

CHURCH COTTAGE, THE STREET, POSLINGFORD, SUDBURY, SUFFOLK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Following the discovery of an *in situ* human burial at Church Cottage, The Street, Poslingford, Sudbury, Suffolk, an archaeological investigation was carried out in December 2018 according to the requirements of the Exhumation License and guidance from Faye Minter of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (email dated 13 November 2018).

A substantial garden re-design is to be implemented and it includes a large pond. The investigation comprised the examination of the area of the pond to understand if more human burials are present.

2 RESULTS

A trench was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. It adhered to the course of the proposed brick wall which is to enclose the proposed pond. The trench was extended and widened on the eastern side close to the supine burial revealed behind the lining of the existing plunge pool. The burial has a clearly defined grave cut and fill in section.

The trench was gradually excavated in spits through the overburden and through the natural horizon in places.

No grave cuts were observed. A small amount of human bone with old breaks was recovered from a demolition or levelling layer close to the burial.

Several clearly defined features were revealed within the excavated trench below a levelling or demolition layer. The latter contained CBM including frequent pegged tile, brick fragments and glass. A small number of forged iron nails and modern (19th - 20th century) pottery and glass including moulded bottles and a paste jar were also present. The layer was at its deepest nearest to the burial.

The features revealed included a circular well or soakaway adjacent a subcircular pit which ran under the eastern baulk. The well was back-filled with CBM. A small circular pit to the south contained fragments of fire-cracked flint and evidence of *in situ* burning.

An earlier layer demolition material partially overlay flint cobble wall foundations west of the small circular pit. Two of the wall foundations formed a right angle and both were wide enough to be load bearing. A wide ditch infilled with large flint cobbles and stone respected and followed the same alignment of the foundation. The ditch was aligned NE/SW and could be seen extending beyond the NE baulk as a depression in the lawn. The ditch was absent in the eastern arm of the trench. An additional but less

substantial flint cobble wall foundation, aligned NW/SE, was revealed beyond the ditch. Also a small infilled ditch was revealed to the south and adhered to the same alignment as the larger ditch.

The date of the features is uncertain due to the general lack of finds.

The features were not excavated because the project fell outside the requirement for planning permission.

The burial revealed behind the lining of the plunge pool probably denotes the extent of the cemetery to the east. It is probable that there may be further burials closer to the western boundary of the property beyond the area of the new pool.

It has been agreed by the client that the building contractor will carefully machine out the remainder of the proposed pond. If human bone or burials are encountered AS will be contacted. The building contractor has worked with archaeologists before.

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
December 2018
Revised April 2019

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P7846)



1
Trench being excavated



2
Trench being excavated



3
View of previous foundations



4
View of well



5
General view of the pool where the skull was uncovered



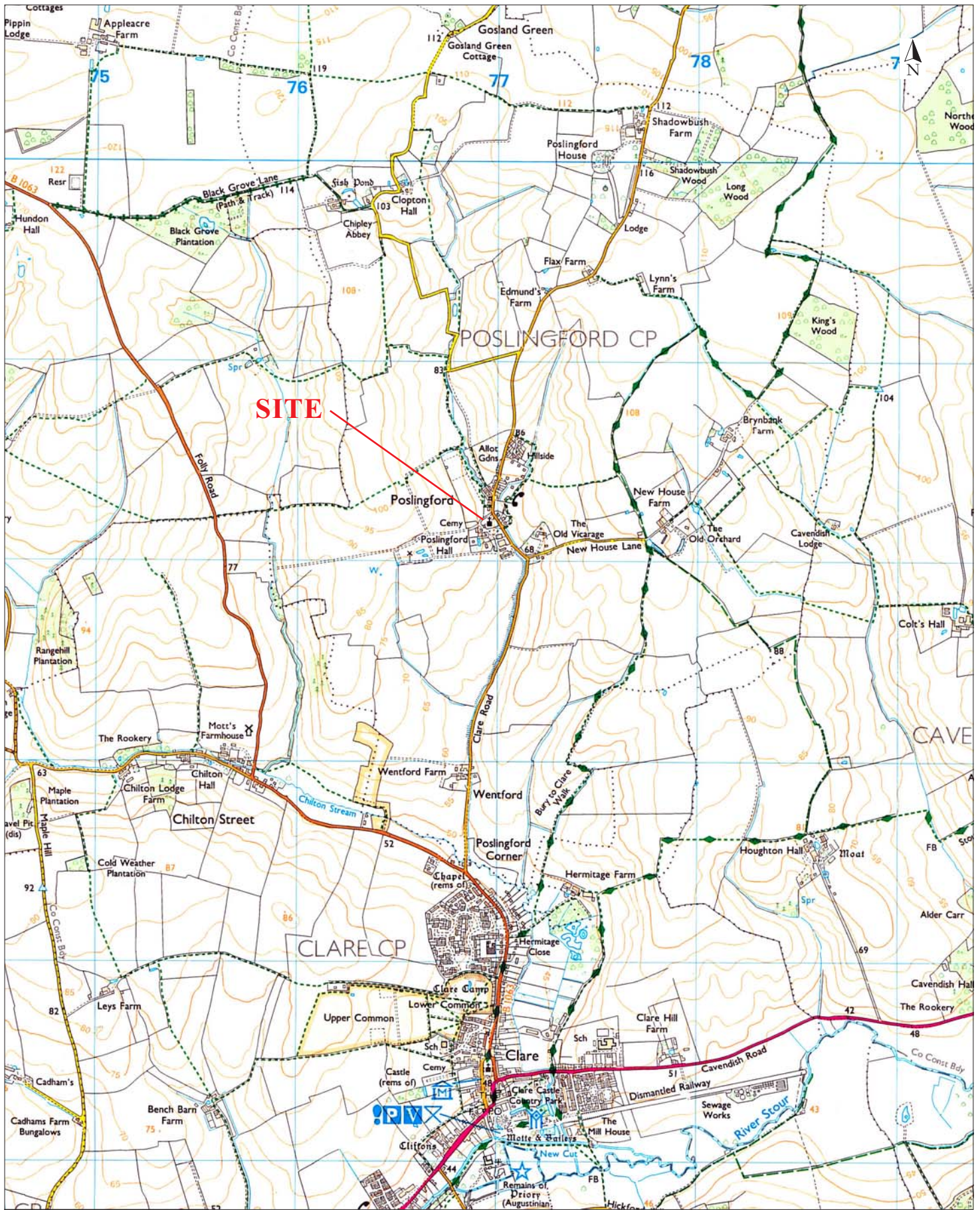
6
Detail view of where the skull was uncovered behind the pool lining



7
General view of site

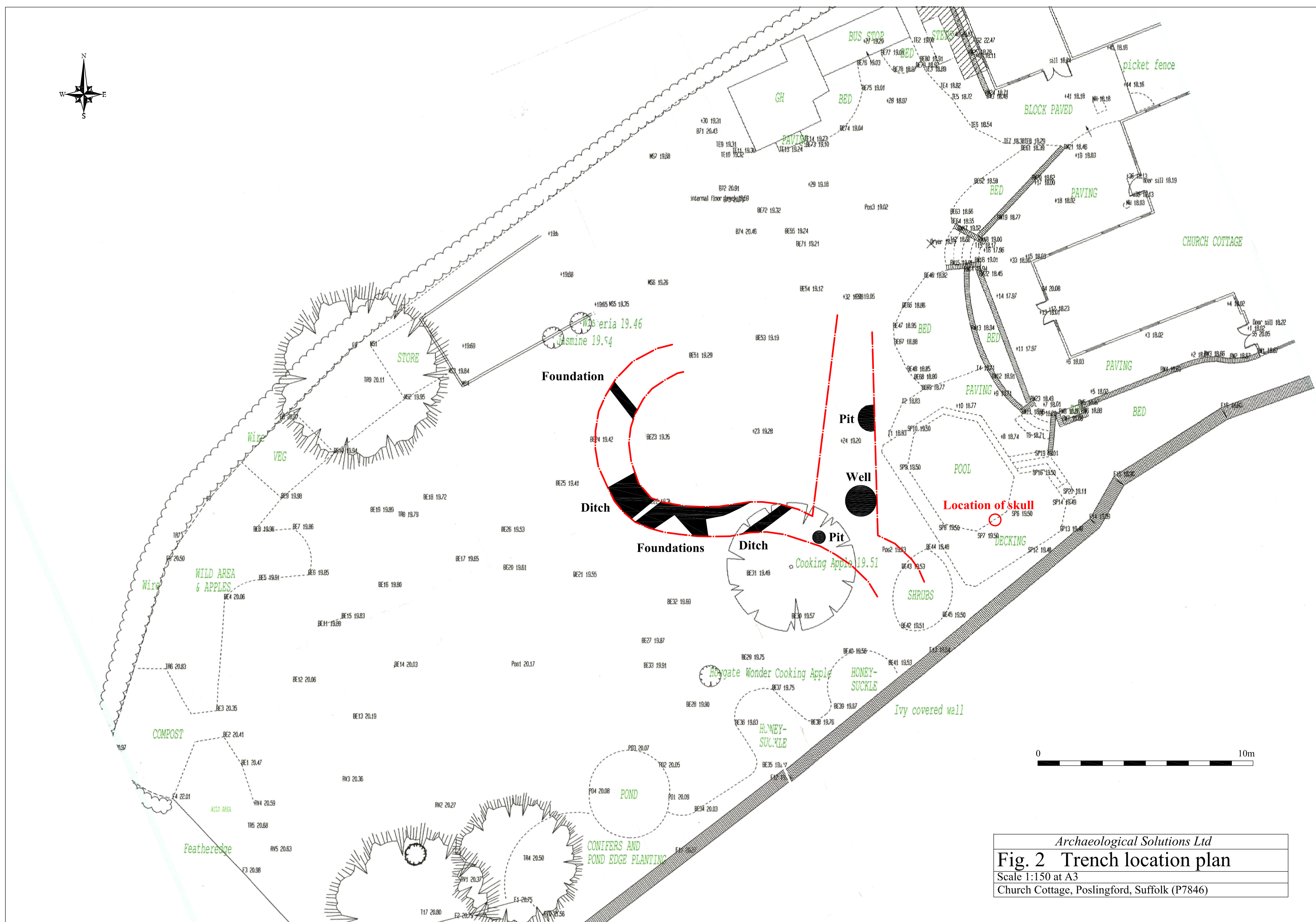


8
View of site showing a large pit



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
Scale 1:150 at A3
Church Cottage, Poslingford, Suffolk (P7846)