

A famous figure of Anglo-Saxon England, Alfred the Great was in the news in March when it emerged that his supposed remains had been excavated from a known burial site in Winchester. One of his achievements is to have stood up to Viking armies, building defences across southern England. John Baker and Stuart Brookes have been researching the evidence on the ground

How Alfred really saved England from the Vikings

King Alfred is famed as a visionary architect of the nation. He surrounded himself with distinguished scholars and churchmen, and encouraged learning and English nationality, laying important foundations for the late Anglo-Saxon state. This cultural renaissance was achieved on the back of military success. He beat the Vikings, and introduced reforms that created a system of strongholds, a longer-serving army, and new naval forces.

It is a well known story, but how true

