



HIBERN ð N ð RSE ð WIRRAL

welsh borders

The 10th century was a period of turbulent upheaval along the Welsh borders.

Wessex was consolidating Anglo Saxon influence, vikings were raiding and some Welsh rulers were trying to establish unified kingdoms & formed alliances with the English Kingdoms. Conflicts were common as the 'English' tried to assert their dominance over the Welsh Kingdoms of the borderlands.

Conflicts during this period included:

925–930s: King Athelstan established the River Wye as the boundary between England and Wales and secured the submission of Welsh kings, including Hywel Dda (Hywel the Good).

937: Battle of Brunanburh: English forces under Athelstan (with a contingent of Scandinavians) defeated an alliance of Vikings, Scots, and Strathclyde Britons. Athelstan's death in 939 left the vikings to seize back control of York, and it was not finally reconquered until 954.

940: Idwal Foel, king of Gwynedd, invaded England but was driven back and subsequently lost his lands.

962: King Edgar the Peaceful of England launched an invasion into Gwynedd, highlighting ongoing tensions.

985: Hywel ap Ieuaf of Gwynedd was killed while fighting against Ælfhere, the Ealdorman of Mercia, indicating continued conflict on the border.

Border regions like Chirbury, Maesbury, and Whittington in Shropshire continued to be affected by the uneasy, shifting border and sporadic, smaller-scale conflicts in the late 10th Century.

Rulers like Hywel Dda tried to centralize power and create a more cohesive state in the 10th century but Welsh kingdoms remained fragmented and often at odds with one another, making them vulnerable to English intervention.