will be able to finish up most quests and try to make the most of choices they have made throughout the game.

Act 3.

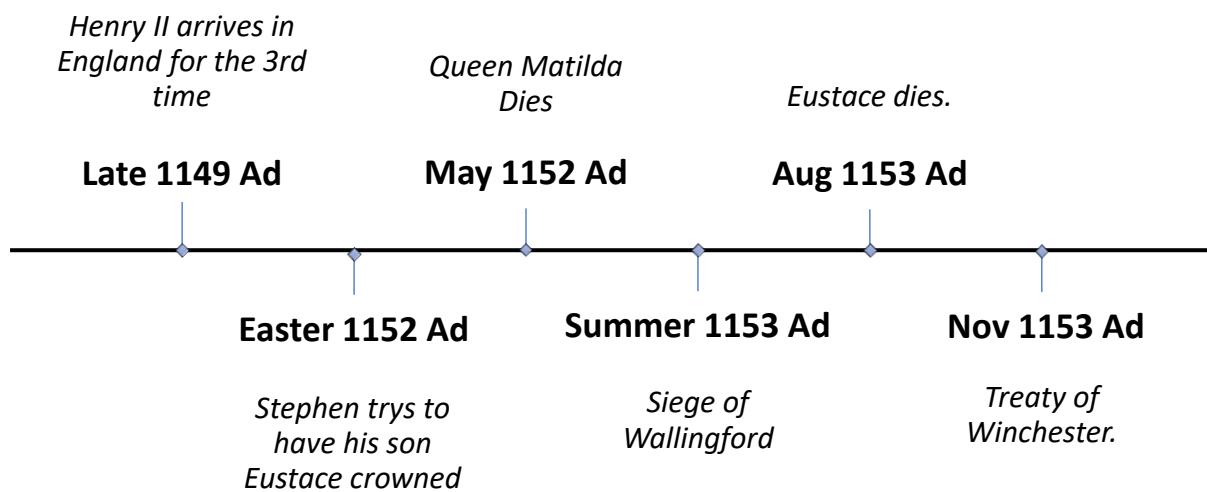


Figure 24: Timeline of Act 3. (please note that side quests are not shown)



David, King of Scotland.

House of Dunkeld



David had supported Empress Matilda throughout the war. He now supported Henry in his bid for the throne.

Figure 25: David,
King of Scotland

Henry returns for the third time.

Main Story, Henry: The player would meet with Henry and escort him to Gloucester where King David of Scotland meets with him.

Main Story, Stephen: The player would attempt to ambush Henry on his return journey.

In 1149 Henry headed to England for the third time. Once again he was poorly equipped but this time he was not coming to fight but to be knighted. David, King of Scotland knighted him at Gloucester on the 22nd of May 1149.²⁷ On his return journey he was constantly harried and ambushed by Stephen who wanted to make it clear he was not welcome in England.²⁸

Henry's rise to power.

The events that follow changes the balance of power not just in England but in France also. To tell the player what happens next an emissary will be sent to inform them.

In 1151 Geoffrey Plantagenet dies making Henry the new Duke of Normandy. This immediately gave him much more power and made him a threat to Stephen.

In 1152 Henry marries Eleanor of Aquitaine granting him a claim on her lands as well. This makes him the most powerful man in France even more so than the King of France. Henry now turned his eyes back to England and claiming the crown for himself.

²⁷ He was knighted in Carlisle. However, as Carlisle is not within the playable area I have moved it to Gloucester.

²⁸ Stephen did not try to capture him as he did not want to give Empress Matilda any reason to return to England.



Was the son of Stephen and Heir to the Throne of England. He was unhappy with his Father for not pushing harder to have him crowned.

Main Story Stephen: The player gets to see Stephen's response to Henry's rise from a young man with little to no power to a very powerful man with a lot of resources available to him. They would try to convince the bishops including Stephen's brother.

Stephen tries to have his son Eustace crowned.

Stephen realised he needed to secure his line so during Easter 1152 he asked Henry of Winchester, and Theobald of Canterbury if they would crown Eustace who had just turned 21 joint-king of England with him. They both refused as this was not the normal practise within England. Stephen sent some of his most trusted nobles to try and change their minds. Henry of Winchester eventually agreed when he was promised that Stephen would push for him to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury.³⁰ However as Theobald could not be swayed there was nothing Stephen could do.

Newbury Castle.

Side Quest: The player gets to see John fitz Gilbert deal with Stephen and help with the retreat or attack (depending on the faction they are currently supporting).

Stephen started the spring campaign of 1152 by attacking John fitz Gilbert at Newbury Castle. Early on, as was normal for the time, Stephen tried to negotiate, and John offered his young son William³¹ Marshal as a hostage during the negotiations. Shortly after when John refused to surrender the Castle, Stephen threatened to fire William over the walls from a trebuchet. John simply replied.

"I still have the hammer and the anvil with which to forge still more and better sons!"

Stephen never went through with his threat however he still managed to capture the castle.

Queen Matilda Dies.

Main Story Stephen: The player gets to see Stephen's grief and how he responds.

Shortly after Stephen captured Newbury, his beloved wife Queen Matilda died. Her death really affected Stephen and for a time he was unresponsive to events that he would normally deal with rapidly.

Main Story Henry: The player is sent to capture several castles and Towns.

Empress Matilda's former allies were aware that Henry was growing in power and decided to use this time when Stephen was unable to respond to strengthen their position. Attacks were made on several towns and castles around their strong hold of Bristol.

²⁹ No Image found for Eustace.

³⁰ Henry never agreed as the New pope had not at the time accepted that Stephen was the rightful King of England. It has been changes for gameplay needs.

³¹ William marshal went on to become 1st Earl of Pembroke, one of the most famous Knights in history, he was Marshal to five Kings and because he was an Earl he became known as the Earl Marshal (this became a hereditary office that is still active to this day with it currently held by Edward Fitzalan-Howard, 18th Duke of Norfolk)

The recapture of Worcester

Side Quest: The player helps Roger of Hereford take Worcester and witnesses betrayal.

Stephen made Wallingford his main target for 1153, throughout the war he had been unable to take it but now it was weak and low on food. He received help from Roger Earl of Hereford one of Empress Matilda's and now Henry's supporters. He wanted Worcester and offered to help Stephen take Wallingford in exchange for Stephen helping him gain Worcester. Stephen agreed and sent him troops to help. Once Roger had captured Worcester, he promptly turned-on Stephen and slaughtered his troops.



Brian fitz Count.³²

He supported Empress Matilda in her effort and now supported Henry. Wallingford Castle under his watch was considered impregnable.

Figure 26:Brian fitz Count.

The siege of Wallingford.

Main Story: Stephen tries for the last time to take the Castle. The player arranges a meeting between Stephen and Henry. They also defend or attack the castle again depending on the side they are currently on.

In July 1153 Henry now a young man with considerable power arrived back in England. He headed to Wallingford to relieve it as it was in danger of finally falling.

Side Quest Stephen: The player could command one of the counter castles.

Stephen had made two counter castles to help with the siege.

Side Quest Henry: The player could lead the attack on one of the counter castles. They could also the one to carry out Henrys orders to execute the prisoners..

When Henry arrived he promptly laid siege to Stephens forces and attacked both counter castles. Henry managed to capture and behead sixty royal archers. Both armies eventually met on opposite banks of a river but neither wanted a battle. A truce was called, and Stephen and Henry met. However, the truce only lasted 5 days. Eustace was furious with his father and stormed off with a few of his followers.

The last of the fighting.

Side Quest Stephen: The player could perform some small-scale raiding for their current side.

After the truce, the fighting continued but it was sporadic, Henry captured Oxford, Stephen raided Andover. It was however clear to see that the war was winding down.

³² Image of a 13th century noble in chain guard.

Eustace dies.

Main Story Henry: The player is sent to capture Eustace.

In August 1153 shortly after Wallingford, Eustace was ambushed, as he only had the few loyal followers from Wallingford he was quickly overwhelmed and taken prisoner. Shortly afterwards his body was found having died from a wound he had sustained in the ambush.³³

Main Story Stephen: The player finds Eustace's body and escorts the body back to Andover.

His body was found by a search party that Stephen had sent out to find him. His body was brought back to Andover where Stephen was camped.

The Treaty of Winchester (1153).

Main Story: Player is present at the End of the War and is sent to carry messages between both parties during the negotiation.

With the death of Eustace and the Church now opposed to the continuation of the war, peace negotiations started. Messengers were sent back and forth between both camps as neither faction was willing to risk a fight. Eventually in November 1153 the Treaty of Winchester was signed. In it Henry became Stephens adopted son and would become King after him.³⁴



Figure 27:Henry II



Henry became King of England in 1154. He created the Angevin Empire and turned England in to a European power.

He played a part in the murder of St Thomas Becket.

Epilogue.

Main Story: Finishes of the Story from the Treaty of Winchester in 1153 to the crowning of Henry II in 1154.

Ranulf de Gernon died in December 1153 from poisoning removing the persistent troublemaker for Stephen. However, Stephen died in October 1154 just under a year after the treaty was signed paving the way for Henry II to be crowned King of England.

Game ending: The player will be able to retire to their estates depending on what they ended up with.

³³ It is not fully known how Eustace died all the books that I studied say he died suddenly on the 17th of August 1153. However, for game play purposes this allows the player to be involved.

³⁴ The treaty was no means the end to the peace. There was evidence of the war continuing in 1154. However, when Stephen died on 22 October 1154 all need for fighting ended.

People.

The List below provides a basic bibliography of people who will be referred to within the proposed game. Primary characters have major roles within the story, Secondary characters have minor roles or are mentioned by NPCs.

Primary Characters.



Figure 28: Henry II, King of England.

Henry II, King of England.

Was born in 1133 the son of Empress Matilda and Geoffrey Plantagenet, he became King of England in December 1154 after King Stephen's death. Before he became King, he visited England several times, as a boy in 1142 where he stayed with Robert earl of Gloucester. In 1147 as a teenager, he arrived in England with a small mercenary force, he was unable to pay them and as neither his Mother nor his Uncle Robert was willing to pay for them, he had to turn to the King (Stephen) to bail him out. This is surprising given that the King and Henry were technically at war with one and another. In 1149 he again visited England, this time to be Knighted by David, King of Scotland. His final trip to England was in 1153 where after some sporadic fighting he and King Stephen met and agreed to the Treaty of Winchester.

In 1152 Henry married Eleanor of Aquitaine gaining her lands when her father died. This meant by the time Henry II became King of England he also controlled more lands in France than the French king and by 1156 had formed the Angevin Empire.³⁵

Henry of Winchester.

Also known as Henry of Blois was born in 1096, he was the younger brother of King Stephen. Henry I granted him the **Bishopric of Winchester in October 1129 and by 1139 he was the most powerful figure in the English church**. He supported his brother for the first part of the war, but when the King was captured in 1141, he switched his allegiance to Empress Matilda, he later switched back. He was the wealthiest man in England and is responsible for the treaty of Winchester. He built Winchester Palace in London.

John fitz Gilbert.

Was born around 1105 and was a minor Noble who supported Empress Matilda he controlled land around Newbury. **He lost most of his sight in the Rout of Winchester** and was a constant problem for Stephen. Eventually Stephen captured Newbury and forced him out. He was the father of the much more famous William Marshal.

³⁵ The tensions between the Kings of England and the Kings of France only grew from this point with multiple wars the best known is the 100 years' war, however in fact there were over 10 major wars between 1158 and 1500. Some of these could be possibilities for future games allowing for an eventual history of England (and after 1707 Great Briton).

Miles of Gloucester.

One of Empress Matilda's strongest supporters. He relieved Wallingford castle in 1139 for her, he also participated in the Sacking of Worcester, the battle of Lincoln and captured several castles for her including Hereford. Was made Earl of Hereford in July 1141. He fought for her during the Rout of Winchester. He was killed in a hunting accident on Christmas eve 1143, he was succeeded by his son Roger of Hereford.

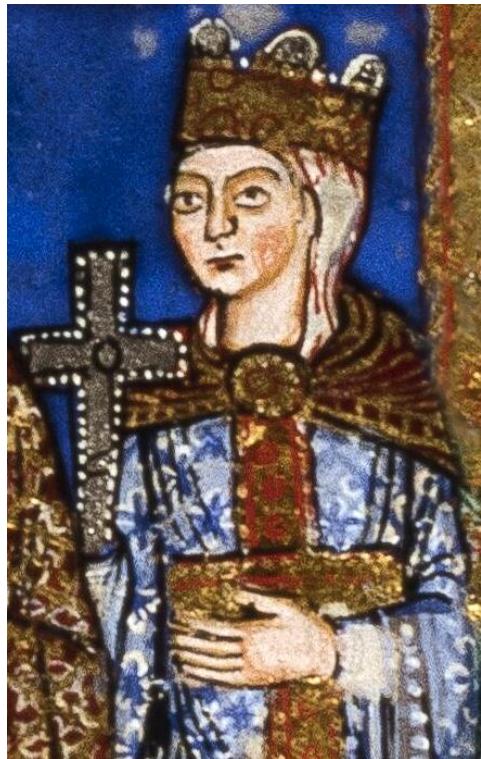


Figure 29: Empress Matilda

Matilda, Empress of the Holy Roman Empire.

Only surviving legitimate heir of Henry I, and until 1148 was married to Henry Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire until his death in 1125. Her marriage to Geoffrey Plantagenet was an unhappy one. This was clearly shown during the war as Geoffrey never once helped her in her push for the English throne.

Her eldest child was Henry II who would go on to finally achieve her goal of gaining the crown.

She never fully fit in with Norman culture because of the time she had spent in the Holy Roman Empire, where she was able to rule and wielded real power. When she finally was in that position (after Stephen was captured in 1141) she acted as if she was still the Empress. Many of the English nobles were offended by this as she was not their ruler yet and the arrogance she showed ultimately caused her to fail in becoming Queen. She eventually retired to Normandy, but she remained active in political life often acting as Henrys II representative there.

Matilda, Queen consort of England.

Was the wife of Stephen and Queen of England, During the War she was totally loyal to her husband and **she was responsible for him gaining his freedom in 1141**. She was liked by the peasantry and other Nobles and this meant she was able to quell the uprising in London. She supported Stephen until her death in 1152.

Ranulf de Gernon.

Was Earl of Chester and in effect a ruler in his own right. He spent the war fighting for Lincoln as he considered it part of his domain. He supported Matilda mostly, but sided with Stephen when it suited him. **In 1153 he was poisoned and died a few months later on the 16th of December 1153.**

Robert, 1st Earl of Gloucester.

Was born in 1090 and was the illegitimate son of Henry I. **He was Empress Matilda's main supporter during the war.** It is unlikely the war would have happened if he had never supported her. **He was a very able battle commander and bested Stephen on several occasions.** Many thought he would have made a good king, but his illegitimacy ruled him out. He died on 31 October 1147. This in affect marked the end of Empress Matilda's chances.



Figure 30: Stephen, King of England.

Stephen, King of England.

Was born around 1096 and was the grandson of William the Conquer through his Mother Adela of Normandy. As he was a younger son he was not expected to rule. But when Henry I died in 1135, Stephen usurped the throne of England from Empress Matilda. He was an honourable man and this in some ways made him an unfit ruler for the time.

He spent his whole reign trying to unite England and Normandy but spent more of his time in England fighting Empress Matilda.

During the war he made some interesting decisions, like letting Empress Matilda go just before the start of the war or fighting at Lincoln and Wilton when he was advised not to, to paying for Henry II mercenaries.

He was married to Queen Matilda and had five children. Towards the end of his reign, he tried unsuccessfully to get his oldest son crowned co-ruler alongside him.

He died in 1154 from a stomach disease.

Theobald Archbishop of Canterbury.

Was appointed Archbishop in 1136 after the death of William, he supported Stephen although the relationship was a difficult one because of the arrest of the bishops in 1139. He visited Stephen during his imprisonment in Bristol, when **he along with other members of the clergy gained permission to break their oaths to him and follow Empress Matilda**. Once Stephen was freed he reaffirmed his allegiance to him. He crowned Henry II in 1154.

William of Ypres.

Was a Flemish mercenary who commanded Stephens troops, he was active right throughout the war and took part in the Battle of Lincoln. However, when it was clear the battle was lost he led his forces away. **He stayed loyal to Stephen throughout the war and worked with Queen Matilda to free Stephen.** Stephen rewarded him with the County of Kent, and he was Earl all but in name. Although **he was fiercely loyal to Stephen he was very unpopular with the other nobles** mainly as he was a foreigner. He left England shortly after Henry II was crowned.

Secondary Characters.

Adeliza, Queen consort of England.

Married Henry I in 1121 and remarried William of Albini Earl of Arundel and Lincoln in 1138 (after Henry I's death). **She invited Empress Matilda and Robert Earl of Gloucester to stay at Arundel Castle in September 1139.** (against the wishes of her husband who was a staunch supporter of King Stephen) **She later betrayed Empress Matilda** (Robert had left by then) when King Stephen arrived.

Alan of Penthievre.

Supported Stephen who made him Earl of Cornwall in 1139. He lost Cornwall in 1140 to Reginald of Dunstanville. He was captured during the Battle of Lincoln in 1141.

Alexander of Lincoln.

Was one of the **three Bishops that were arrested** by Stephen in 1139, after the event he remained loyal to Stephen and was his representative in Rome until his death in 1148.

Brian fitz Count.

Held Wallingford Castle for Matilda and later Henry II throughout the war.

David, King of Scotland.

A vocal supporter of Empress Matilda, however he never fought for her. He used the fact that Stephen was otherwise occupied to strengthen his position in the north of England eventually gaining control of all lands north west of the Pennines, and North east of the bishopric of Durham. **He joined Empress Matilda for her expected coronation at Westminster** in 1141 although this never happened. In 1149 he knighted Empress Matilda's son Henry.

Eustace IV, Count of Boulogne.

Was born in 1130 and was Stephen's oldest son, he was made Count of Boulogne in 1146 and was heir to the throne of England until his death in 1153.

Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou.

Was born in 1113 and when he was 15 **married Empress Matilda**, they had several children one was Henry II. He and Matilda did not have the happiest of marriages and he refused to support her push for the throne of England. He spent all the war in France fighting in Normandy and by 1144 had captured it making himself Duke of Normandy. **He died in 1151**.

Geoffrey Talbot.

Rebelled against Stephen in 1138.

Gilbert de Gant.

Was a minor noble who was captured during the Battle of Lincoln in 1140.



Figure 31: Henry I, King of England

Henry I, King of England.

Was King of England from August 1100 to December 1135. He was the 4th son of William the Conqueror and Matilda of Flanders. In 1100 he married Matilda of Scotland (the sister of King David of Scotland) and they had two children, **William Atheling, and the Empress Matilda**. He also had many illegitimate children (by some accounts over 20) two of whom were Robert earl of Gloucester and Reginald de Dunstanville, both played roles in the War on supporting Empress Matilda. **He died in 1135 after eating to many lampreys (eels) against the advice of his physician.**

Harvey, Earl of Wiltshire.

Was married to Stephen's illegitimate daughter and was holder of Devizes Castle. He was forced to surrender the Castle to Empress Matilda in 1141.

Miles Beauchamp.

Rebelled against Stephen in 1138.

Nigel of Ely.

Was one of the **three Bishops that were arrested by Stephen in 1139, after the event he rebelled and supported Empress Matilda**. In 1145 he reconciled with Stephen and was a witness to the 1153 charter that left England to Henry II.

Reginald of Dunstanville.

Supported Empress Matilda who made him Earl of Cornwall in 1139. He pushed out Alan of Penthievre in 1140.

Robert Marmion.

Minor Noble died during a raid when **he fell from his horse into a pit his men had dug, he broke his thigh and then was beheaded** by a common soldier.

Roger of Hereford.

Son of Miles of Gloucester and Earl of Hereford. **He tricked Stephen to gain Worcester and revealed his true colours once he had control of the city.** He died in 1155.

Roger of Salisbury.

Was one of the **three Bishops that were arrested** by Stephen in 1139. He died in late 1139.

Walter de Pinkeney.

Minor noble who supported Stephen captured after the siege of Dunster Castle and **died after being tortured in Bristol Castle.**

William Atheling.

Henry I's only legitimate son and heir, not much is known about his life apart from he did homage to the King of France for the Dukedom of Normandy in 1120. He died in November 1120 aboard the White ship. **The Player character during the Tutorial.**

William Martel.

Prevented Stephen from being captured again during the Battle of Wilton. He was captured and **Stephen handed over Sherborne Castle to obtain his release.** This was the only time in the war that Stephen was willing to give up so much for one man.

William of Corbeil.

Was the Archbishop of Canterbury **in 1135 and crowned Stephen king**, he died in 1136.

Places.

All places will be described as they were then, not as they are now.

The game will take place in the West Country within the counties of Berkshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Wiltshire, and Worcestershire. A small part of Wales will also be included. Some areas will be instances as they are a long way from the main area of the game.

I have used the open domesday project (<https://opendomesday.org>) (A,P,Smith) for population information where possible (the populations are for 1089). All populations are approximate and would likely have grown a little by 1135.

Essential locations.

Bath.

A City in the North of Somerset with a population of around 770 (according to *opendomesday.org*). It was the location of the **failed peace conference in April 1140**. It is known for the **Roman baths** that were still in use during this time.

Bristol.

A City and Castle in the very south of Gloucestershire (no population data available). It was a stronghold for Empress Matilda throughout the war. **Stephen and other Nobles were held there as prisoners.**

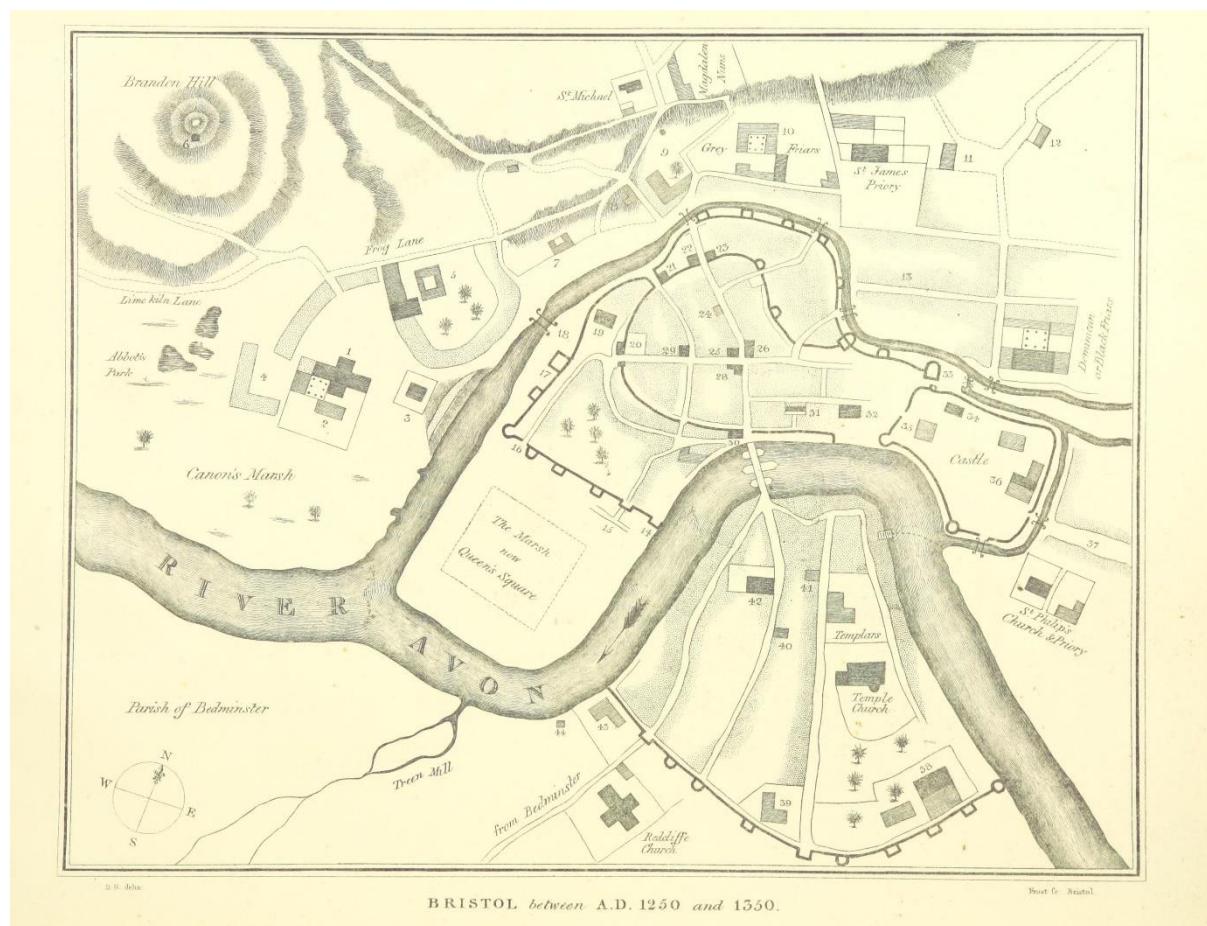


Figure 32: Bristol between 1250 and 1350 Ad

Oxford.

A town in the Southwest of Oxfordshire with a population of around 275 (this is for the three places closest to Oxford) (according to opendomesday.org). Stephen based himself in Oxford at the start of the war however by 1141 it was in Empress Matilda's hands, Stephen reclaimed it by 1142. **Home of Oxford University established in 1096.**

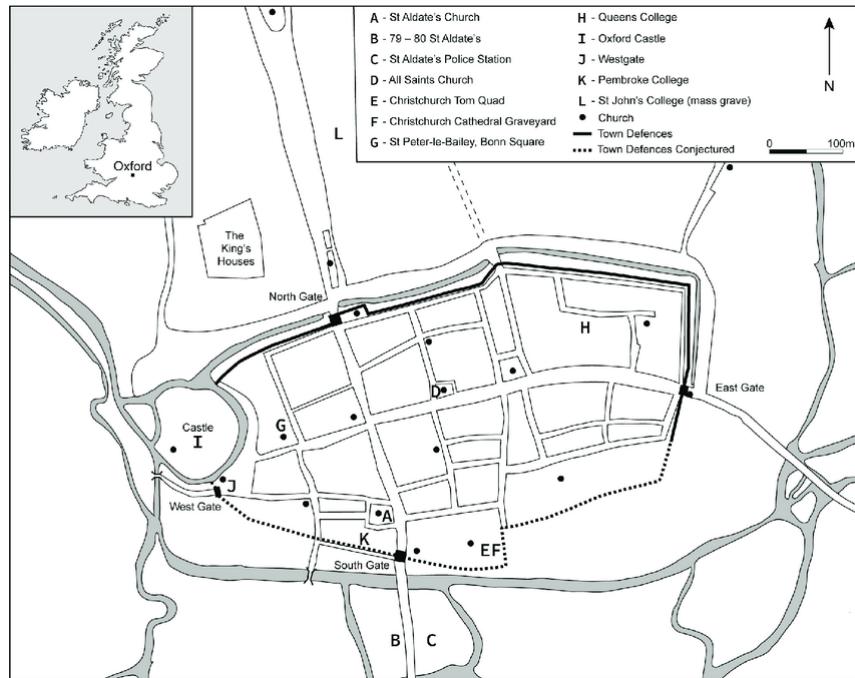


Figure 33: Oxford around 1200 Ad.

Wallingford Castle.

A Stone Castle in the East of Berkshire. It was held by Brian fitz Count for Matilda throughout the war, Stephen tried and failed to take it on several occasions.

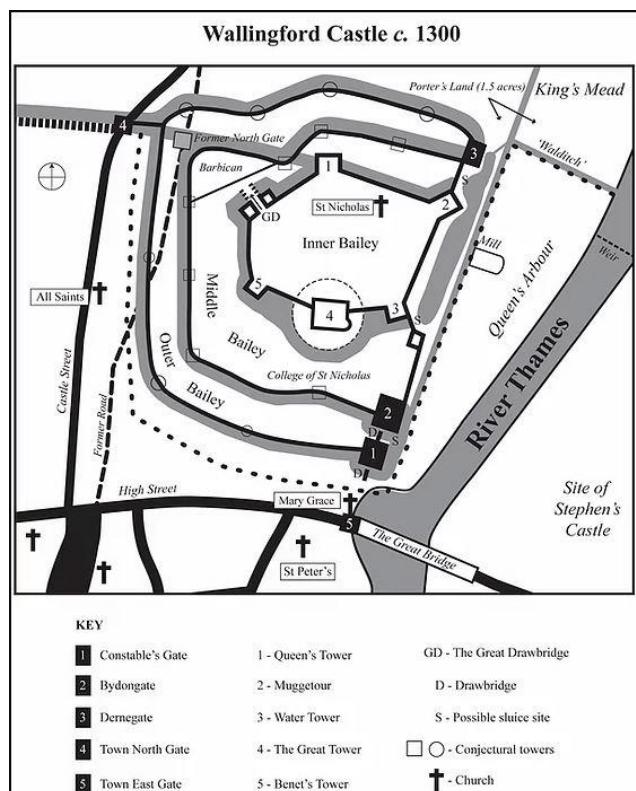


Figure 34: Wallingford castle around 1300 Ad.

Winchester.

A City in the centre of Hampshire (no population data available). It is the Site of the **Royal treasury, a royal palace, and the bishop's palace**. Holding Winchester and therefore access to the treasury was one of the three requirements that any claimant to the throne must have. Empress Matilda was forced to flee when Queen Matilda routed her forces and captured Robert of Gloucester in November 1141. **Both the 1142 and the 1153 treaties were signed here. One of the most important locations of the War.**

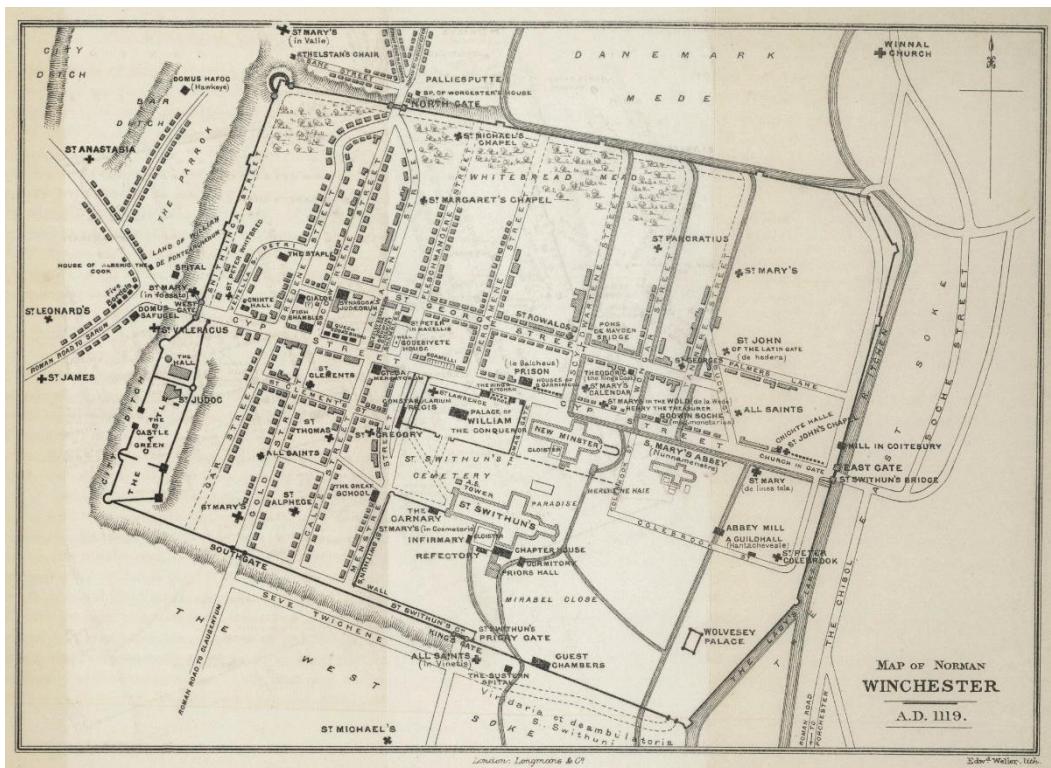


Figure 35: Winchester 1119 Ad.

Instanced locations.

Ely.

A small city on the isle of Ely in West Cambridgeshire with a population of around 460 (according to opendomesday.org). It was held by Nigel of Ely in 1140 and later fought for Matilda. It was easy to defend due to the two castles and only one way onto the isle. Ely cathedral was under construction at the time.

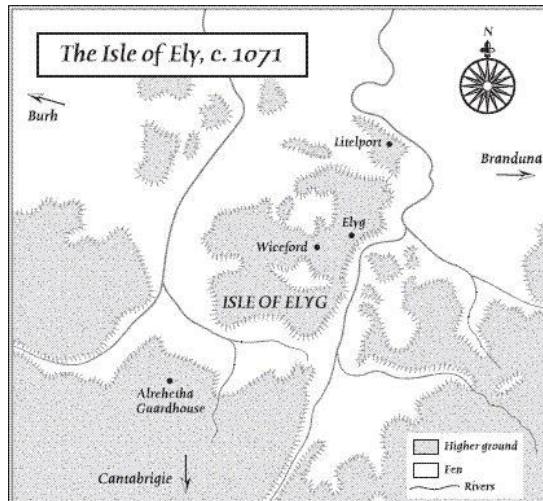


Figure 36: The Isle of Ely.

Lincoln.

A city in Lincolnshire, (no population data available) Site of Lincoln Cathedral (established 1072) and Lincoln Castle, that has the distinction of having two baileys within its motte, one of the baileys was stone. Stephen besieged the castle prior to battle of Lincoln. The battle took place just out of town in February 1141. Stephen and several other nobles were captured here.

London.

Capital of England with a population of around 1020 (according to openomesday.org). Holding it and having support of the population was one of the three key requirements needed to be crowned King or Queen of England. Westminster Abby, the Tower of London, and Winchester palace are located here.

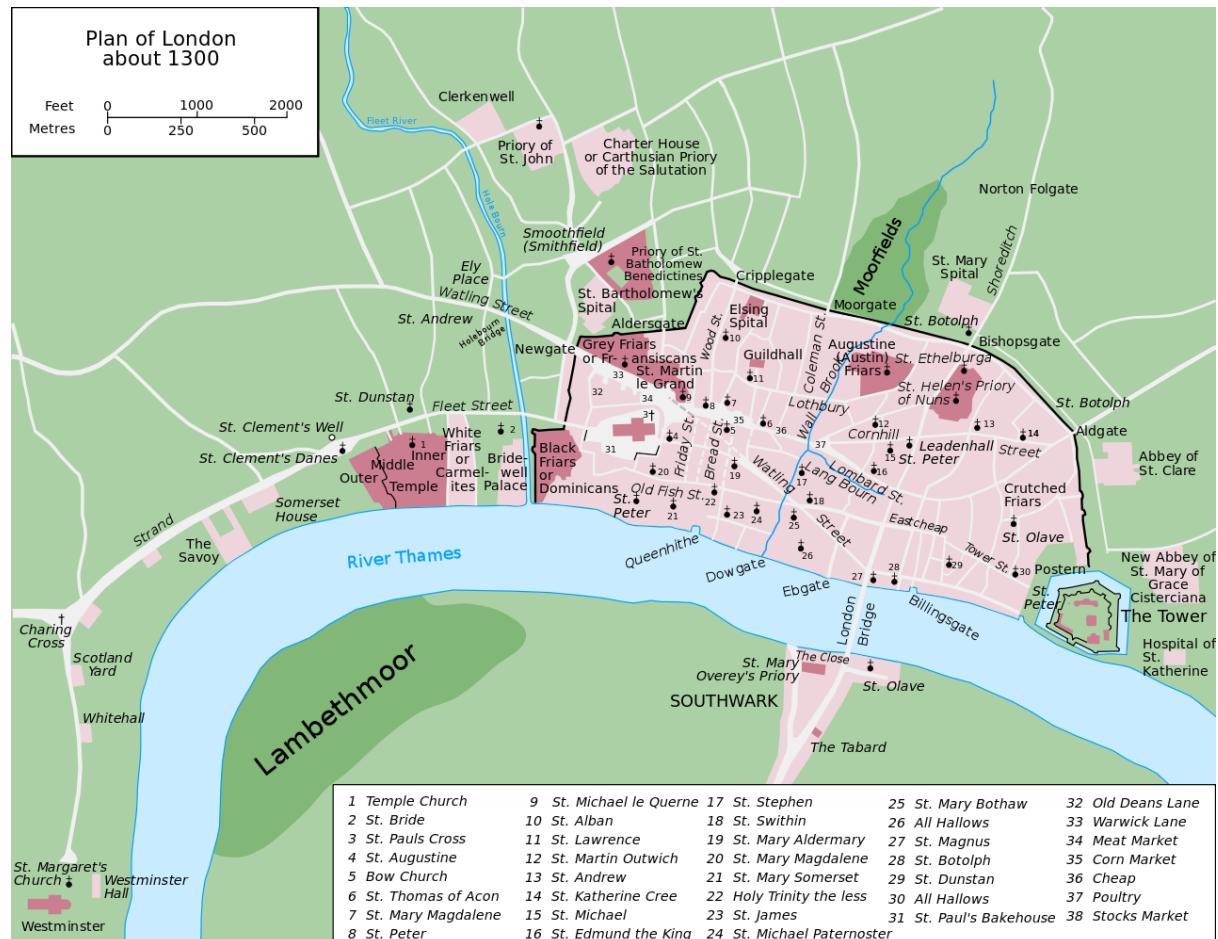


Figure 37: London around 1300 Ad.

Other locations within the playable area.

Andover.

A town north of Winchester with a population of around 535 (according to openomesday.org). It was raided by the Empress Matilda's faction in September 1141.

Bridport.

A small town (no population data available) a few miles inland of the south coast of Dorset. It was captured by Henry II in late 1149.

Castle Cary.

Was a motte and baily castle with a stone keep in Southeast Somerset. It rebelled against Stephen in 1139.

Corfe Castle.

A strong Stone motte and bailey castle on the south coast of Dorset. At the start of the war, it was in Empress Matilda's control. But by 1144 it was in Stephens hands.

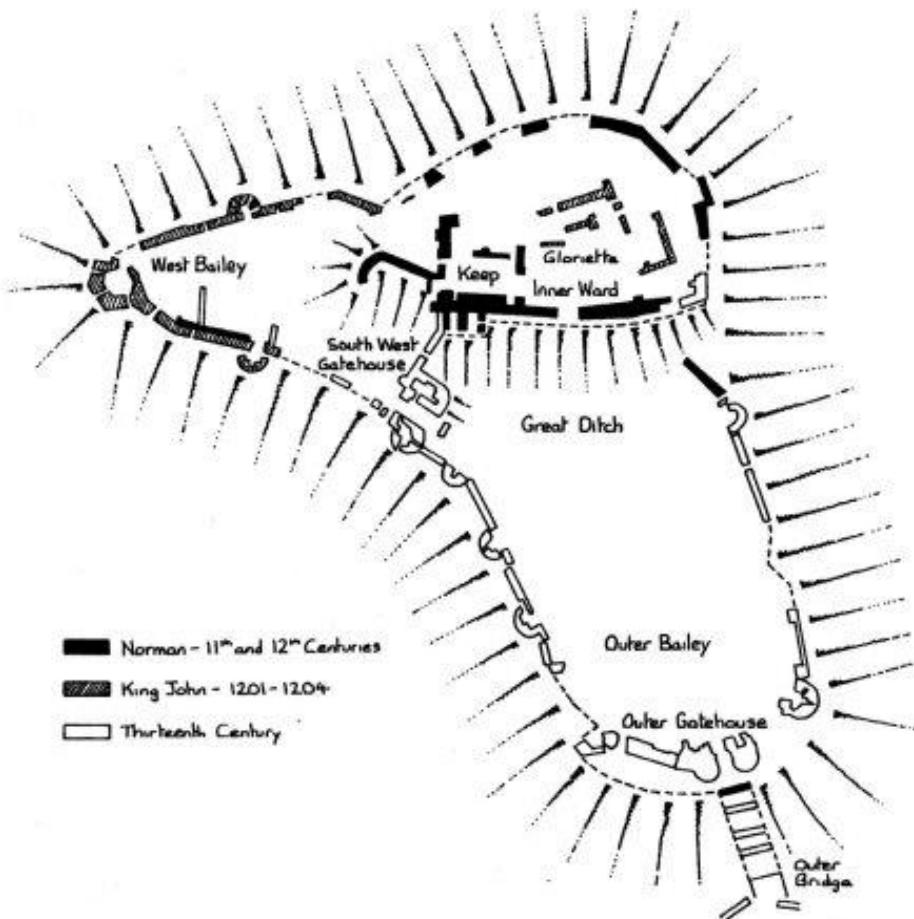


Figure 38: Corfe Castle development over time.

Devizes Castle.

Was a stone castle in central Wiltshire held for Stephen by Hervey, Earl of Wiltshire. Matilda captured it in 1141.

Dunster Castle.

Was a motte and baily castle in Northeast Somerset. It rebelled against Stephen in 1139. In 1147 Roger Earl of Hereford captured it for Empress Matilda.

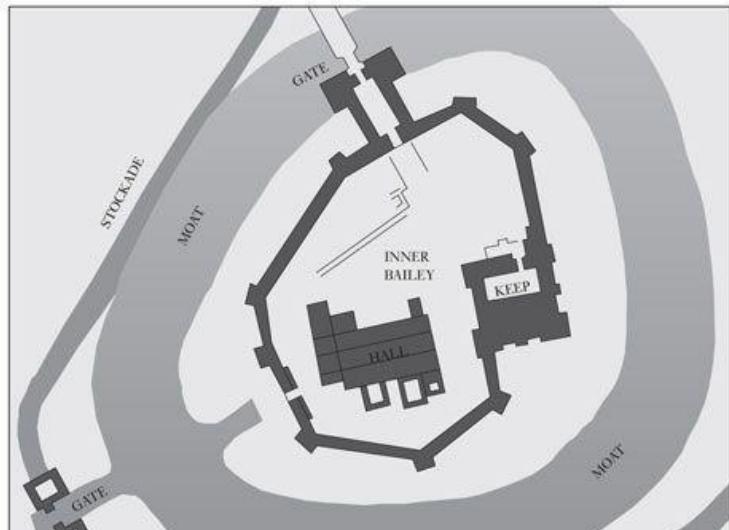


Figure 39: Devizes Castle.

[Gloucester.](#)

A city in central Gloucestershire (no population data available). Empress Matilda and Robert of Gloucester stayed there in 1139 before heading to Bristol.

[Hereford.](#)

A city in central Herefordshire with a population of around 100 (according to opendomesday.org).

[Worcester.](#)

A city in central Worcestershire (no population data available). Was raided and sacked several times during the war.

[Wareham.](#)

A small village close to Corfe Castle. It had a population of around 10 (according to opendomesday.org).

[Wilton Castle.](#)

A short-lived wooden motte and baily Castle in south Herefordshire. It was destroyed after the Siege of Wilton.

[Warfare.](#)

A short word on warfare during this time. Large battles like the Battle of Lincoln were normally avoided unless you knew victory was likely. Both factions preferred to use siege warfare, with the aim to starve the castle and force a surrender. Normally you would offer the castle garrison a chance to quit the castle peacefully, and sometimes negotiations would take place with hostages exchanged. If the offer were refused then the siege would start in earnest.

Most castles at this period were of the wooden motte and baily design. But some were being or had been upgraded to stone by the 1120s, Corfe and Wallingford are two good examples of stone castles.

Appendix.

Maps.

Below are several Maps that show the playable area both on an old map of England in the 12th century as well as on a modern google map. There is also a map showing all of England and the main events that were happening during this time.

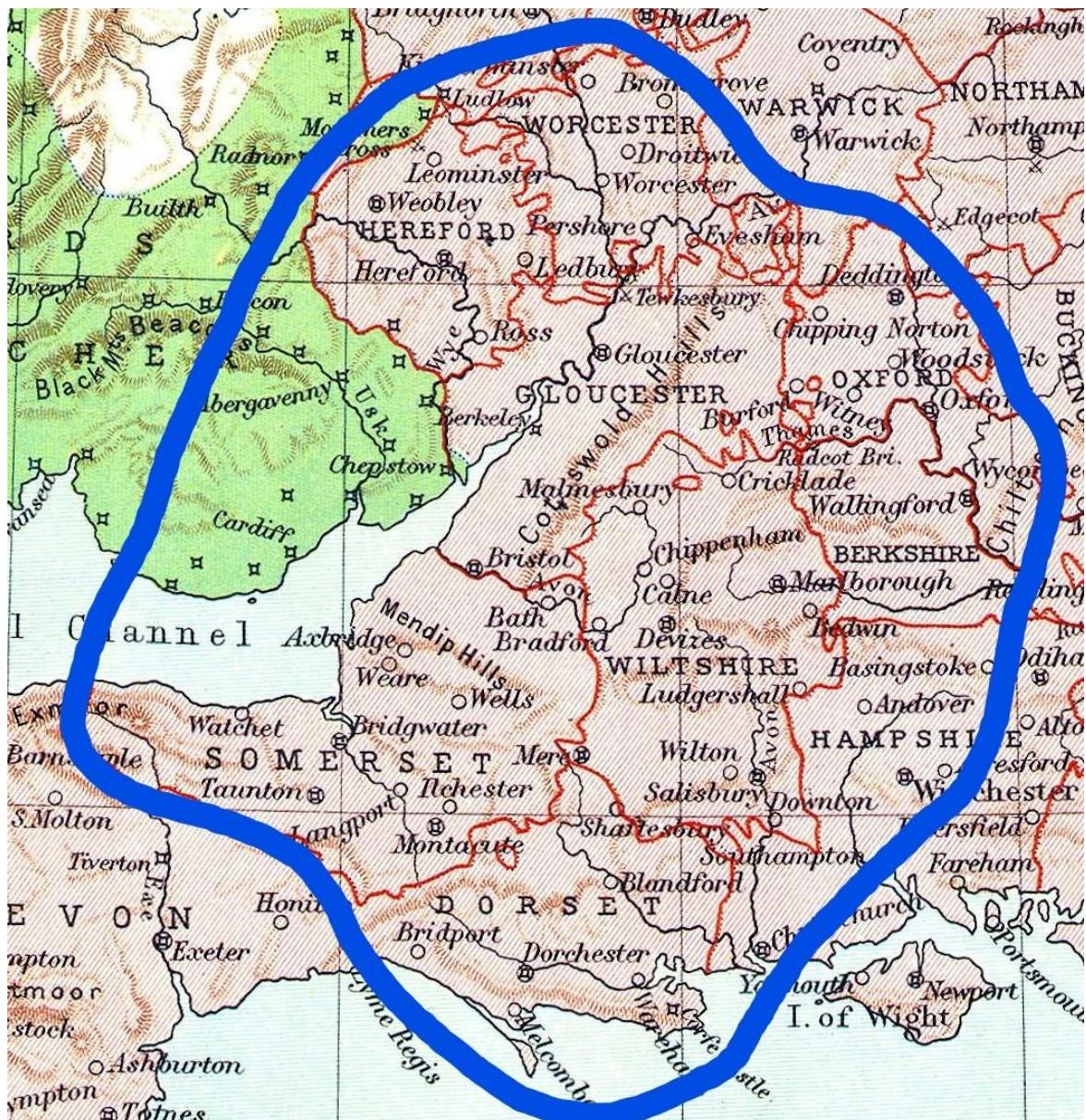


Figure 40: Playable area (not showing instanced areas)

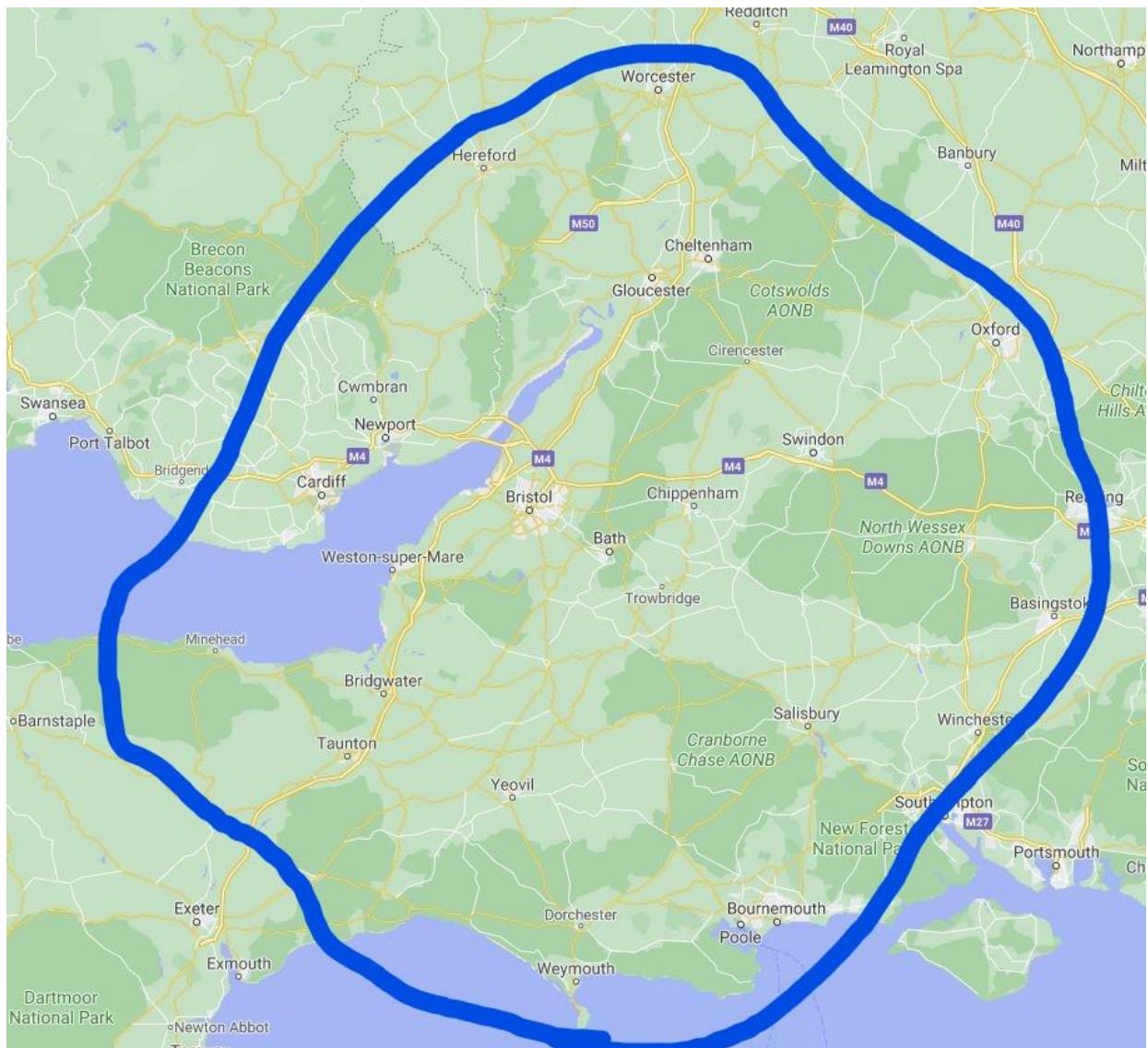


Figure 41: Playable area (not showing instanced areas)

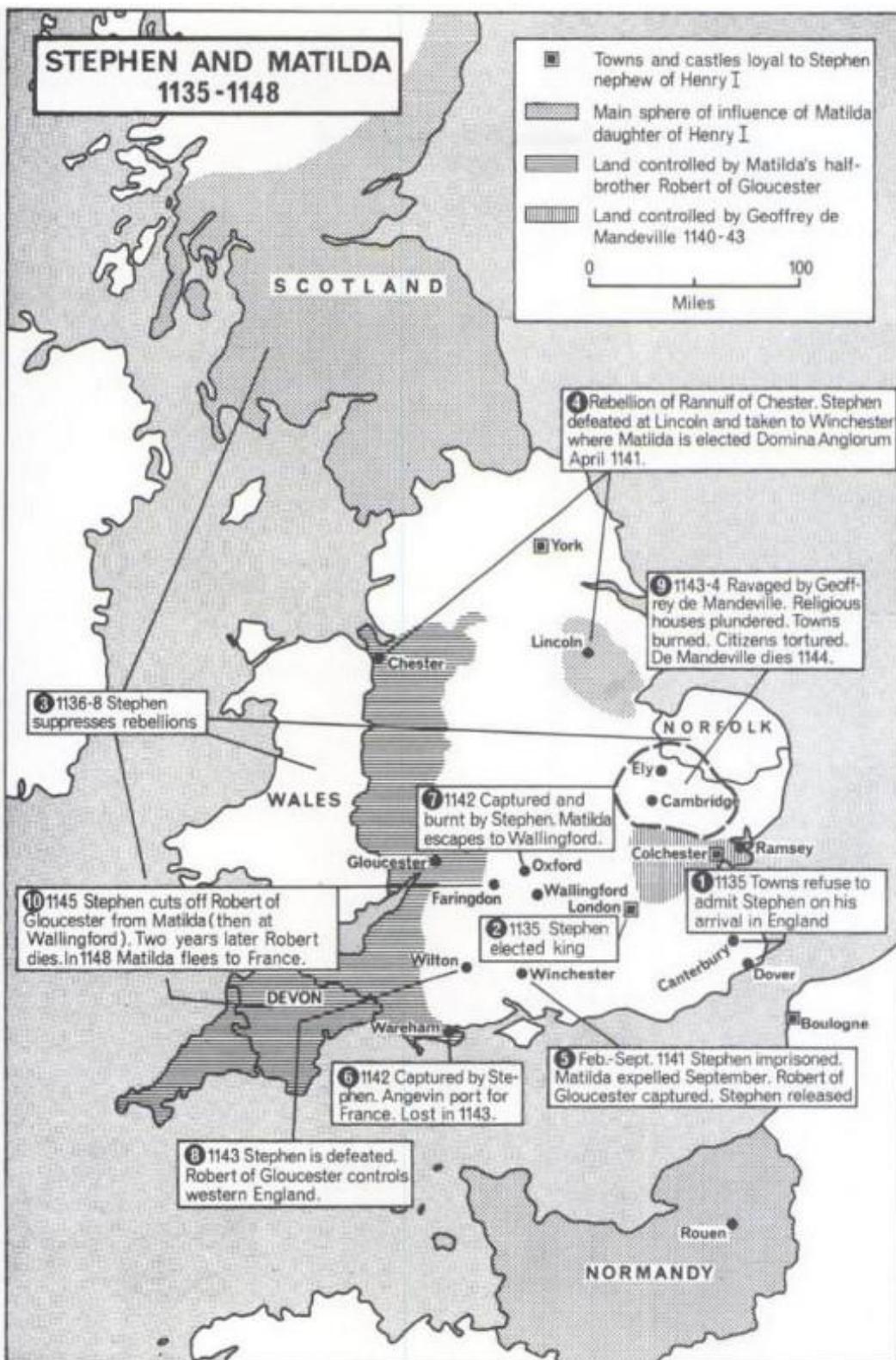
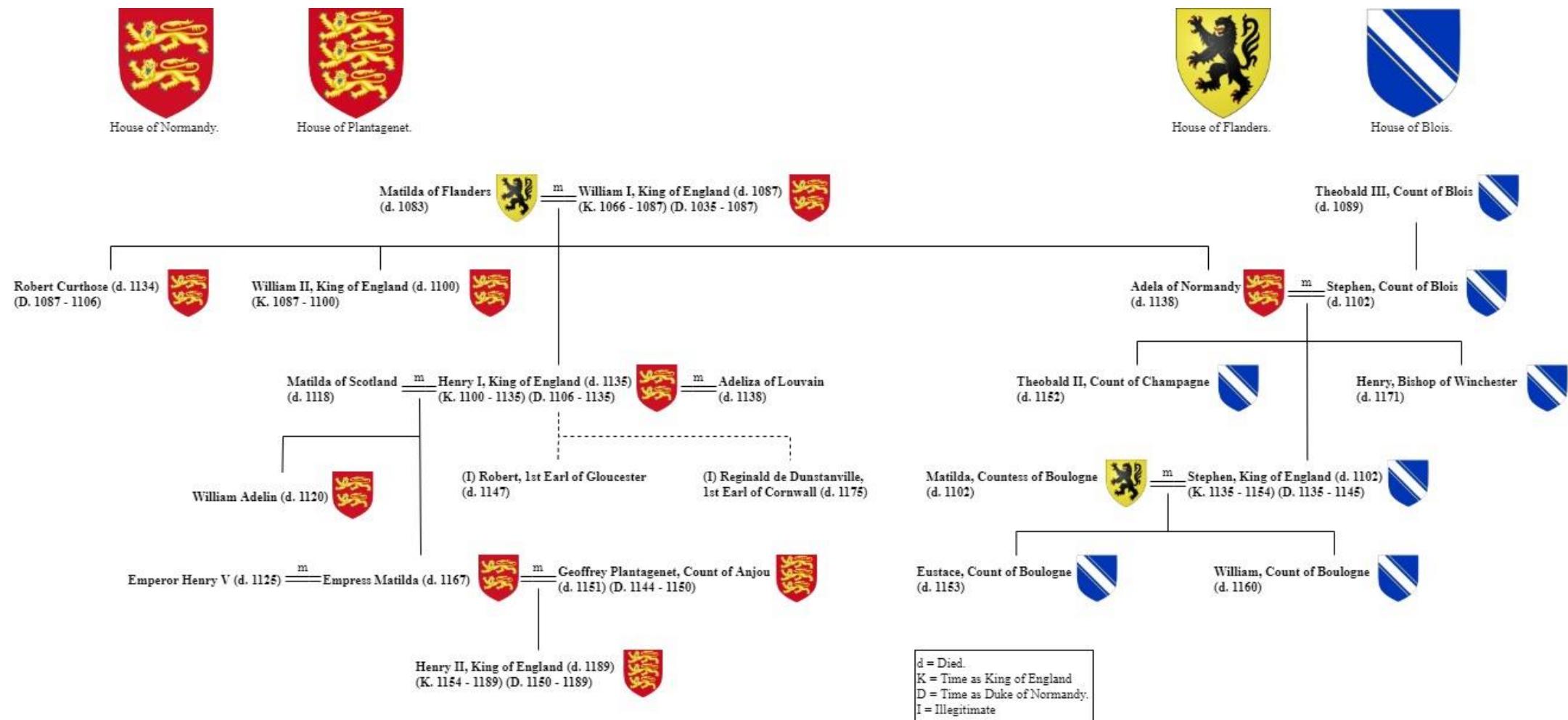


Figure 42: Some Important events throughout the war.

Family Tree



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Images.

Figure 3 and 30 – Stephen, King of England (online image) (<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-commemorations/royals/stephen>)

Figure 4 and 29 – Empress Matilda (online image)
(<https://historytheinterestingbits.com/tag/empress-matilda/>)

Figure 5 and 40 – Mediaeval England, 1100 (online image)
(https://p10.secure.hostingprod.com/@heritage-history.com/ssl/cds/british_middle_ages/html/guide_maps.html)

Figure 6 – Ranulf de Gernon (online image)
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85696826/ranulf-of-gernons>)

Figure 8 – The sinking of the White Ship (online image)
(<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/books/article-8744941/Earl-Spencers-book-White-Ship-reveals-Henry-heir-William-drowned-trying-save-sister.html>)

Figure 10 – Robert of Gloucester (online image)
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert,_1st_Earl_of_Gloucester)

Figure 11 – Henry of Winchester (online image) (<https://historytheinterestingbits.com/tag/stephen-of-blois/>)

Figure 12 – Rioters pillaging a house in Paris (online Image)
(<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP?Size=mid&ILLID=41778>)

Figure 13 - Henry and Thomas arguing (online image)
(<https://www.bl.uk/learning/images/medieval/chronicle%20of%20England%20-%20lg.jpg>)

Figure 14 – Queen Matilda (online image)
(<http://garethrussellcidevant.blogspot.com/2010/11/other-queen-life-of-matilda-of-boulogne.html>)

Figure 15 – 13th century depiction of the Second Battle of Lincoln (online image)
(<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Second-Battle-Of-Lincoln/>)

Figure 17 – The Catalan Grand Company (online image) (<https://www.history.com/news/6-legendary-mercenary-armies-from-history>)

Figure 18 – Tower of London, 1200 (online image) (<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/artists-impression-of-the-tower-of-london-site-1200-135137>)

Figure 19 – William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke (online image)
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Marshal,_1st_Earl_of_Pembroke)

Figure 21 – Edward II receiving the English crown (online image) (<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/lgbtq-history/piers-gaveston-hugh-despenser-and-the-downfall-of-edward-ii/>)

Figure 22 – Philip Augustus and Henry II taking the cross (online image)
(<https://www.medievalists.net/2019/06/how-philip-augustus-outmanoeuvred-three-english-kings/>)

Figure 23 – Medieval communication (online image) (<https://www.shorthistory.org/middle-ages/communication-in-medieval-times-how-messages-were-sent/>)

Figure 25 – David, King of Scotland (online image)
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_I_of_Scotland)

Figure 26 – 13th century knight (online image)
(<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/710091066218945620/>)

Figure 27 and 28 – Henry II, King of England (online image) (<http://www.unofficialroyalty.com/king-henry-ii-of-england/>)

Figure 31 – William the Conqueror & his sons & heirs (online image) (<https://mondes-normands.caen.fr/angleterre/histoires/4kings.htm>)

Figure 32 – Bristol between 1250 and 1350 Ad (online image)
(<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/seven-things-medieval-map-bristol-3592556>)

Figure 33 – Plan of medieval Oxford (online image) (https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Plan-of-medieval-Oxford-showing-the-sites-included-in-the-present-study-St-Johns_fig1_342724418)

Figure 34 – Wallingford castle around 1300 Ad (online image)
(<https://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk/wallingford-castle-adventure>)

Figure 35 – Winchester 1119 Ad (online image)
(<https://brill.com/view/book/edcoll/9789004421899/BP000004.xml>)

Figure 36 – The Isle of Ely 1071 Ad (online image) (<https://www.jamesaitcheson.com/england-in-1066/ely-and-the-fens/>)

Figure 37 – Map of London 1300 Ad (online image)
(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_London,_1300.svg)

Figure 38 – Corfe Castle map (online image)
(http://home.freeuk.com/gazkhan/04%20Corfe/corfe_castle_8.htm)

Figure 39 – Plan of Devizes Castle (online image) (<https://erenow.net/postclassical/stephen-and-matilda-the-civil-war-of-1139-53/8.php>)

Figure 41 – Modern view of playable area (source <https://www.google.co.uk/maps>)

Figure 42 – Stephan and Matilda 1135 – 1148 (online image)
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Arms of John fitz Gilbert (online image) (<https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q1523282>)

Arms of Ranulf de Gernon (online image)
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranulf_de_Gernon,_4th_Earl_of_Chester)

Arms of the Archbishop of Canterbury (online image)
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archbishop_of_Canterbury)

Arms of William of Ypres (online image)
(http://wappenwiki.org/index.php?title=File:William_of_Ypres.svg)

House of Blois (online image) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Blois)

House of Dunkeld (online image) (http://wappenwiki.org/index.php/House_of_Dunkeld)

House of Flanders (online image) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Flanders)

House of Normandy (online image) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Normandy)

House of Plantagenet (online image) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Plantagenet)