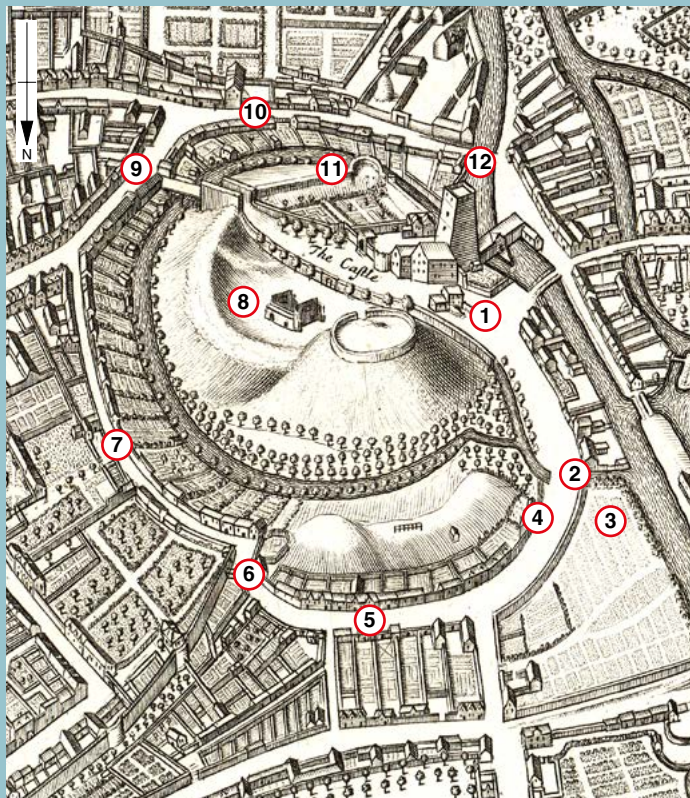
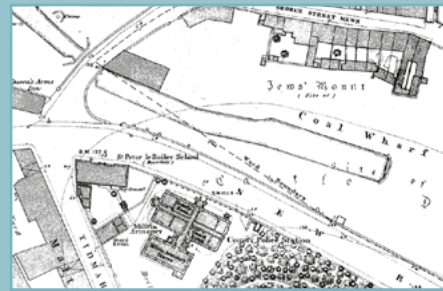


Historic Oxford Castle Perimeter Walk

Beat the bounds of Oxford Castle

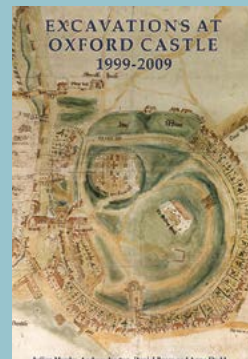


Plan (1878 Ordnance Survey) and view of the coal wharf from Bulwarks Lane, 7, under what is now Nuffield College



J.B. Malchair's view of the motte in 1784



A number of the features described on our tour can be recognised on Loggan's 1675 map of Oxford. Note that Loggan, like many early cartographers, drew his map from the north, meaning it is upside-down compared to modern maps.



Our new book **Excavations at Oxford Castle 1999-2009** is available Oxford Castle & Prison gift shop and Oxbow: <https://www.oxbowbooks.com/>
To find out more about Oxford Archaeology and our current projects, visit our website or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Sketchfab: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



View towards the castle from the junction of New Road, 1911 2

-  @oatweet
-  facebook.com/oxfordarchaeology
-  sketchfab.com/oxford_archaeology

To see inside the medieval castle and later prison visit Oxford Castle & Prison: <https://www.oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk/>



"There is much more to Oxford Castle than the mound and shops you see today. Take my tour to 'beats the bounds' of this historic site and explore the outer limits of the castle, and see where excavations have given insights into the complex history of this site, that has fascinated me for longer than I care to mention!"

Julian Munby
Head of Buildings Archaeology
Oxford Archaeology



Start at Oxford Castle & Prison. ①

The castle mound (motte) and the ditch defences are the remains of the 'motte and bailey' castle built in 1071 by Robert d'Oilly, who came from Normandy with William the Conqueror in 1066. The west gate of the castle was near the site of the present café.

Take the exit gate onto Tidmarsh Lane and walk north towards Park End Street.

② New Road Junction. The New Road was built in 1769-70 through the castle ramparts. The Oxford Canal opened in 1790 with a wharf in part of the castle moat (under Nuffield College).

Cross over the road by the Lighthouse pub and the Worcester Street car park.

③ You are now standing near the site of the castle's West Barbican. This was a fortified outer gateway in a castle, allowing defenders to attack anyone who broke through the gate.

Cross over and walk up Worcester Street past Nuffield College.

④ Look through the gates into Nuffield College and see the pond near to the line of the canal and castle ditch.

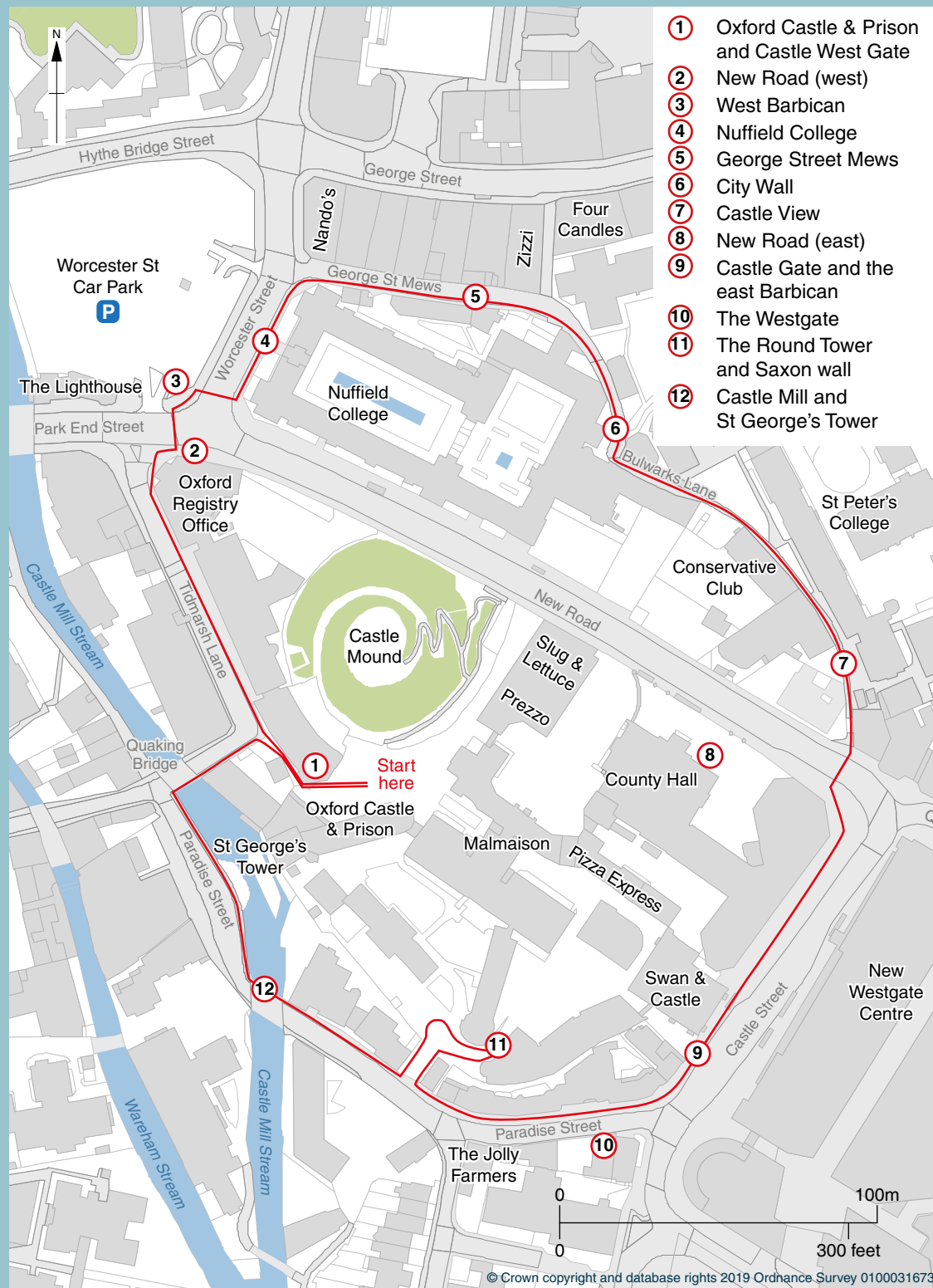
Turn right into George Street Mews.

⑤ This street follows the edge of the two vanished mounds (Jew's Mount and Mount Pelham) in Nuffield College, thought to have been the remains of King Stephen's siege works in 1142.

Continue along George Street Mews and at the end take the right fork up into Bulwarks Lane. Just before the sharp left turn you can see on your left the City Wall **⑥** as it approaches the castle ditch.

Turn left and continue along Bulwarks Lane past the Canal Office (now St Peter's College). You are following the outer line of the castle ditch. Near the end **⑦** you will have an excellent view of the castle over the top of the wall.

Join New Road and take the crossing towards County Hall.



- ①** Oxford Castle & Prison and Castle West Gate
- ②** New Road (west)
- ③** West Barbican
- ④** Nuffield College
- ⑤** George Street Mews
- ⑥** City Wall
- ⑦** Castle View
- ⑧** New Road (east)
- ⑨** Castle Gate and the east Barbican
- ⑩** The Westgate
- ⑪** The Round Tower and Saxon wall
- ⑫** Castle Mill and St George's Tower

⑧ The old Court House that looks like a castle is near the site of the Shire Hall in the king's hall of the castle, where the justices met.

Follow Castle Street down past the Westgate Centre. The road (straightened in the 1960s' Westgate development) slopes down as it passes along the eastern side of the castle.

Stop at the Swan and Castle Pub at the entrance to the Castle Quarter.

⑨ This is the site of the castle's gateway, bridge, and East Barbican. When the area was developed the remains of the barbican ditch were found under the Westgate Centre, and the site of St Budoc's Church under the road.

Continue round to the right into Paradise Street by Simon House.

⑩ You are near the site of the city's west gate, taken down in the 17th century.

Follow the road down and round to the right; turn right into the Castle Quarter and follow the path up a slope and right past the Round Tower. The tower is near the medieval corner tower of the castle. On your right, behind some low railings you look down on the remains of the Saxon Town Wall **⑪** that was buried under the Norman rampart when the castle was built.

Retrace your steps out of the Castle and turn right into Paradise Street and continue over the bridge.

⑫ This is the Castle Mill Stream. The island marks the site of the mill beneath St. George's Tower, demolished in 1930. This late Saxon tower at the town's west gate was later used by the College of St George founded in 1074 by Robert d'Oilly and Roger d'Ivri for a group of priests.

Continue up along the Castle Mill Stream and turn right across Quaking Bridge and back into Tidmarsh Lane. Go back through the Castle gate to return to our starting point.