

Longwalls, Shenington

Oxfordshire

NGR SP 3725 4295


Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Oxford Archaeological Unit

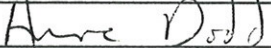
February 1998

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NGR SP 3725 4295

Prepared by: 

Date: 8/2/98

Checked by: 

Date: 10/2/98

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Date: 10/2/98

## **Summary.**

*In June 1997 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a watching brief at Longwalls, Shenington, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 3725 4295), during works to lower floor levels inside the building and ground levels in the front garden. No archaeological features were seen; a small quantity of finds were retrieved from the front garden all of which proved to be Victorian.*

### **1. Introduction**

The watching brief was commissioned by Cumming Architects of Banbury on behalf of the owners, and was required in accordance with the planning consent granted under PPG 16.

### **2. Background (Figs 1 and 2)**

Longwalls is a terrace of three cottages; one Victorian and two 17th century. The Victorian cottage is immediately adjacent to Manor Farm House, with the two 17th century cottages extending out to the north-west. The current works involve the conversion of the terrace into one dwelling, with consequent alterations to the fabric of the building, including the removal of existing concrete floor surfaces and the reduction of interior floor and exterior ground levels, prior to the insertion of a damp-proof membrane and new floor surface.

### **3. Aims**

To record any archaeological remains exposed on site during the course of the proposed works to established standards (Wilkinson, 1992), to secure the preservation by record of any archaeology, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance.

### **4. Methodology**

Two inspection visits were made to the site; to monitor the ground reduction itself and to examine the ground surface at the point at which reduction ceased. Within the constraints imposed by Health and Safety considerations the deposits exposed in section and plan were cleaned, inspected and recorded in plan, section and by colour slide and black and white print photography. Written records were also made on proforma sheets.

### **5. Results (Fig 3)**

The floor levels throughout all three cottages were reduced by 0.30m, and the ground level in the garden by 0.70m, resulting in a ground level in the front garden the same as the reduced interior floor level. The material removed both internally and externally comprised a friable mid brown clay loam, slightly silty containing 10% medium limestone pieces, 2% ironstone fragments and occasional small fragments of concrete and brick. It is thought probable that natural subsoil was exposed both internally and externally; this was examined carefully for the presence of cut features.

## **6. Discussion.**

It is thought probable that the material immediately beneath the concrete floor surfaces represents disturbed and redeposited natural subsoil. No cut features were seen and the only stray finds were located in the front garden, and probably are associated with the construction/occupation of the Victorian cottage. The presence both of brick and of concrete fragments in the subsoil, throughout all three cottages, results in all probability from the deposition of the concrete floor surface. No in situ archaeology was disturbed during the course of the ground reduction works.

John Dalton  
OAU  
February 1998.

## **Bibliography.**

Wilkinson D (ed.) 1992, "Oxford Archaeological Unit Fieldwork Manual", OAU.



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scale 1:250,000

Figure 1

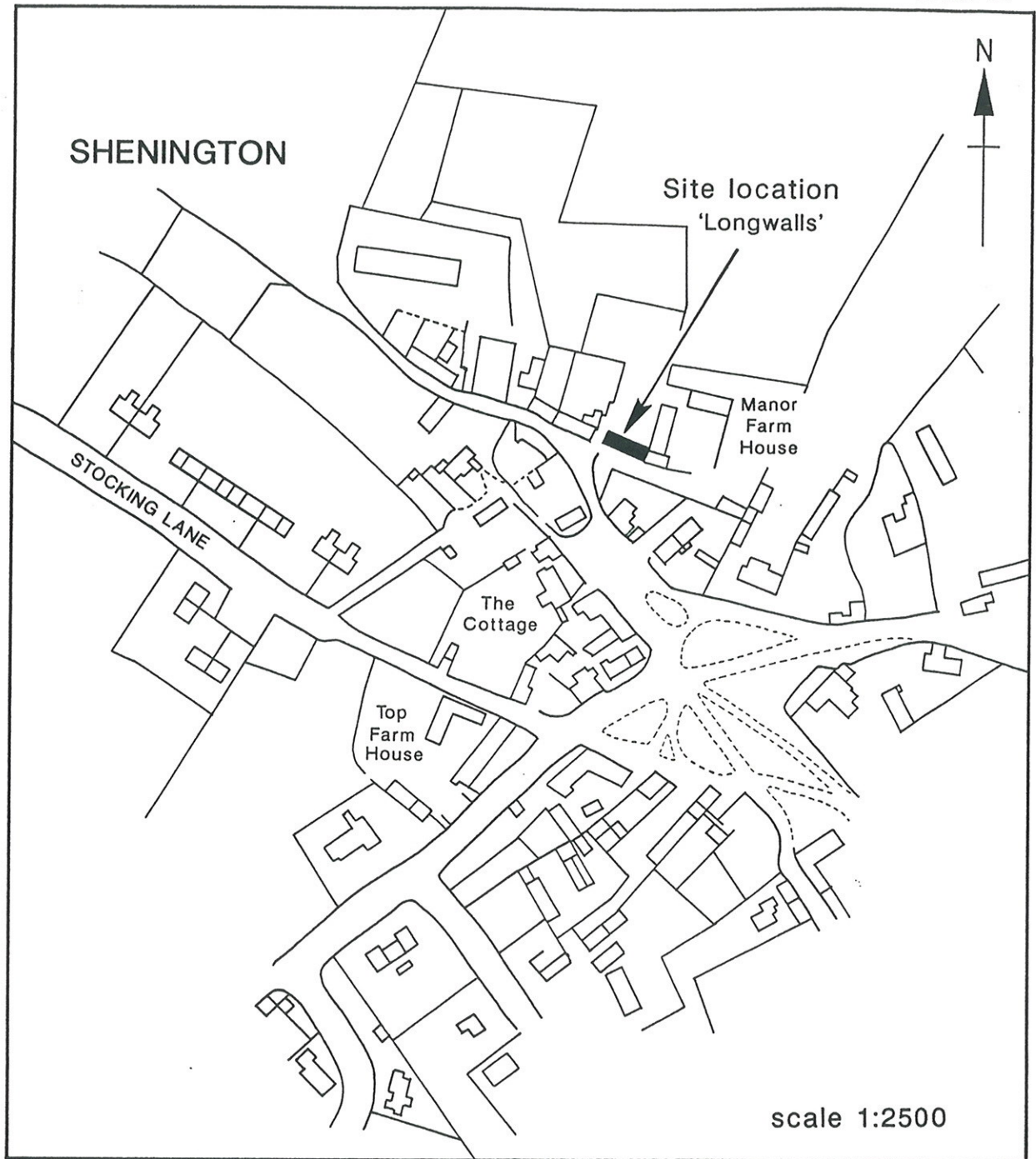
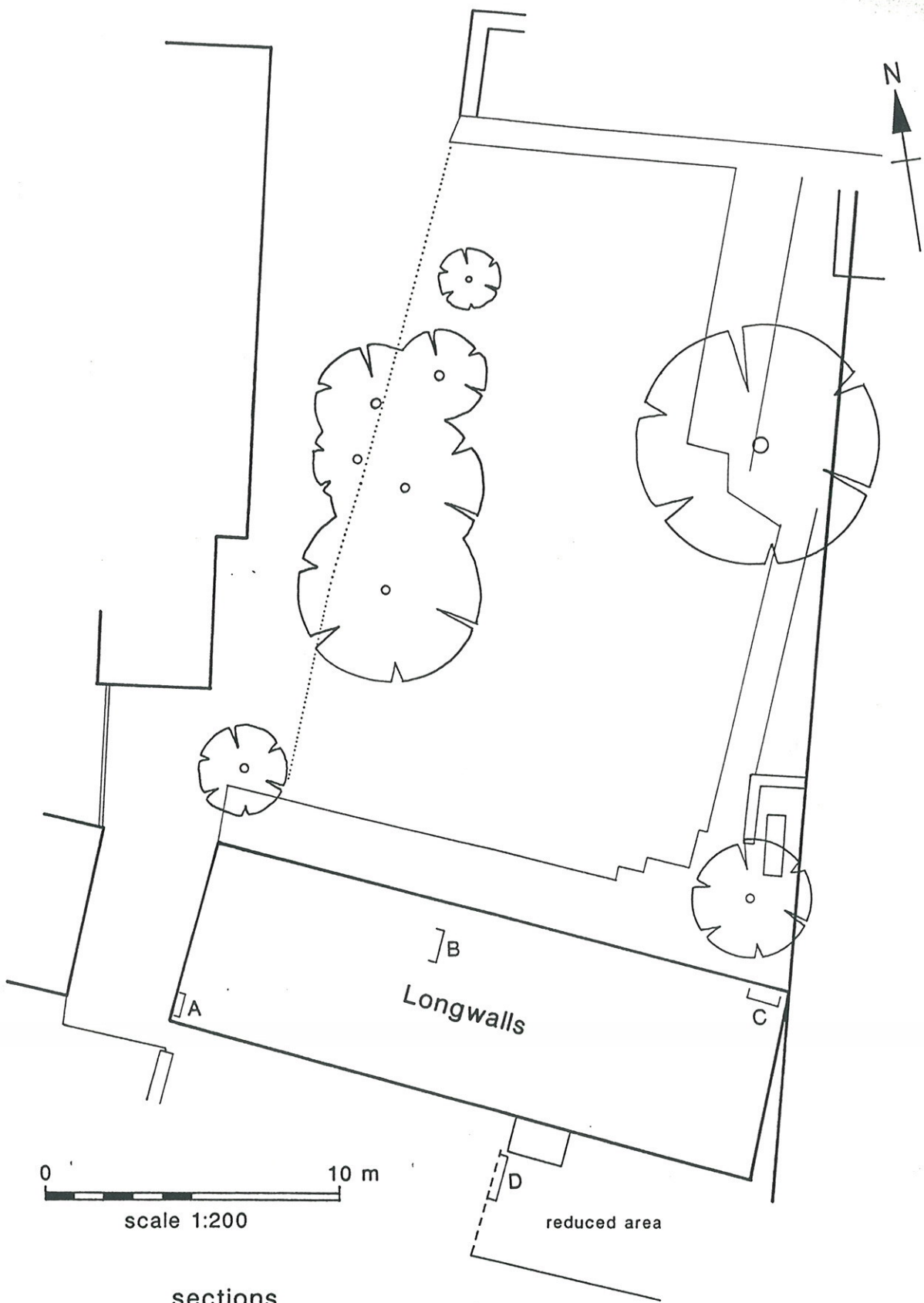
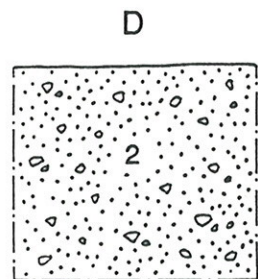
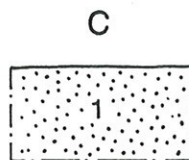
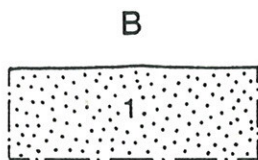
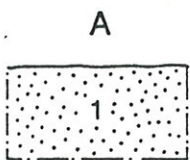


Figure 2



sections



scale 1:25

Figure 3