

- Wergild** → Fine paid to the victim's family, usually for murder
- Capital Punishment** → Death penalty, usually for treason or arson
- Corporal Punishment** → Physically hurting the criminal e.g. mutilation
- Stocks and Pillory** → Humiliating public punishment, used for drunkenness or public disorder



- Key Medieval Beliefs:**
- Community had a role in keeping order
 - God was ultimate judge
 - Social status of criminal and victim influences punishment

In 1351 the punishment for treason was to be hung, drawn and quartered

Trial by Ordeal
The accused criminal subject to final trial to allow God to have final verdict - e.g. criminals were thrown in a pond to see if water rejected them - innocent if sank
Pope Innocent II ended this practice in 1215

If a criminal was running away they could **claim sanctuary** at a church - they would be protected from local law enforcement for 40 days, and after could leave the country of face trial



Hue & Cry
Shouting for help if witness a crime and anyone who heard was required to chase criminal

CRIME & PUNISHMENT IN BRITAIN c1000- c1500

Tithings
All men were put into tithings and were responsible for ensuring no one in the group committed crimes

Benefit of the clergy meant claiming to be a churchman in order to be tried in more lenient church courts

William the Conqueror came to power after the Battle of Hastings in 1066



Law was now **centralised** rather than managed in local communities - it was dealt with nationally as well as locally

William built many **castles** to assert power, they helped to watch over the community and to intimidate people out of committing crime



William declared large areas of land to be **royal forests**:

- Hunting on this land became a crime called poaching
- Bringing weapons into the royal forests was a crime
- The forests were a source of royal income



William wanted to consolidate his authority so made punishments harsher, **execution** was now used more often