Crime and Punishment

Laws and Crimes Timeline

Anglo Saxon England

Crimes

Pre-Anglo Saxon period - Crimes solved through blood feuds, victim (or their family) could take revenge.

By 1000AD, England was mostly made up of farming communities, who shared responsibility for maintaining law and order:

\* Most crimes were crime against property - e.g., theft.

\* Poaching was illegal; however, it was a social crime - most people ignored it as they needed to hunt to survive.

Norman England

Laws

1066 Norman Invasion - William Duke of Normandy became King of England.

The Normans built castles to protect themselves and their authority.

Forest Laws - Forests were the King's land, so could not cut down trees for fuel.

* Also, those living in forests could not own dogs, or use bows and arrows.
* Most people ignored these new rules, as they had to break the rules in order to survive.

Later Middle Ages

Laws

New law passed - Statute of Labourers, made it illegal to:

* Demand higher wages from your Lord
* Move away from your Lord's land to seek higher wages elsewhere
* Work for more than a set minimum wage

1351 Treason Act - High treason was plotting to harm the King, or his family. The punishment was hung, drawing and quartering.

Laws were passed against heresy (speaking out against the church)