

In the year 793, the Holy Island of Lindisfarne was attacked by Viking raiders

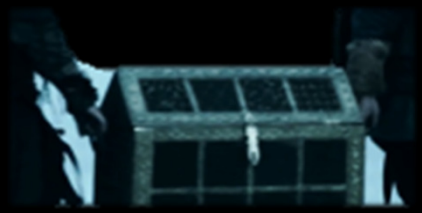
This is what the Saxons wrote about the raid. The language is hard, but you get a sense of the terror of the raid.

On the seventh of the ides of June, they reached the church of Lindisfarne, and there they miserably ravaged and pillaged everything; they trod the holy things under their polluted feet, they dug down the altars, and plundered all the treasures of the church. Some of the brethren they slew, some they carried off with them in chains, the greater number they stripped naked, insulted, and cast out of doors, and some they drowned in the sea.

"History of the Church of Durham" by the monk Simeon









After the Viking raid on Lindisfarne in 793, raids on England continued for the next 70 years...

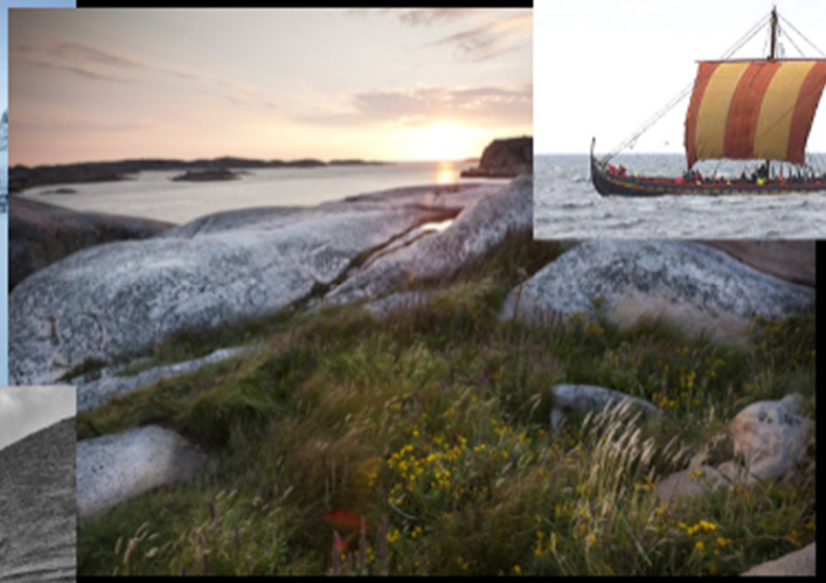
Until 865.



A great Viking Army arrived.

This time they were here to stay...







Why did the Vikings look for new lands?

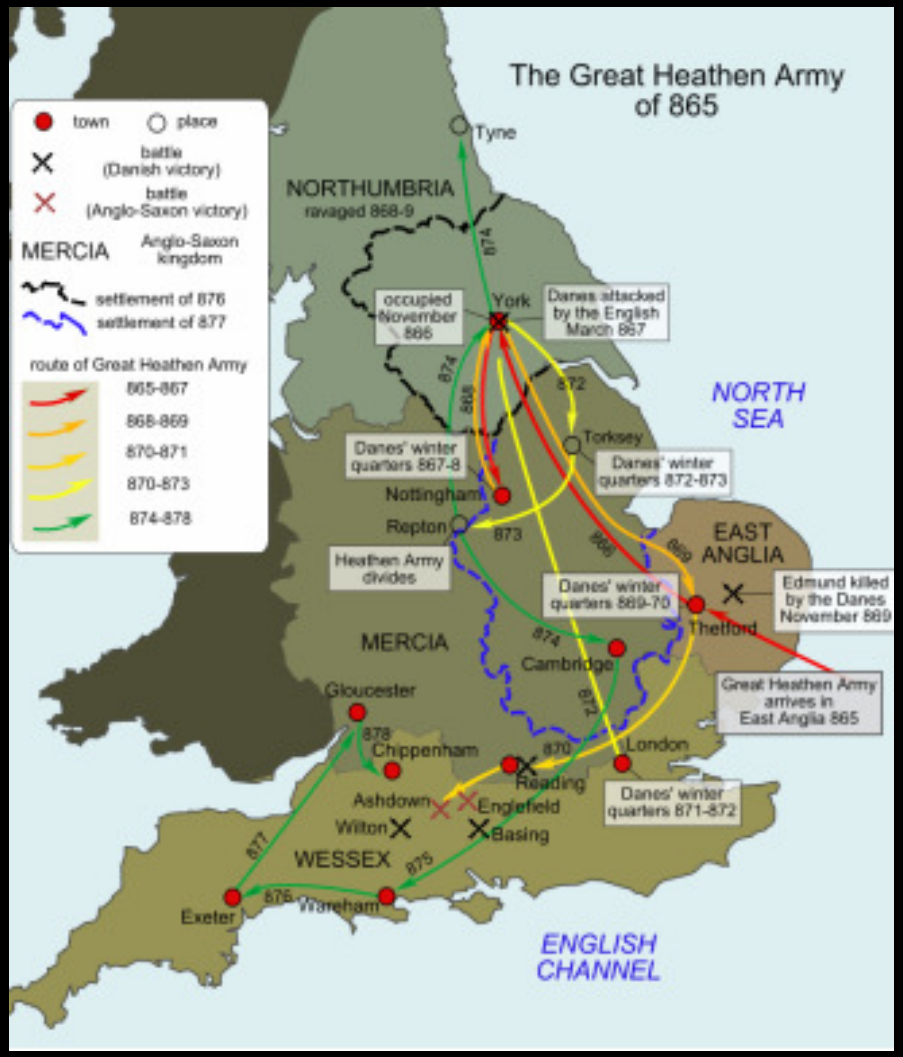
Why did the Vikings look for new lands?

- There was not enough farming land in Scandinavia
- There was too little food in Scandinavia as there was not enough arable land.
- Only the eldest son inherited their father's land. Younger sons needed to find their own land
- Changing climates made Scandinavia even colder
- There was a sudden shortage of herring in the North Sea (the Viking's main food)
- A number of ruthless kings made life unpleasant
- Having discovered an easy source of plunder in monasteries, the Vikings went back for more!
- Increasing trade meant more ships in the sea to steal from.
- The Vikings enjoyed sailing and fighting
- The Vikings were excellent sailors and fighters

In 865, a great Viking army arrived.

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The invaders initially landed in East Anglia, where the king provided them with horses for their campaign in return for peace.

Bad mistake…

Edmund, King of the East Angles, was killed by the Vikings on the orders of their leader, Ivar the Boneless
He was tied to a tree, shot full of arrows then beheaded and his head thrown away to prevent proper burial.
Much later, his head was finally reunited with the body, and both were buried in the royal residence, which later became known as Bury St Edmunds, a town in East Anglia.





The Vikings kill rival kings of Northumbria and capture York.
The city became Yorvik, the Viking capital in England.



The Vikings ruled a large part of our country. It became known as The Danelaw.

The Anglo-Saxons ruled Wessex



For almost 200 years, Viking kings and Saxon kings struggled for control of English lands

You can see on the map that what is now Northamptonshire, was in Danelaw and so was ruled by Vikings.