THE WALLINGFORD BURH TO BOROUGH RESEARCH PROJECT

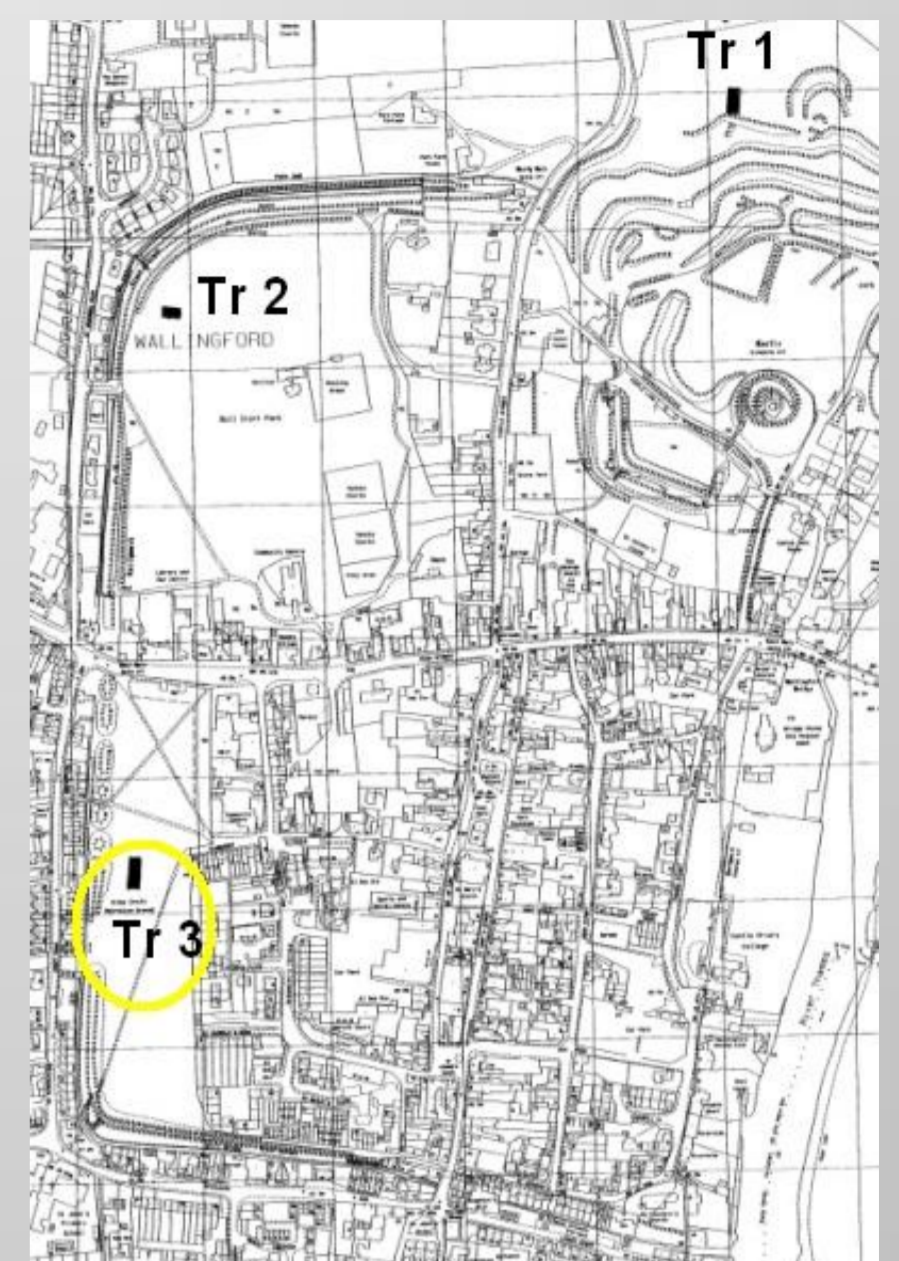# *EXCAVATIONS IN THE KINECROFT – SUMMER 2008*

Machining off the topsoil and subsoil layers was performed very carefully, so as not to lose any archaeological deposits

Finds were washed on site, as they came out of the ground – mostly by volunteers from Wallingford Museum.

An elevated view of beam slots in the process of being excavated. Beams laid flat in the ground formed the foundations for the timber walls of the house.
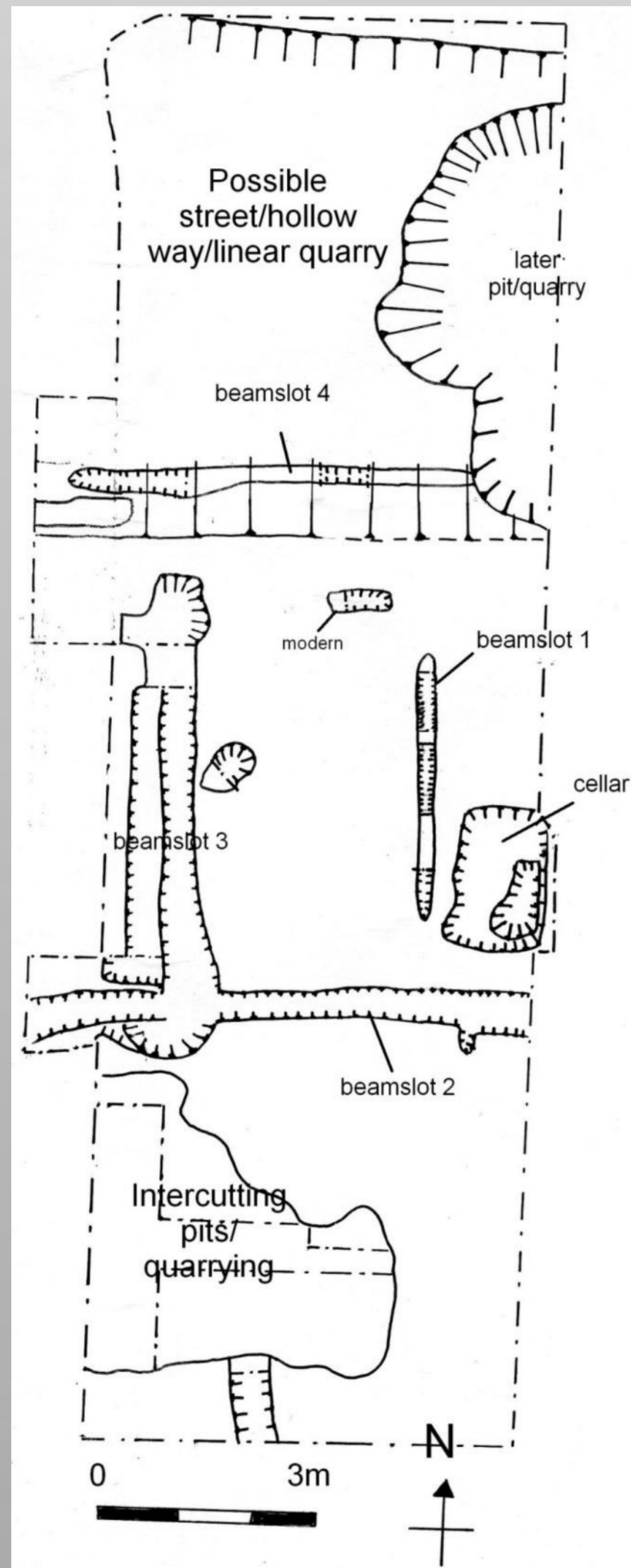

Kinecroft (Tr 3) was one of three big trenches excavated in 2008.

The digger in the foreground is standing in the corner of the rectangular building.

Looking up the Kinecroft trench from south to north – an area of about 6 x 20m

Excavators being interviewed for the 'Danny and Lou' show on BBC Radio Oxford – part of busy local media coverage

Possible street/hollow way/linear quarry

later pit/quarry

beamslot 4

modern

beamslot 1

cellar

beamslot 3

beamslot 2

Intercutting pits/ quarrying

0   3m   N

A Medieval House

The Kinecroft trench proved to be the most productive of all the areas excavated in 2008. Aligned alongside a road running east-west were the beam slots of a 12th century timber house, or row of houses. Traces of the foundations of both external and internal walls, and even a small cellar, survived. At the back of the building were numerous intercutting pits.

However, there were no earlier or later phases of occupation. It seems that this part of the Kinecroft started out as an open space, was briefly occupied, then went back to being an open space again. 'Kinecroft' means a place for keeping cows.

At the time the Saxon burh was built, both the Kinecroft and the Bullcroft may have been intended to be open, as they are now. When the town expanded in the 12th century, these formerly open areas were available for the town to expand into.

Hundreds of people visited the site over the three week excavation season.

Members of The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) excavating the fill of a beamslot.

Two dragons – or three?

This metal strap-end was once worn on the end of a belt. It was found in the fill of the road at the front of the building. Perhaps it was dropped by a visitor to the house, or by a traveller on the road, when their belt broke. Look closely at the design on it and you will see two dragons embracing each other with their tails interlaced – a typical late Anglo-Saxon motif. But there is a third dragon in the design. Can you spot it?

The strap-end is thought to date from the 9th-10th centuries.

University of Leicester

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