

THE WALLINGFORD BURH TO BOROUGH RESEARCH PROJECT

2009 EXCAVATIONS – Castle, Kinecroft and School Fields



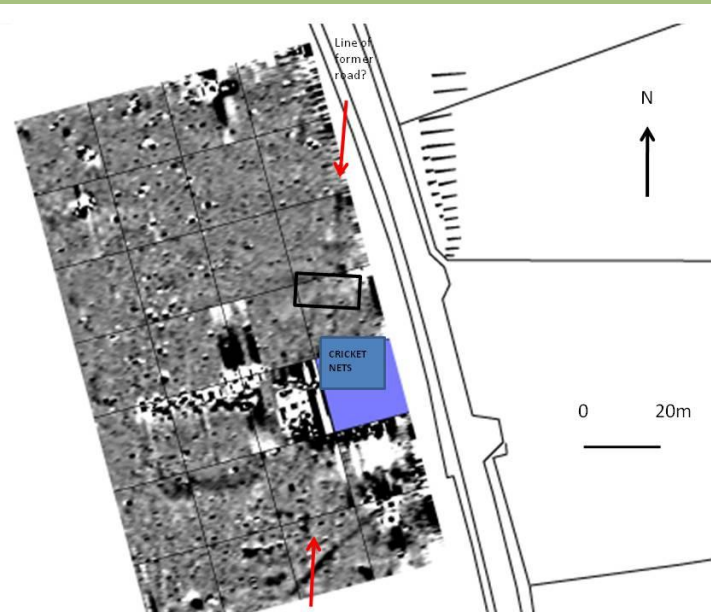
The two workers in the background are trowelling the surface of the road, with those in the foreground digging the easternmost flanking ditch.

Trench 6 - Wallingford School Fields

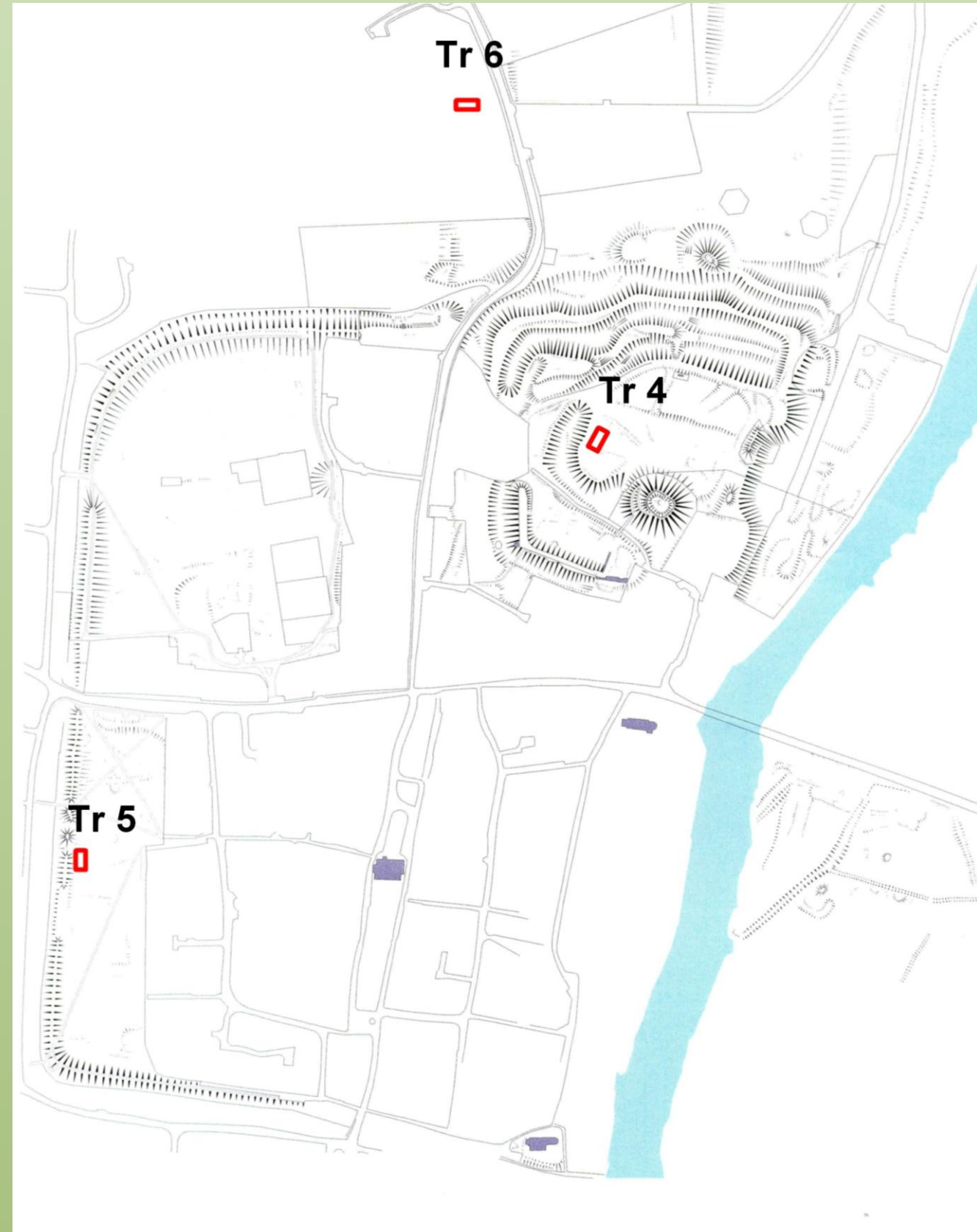
A geophysical survey had shown a linear feature crossing the school playing fields from north to south. Excavation revealed an orange band of compacted gravel about 3m wide, with flanking ditches either side. This was a medieval road, dated to the 12th-13th centuries, which once joined up with Castle Street to the south. Other intriguing features were a huge marl-filled quarry pit next to the road, and an earlier road surface, underlying the first.



Geologists join the team to help interpret evidence.



Magnetometer survey, showing linear feature.



Site Locations

Following on from the successful excavations in 2008, three further trenches were opened in the summer of 2009. These were positioned to pick up features detected by geophysical survey earlier in the year. Archaeologists and students from the Universities of Leicester and Exeter dug alongside local workers from Wallingford Museum. The digs were visited by hundreds of people over the course of the three week period. All the trenches produced evidence from the 12th-13th centuries.



Discovering medieval walls.

Trench 4 - Castle Inner Bailey

A dense medieval archaeology was revealed, with stone wall foundations and robber trenches indicating the positions of former buildings. The earliest feature was a small 12th century oven. Most of the walls dated to the 13th century or later. Overlying the archaeological stratigraphy was a demolition layer rich in pottery, roof and floor tiles, and other finds.



A carved stone object, thought to be a lamp.



Children's excavation, Open Day.



Recording a large pit, situated at the back of the buildings.



Aerial view of the excavation, looking south.

Trench 5 - Kinecroft

After last year's discovery of a 12th century house next to a hollow way, another trench was opened – between the 2008 trench and the ramparts – to answer outstanding questions. More structural features such as beamslots and postholes were discovered. The continuation of the road was shown to stop before it reached the rampart. An internal ditch and bank was found just inside the rampart, and some of the pits and middens at the back of the buildings were explored in detail.



Clearing layers.



Extension trench, showing internal ditch and bank in vertical section.



This wall has six or seven surviving courses.



An overview of the trench, with excavation in progress.

The 2008-2010 Project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and is a joint academic venture between the archaeology departments of the Universities of Leicester, Exeter and Oxford. The project is run in collaboration with Wallingford Museum and The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS), and is supported by Wallingford Town Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Archaeology Service, English Heritage, the Northmoor Trust, the Ashmolean Museum and Reading Museum.