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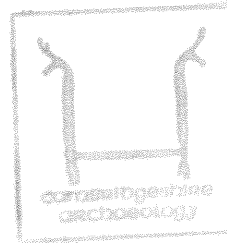
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# Malton Farm, Orwell

## An Archaeological Survey



Cambridgeshire  
County Council  
Rural Strategy



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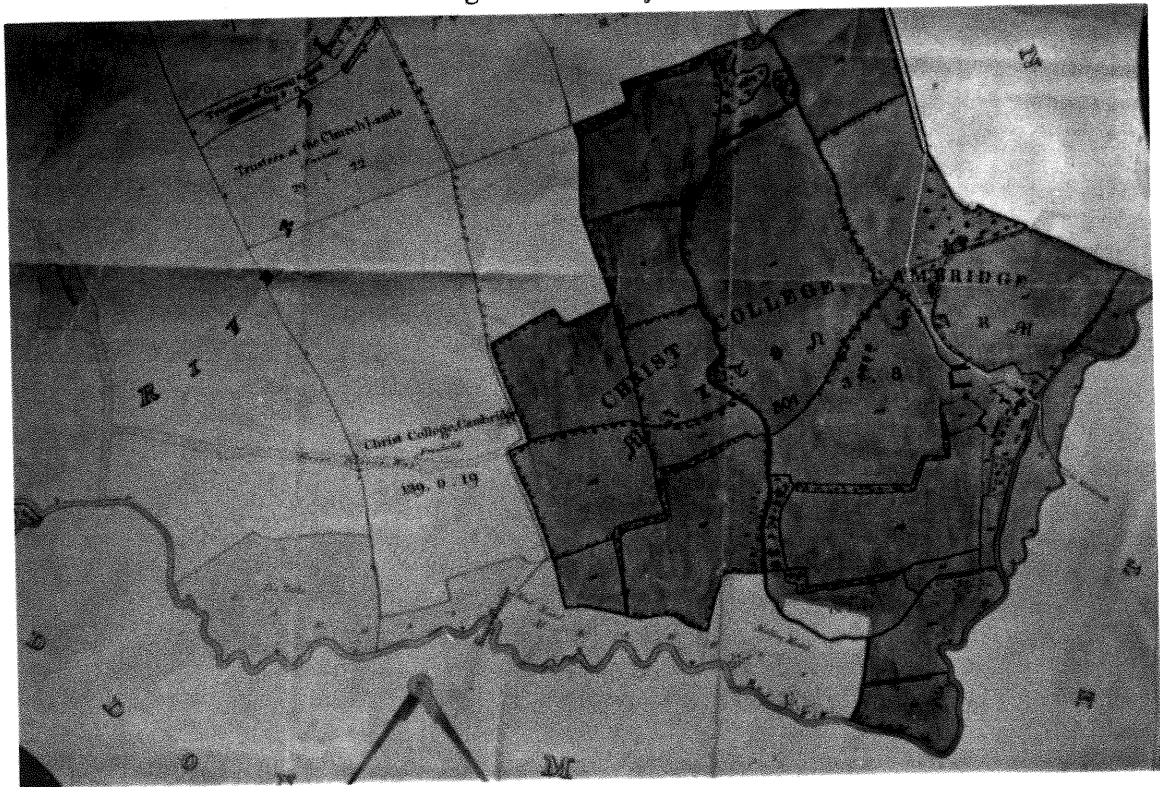
## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT MALTON FARM, ORWELL

TL360480  
TL353481 - TL373485

October 1990

Steve Kemp & Tim Malim  
With Historical Research by  
Alison Taylor

Archaeology Office  
Rural Management Section  
Department of Property  
Cambridgeshire County Council





ORWELL CP

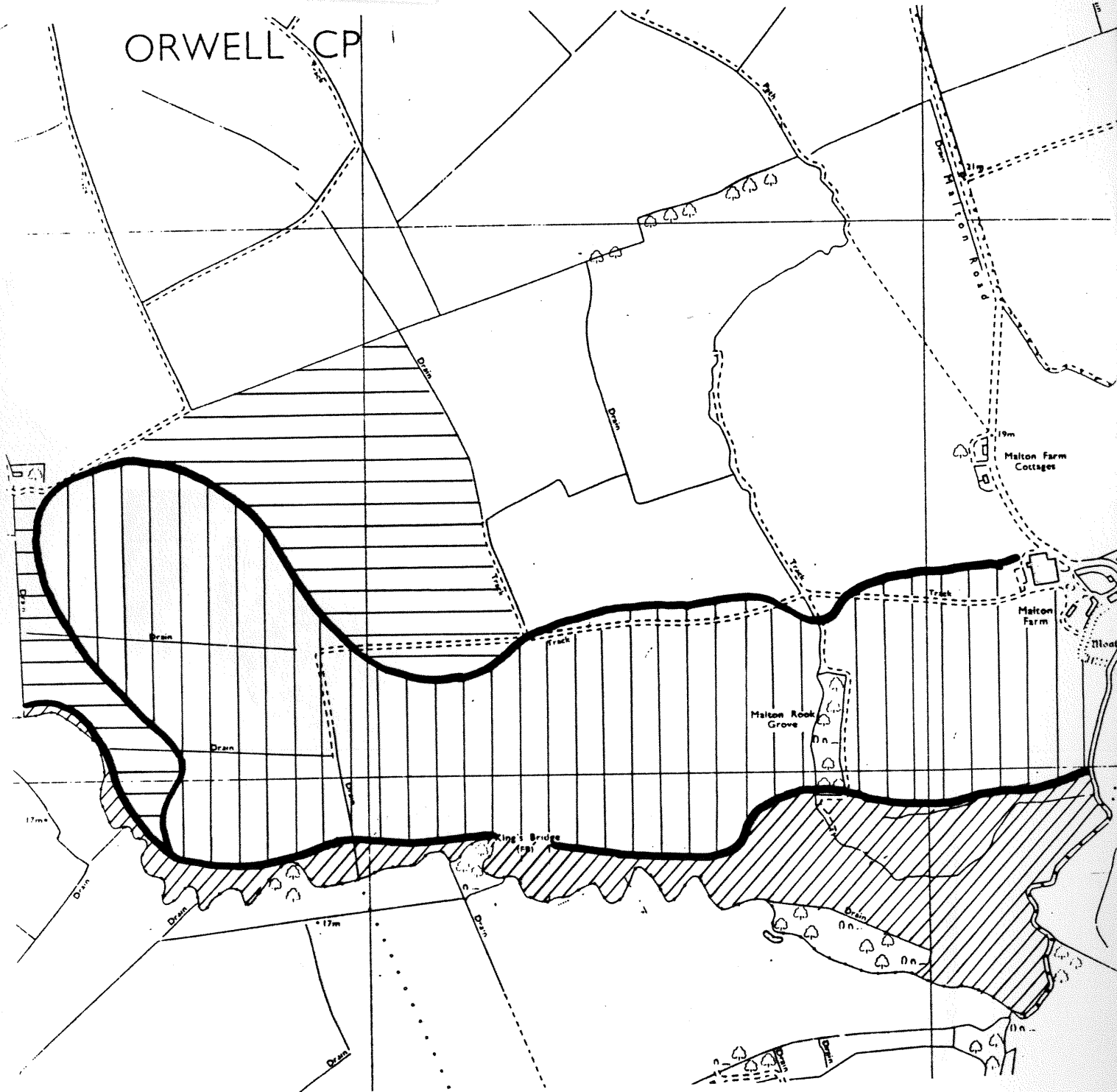


Fig I Geological background

Key  
 /// Alluvium  
 ||| Chalk marl  
 === Gault clay

Information from the Geological Survey of Great Britain,  
 sheet 204, Drift edition.

## Malton Farm, Orwell

An Archaeological survey in advance of  
construction of a golf course

### 1) SUMMARY OF RESULTS

An area of 91 hectares was field walked, and historical records of the area were consulted. A few prehistoric flints, sparse scatters of Iron Age and Roman sherds, two early Saxon sherds, and slightly denser scatters of Medieval pottery were recovered, but no buildings or other identifiable features were noted. These results gave a general impression of slight concentration of Prehistoric activity in the west of the study area, and a Roman and Medieval settlement site to the south-west of Malton Rook Grove, partially preserved by alluvial deposits from the River Rhee. Historical records give a picture of a small Medieval village, deserted during the 15th century except for Malton Farm itself, which has been used ever since as a farmhouse.

### 2) INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1) Project background

Proposals for a 36 hole golf course to be constructed north of the river Rhee and running between Field Barn and Malton Farm, affected an area where archaeological finds had been reported, and where sites near the river were expected.

An archaeological assessment was commissioned by the developer, D.Gandy of Malton Farm, and the work was carried out by the Archaeology Office of Cambridgeshire County Council over two weeks during early October.

#### 2.2) Geological and topographical background

The area of the proposed golf course lies on the modern edge of the River Rhee. Solid geology consists of bands of river alluvium, chalk marl and gault clay (see fig.1). It is low-lying with a maximum height of 19m OD, and until recently has been within the floodplain of the River Cam/Rhee.

Theoretically the river gives access to Cambridge, the Fens and the Wash. In practice, it is unlikely that it was navigable, except by very small craft to this point.

#### 2.3) Historical background

The village of Malton does not appear in Domesday Book and is first mentioned (as Maketun) in 1200 although it is generally accepted as an Anglo Saxon foundation (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, 1968; Victoria County History, 1973). Its name is said to be derived from "Mealca's Farm", "Mealca" being an unrecorded personal name (Reaney, 1943). Various place names, (Melketon (e), Masketun, Mauketon) are recorded before "Malton" appears in 1363. Subsequent spellings include "Maweton" and Molton.

Malton's lifespan as an independent parish is not precisely known. By 1216 (possibly much earlier) it was a separate parish with its own church. In 1765 (again it could be earlier) its poor rate was assessed with Orwell's, and for the late 18th century onwards it was considered part of Orwell.

During the 13th century Malton was clearly a substantial village. In 1279, the manor was split between Roger Thornton and Philip St Clowe, sons-in-law of Nicholas le Vavassour. At that time there were 7 villeins, 10 cottagers, and 3 free tenants. Forty-five acres were held freely as minor estates. By 1428, however, it was seriously depopulated and only 3 residents are recorded. Obviously the 14th century had been disastrous. Presumably the Black Death in the middle of that century took a heavy toll and most of the survivors preferred to leave these heavy low-lying fields for the better land that was becoming available elsewhere when the overall population of England fell by at least 30%.



Fig II

1680 Details from an estate map, held by  
Cambridge University Library. A copy is held by CRO.  
Note the field-names including "Meade" or "Ponds".

In 1506 the whole manor was acquired by Margaret, Countess of Richmond, who granted it to Christs College "so that the said masters and scholars may resort thither, and there to tarry in time of contagious sickness at Cambridge and exercise their learning and studies." She made provision for Malton Farm (probably built by William Horne or his son Thomas) to be enlarged and repaired for these scholars, but they also built themselves a larger house nearby, which was demolished between 1609-22. Meanwhile the house and farm were tenanted. The estate was held by Christs College until the late 1970's.

The small parish church of St Nicholas was in use in 1216 when it was recorded that it had the right of sanctuary, but was pulled down by Christs College, 1509-10, except for the chancel. Even this was said to be decayed and used as a cowshed, but the curate of Shepreth was still paid a stipend (£10 pa) to serve there in 1620 so there might have been some exaggeration. It was still recognisable in 1747, with 3 small windows and "elegant pillars", though used as a thatched barn. It was described as a ruin in 1792, and the last traces of walls were removed in the 1960's. In the middle ages there had been a rectory, but no trace of this is known. A double rectangular moat, fed by the Rhee which also forms the east side was presumably the site of the manor which preceded the building of the present farmhouse.

A mill is mentioned in Domesday Book. This would have been a water mill on the Rhee, next to the bridge where the banks have been artificially widened.

Medieval trackways which crossed Malton are Great and Little Potter's Ways and Farthing Way(or Whaddon Footway) which led to Kings Bridge (see fig. III).

The fields of this survey apparently always suffered waterlogging. Dykes were cut to improve drainage and were already being cleaned and repaired in the 15th century, but still fields bore names such as Marsh Close (1590), Malton Ponds (1593), Meere furlong (1600) . In the early 19th century most Malton land was drained, but it was still considered only suitable for rough grazing.

Land at Malton was rich in coprolites and records in Christ's College archives show that rights to dig were sold regularly between 1863 and 1879. Much of the area of this survey must have been quarried at this time, but, despite the extensive correspondence, which is held by the College, no maps showing areas affected could be found in the college archives.

#### 2.4) Archaeological background

Until the present investigations archaeological material had been recovered from sources such as dredging, metal detecting, and chance finds recovered and reported by local enthusiasts (see Appendix I). Apart from the presence of upstanding buildings, such as parts of the north west half of the present farm house, Malton Farm (TL/3722/4838) and the Medieval moat (TL/373/482) finds have included scatters of building material associated with Iron age, Roman and Medieval pottery (TL/354/483) to (TL357/480), which may indicate the presence of an occupation site in the vicinity. A similar range of Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered near Field Barn next to the Roman road, (exact location unknown). Other items include an Iron Age bone weaving comb and a Roman bronze mirror collected as stray finds, possibly near Malton Farm. Dredging of the river during the late 1960's are said to have yielded one "bronze javelin", a "Viking spear" and a number of pieces of Roman pottery, including Nene Valley and Samian wares.

Recent excavations of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery 1 kilometre to the north have focused attention on this locality, and it has been mooted that Malton could have been the location of the settlement associated with this cemetery.

Fig III

1837 Enclosure Maps, held in CRO.  
Note the routes of Great Potters Way, and  
Whaddon Footway (also known as Farthing Way) leading to  
Kings Bridge.  
The field name "Mad Mead" survives but has been  
transferred to the field previously known as  
"Long Mad Meade". "The Tofts" might indicate medieval  
settlement, but this is not borne out by archaeological  
remains. A parkland type landscape and seasonal  
("Lammas") meadow covers much of the area.



### 3) METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1) Methods of archaeological survey

There are a number of techniques available for rapid survey of areas of archaeological potential. Each have their own advantages and draw-backs, and the quality and type of information gained will be partly determined by which method has been chosen for the job. The geological, hydrological, and crop condition of the terrain will influence which techniques are likely to be most productive. Important considerations will be availability of experienced staff, time and money for the project. On arable land, the time of year and crop condition are critical factors, normally giving a very small "window" for archaeological survey work, especially field-walking, which requires good visibility on tilled land without dense crop growth.

Air photographs can provide extensive coverage of an area, showing up principal components of a buried landscape. At Malton such aerial coverage as does exist shows no archaeological features.

Stray finds, including those found by metal detecting, reveal the presence of human activity dated to the period of the artifact, but these objects can be poor provenanced, and have lost some archaeological value by being removed from their stratigraphic contexts.

Field walking (purposely walking a field to look for artefacts or other indicators of human activity, most commonly pottery or flintwork) on a casual basis gives an indication of activity relating to the period from which the collected finds are dated, and again is often poorly provenanced.

Systematic field walking by an experienced team in good conditions (ploughed and weathered soil, with reasonably bright even light) can produce well provenanced find spots, allowing a distribution of sites by period to be plotted.

Inclusion of statistical sampling allows not only good provenancing but artifact collection groups that have added value in that sites can be viably compared to one another.

Over grassed areas where field walking is not a viable form of survey, and to increase knowledge about a site under all sorts of conditions, surveying can be undertaken through geophysical methods. Geophysical prospecting can detect features such as ditches, walls, banks and pits beneath the soil, although different forms of prospecting techniques need to be used under varying ground conditions, and these methods can be expensive.

Trial excavation gives much detailed stratigraphic information, and long thin trenches across a site can effectively assess the archaeological potential of the area. This can be a costly exercise, but is essential in certain soil conditions (eg cultivation covering prehistoric features) and on certain sites (eg early prehistoric sites) which are not responding well to other methods.

#### 3.2) Factors that determined the type of survey used at Malton

For the initial evaluation work at Malton Farm systematic fieldwalking was chosen as the preferred method of assessment. Consideration of the need to cover a large area, the type of archaeological activity expected to be encountered, and the speed at which a small experienced team could finish this work, were all factors in deciding on this method. The results were required within a month of the project's inception so as to be available for inclusion in the planning submission, and as rape and wheat had already been planted crop growth would have become a problem within a very short time. It was felt that known archaeological sites from the study area did not warrant expensive geophysical prospecting, unless results from this initial fieldwalking proved to be exceptionally interesting.

#### 3.3) Technique employed for the Malton assessment

The survey area was organised into 63 transects 30 metres apart with a baseline surveyed in across the fields. Each member of the team walked in a recorded direction along individual transects, initially recording what they found as they proceeded. Finds were collected and bagged up every 30 metres along each transect, and recorded within categories of flint, Prehistoric pottery, Roman coarse and fine wares and Medieval pottery. This gave the opportunity to plot distributions on-site. This distribution plan was then corrected where necessary once the finds had been washed and analysed by Morag Woudhuysen during the analysis and report preparation stage of the project.

Tile, bone and burnt flint were recorded but not collected due to the problems of assigning such material to specific periods and the storage of a large quantity of material of minimal information value. Post-medieval pottery was also not collected, but its presence was recorded during fieldwalking.



#### 4) RESULTS

(See figs. V - XI)

##### 4.1) Expected distribution of archaeology

Topographically the study area fits into three main units: the area adjacent to the river Rhee and subject to flooding; the "high land" of the east-west ridge along which the Medieval track Great Potters Way runs; and chalk marl north of this, between the track and the low river area to the south. Each of these zones have their own attractions and limitations which would have determined their usage throughout history, and also currently influence the likelihood of detecting this usage.

Lowland that was liable to flood would not have been attractive arable land, but would have been suitable for summer grazing. However if the river was being used as a means for transport then finds beside it are to be expected, through casual loss, often brought to light as the result of dredging. River crossings would also be prime areas of archaeological potential.

It is only to be expected that the highest area would be chosen for walking on, and indeed we find the Great Potters Way running along the high ridge parallel to the river through the mid-north of the study area, running west from the Medieval village of Malton.

Areas of chalk marl would have been suitable for arable cultivation, although pasture may have predominated for most periods. There is also an area of heavy gault clay that comes into the northern part of the area surveyed, and this would have been difficult to plough even in Medieval times.

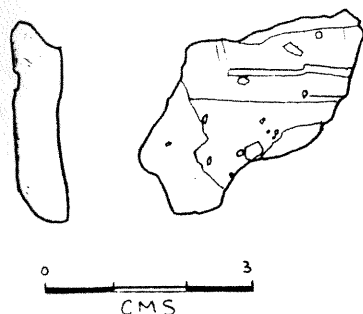
##### 4.2) New sites

The only concentration of pottery sherds that represent a previously unknown site was found in the lowland zone, but on a marked rise approximately 120 metres in diameter with a 50 metre diameter platform in the centre of the north part. It rises about 1m - 1.5m above the river plain possibly partly due to the accumulation of occupation debris and as such would always have been an attractive spot for human activity or settlement. The site shows as a spread of Romano-British pottery, with fragments of imported stones, and a scatter of unidentifiable pottery sherds which may date to Iron Age or Medieval times, and could even be locally produced coarse Romano-British wares. One Saxo-Norman sherd was identified. A few worked, or fire-cracked, flints, and animal bone, were also to be found in this area. The fragments of imported stone may have been part of querns, or used for building purposes. Further information on this site would only be possible by geophysical prospecting or excavation.

##### 4.3) General conclusions

Generally the study area has produced a low concentration of many different types and fabrics of pottery dating to all periods from Iron Age times to the present. The pottery assemblage consists of heavily abraded and small sherds, and would seem to represent the results of manuring spread. Only one piece of Samian looks to be freshly broken by the plough. There is a notable absence of many pottery types to be expected in this region, throughout all periods. Identifiable imported wares are almost entirely lacking, which is very unusual in Roman and Medieval times, although it would be expected in Iron Age and Early Saxon contexts. This leads us to conclude that whatever settlements existed in the study area used locally made pottery, with little affinity to the pottery traditions found in the region. For earlier prehistoric periods there is a very thin background noise of worked flints, but with several individually interesting pieces.

From the pottery evidence the study area appears to have had one very short-lived early Romano-British settlement, and to have supported a fairly poor Medieval community, which from historical sources we know to be centred around the present day buildings of Malton Farm.



Saxo-Norman sherd

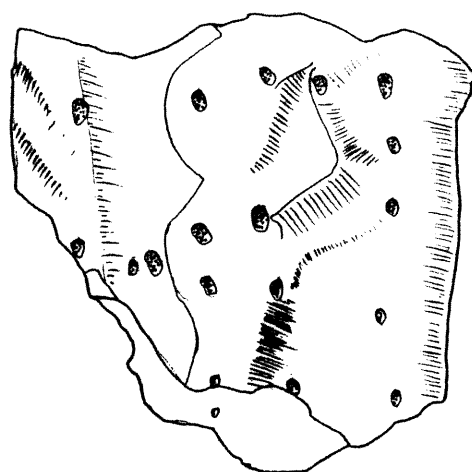
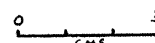
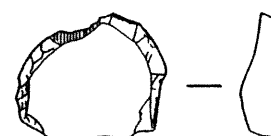
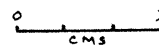
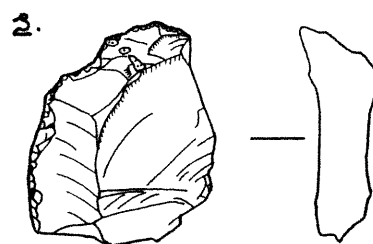
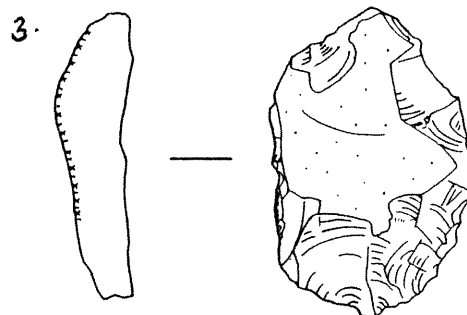
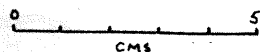
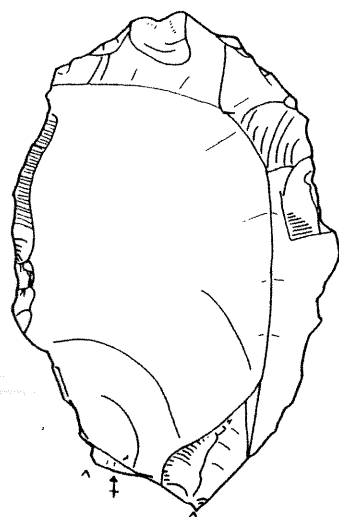


Fig V

13th Century jug handle.



1. Levallois core, possibly dating to the Lower Palaeolithic (before 38,000 years ago), but without obvious preparation platform and therefore perhaps belonging to the Neolithic (3000- 2000 BC). Light patination.

2. Side-scraper. Distal and mesial end flake. Retouch continues along distal end with possible notch.

3. Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flake, heavily reworked and possibly used as a knife. No patination. Very rough flint.

4. Short scraper on thick flake, lightly patinated with some plough damage.

Fig VI

Prehistoric flint tools.

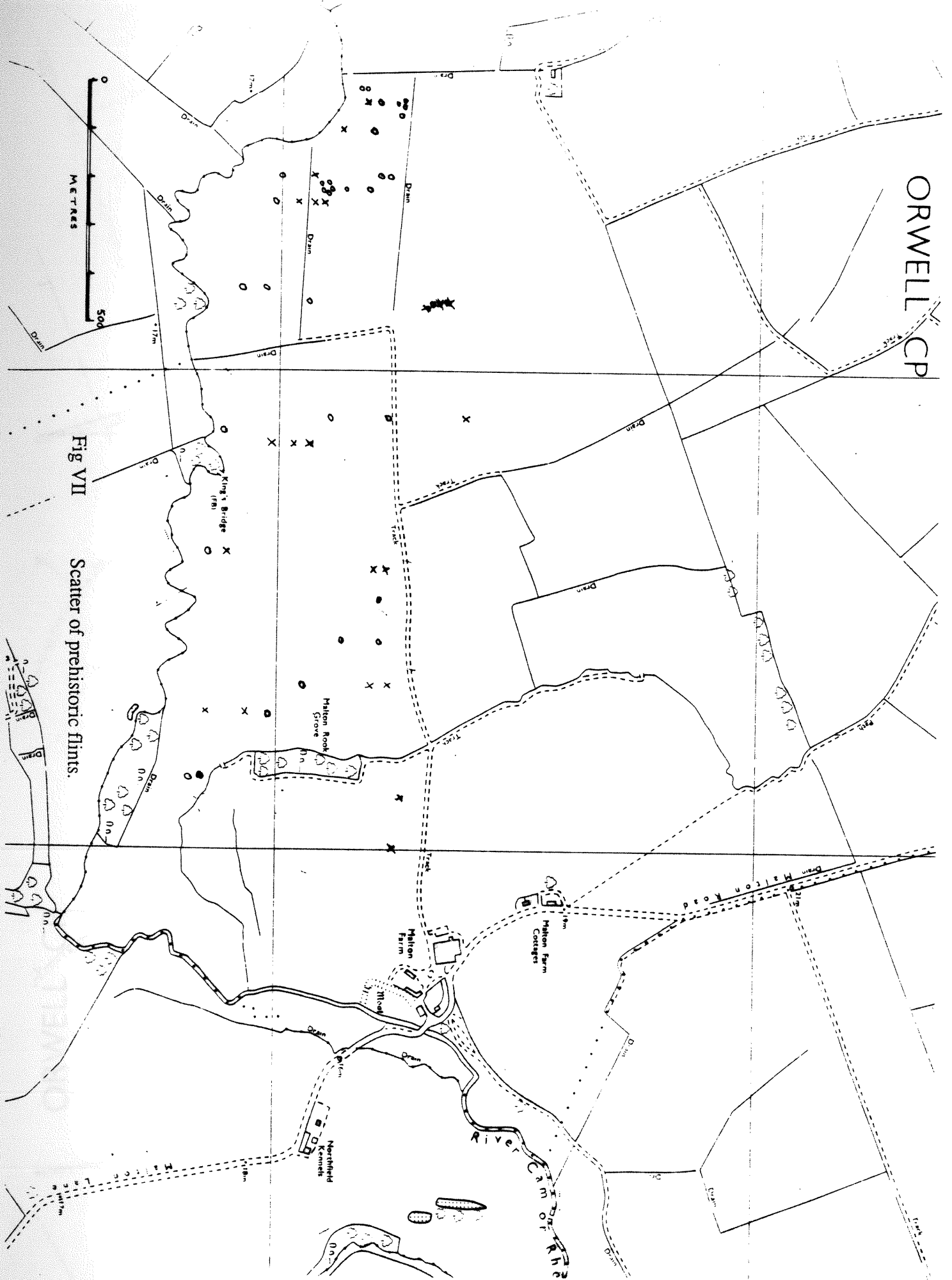
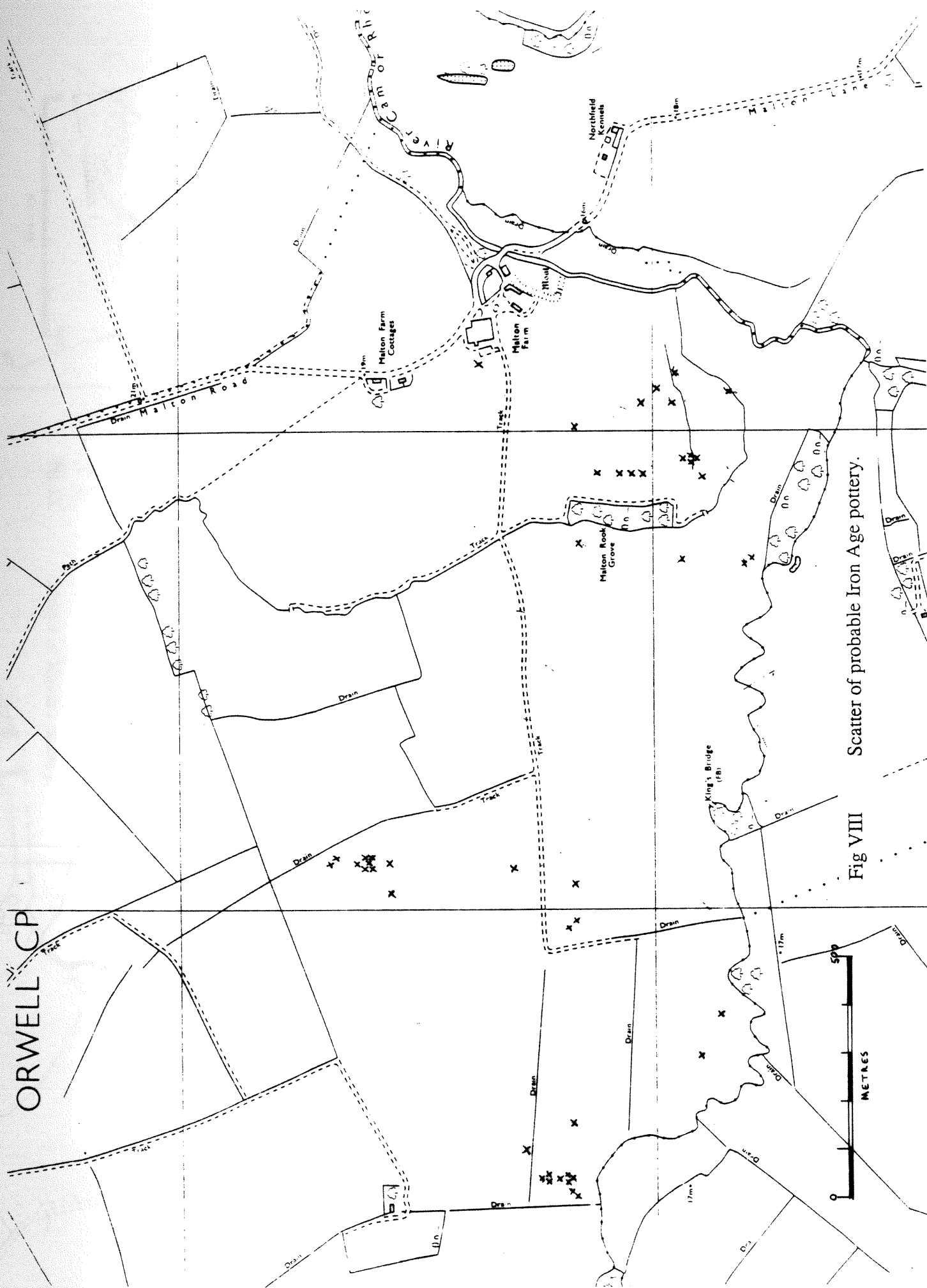


Fig VII

Scatter of prehistoric flints.



Scatter of probable Iron Age pottery.

Fig VIII

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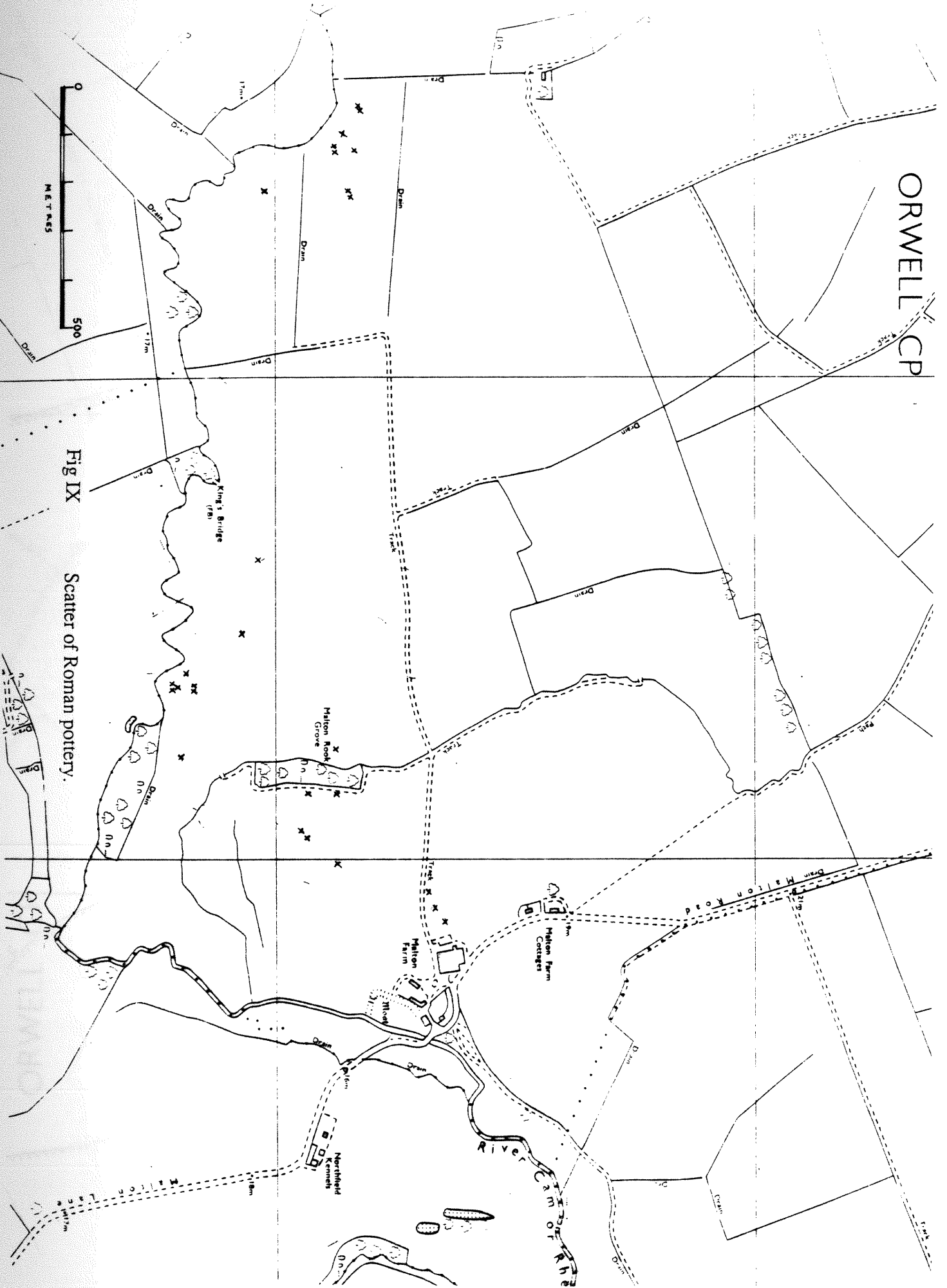
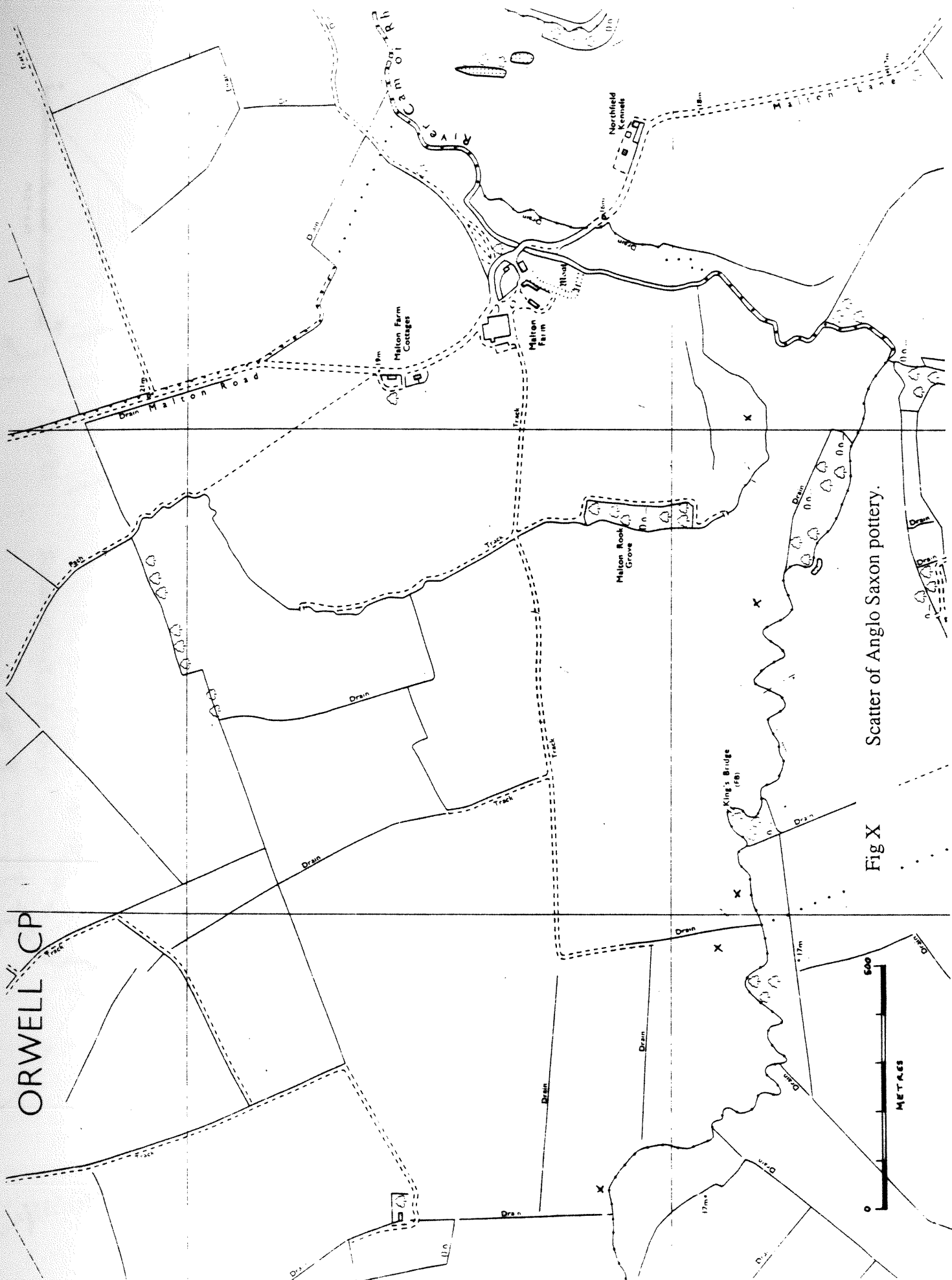


Fig IX

Scatter of Roman pottery.





Scatter of Anglo Saxon pottery.

Fig X

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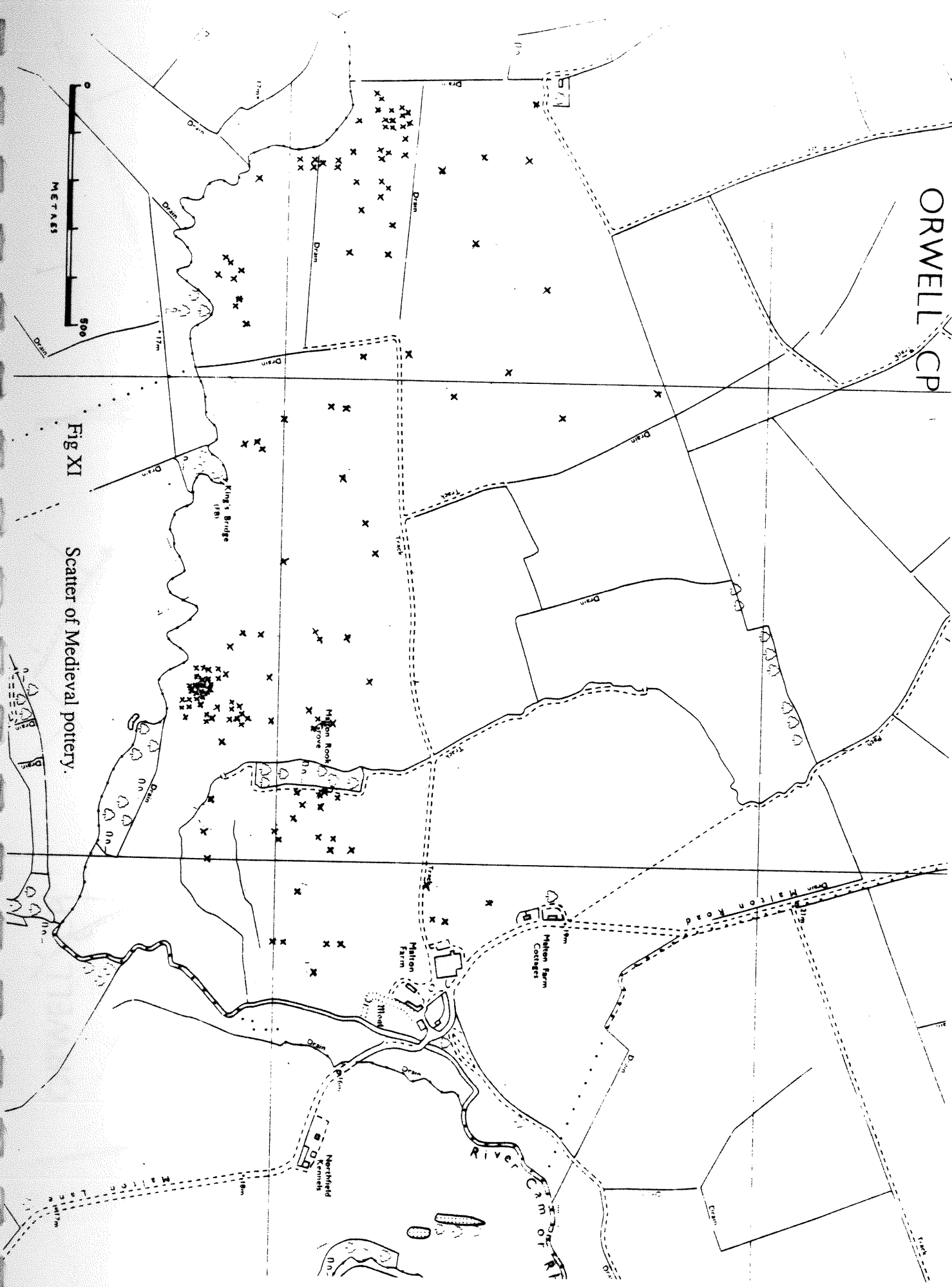


Fig XI

Scatter of Medieval pottery.



## 5) RECOMMENDATIONS

(See fig. 12)

5.1 The area hatched and ringed should not be disturbed without further work to understand its importance. Any further work would have to be funded by the developer, and negotiated with the Archaeology Section.

5.2 The moated site and other areas of meadow around Malton Farm should not be disturbed.

5.3 On present knowledge no other areas have been recognised as having archaeological potential.

5.4 Construction of the access road close to the known Medieval village should be subject to a watching brief to be funded by the developer.

5.5 Any archaeological finds during construction works should be reported to Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office as soon as possible.

5.6 There is known metal detecting from the site of the Medieval village and this is not encouraged by the Archaeology Office. However any finds from this activity belong to the landowner, and they should be reported to the Archaeology Office for identification and entry on to the Sites and Monuments Record.

## Bibliography

Pullinger, J. 1968 " " " C.B.A. Group Bulletin 15  
1969 " " " 16

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1968, West Cambridgeshire

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Place Names Soc. 19 (Cambridge).

Sites and Monuments Record for Cambridgeshire

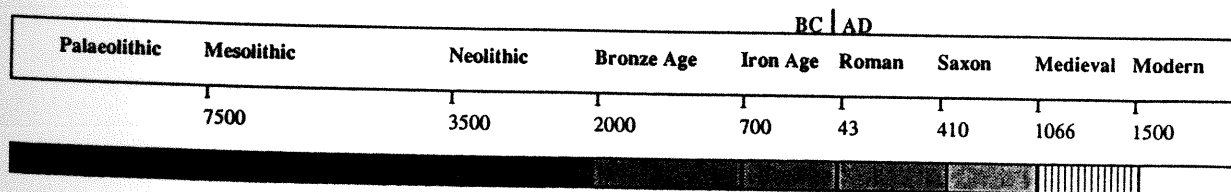
Victoria County History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely, Vol. 5 1973

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks must go to the staff of the County Record Office for their assistance in re-  
searching the historical aspects of the project, and to Edward Carson for his help in consulting  
the Christs' College archives; Nesta Rook for searching the Sites and Monuments database;  
Morag Woudhuysen for identifying the pottery; and of course thanks are owed to the fieldwalk-  
ers themselves, who covered large expanses of terrain in very variable weather, for little reward:  
Twigs Way, Ian Batby, and Giselle Matteson.

Further information and the archive of this project are stored at the Archaeology Office, Cam-  
bridgeshire County Council.

Archaeological Timechart





## APPENDIX I

### Previous archaeological knowledge

Iron Age	TL354483 Pottery scatter TL357480 - 356481 Pottery scatter Unprovenanced - Bone weaving comb.
Roman	TL373482 Pottery including Samian and Nene Valley ware, was found in 1968 during dredging of the Rhee. TL354483 - 357480 Pottery and building material noted. Unprovenanced - Bronze mirror. TL374481 15 coins, including 7 minimi and 2nd century enamelled disc brooch, found in material dredged from Rhee. TL373483 Collection of pottery, including Samian, painted and burnished sherds and coarse ware, found after river dredging in 1988.
Saxon	"Viking spear" (dubious find, also referred to as "Bronze Age javelin".)
Medieval	Deserted medieval village, site of church, double manorial moat, "Great Potters Way" track and "Farthing Way" track. TL356481 Finds scatter. TL373483 Sherds found after river dredging, 1988.

Malton. 17742,105

92

- A. Grants from without date to 16 Hen. 7.
- B. Bond of John Brograve for the assurance of Malton and other estates late Tho. Horns to the Foundress 18 Hen. 7.
- C. John Brograve acknowledges the payment of two hundred pounds for his use by the Foundress to Ralph Chamberlayn 18 Hen. 7.
- D. Release of the Manors of Malton, Meldroth and Brache from William Brograve to Henry Hornby and others 18 Hen. 7.
- E. Exemplification of a precipe to William Brograve to surrender Malton etc., to Henry Hornby and others 18 Hen. 8.
- F. Sale of a Manor in Malton and the Advowson of the Rectory by Sir Thomas Tyrrel to the Foundress 19 Hen. 7.
- G. Release of the Manor and Advowson by Sir Tho. Tyrrell to Henry Hornby and others 19 Hen. 7.
- H. Exemplification of a Decree by which the Manor etc., is given to Henry Hornby against Sir Tho. Tyrrell 19 Hen. 7.
- I. Letter of Attorney from the Foundress to receive Malton Brache etc., lately Tho. Horn's from Henry Hornby and others 21 Hen. 7.
- K. Release of the same from Henry Hornby and others to the Foundress 21 Hen. 7.
- L. Letter of Attorney from the Foundress to receive the Manor etc., late Tyrrels from Henry Hornby and others 21 Hen. 7.
- M. Release of the same from Hen. Hornby and others to the Foundress 21 Hen. 7.
- N. Letter of Attorney from the College to receive the Manors of Malton, Diseworth, Roydon and Shaddon, Knoesworth, Hogworth and Sutton Bonyngton from the Foundress 21 Hen. 7. 2051  
See Diseworth II for Grant (21 Hen 7) by Foundress to College)
- O. Licence granted by the King to the College to appropriate the Rectory of Malton, 2 Hen. (7. 12)
- P. Resignation of the Rectory by the Rector Tho. Ydyll, 1506.
- Q. Grant of the Manor of Rosamondes and lands in Malton and Borington by William and Hen. Chichelegh to the Foundress 23 Hen. 7.
- R. Grant of the same by the Foundress to the College 24 Hen. 7.
- S. Letter of Attorney from the College to receive the same 24 Hen. 7.
- T. Exemplification of a decree by which Rosamondes is given to the Foundress against Robert Fenson and William Carkeke 24 Hen. 7.

- 22

40. Letter respecting a Quit Rent due from the College 5 April 1791.  
 Ap. Valuation 1820.  
 Ag. Leases 30 Hen. 8 to 1822.  
 f) The Red Book contains licences from the Bishop etc., for the Appropriation of Malton Rectory 1509 etc.

Additional.

1. Agreement between the Lady Margaret and William Chicheley and others concerning land in Malton, 4 Hen. 7.
2. Descent of lands at Malton, Hen. 7.
3. Poor Rates.
4. Letters on the alienation of the Malton lease, 1813.
5. Letters on the renewal of the Malton lease, 1806.
6. Letter on the Malton Quit Rent. <sup>1792</sup> from S. North (agent) London see A. 12
7. Redemption of Land Tax, 1812. (old) Subject to survey
8. Appropriation of the Parish Church.
9. Record of the Assise between W. Grogrove and R. Chamberloyn concerning lands in Malkton etc., (16th c.). <sup>B</sup>
10. A 15th and 16th c. Rental.
11. Indenture between Wm. Cheney and William Felton 27 June, 6 Hen. 7
12. Agreement between Ant. Brugge and Tho. Darcy, 31 Hen. 8.
13. ~~School Certificate, May 26, 1737.~~ (Enrolled by Rymes Dean, Malton School Certificate for Dr. Prynne's School, Malton 29c)
14. Letter on the renewal of Malton Lease, April 28, 1747.
15. Receipt of J. Redman, 1544.
16. Bond of John Goody, 1694.
17. Grants etc., 21 Edw. 4 etc., (Copy). see A
18. Draft Receipt from Dr. Thomson to John Boston Farmer of Malton 13 Apl. 1 Hen. 8 (found Jan 1936 S.G.C.).
20. *Caprolites Correspondence 1864-1879*

## Glossary of Archaeological Terms

**Artifact:** Any object made by people. Generally this word is used for finds such as pottery, stone tools, or metal objects, but it can be used in a much wider context in that the landscape we have today is a product of human activity and is thus an artifact itself. Artifact scatters (finds scatters) are collections of artifacts found together at one location.

**Barrow:** Burial mound. Barrows can be long, round, or even square, and were generally surrounded by at least one ditch. Barrows are further subdivided by form into various types belonging to these general categories. As a means for burying selected individuals they were used in Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods.

**Beaker:** Prehistoric period c.2000-1500 BC covering the transition from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age, when a type of highly decorated pottery called beakers became evident.

**Bronze Age:** Prehistoric period c.2000-700 BC when bronze was used for many types of tool and weapon.

**Causewayed camp:** A Neolithic enclosure of several acres with one or more concentric ditches interrupted by causeways and irregular internal banks. These enclosures are believed to be ceremonial/ritual monuments rather than settlement sites.

**Croft:** An enclosed piece of land or smallholding, usually attached to a house.

**Cropmarks:** Archaeological features below the ploughsoil can affect the growth of sensitive crops through moisture retention or loss. For example the growth of cereal crops over buried ditches and pits will encourage rapid growth leading to tall, dark coloured plants, whereas walls and roads will lead to stunting and faster yellowing of the crop. These discrepancies in crop growth can be detected easily from the air, and by taking photographs the cropmark patterns can be plotted onto maps and given provisional interpretation.

**DMV:** Deserted medieval village. For various reasons Medieval settlements were sometimes abandoned or shifted their location. Earthworks of the old village can often be seen showing the position of house platforms, crofts, lanes, and ponds.

**Earthworks:** Archaeological features that are still extant above ground as banks and ditches, platforms, roads, ponds, canals, etc. They were either constructed of soil or became covered by it at a later date, leaving the archaeology showing in relief.

**Enclosures:** An area defined by a continuous surrounding ditch. These may be enclosures around human settlement, fields, or paddocks for stock. Rectilinear enclosures are ones with straight sides and corners, whilst curvilinear enclosures are ones with rounded sides.

**Field system:** An area with ditches or banks that show a systematic pattern of enclosures, trackways, and features that can be seen to run parallel to one another, or lead off from one another to form an intelligible pattern.



**Fieldwalking:** Technique of archaeological survey. Walking over ploughed and weathered soil an experienced observer can collect many ancient artifacts, and by plotting the distribution of such find spots on maps an idea of the occupation and use of the landscape can be built up for each period of the past.

**Finds scatter:** Finds are artifacts, or other objects associated with human activity, for example bones or fire-cracked flint. A finds scatter is a localised collection of such objects.

**Fire-cracked:** Flint that has been broken up by extreme heat also shows crazing lines, and is often referred to as burnt, crazed or "fire-cracked" flint. The burning of flint often came about in the cooking process when pottery was too fragile for being used in direct contact with a fire, and so stones were heated for this purpose and thrown into a cooking pit, or into water to boil it. These burnt stones (or fire-cracked flints) can also be referred to as "pot boilers" and they indicate the presence of a prehistoric settlement site.

**Flints:** Flint is a type of stone that can be worked by chipping to make fine and sharp tools, such as arrowheads, blades for knives or sickles, scraping tools, or even axes. It can be polished to make a smooth finish, and good quality flint could be brought in to an area from far away. Worked flint can often be found in the fields, showing human activity. Sometimes these are tools, but often they are just the by-products of flint working.

**Funerary:** Adjective for an object or structure related to burial practises, inhumation or cremation of the dead, and associated ceremonies.

**Furlong:** This term is used for a piece of land in Medieval cultivation that had a group of ridge and furrow all lying in the same direction. Later this term became used as a measurement of length equalling 220 yards. A furlong boundary was the edge to such a piece of land, and often survives today in the form of a low bank visible on the ground and from the air.

**Headland:** see "Ridge and furrow".

**Henge:** A late Neolithic circular monument with one or more ditches and an internal bank, broken by one or more entranceways. They may contain wooden or stone structures. Henges are believed to be ritual/ceremonial monuments.

**Holloway:** A track that has been hollowed out by long usage.

**Iron Age:** Prehistoric period c.700 BC - 43 AD when iron was used extensively for tools and weapons. The period traditionally ends with the Roman invasions of 43 AD but in fact there was a considerable time of adjustment after this date when the Iron Age way of life continued with little change from Roman influence.

**Medieval:** Historic period that begins with William the Conqueror's invasion in 1066. Post-Medieval is generally considered to date from 1500.

**Mesolithic:** Prehistoric period c.7500-3500 BC with a predominantly hunter-gatherer economy leading on to herding and farming, spanning the period between the last Ice Age and more settled farming communities of the Neolithic.

**Millenia:** Thousands. Millennium a period of 1000 years.

**Moated site:** In the Medieval period moated enclosures proliferated. An area surrounded by water filled ditches would leave a platform or island on which to build a house. There were several reasons for this: defence in times of lawlessness, a ready source of water for the needs of the house and an anti-fire measure, a handy reservoir for fish and water-fowl, and a response to the demands of fashion and prestige. These moated sites were often manors, and occasionally old manor houses are still to be found enclosed by their moat.

**Neolithic:** Prehistoric period c.3500-2000 BC when farming and pottery were introduced. Stone tools of fine workmanship were produced and exchanged over long distances, whilst metal was not used.

**Palaeolithic:** Prehistoric period before c.7500 BC spanning the early development of mankind from hominid species through to modern humans. Stone and bone tools were made and a hunting-gathering lifestyle was followed.

**Pollen:** Plant grains with outer skins remarkably resistant to decay, especially in buried or wet conditions. The study of pollen from archaeological contexts can tell us about ancient environments through identifying which communities of plants lived in the area at a given time.

**Ridge & furrow:** Medieval cultivation techniques led to a phenomenon of corrugated fields. Strips of land were allotted to individuals and a furrow was left between one person's strip and the next, leading to the corrugated ridge & furrow effect. An area of land with all these strips running parallel was called a furlong. These strips usually followed a slightly sinuous course, an elongated reversed S shape to help in turning the plough at the end. Where the strips ended and the ploughs turned soil would be deposited and a "head" would be created. After a time these may form a boundary in their own right and are called headland boundaries. Ridge and furrow shows up as cropmarks on air photographs, and more rarely as earthworks in pasture fields.

**Ring ditch:** A continuous circular ditch which is all that remains of a ploughed out round barrow, or the drainage ditch (eavesdrip gully) that surrounded a round-house.

**Roddon:** Dried out waterway. The silts laid down by the water in the original creek remain when peat wastage occurs, and thus they stand above the surrounding ground level.

**Roman:** Historic period 43-410 AD when most of Britain was part of the Roman empire. The term Romano-British is now widely used to describe the people of this period as few were Roman themselves, but they were a provincial manifestation of the empire developing in a unique way. 410 AD was the date the legions were withdrawn, but Romano-British culture continued for some time into the 5th century in tandem with Anglo-Saxon migration.

**SMV:** Shrunken (shifted) medieval village. (see DMV).

**Soilmarks:** Archaeological remains often show in ploughed fields by reason of the different soil of which they consist. They can be visible at ground level but like cropmarks they are most clearly seen and interpreted from the air.

**Stratigraphy:** Order and relative position of strata. Deposits in archaeological sites will be layered one on top of another, with the highest layer being the latest deposit, thus giving a chronological relationship to the layers and the artifacts within them. Features (such as ditches, pits, or walls) cut through these layers will obviously date to later events, and will in turn contain their own discrete sequence of deposits. On the other hand features that have been covered by layers are obviously earlier than the deposition of those layers that seal them.