

**The Cottages, Lower Farm, West Ginge,
Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for

J. Allen

April 1997

The Cottages, Lower farm, West Ginge
Oxfordshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Alan Ford

Report 97/18

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at The Cottages, Lower Farm, West Ginge (SU 4442 8683) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Phillip Pryse of PCA Architects, 9 High Street, Eynsham, Oxfordshire on behalf of J. Allen.

Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent has been granted by the Vale of White Horse District Council (ARD/14585/1-LB) for the building of an extension linking the present 17th century house with a garage to the south. Due to the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits a watching brief was requested as a condition on the granting of planning consent. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Policy and Planning Guidance Note, **Archaeology and Planning** (PPG 16, 1990).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms. Carol Rosier, Deputy County Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Archaeological Section, advisors to the local planning authority for archaeological matters.

The field work was undertaken by Steve Laurie-Lynch on April 1st 1997 and the site code is LFWG 97/18.

Location, Topography and Geology

The site is located on the western slope overlooking Ginge Brook. The buildings of Lower farm lie to the west. The site lies at c. 110 m. above OD sloping downwards to the east. The underlying geology is Lower Chalk with the possibility of Chilton Stone outcropping in the valley side (BGS 1971). This was confirmed during the course of the watching brief.

Archaeological Background

The cottages and remaining outbuildings of Lower Farm, West Ginge are listed grade II buildings dating originally to the 17th century AD. The cottages were originally one farmhouse forming the focus for a sizeable farmstead which presumably included the barns to the north-west of the house and the garage, which has possible 17th century features in its roof that may have been reused from elsewhere in the farm complex or have been part of an original larger east wing of the farmhouse (Cormier 1996). Previous Medieval or earlier remains may have existed on the site before the construction of the present buildings.

Objectives and Methodology

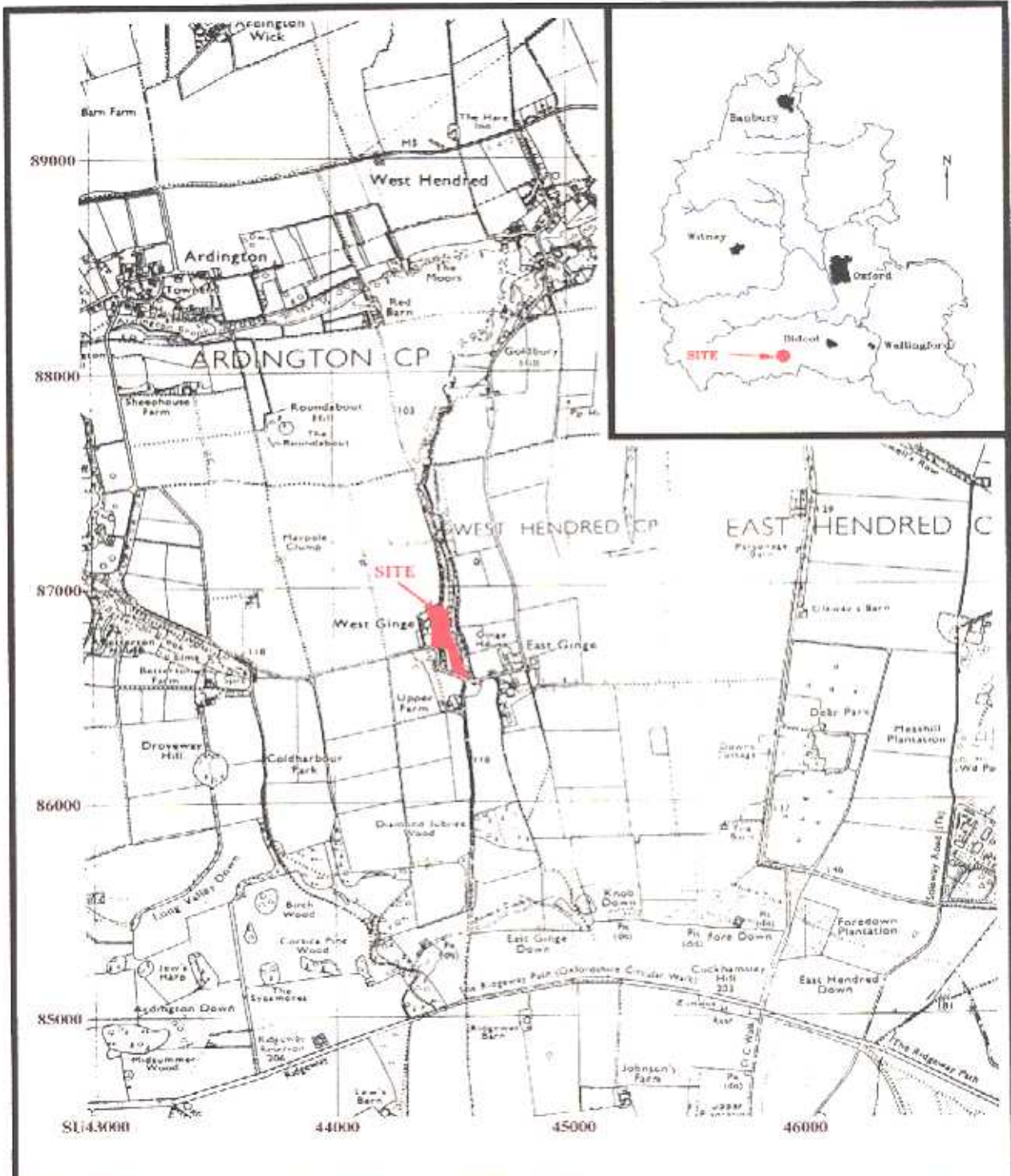
The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks of the new construction. This was to be undertaken during the groundworks by inspecting the excavated foundation trenches for the presence of archaeological deposits and the intention was to excavate and record such deposits should they be present.

Results and Conclusion

Two foundation trenches (Fig. 2) were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20 m. No evidence for the suspected structure linking the original east wing of the farmhouse with what is now the garage was observed within the foundation trenches. It seems likely that if any such structure existed, any evidence for it has been destroyed by modifications to the surviving structures.

References

- BGS, 1971: **British Geological Survey**, 1 inch, Sheet 253, Drift Edition. Keyworth.
- PPG 16, 1990: **Archaeology and Planning** Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance Note 16. (HMSO)
- J. Cormier, 1996: **The Cottages, Lower Farm, West Ginge. Report on the Survey of Evaluation.** Queenpost Building Histories.

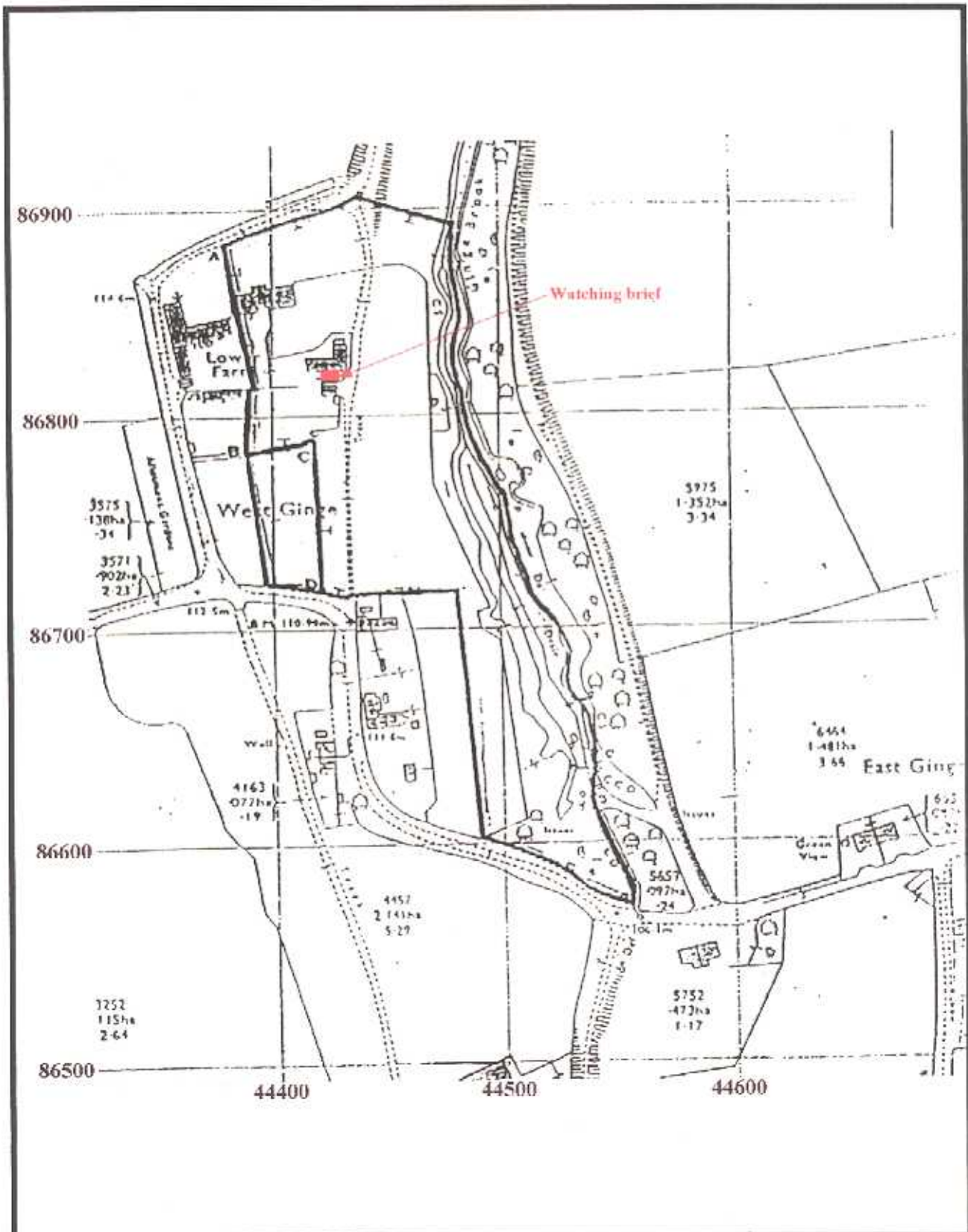


The Cottages, Lower Farm, West Ginge,
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Figure 1. Location of site within
Oxfordshire and West Ginge.

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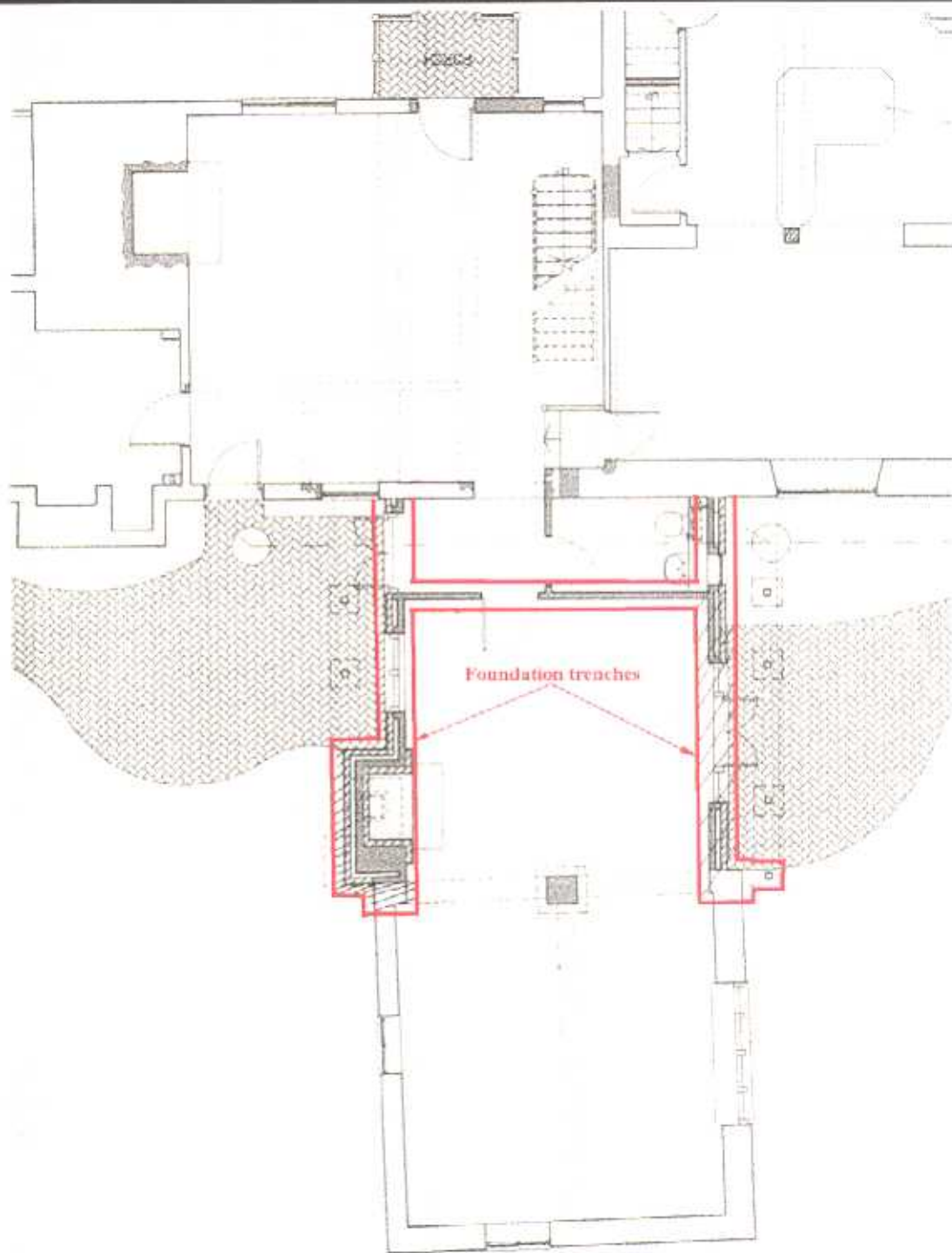




The Cottages, Lower Farm, West Ginge,
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Figure 2. Location of watching brief.





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The Cottages, Lower Farm, West Ginge,
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Figure 2. Location of foundation
trenches.

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