

# Battle of Maldon 8/11/991 - Draft

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## Historical Summary

Vikings under Olaf Tryggvason, demanding tribute, established a camp on a small island in the Panta river near Maldon in Essex. The island is only accessible from the main land at low tide when a narrow causeway is revealed. The Essex Fyrd led by their Ealdorman Byrhtnoth formed at the main land end of the causeway saying they would pay the tribute with spear points and sword blades. Enraged, Olaf ordered his army to assault the Anglo-Saxons across the land bridge but found his way blocked by three Anglo-Saxon champions, Wulfstan, Ælfhere and Maccus. Checked by the champions, Olaf requested that the Vikings be allowed to cross the land bridge so that a formal battle could be fought to which Perhaps overly confident, Byrhtnoth agreed and moved back to allow the Vikings room to deploy. During the subsequent battle, Byrhtnoth was killed and his head taken by the Vikings causing the Anglo-Saxons to flee.

## Force Sizes

Each player selects an army of up to 2,800 points.

## Battlefield

Defender's Deployment Zone					Attacker's Deployment Zone
	The Causeway				
	x x x				

The battle field is 6' x 4'. The black areas to either side of the Causeway are impassable. The causeway is 6 cm (3 infantry bases) wide 12" long. The terrain otherwise is open with a few scattered small woods.

## Deployment

Both players roll a die. The player with the higher roll may choose to be the attacker or defender.

The defender deploys up to twelve inches from the defender's board edge. The attacker then deploys up to twelve inches from the attacker's board edge.

The Defender then selects three models from his army and places them in the center of the causeway.

## Who Goes First

The Attacker goes first.

## Length of Game

The battle continues until one of the armies breaks.

## Special Rules

### The Causeway

The Causeway Defenders are a special micro-unit. It is assumed to have Standard and a Musician even when reduced to a single model. This unit gains the rule **Hatred** and may not be shot at during the Shooting Phase. If all of the models chosen for the unit contain the rule **Shieldwall**, the unit has **Shieldwall** as well. The defenders expect to stand to the last man and therefore do not automatically break for being fewer than five models and are immune to **Fear**.

Causeway Defenders that flee or leave the causeway on the defender's side, rejoin their units and are immediately placed in the Defender's Deployment zone.

Units in column formation may charge on the causeway.

### Elan Points

Both players may accrue Elan points until one or more units that started the game deployed in the player's deployment zone either shoots or charges a unit that started the game deployed in the opponent's deployment zone.

The defender gains one Elan point for each turn that none of the units deployed in his deployment zone move out of it.

If the attacker is charged or fired at by any units that began the game in the defender's deployment zone, the attacker gains two elan points for each unit with a model on the causeway or wholly in the attacker's deployment area.

Elan points may be spent to reroll any single die roll.

## Victory Conditions

The battle ends when one of the armies is reduced to its Army Break Point and flees.

## Notes

### Movement

#### Change Formation

Close order units may add or reduce a single rank at the cost of 50% of their allowed Movement. Open order units may add or reduce 2 ranks for free. Open order units may add or subtract more than 2 ranks at the cost of 50% of their available movement.

#### Reform

Units with a Musician may attempt to reform.

#### March Column

May not be wider than 3 models. May not declare a charge. Moves at triple the rate. Does not fight in ranks or count ranks in Combat Resolution.

### Psychology

#### Hatred

Leadership 10. Reroll failed to hit in round 1.

### Links

[Battle of Maldon Poem](https://oldenglishpoetry.camden.rutgers.edu/battle-of-maldon/) (https://oldenglishpoetry.camden.rutgers.edu/battle-of-maldon/)

[Wikipedia - Battle of Maldon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Maldon)(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\_of\_Maldon)

[Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4zJly0JaHM) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4zJly0JaHM)

[Song At the Battle of Maldon by Michael Kelly](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tA-p-SHUG68) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tA-p-SHUG68)