

# Green Hill Solar Farm EN010170

Environmental Statement
Appendix 12.5: Interim Evaluation Trial
Trenching Reports
(Part 2 of 7)

Prepared by: Lanpro

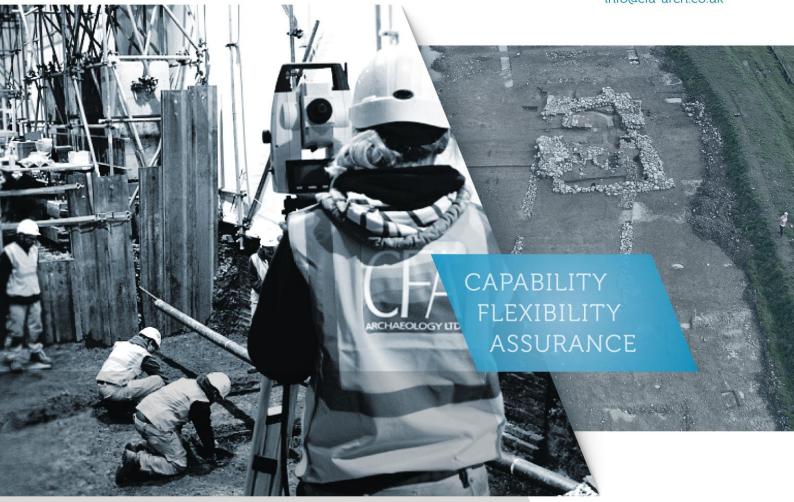
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# Green Hill Solar Farm, Site B Northamptonshire

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# Green Hill Solar Farm Site B Northamptonshire

**Archaeological Evaluation** 

Interim Report Report No. 4576

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#### **Summary**

Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Site B, Fields BF2 and BF3 of the Green Hill Solar Project in September and October 2024 to inform a planning application for a solar farm development. The purpose of the archaeological works was to identify and record any remains of archaeological and historical significance. The archaeological features recorded across Site B suggest that there is a locus of activity centred around the southern edge of the site. This may be reflective of a series of enclosures dating from the Late Iron Age into the Roman period.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation trenching investigation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) for Lanpro on behalf of Green Hill Solar Farm Ltd, with evaluation trenching taking place between the 10<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. The CFA site code and project number for the works are GHSO4 and 5293, respectively.

The work was conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), produced by CFA Archaeology (Walker 2024, Appendix 3) and approved by the Northamptonshire Council Lead Planning Archaeologist.

The works were required in support of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for a solar development. The development scheme consists of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) site and eight electricity generating sites, each with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) consisting of ground mounted solar arrays and 'Associated Development'; comprising of energy storage, grid connection infrastructure, and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the scheme.

#### 1.1 Site Location and Description

The proposed Green Hill Solar Farm comprises nine Sites (Green Hill A, A2, B, C, D, E, F, G, and BESS). Eight of the sites are located between Northampton and Wellingborough in Northamptonshire (Green Hill A to F and BESS). Site G is located to the north of Lavendon in the borough of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Collectively, the sites cover approximately 1224ha within a swathe of land measuring approximately 23km from north to south and11.5km from east to west.

Site B (hereafter 'the Site'), is located south of Holcot and north-east of Moulton centred at SP 79327 68435 (Fig. 1). It is comprised of 56 hectares of arable land, with further fields and scattered agricultural buildings.

The bedrock geology of the site is comprised of Blisworth Limestone Formation (Limestone), Rutland Formation (Mudstone), and Stamford Member (sandstone and siltstone, interbedded) (BGS 2025). It has areas of freely draining slightly acid loamy soils and of lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (LandIS 2025).

#### 1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

A full archaeological and historic background is available in the Desk Based Assessment (Lanpro 2024), and the relevant information from this document is summarised below.

#### Prehistoric

Two records of possible prehistoric activity are recorded within the study area, comprising a site of possible Bronze Age activity (HER 5812/2) which extends into the south-west of field BF2 and undated possible enclosures and ditches (HER 4526) that extend into Field BF5. However, these were not identified on the Aerial Photography, geophysical survey and LiDAR surveys of the site.

There are 42 records held by the Northamptonshire HER, relating to general 'prehistoric' activity recorded within the 1km search area. Additionally, two records have been assigned a 'Prehistoric to Roman' date and comprise settlement activity (HER 5812/1, HER 5514). One of the records corresponds with possible Bronze Age activity and comprises a possible Bronze Age round barrow, uncovered during trial trenching (HER 5812/1), 395m to the south-west of the study site. These features were cut by later Roman ditches, with pottery dating to the 2nd century AD.

An undated enclosure and ditch (HER 4526) is recorded to the south-east of the study site, which may date to the prehistoric period. The HER polygon suggests the features associated with HER 4526 extend into the study site, but archaeological evaluation has not identified any features of an archaeological potential in the south-east side of Field BF5.

There are two other HER records that record potential prehistoric activity in close proximity to the study site; an enclosure (HER 5615/0/1) situated 15m to the south of Field BF2, seen as cropmarks on aerial photography, and which may relate to prehistoric settlement activity, and the route of The Jurrasic Way. The Jurassic Way (HER 195; NRHE 1035203), was a prehistoric routeway connecting the north-east and the south-west of Britain, and runs across the search area, following the band of Jurassic Limestone that runs along the northern boundary of Northamptonshire. Dating from at least the early Bronze Age period, but potentially the earlier Neolithic period, the ridgeway wasn't a single defined track but a broad set of routes following the line of the hills across the county. It appears that it was during the Iron Age period that the track became clearly defined. There is some debate as to its route across the search area, with the HER depicting the route running north-east to south-west, c.560m south of the study site, whilst the NRHE data depicts the route running north-east to south-west, c.400m north-west of the Study Site.

Iron Age to Roman

There are 13 records relating to general Iron Age activity recorded on the Northamptonshire HER within the 1km search area, and six further records dating to the Roman period and four records attributed more broadly to the 'Iron Age to Roman' periods.

There is a concentrated area of probable activity dating from the Iron Age to Roman period to the south of the study site. An area of cropmarks (HER 4541), 430m to the south of the south-western Field BF2, was previously subject to geophysical survey and trial trenching which revealed enclosures and linking trackways/boundary ditches dated to the Iron Age. Another HER record, 420m to the south of the study site, relates to a probable Iron Age settlement (HER 5515/2) where trial trenching uncovered a large D-shaped enclosure with internal divisions and possible structural features. A curvilinear gully in the southern part of the enclosure may be the remains of a roundhouse and initial dating of artefacts suggests an Iron Age date.

Roman pottery associated with large areas of stone and pebbles (HER 4529) was discovered during fieldwalking, c.240m to the south of Field BF2. Geophysical survey suggested that the features are possibly part of an extensive linear, ladder settlement extending over a large area but, trial trenching of the anomalies was inconclusive.

#### Medieval

There are three records of medieval activity within the study site. One relates to probable medieval or post-medieval plough headlands (HER 5966/0/6), extending into the north-east of Field BF5, and in Field BF1 ridge and furrow is recorded to the immediate west of the field, but may not extend into the study site (HER 2328/0/1 and HER 2328/0/3). The geophysical survey has identified anomalies associated with buried ridge and furrow within this area of the study site, but no earthworks survive within the field.

There are eight HER 'monument' records assigned to the medieval period within the 1km search area, and five assigned to the 'Medieval to Post Medieval' period. Four HER 'monument' records are assigned to the 'Medieval to Late 20th Century' period and one to the 'Medieval to Modern' period. There are also six HER 'monument' records assigned to 'Early Saxon to Late Medieval' period within the 1km search area, and one assigned to the 'Early Saxon' period. A very small part of an HER polygon comprising medieval or post-medieval plough headlands (HER 5966/0/6) extends into the northeast of Field BF5.

The study site was situated within the manor of Holcot, which means 'cottages in the hollows' and a reference in AD 969 to the boundary of Holcot (Birch 1885) is evidence of the existence of the village during the earlier medieval period. Holcot was mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Survey, within the hundred of Mawsley when the village had a recorded population of 28.5 households, putting it in the largest 40% of settlements in Northamptonshire. The Northamptonshire HER records earthworks, to the west and

east of the modern village centre, which are broadly attributed to a medieval shrunken settlement (HER 4369).

The study site also sat within the manor of Moulton. The derivation of the name 'Moulton' is thought to be 'town of the mill', or perhaps 'Meleton' meaning 'protected town'. In the Domesday Book of 1086, it was spelt 'Moltone' and was in the largest 20% of settlements in Northamptonshire. The HER records a possible medieval manor (HER 5227/1), situated 890m to the south-west of the study site. The area is traditionally known as Castle Hill and is said to be the site of the manor house of the Fitz John family who are known to have held land in Moulton in the 13th century.

The earliest medieval remains identified within the 1km search area comprise a single record (HER 0/0/425) of a small fragment of an Anglo-Saxon gilded brooch found during metal detecting, 965m to the south of the study site. Of the six records dated to the 'Early Saxon to Late Medieval' by the HER period, three relate to homesteads, ponds and a dam (HER 4369) seen on aerial photography within Holcot, 820m to the north-east of the study site. The remaining two relate to two fields, 350m to the northwest of the study site (HER 4524, HER 4525), with field names that suggest links to possible Anglo-Saxon/medieval settlement.

There are six areas of ridge and furrow recorded within the 1km search area, including two (HER 5966/0/3, HER 5966/0/5) immediately north Field BF4. These were identified during the 'Midland Open Fields Project' (Hall and Palmer, 2001).

#### Post-Medieval and Modern Periods

The Northamptonshire HER documents one record of post-medieval date within the 1km search area, as well as two records of 'post-medieval to modern date', five records of 'post-medieval to late 20th century' and 13 'modern'. None of these records are located within the study site.

The only record relating specifically to the post-medieval period is for a Wesleyan Methodist chapel opened in 1815 (HER 4369/4/1), however, the ridge and furrow recorded within the search area may well have continued in use into the post-medieval period. The two 'post-medieval to modern' HER records relate to a farmhouse (HER 3199/2/1) and a stone wall foundation (HER 4369/0/11). While the 'post-medieval to 20th century' HER records relate to houses (HER 4369/0/3, HER 4369/0/4, HER 4369/0/5, HER 4369/6/1) and a war memorial (HER 4369/6).

The majority of modern to 20th century records relate to residential buildings and farm buildings associated with the villages of Holcot and Moulton (HER 210/1, HER 3075/1, HER 3199/1/1, HER 4369/0/6, HER 4369/3/1, HER 4369/4/1, HER 4369/5/1, HER 4369/5, HER 7554, HER 7905/1, HER 9794).

The study site appears to have remained in agricultural use since at least the post-medieval period. Parliamentary enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries ended the

traditional rights on common land, formerly held in the open field system, and restricted the use of the land to only the owner. It consolidated strips in the open fields into larger units, often delineated by hedgerows, and enclosed much of the remaining pasture commons (land covered with grass and other low plants suitable for grazing animals, especially cattle or sheep).

The 1813 Ordnance Surveyors' Drawing (OSD) map shows the study site within enclosed fields to the south of Tithe Barn. The map shows the study site as being formed by parts of 12 parcels of land, which are likely associated with Tithe Barn. It has been noted, however, that the OSDs 'vary considerably in content, accuracy and finish' and include detail that has been sketched in (Oliver 2013, 62).

The 1839 plan of the Lordship of Holcot depicts changes to the field boundaries within the study site, some of the boundaries have been removed and the study site is now formed by parts of six fields. It is likely the study site would have had an arable function associated with the farmstead of Tithe Barn. The pond located between Fields BF3 and BF4 is depicted on the map.

The 1885 OS map shows that since the 1839 plan of Holcot, the fields within the study site had been further divided, and the study site formed by nine fields. Both ponds are depicted within Fields BF3, BF4 and BF5. The 1925 OS map shows no changes to the study site or surrounding area.

The 1952 OS map shows minimal changes within the study site with the loss of a boundary within Field BF3, leaving the site divided between eight fields. The 1968 OS map shows no changes to the study site or surrounding areas.

The 1981-1989 OS map shows extensive boundary reorganisation, with the study site divided across nine rectilinear fields. The 1991-1993 OS map (not reproduced) shows no changes to the study site or surrounding area.

The aerial view of the study site shows the modern composition of the site. Since the 1991-1993 OS map, further boundary loss has occurred, and the study site now comprises five fields. The two ponds are visible and are surrounded by small copses of trees.

#### 1.3 Previous Work

A geophysical gradiometer survey has been undertaken across the entirety of the Green Hill Solar Project area (ASWYAS 2024). Geophysical survey has detected magnetic anomalies associated with an agricultural landscape, including former field boundaries, medieval/postmedieval ridge and furrow cultivation, modern ploughing and land drains, as well as paleochannels.

Anomalies have been recorded in the south of Fields BF2 and BF3, which are likely to be indicative of buried archaeological remains and can be postulated as belonging to

enclosure systems of possible prehistoric and/or Roman date. Anomalies in BF2 are located directly to the north of an area recorded on the HER as possibly containing prehistoric activity (MNN138126), and north-east of a Bronze Age or Roman field system (MNN171300).

#### 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with the WSI (Walker 2024), the overall aim of the archaeological works was to obtain sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the PDA. This will allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made for further archaeological mitigation works, the scope of which would be detailed in a project design in agreement with the Archaeological Advisor(s) to the relevant Local Planning Authority(s).

This was achieved through the following objectives:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the PDA;
- To excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret identified archaeological features;
- To report the results of the archaeological assessment and place them in their local and regional context; and
- To compile and deposit a site archive and to provide information for the HER.

#### 2.1 Regional Research Framework

Targeted research priorities will be identified from the East Midlands Regional Research Framework (Research Frameworks 2024) in the complete report, forthcoming. Targeted research priorities may include:

#### Neolithic and Early to Middle Bronze Age

- 3.1.2: How can we date more precisely the various regional styles of Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age pottery?
- 3.8.1: Can we identify intra-regional variations in the character of sites and artefacts and what might these signify in social or economic terms?
- 3.9.2: How far may petrographic and other scientific analyses contribute to our understanding of systems of ceramic production and distribution?

#### Romano-British

- 5.4.1: How did the Conquest impact upon rural settlements and landscapes?
- 5.4.2: How and why did settlement forms and building traditions vary within the region and over time?
- 5.4.4: How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time?
- 5.4.5: What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?
- 5.6.1: What resources moved in and out of the region during this period?
- 5.6.3: How may studies of the production, movement and consumption of pottery contribute to understanding of the regional economy?

#### 3 WORKING METHODS

#### 3.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd is a registered organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CFA Archaeology follows all relevant CIfA and Historic England (formerly English Heritage) Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2020a, 2020b, 2022, 2023a & 2023b, English Heritage 2006, 2008, 2011 & 2012 and Historic England 2015a & 2015b).

All features and trenches were surveyed using an industry standard Trimble GPS. The same equipment was used to establish the levels above Ordnance Datum (aOD) for the areas of archaeological investigation. Modern finds (c. 20th-century onwards) were identified but not retained.

A summary of the results of the archaeological works has been submitted for inclusion in the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS V, Appendix 2). The OASIS reference is cfaarcha1-531971.

#### 3.2 Method of Excavation

A total of 61 50m x 2m evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Fields BF2 & BF3; Figs. 1 & 2). These works were carried out in accordance with the methods specified in the WSI.

During the excavation of the evaluation trenches, the topsoil and recent overburden were removed down to the natural substrate in successive level spits of a maximum 0.2m thickness, using a tracked machine equipped with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The groundwork was carried out under direct archaeological supervision. All the exposed features were cleaned and excavated by hand. The sections of the excavated features were drawn at a 1:10 scale and planned at a 1:20 scale (Figs. In prep.).

All archaeological features were scanned with an XR ADX150 metal detector prior, during, and after excavation. The trenches and all archaeological remains were surveyed and tied into the National Grid using a Trimble GPS.

#### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The location of the excavated trenches can be seen in Figure 1. The trenches containing archaeological features are described below. These results should be read in conjunction with Figures 1 & 2. A table detailing depth of topsoil and subsoil for each trench can be found in Appendix 1. Recorded trenches and archaeological features are prefixed by the site designation (B) and field number (F#).

Unless otherwise stated, no finds were recovered from the following features.

#### 4.1 Factual Summary of Key Archaeological Findings

Field BF2

A total 31 trenches were excavated, of which seven contained archaeological features (Trenches BF2-07, BF2-12, BF2-23, BF2-27, BF2-28, BF2-29, and BF2-30).

Field BF3

A total of 30 trenches were excavated, of which ten contained archaeological features (Trenches BF3-02, BF3-03, BF3-04, BF3-07, BF3-08, BF3-10, BF3-15, BF3-20, BF3-27, and BF3-29).

#### 4.2 Results by Trench

#### 4.2.1 Field BF2

#### Trench BF2-07 (Fig. 2.3)

One east to west orientated ditch was recorded in the central part of Trench BF2-07. Ditch **BF2-0704** had steeply sloping sides and a tapered base and measured greater than 1m long, 0.9m wide, and 0.4m deep (Plate 1). It contained four fills. The basal fill (**BF2-0708**) was a friable brownish yellow clay, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.08m deep, and was likely accumulated through silting. The next fill (**BF2-0707**) was a friable blackish grey silty clay, measuring 0.75m wide and 0.13m deep, with frequent small to medium sub-rounded charcoal and carbonised material inclusions. This deposit contained burnt animal remains and pottery. Above that was Fill **BF2-0706**, a friable brownish yellow clay measuring 0.59m wide and 0.06m deep. The uppermost fill (**BF2-0705**) was light tan in colour and measured 0.52m wide and 0.14m deep.



Plate 1: North facing section of Ditch BF2-0704

#### Trench BF2-12 (Fig. 2.4)

Trench BF2-12 contained a single discreet feature (**BF2-1204**) at its south-western end, measuring greater than 1.2m long, 0.68m wide, and at least 0.19m deep. It contained three fills. **BF2-1205** was the basal fill. The middle fill (**BF2-1206**) measured 0.68m wide and 0.09m deep and was a loose mid-orangey brown coarse sand with frequent small to very large sub-angular to rounded sandstone inclusions. The uppermost fill (**BF2-1207**) measured 0.61m wide and 0.19m deep and was comprised of a loose midorangey brown sandy clay with rare medium sub-rounded sandstone inclusions. The stones of Fill **BF2-1206** appeared to be laid flat, leading to the interpretation of this feature as the foundation for a structure.

#### Trench BF2-23 (Fig. 2.4)

Trench BF2-23 contained two north-west to south-east orientated ditches and a north to south orientated gully, all in the eastern end of the trench.

The westernmost feature, Gully **BF2-2306**, had gently sloping sides with a gradual break to a base which sloped towards the south-west (Plate 2). It measured greater than 1m long, 0.45m wide, and 0.08m deep and held a single fill (**BF2-2307**) of malleable mid-greyish brown silty clay.



Plate 2: Plan of Gully BF2-2306

The middle feature, Ditch **BF2-2308**, had steeply sloping sides with a sharp break to a flat base and measured greater than 2.1m long, 1.26m wide, and 0.89m deep (Plate 3). It contained two fills. The basal fill (**BF2-2309**) was a friable mid-grey sandy silt with occasional small to medium sub-rounded to rounded ironstone inclusions. The deposit measured 0.44m wide and 0.18m deep. The uppermost fill (**BF2-2310**) was a malleable light orangey grey medium clayey sand with moderate small to large sub-angular to well-rounded quartzite inclusions, measuring 1.26m wide and 0.7m deep. Romano-British pottery was recovered from both fills of this ditch.



Plate 3: North facing section of Ditch BF2-2308

Ditch **BF2-2304**, at the eastern end of the trench, had steeply sloping sides and a sharp break to a tapered base (Plate 4). It measured greater than 2.1m long, 0.45m wide, and 0.35m deep and contained a single fill (**BF2-2305**) of friable dark reddish brown medium clayey sand with rare small very angular to sub-angular ironstone flecks. Pottery was recovered from this deposit.



Plate 4: East facing section of Ditch BF2-2304

#### Trench BF2-27 (Fig. 2.7)

North-west to south-east orientated Gully **BF2-2704** was the only feature recorded in Trench BF2-27, located at the eastern end. The gully had steeply sloping sides with a sharp break to a flat base and measured greater than 0.9m long, 0.22m wide, and 0.1m deep. It had a single fill (**BF2-2705**) of malleable mid-greyish brown silty clay.

#### Trench BF2-28 (Fig. 2.7)

A pit and a ditch were recorded in Trench BF2-28.

Located in the centre of the trench, semi-circular Pit **BF2-2804** had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to an uneven base (Plate 5). It measured 0.78m long, 0.64m wide, and 0.2m deep and contained a single fill (**BF2-2805**) of friable dark greyish brown silt. Pottery was recovered from this deposit.



Plate 5: South-west facing section and plan of Pit BF2-2804

North-east to south-west orientated Ditch **BF2-2806**, located at the south-eastern end of the trench, had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a flat base and measured greater than 2.1m long, 1.14m wide, and 0.32m deep (Plate 6). It had a single fill (**BF2-2807**) of malleable brownish orange sandy silt with occasional small to medium sub-angular ironstone inclusions.



Plate 6: South-west facing section of Ditch BF2-2806

#### Trench BF2-29 (Fig. 2.7)

One north-east to south-west orientated ditch (**BF2-2904**) was recorded in the middle of Trench BF2-29. It was only partially excavated due to environmental constraints, but was recorded as having steeply sloping sides and measuring greater than 0.5m long, 2.23m wide, and greater than 0.35m deep (Plate 7). The uppermost fill (**BF2-2905**) was recorded as a malleable mid-orangey brown silty clay with occasional small angular limestone inclusions. Pottery was recovered from this deposit.



Plate 7: South-west facing section of Ditch BF2-2904

#### Trench BF2-30 (Fig. 2.7)

Trench BF2-30 contained four ditches.

Located at the north-western end of the trench, north to south orientated Ditch **BF2-3011** had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 8). It measured greater than 2.5m long, 0.28m wide, and 0.1m deep and contained a single fill (**BF2-3012**) of loose mid-greyish brown silty clay. Pottery was recovered from this deposit.

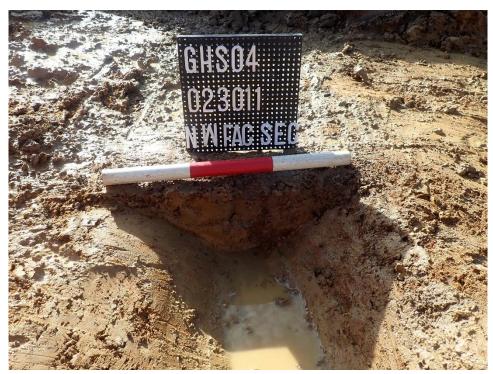


Plate 8: North-west facing section of Ditch BF2-3011

Ditch **BF2-3004**, orientated north to south in the centre of the trench, had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 9). It measured greater than 2.1m long, 0.48m wide, and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill (**BF2-3005**) of loose light greyish brown silt.



Plate 9: North facing section of Ditch BF2-3004

Orientated north-west to south-east, Ditch **BF2-3010** had gently sloping sides with a gradual break to a base that slopes to the north-west (Plate 10). It measured greater than 1.5m long, 0.3m wide, and 0.09m deep and had a single fill (**BF2-3009**) of a friable mid-greyish brown deposit. This ditch intersection with Ditch **BF2-3004**, but the intersection was not investigated during this phase of works.



Plate 10: South-east facing section of Ditch BF2-3010

Ditch **BF2-3006**, orientated north to south and located east of Ditches **BF2-3004** and **BF2-3010**, had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base. It measured greater than 2.1m long, 1.05m wide, and 0.38m deep and contained two fills (Plate 11). The basal fill (**BF2-3007**) was a highly laminated friable light brownish orange sandy silt with occasional small to medium angular iron stone inclusions, measuring 1.05m wide and 0.12m deep. The uppermost fill (**BF2-3008**) was a friable mid-blackish brown sandy silt with rare medium very angular flint inclusions, measuring 0.75m wide and 0.28m deep. It was noted that there was a high percentage of organic material in this deposit and pottery was recovered from it.



Plate 11: North facing section of Ditch BF2-3006

#### 4.2.2 Field BF3

#### Trench BF3-02 (Fig. 2.8)

Trench BF3-02 contained a single east to west orientated ditch (**BF3-0204**) towards its north-western end, which had steeply sloping sides with an imperceptible break to and uneven base (Plate 12). It measured greater than 1.93m long, 0.5m wide, and 0.22m deep and contained a single fill (**BF3-0205**) of firm dark brownish grey clay with occasional medium to large charcoal inclusions.



Plate 12: Plan of Ditch BF3-0204

#### Trench BF3-03 (Fig. 2.8)

One north to south orientated gully was recorded in the middle of Trench BF3-03. Gully **BF3-0304** had steeply sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base and measured 1.14m long, 0.32m wide, and 0.1m deep (Plate 13). It had a single fill (**BF3-0305**) of firm dark greyish brown clay. It was noted that this feature may be a possible gully terminus, but this could not be confirmed within the limits of the trial trench.



Plate 13: South facing section of Gully BF3-0304

# Trench BF3-04 (Fig. 2.9)

Trench BF3-04 contained a single oval-shaped pit in its centre (**BF3-0404**) with gently sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 14). It measured 0.5m long, 0.81m wide, and 0.1 to 0.16m deep and had one fill (**BF3-0405**) of firm greyish brown clay with rare medium to large rounded stone inclusions.



Plate 14: East facing section of Pit BF3-0404

#### Trench BF3-07 (Fig. 2.10)

Trench BF3-07 contained two pits and two ditches.

Pit **BF3-0704**, located towards the middle-north of the trench, was semi-oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a gentle break to a flat base (Plate 15). It measured 0.86m long, 1.71m wide, and 0.24m deep and had a single fill (**BF3-0705**) of friable mid-greyish brown clay with occasional stone inclusions.



Plate 15: North-east facing section of Pit BF3-0704

In the southern end of the trench was Ditch **BF3-0709**, orientated north to south, on the same alignment as agricultural trends on the geophysical survey. It had steeply sloping sides with a sharp break to a flat base (Plates 16 & 17). It measured greater than 1.61m long, greater than 0.6m wide, and 0.24m deep and contained a single fill (**BF3-0708**) of cemented mid-brownish orange clayey silt with moderate small chalk inclusions. This was on the same alignment as agricultural trends on the geophysical survey.



Plate 16: South facing section of Ditch BF3-0709

Ditch Terminus **BF3-0711**, orientated north-east to south-west, had steeply sloping sides with a sharp break to a flat base (Plate 17). It measured greater than 1.5m long, 0.66m wide, and 0.27m deep and contained a single fill (**BF3-0710**) cemented orangey brown clayey silt with occasional flecks of chalk. This ditch was close in location to Ditch BF3-0709 and may have been a continuation of the same feature. Further interpretation was not possible within the confines of the trial trench.



Plate 17: Plan of Ditch BF3-0709 (below) and Ditch BF3-0711 (above)

Near to the southern end of the trench, Pit **BF3-0706** was an irregular sub-oval shape in plan with moderately sloping sides and a gradual break to a flat base (Plate 18). It measured 1.71m long, 0.87m wide, and 0.11m deep and contained a single fill (**BF3-0707**) of firm mid-reddish brown silt.



Plate 18: North facing section of Pit BF3-0706

#### Trench BF3-08 (Fig. 2.11)

One ditch and one pit were recorded in Trench BF3-08.

Pit **BF3-0805**, located towards the middle of the trench, was an irregular semi-oval in plan with moderately sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 19). It measured 2.46m long, 0.96m wide, and 0.2m deep and had a single fill (**BF3-0804**) of firm orangey brown silty clay.



Plate 19: East facing section of Pit BF3-0805

Orientated north-west to south-east and sited south-east of Pit **BF3-0805**, Ditch **BF3-0807** had steeply sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 20). It measured greater than 15m long, 0.8m wide, and 0.27m deep and contained a single fill (**BF3-0806**) of firm mid-orangey brown clayey silt with occasional medium angular to sub-angular flint inclusions. This ditch could relate to former agricultural activity.



Plate 20: South facing section of Ditch BF3-0807

#### Trench BF3-10 (Fig. 2.11)

Irregular, sub-oval Pit **BF3-1005** was the only feature recorded in Trench BF3-10, located in its centre. It had moderately sloping sides with a sharp break to a flat base and measured greater than 0.62m long, greater than 0.6m wide, and 0.27m deep (Plate 21). It had a single fill (**BF3-1004**) of cemented orangey brown clayey silt occasional small to medium angular chalk inclusions.



Plate 21: South facing section of Pit BF3-1005

#### Trench BF3-15 (Fig. 2.14)

Two north-east to south-west orientated ditches were recorded in Trench BF3-15 and were noted as being similar in shape and parallel to one another, these could relate to former agricultural activity.

Ditch **BF3-1507**, located in the west-central part of the trench, had gently sloping sides with an imperceptible break to a rounded base (Plate 22). It measured greater than 10m long, 0.58m wide, and 0.09m deep and contained one fill (**BF3-1506**) of firm yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular to sub-rounded ironstone inclusions.



Plate 22: North-east facing section of Ditch BF3-1507

Located north-east of Ditch **BF3-1507**, Ditch **BF3-1505** had steeply sloping sides with a gradual break to an uneven base (Plate 23). It measured greater than 12m long, 0.62m wide, and 0.21m deep and had a single fill (**BF3-1504**) of firm greyish brown clayey silt with rare medium angular flint inclusions.



Plate 23: North-east facing section of Ditch BF3-1505

#### Trench BF3-20 (Fig. 2.13)

Trench BF3-20 contained two east to west orientated ditches which could relate to former agricultural activity.

Located at the northern end of the trench, Ditch **BF3-2007** had gently sloping sides with a gradual break to a flat base and measured greater than 2.1m long, 0.3m wide, and 0.08m deep (Plate 24). It contained a single fill (**BF3-2006**) of firm mid-brownish orange clayey silt.



Plate 24: West facing section and plan of Ditch BF3-2007

Ditch **BF3-2005**, located towards the southern end of the trench, had gently sloping sides with an imperceptible break to a flat base and measured greater than 2.1m long, 0.84m wide, and 0.19m deep (Plate 25). It had one fill (**BF3-2004**) of firm dark brownish orange clayey silt with rare limestone inclusions.



Plate 25: West facing section of Ditch BF3-2005

#### Trench BF3-27 (Fig. 2.15)

Trench BF3-27 contained a single north-east to south-west orientated ditch towards its south-eastern end (**BF3-2704**). It had steeply sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base and measured greater than 1m long, 0.92m wide, and 0.45m deep and contained two fills (Plate 26). The basal fill (**BF3-2705**) was a malleable light orangey brown silty clay with rare small angular stone inclusions, measuring 0.88m wide and 0.05m deep. The uppermost fill (**BF3-2706**) was a malleable mid-orangey brown silty clay with rare small stone and charcoal inclusions, measuring 0.92m wide and 0.4m deep. Pottery was recovered from this deposit.



Plate 26: North-east facing section of Ditch BF3-2704

#### Trench BF3-29 (Fig. 2.16)

A single north-east to south-west orientated ditch was recorded towards the northern end of Trench BF3-29, this could relate to former agricultural activity. Ditch **BF3-2905** had gently sloping sides with a gradual break to an uneven base and measured greater than 2.1m long, 0.94m wide, and 0.3m deep. It contained two fills (Plate 27). The basal fill (**BF3-2904**) was a cemented mid-orangey brown clay with rare small to medium rounded quartzite inclusions, measuring 0.71m wide and 0.15m deep. The uppermost fill (**BF3-2906**) was a firm mid-orangey brown silty clay measuring 0.96m wide and 0.18m deep. This ditch was associated with seven other ditches in the trench, which were not investigated during this phase of works.



Plate 27: North-west facing section of Ditch BF3-2905

#### 5 INTERIM FINDS SUMMARY

The pre-quantified finds from Site B can be found in Table 1 below, organised by find type. At this stage, no cleaning or specialist assessment has been undertaken. The metal objects are metal detected finds and retrieved from the topsoil (suffixed -001) and are likely the remnants of modern agricultural practices. Unstratified finds of metal, flint and pottery were also recovered from the field surface.

Find Type	Quantity	Weight (g)
Flint	1	15
Iron	1	16
Pottery	101	1003
Pottery and bone	50	387
<b>Grand Total</b>	153	1421

**Table 1: Artefactual Finds Pre-Quantification** 

## 5.1 Interim Pottery Summary

The pottery from Site B appears fairly contemporary and is mostly handmade. Due to it being unwashed, it is difficult to determine if there is any decoration or identifiable sherds, such as rims, and this has limited the scope of this rapid assessment.

There are some elements of Roman grey wares within ditch fill **BF2-2310**. This includes a mix of handmade vessels and grey wares, suggesting that the pottery may be largely contemporary in date and is likely from the later prehistoric to Roman periods.

The pottery from Site B is largely comparable with known types of fabrics that relate to a 'transitional', or crossover, time of forms and fabrics in the later Iron Age into the Roman period. This generally relates to the early Roman period between the conquest (42AD) and the early 2nd century, where local inhabitants were copying early Roman forms and making them in their own local fabrics.

# 5.2 Interim Animal Bone Summary

Some animal bone has been recovered from a range of features reported on within this interim report. The results from the animal bone assessment will be included in the final report produced at the completion of the evaluation trenching works.

# 5.3 Interim Palaeo-Environmental Summary

Samples have been taken from a range of features reported on within this interim report. The results from the environmental assessment will be included in the final report produced at the completion of the evaluation trenching works.

# 5.4 Interim Finds Report

Green Hill Solar Project Site B: Fields BF2 & BF3: Interim Report for Evaluation Trenching Report No. 4576 v3

One piece of flint and one iron object were recovered from this excavation. These will be reported on in further detail in the final report produced at the completion of the evaluation trenching works.

## 6 INTERIM DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

#### 6.1 Field BF2

A ditch in Trench BF2-07 may be part of a longer curvilinear feature. A possible rectilinear enclosure or set of parallel ditches in the south-western corner of the field were confirmed in Trenches BF2-12 and BF2-23, and grey ware pottery from the latter has been dated to the Roman period. A complex series of linear features, possibly an enclosure, in the south-eastern corner of the field was confirmed by the presence of archaeological features in Trenches BF2-27, BF2-28, BF2-29, and BF2-30.

#### 6.2 Field BF3

Scattered features found in Trenches BF3-02, BF3-03, and BF3-04 are indicative of dispersed isolated pits of agricultural origin.

The north to south orientated ditch in Trench BF3-27 may be part of a possible rectilinear enclosure which extends beyond the southern limit of the field, although no evidence of such a feature was recorded in Trench BF3-26.

Features in Trench BF3-07 may be part of a larger curvilinear feature, possibly corresponding to the curving ridge and furrow identified on the geophysical survey.

The two parallel ditches in Trench BF3-15 were shallow, perhaps explaining why they appear as weak magnetic anomalies, and may have been part of a drainage or boundary system.

The furrows in Trench BF3-29 do not align with the post-medieval to modern field system and may be the remnants of an older ridge and furrow system.

An uncertain origin can be assigned to features in Trenches BF3-08, BF3-10, and BF3-20.

## 6.3 Conclusion

Altogether, the archaeological features recorded across Site B suggest that there is a locus of activity centred around the southern edge of the site. This may be reflective of a series of enclosures dating from the Late Iron Age into the Roman period.

Furrows were recorded across the site, consistent with its use as arable land in the recent historic period.

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Further assessment of the artefactual finds recovered from the site will provide greater information and will be included in the final assessment report.

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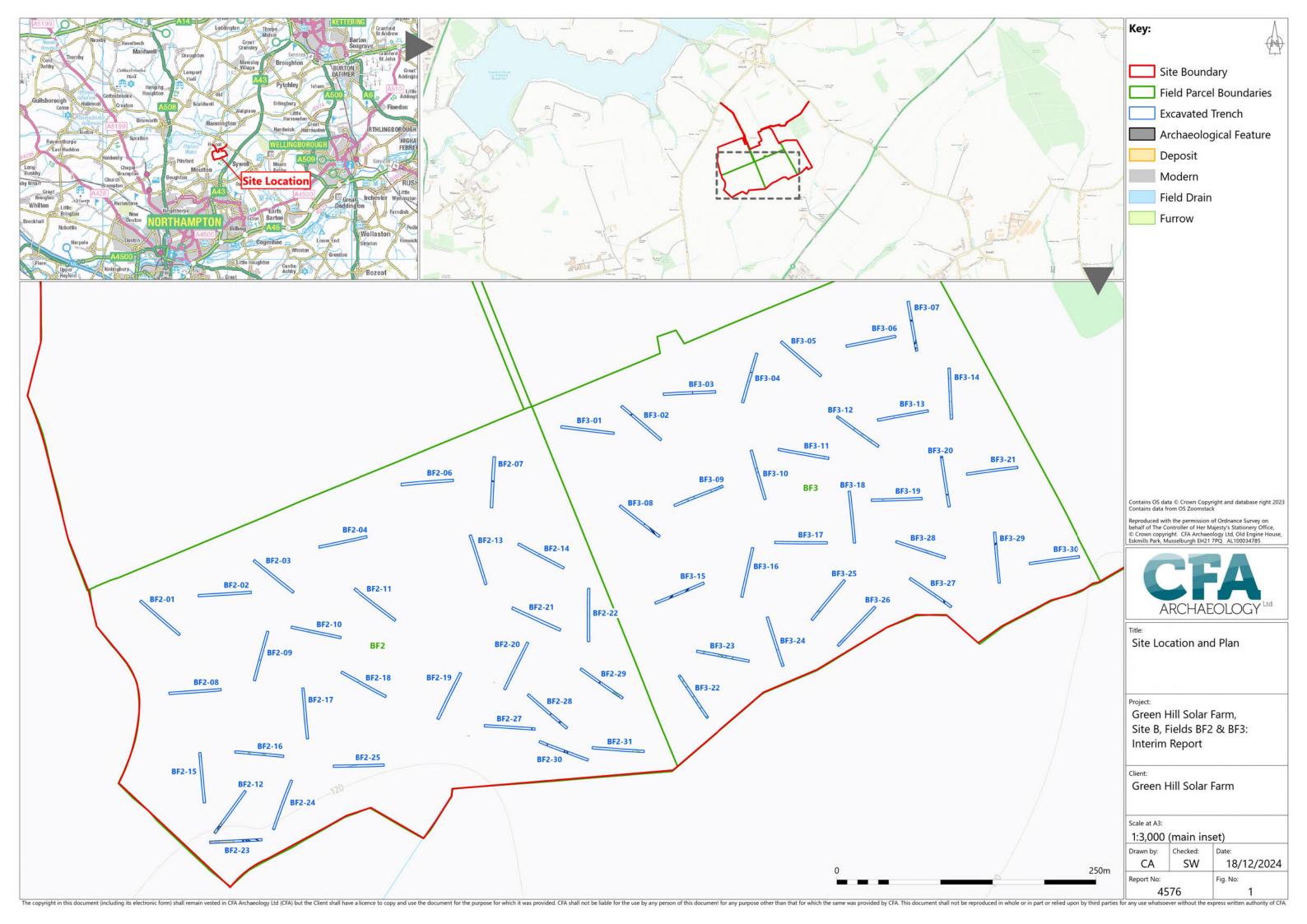
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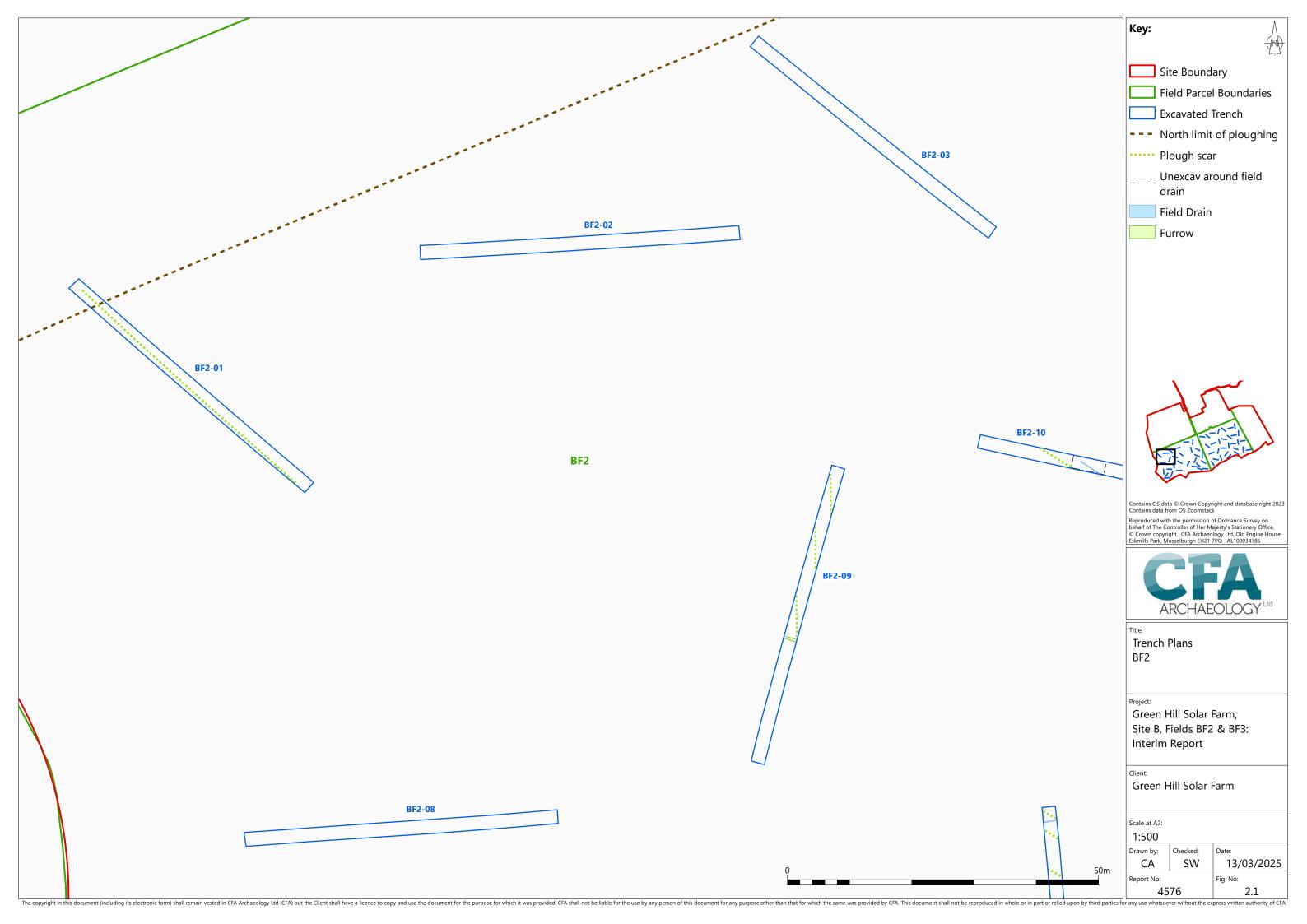
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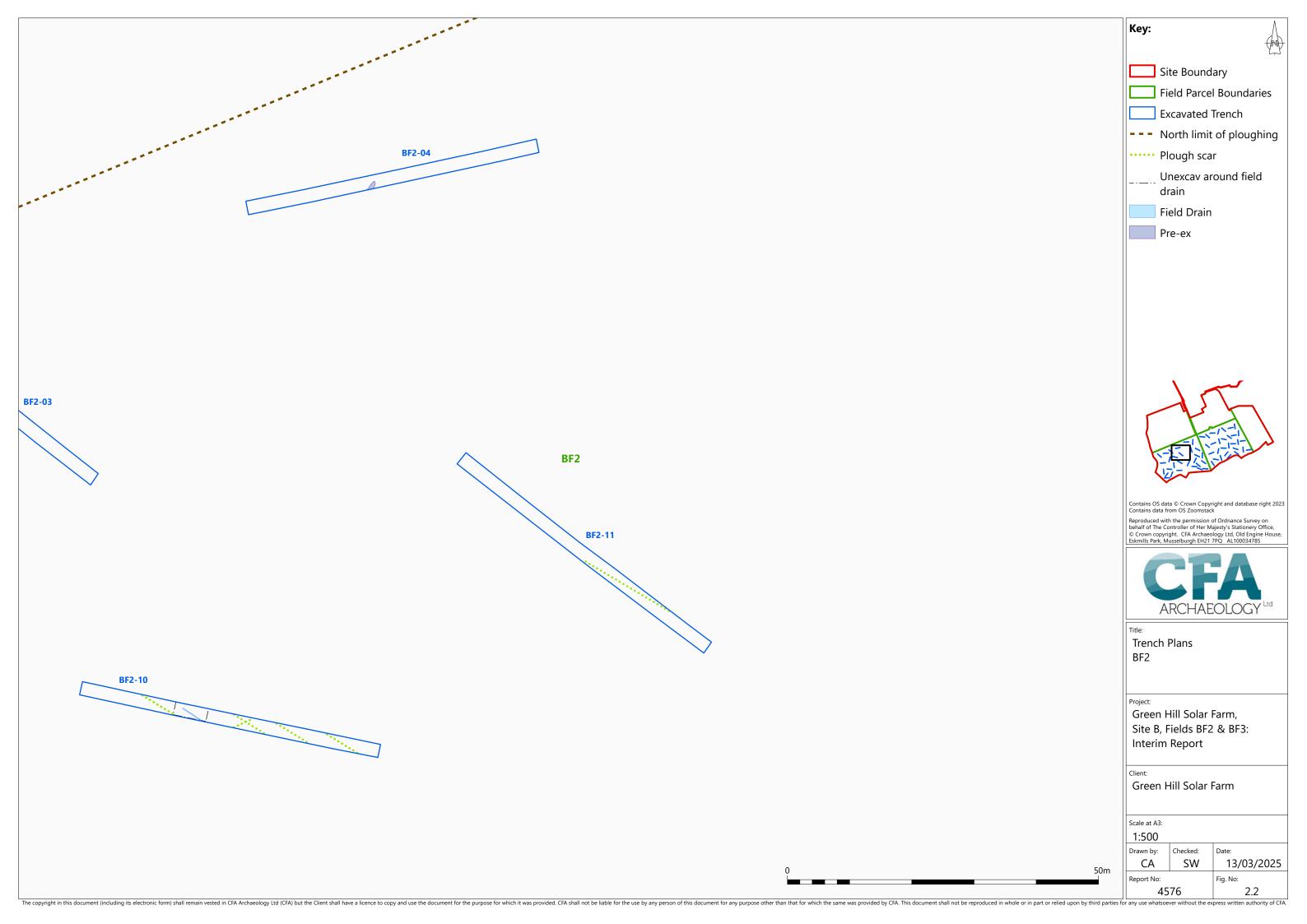
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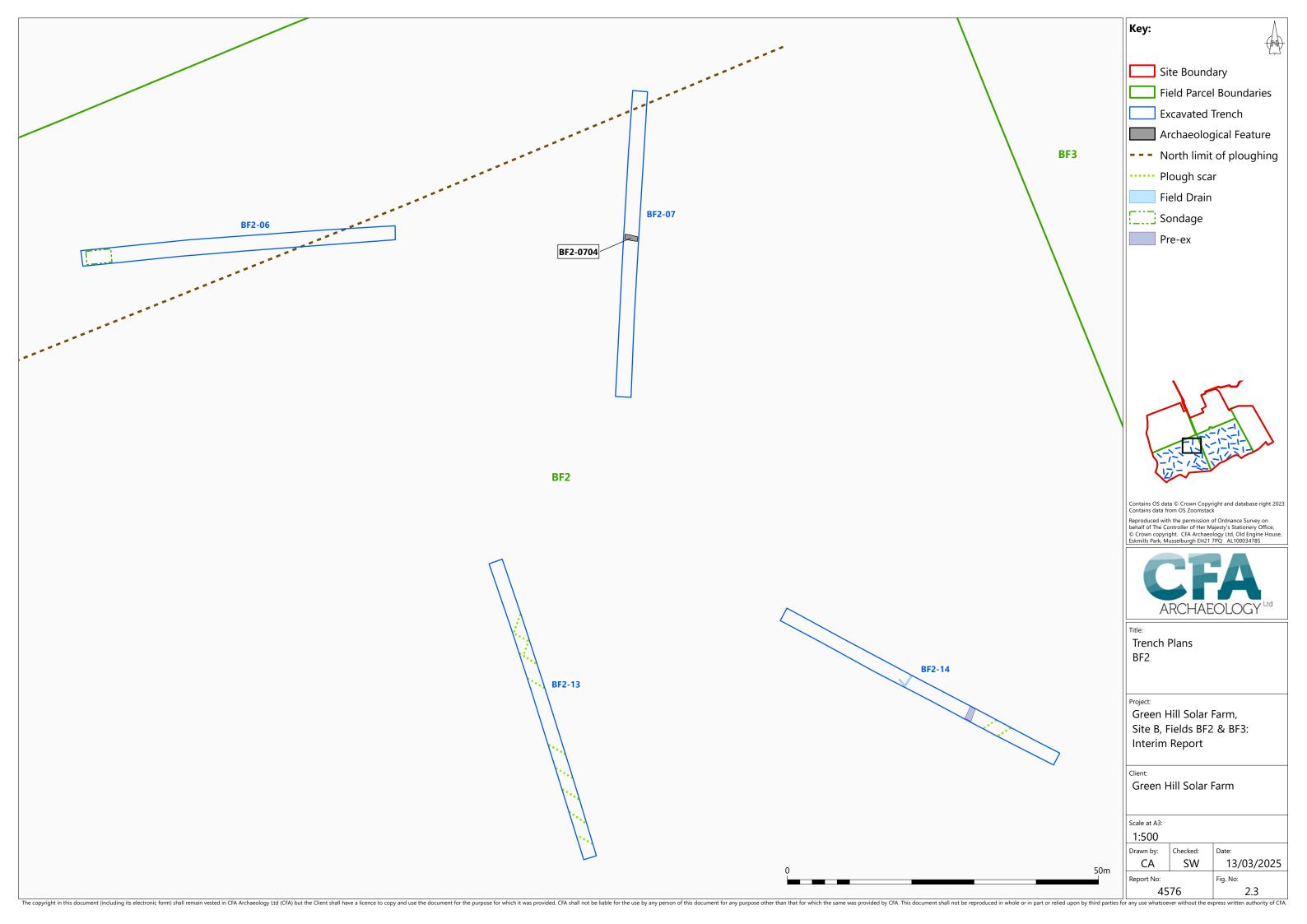
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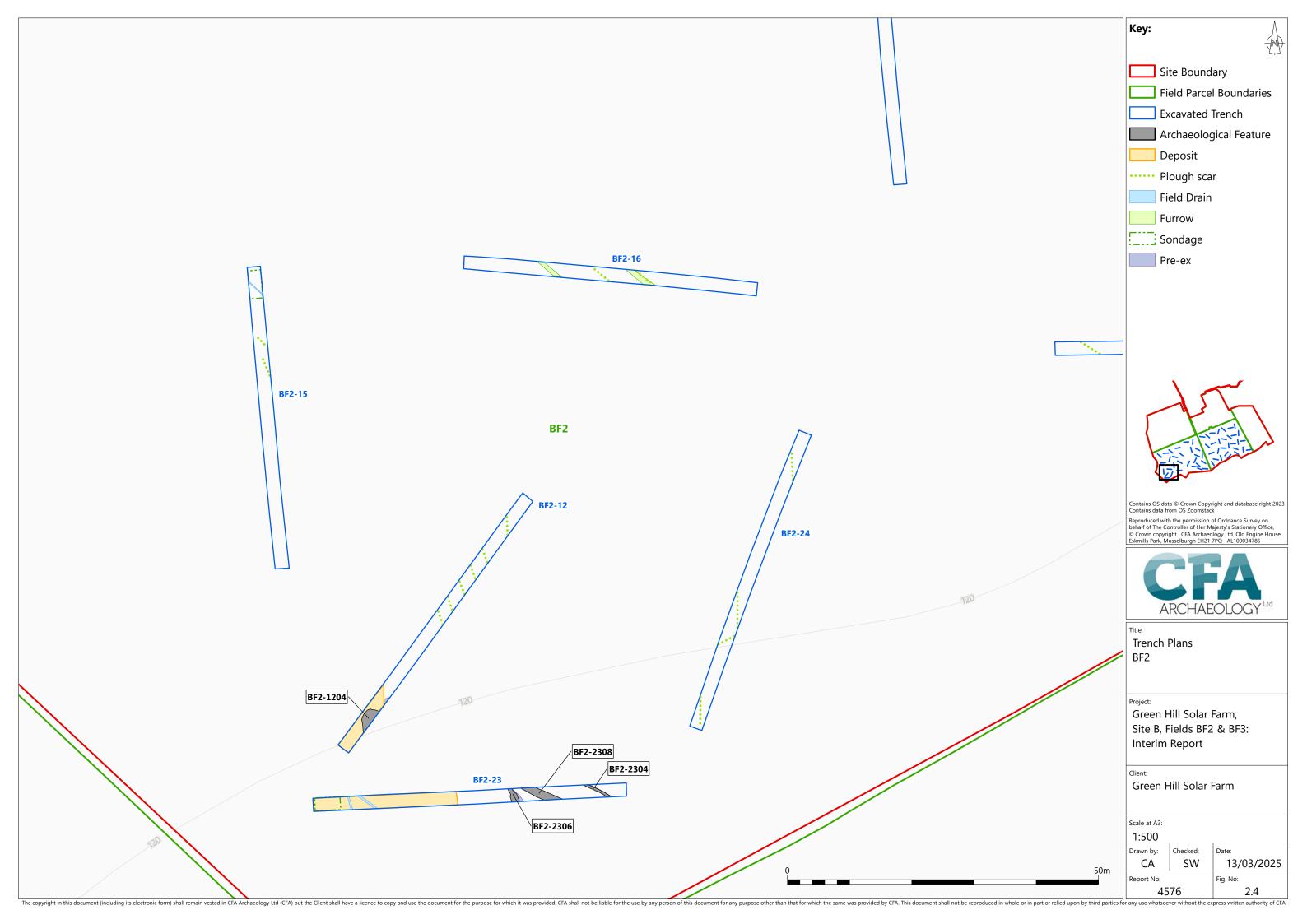
# **FIGURES**

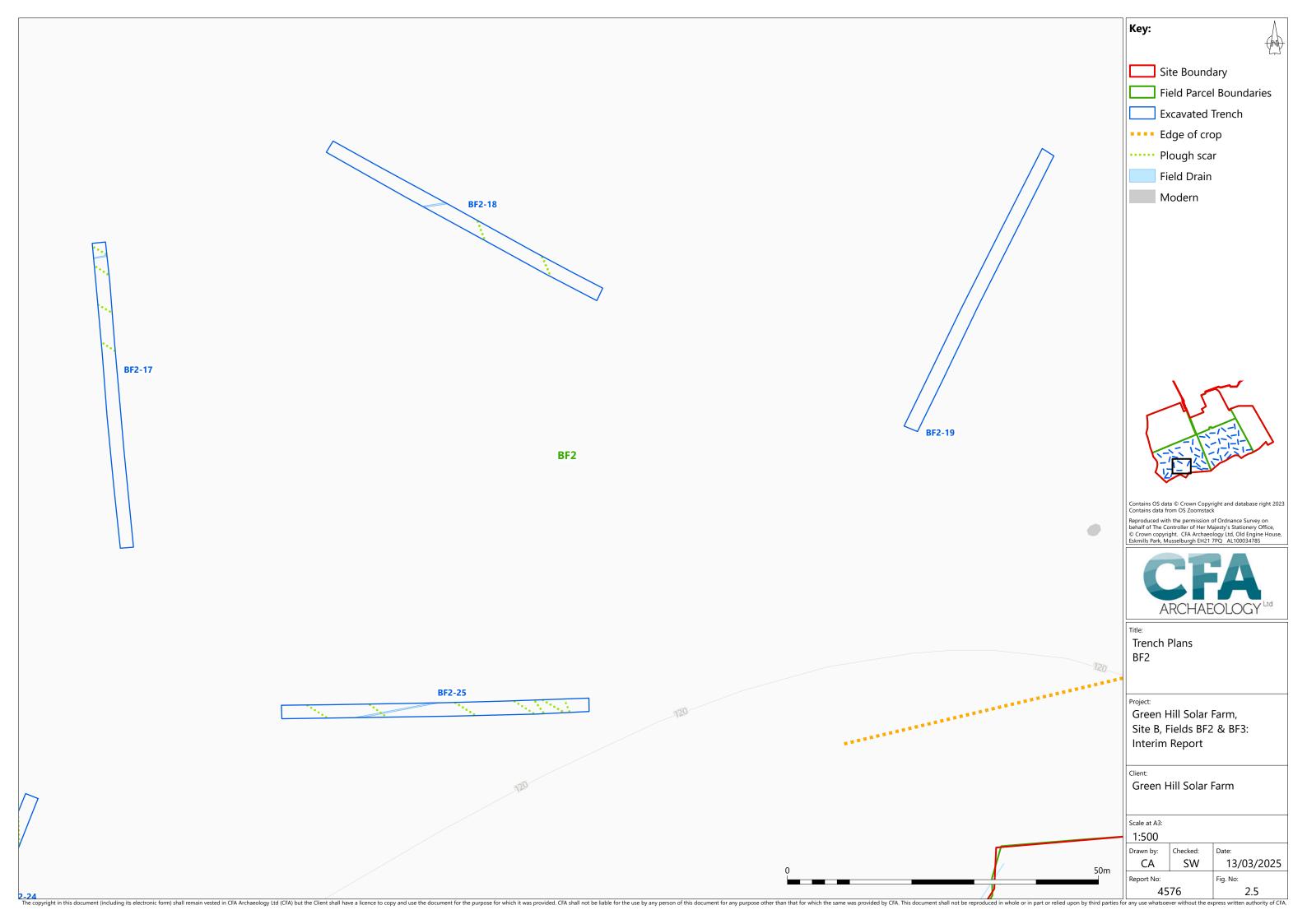


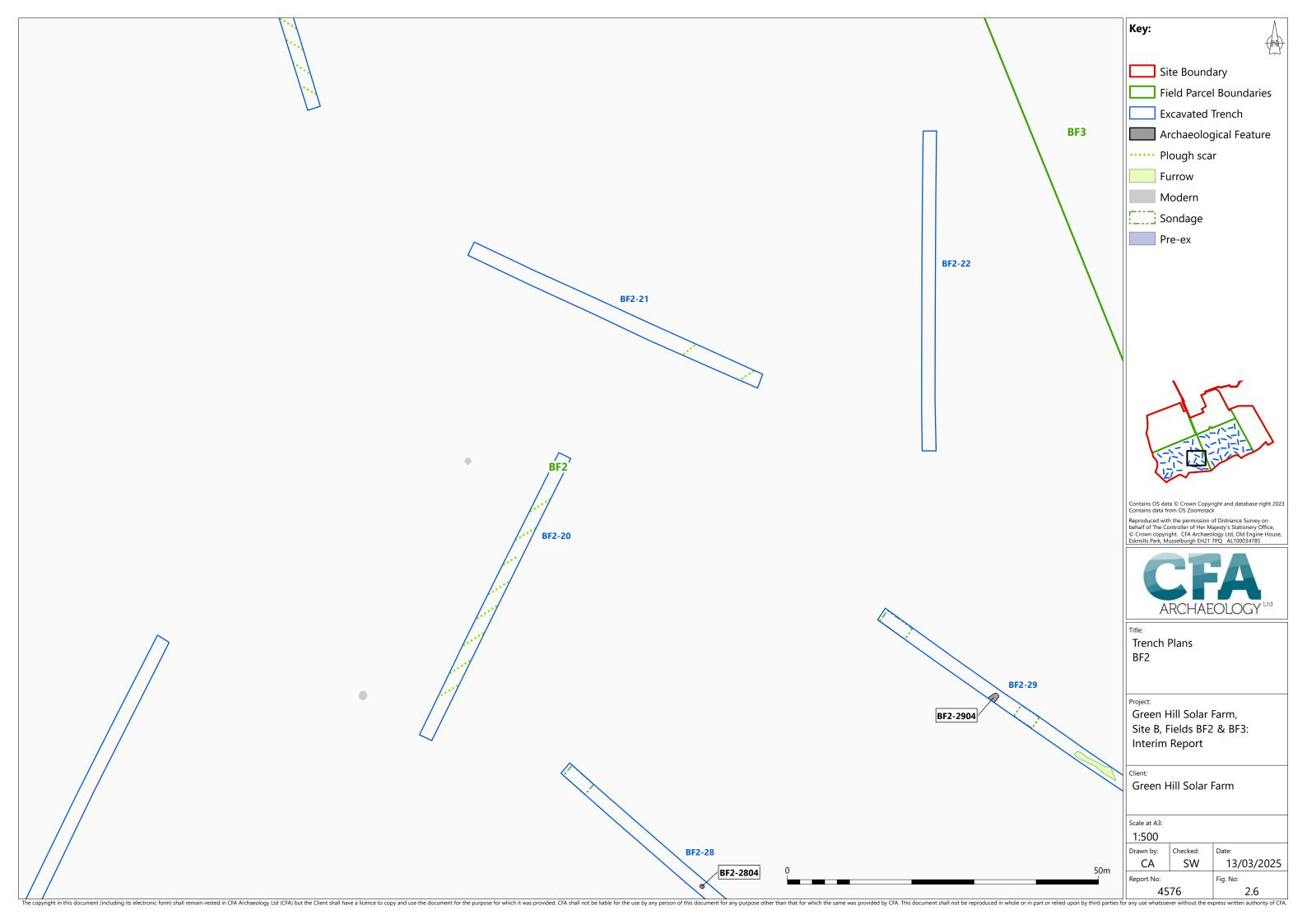


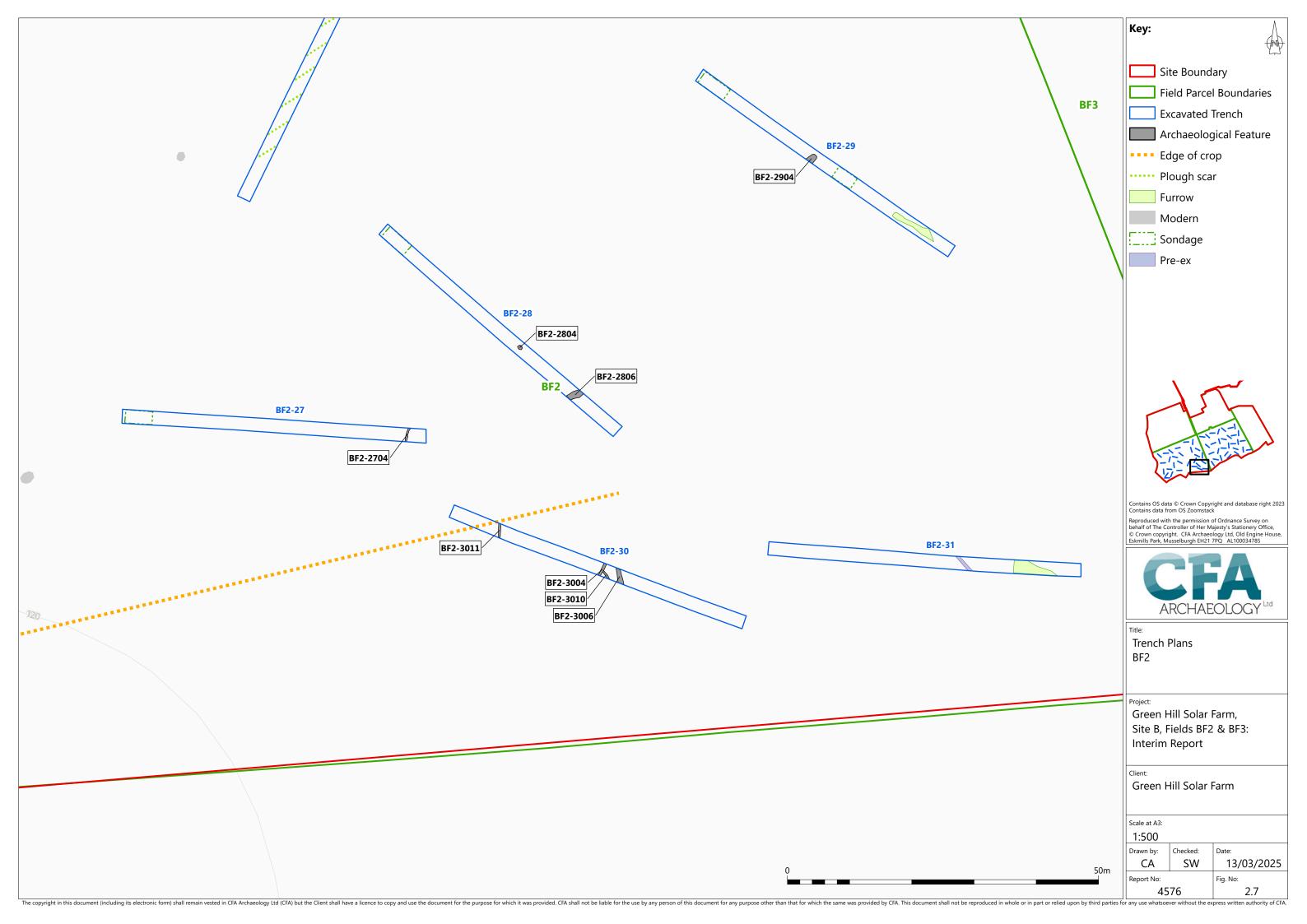


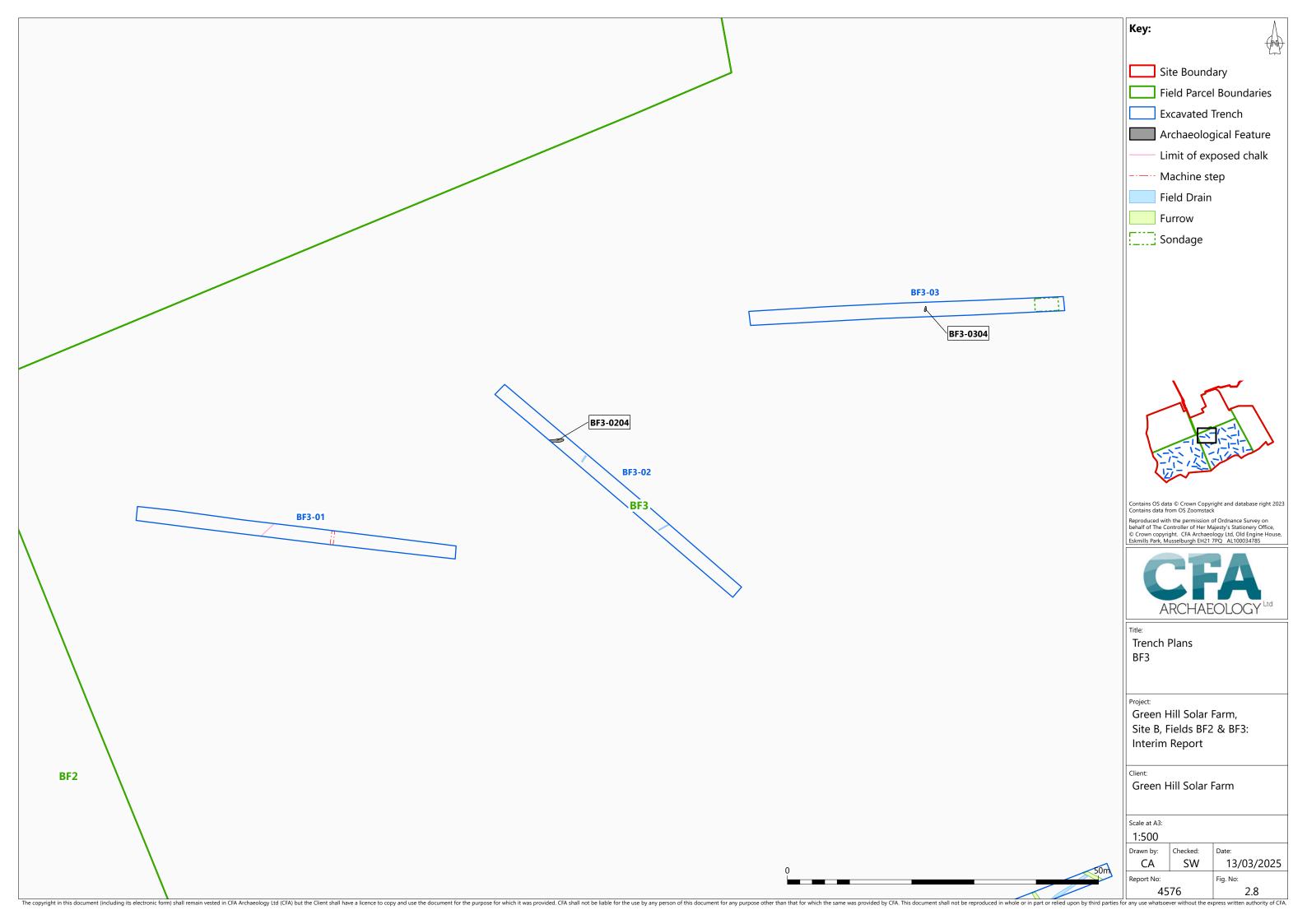


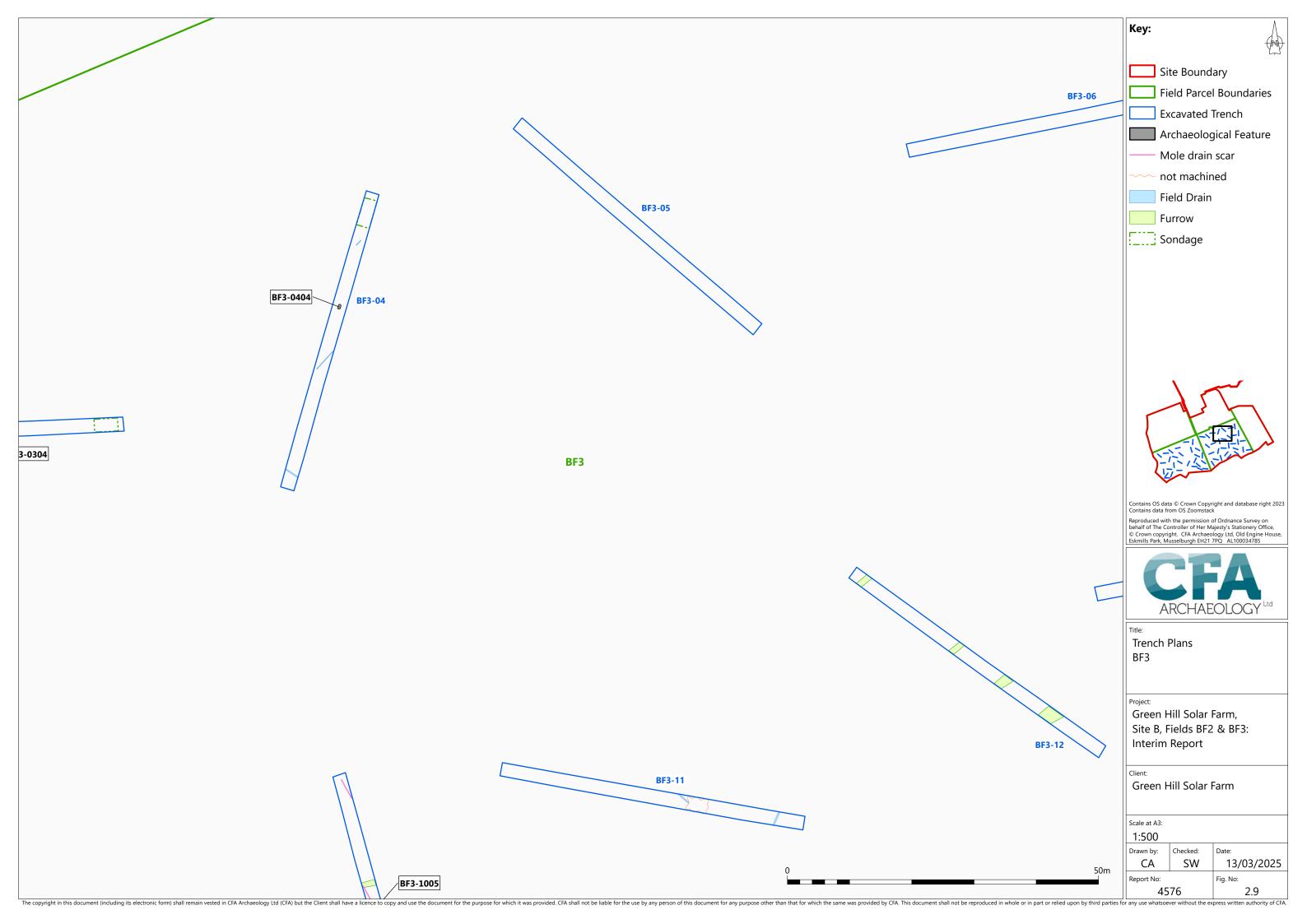


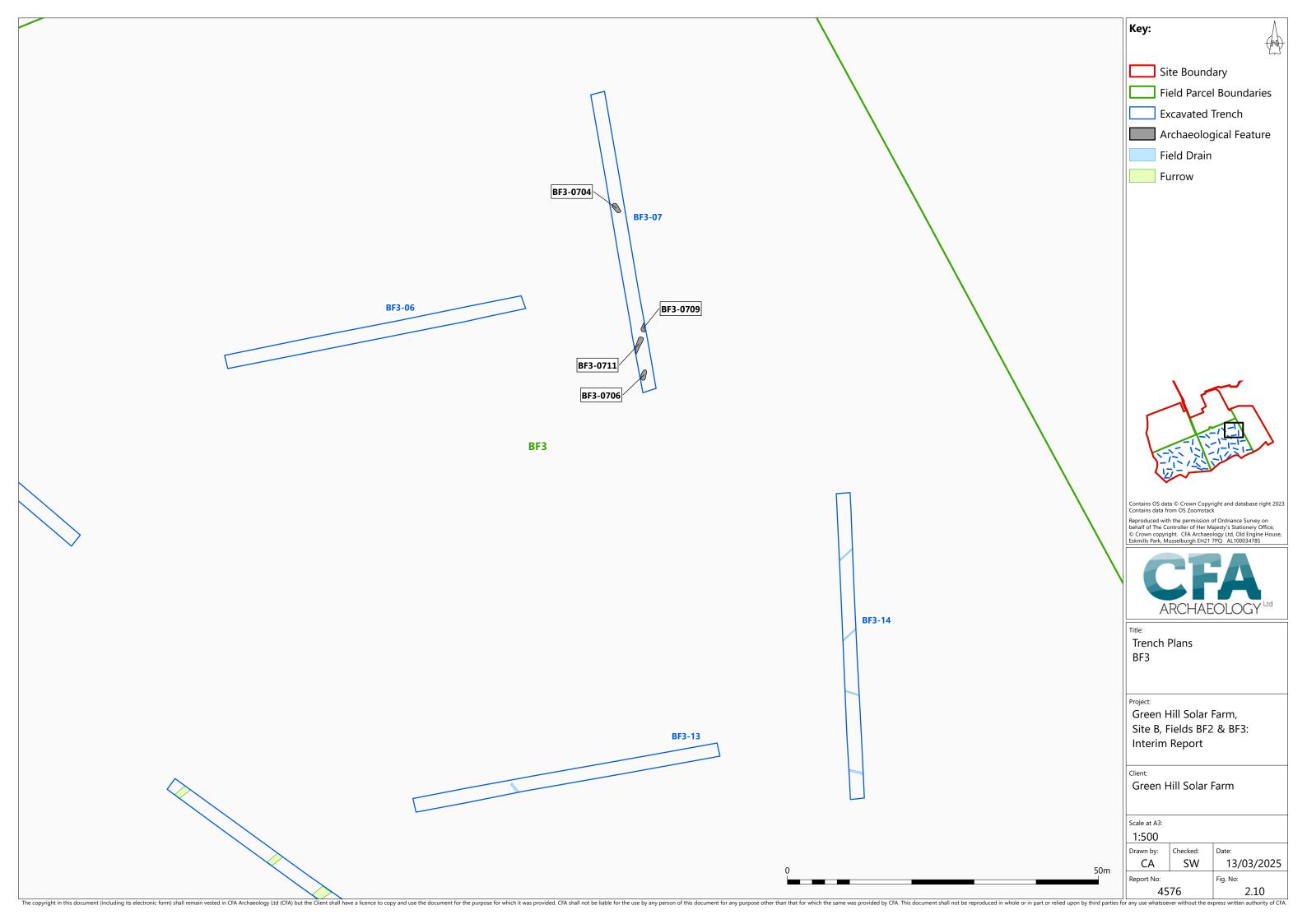


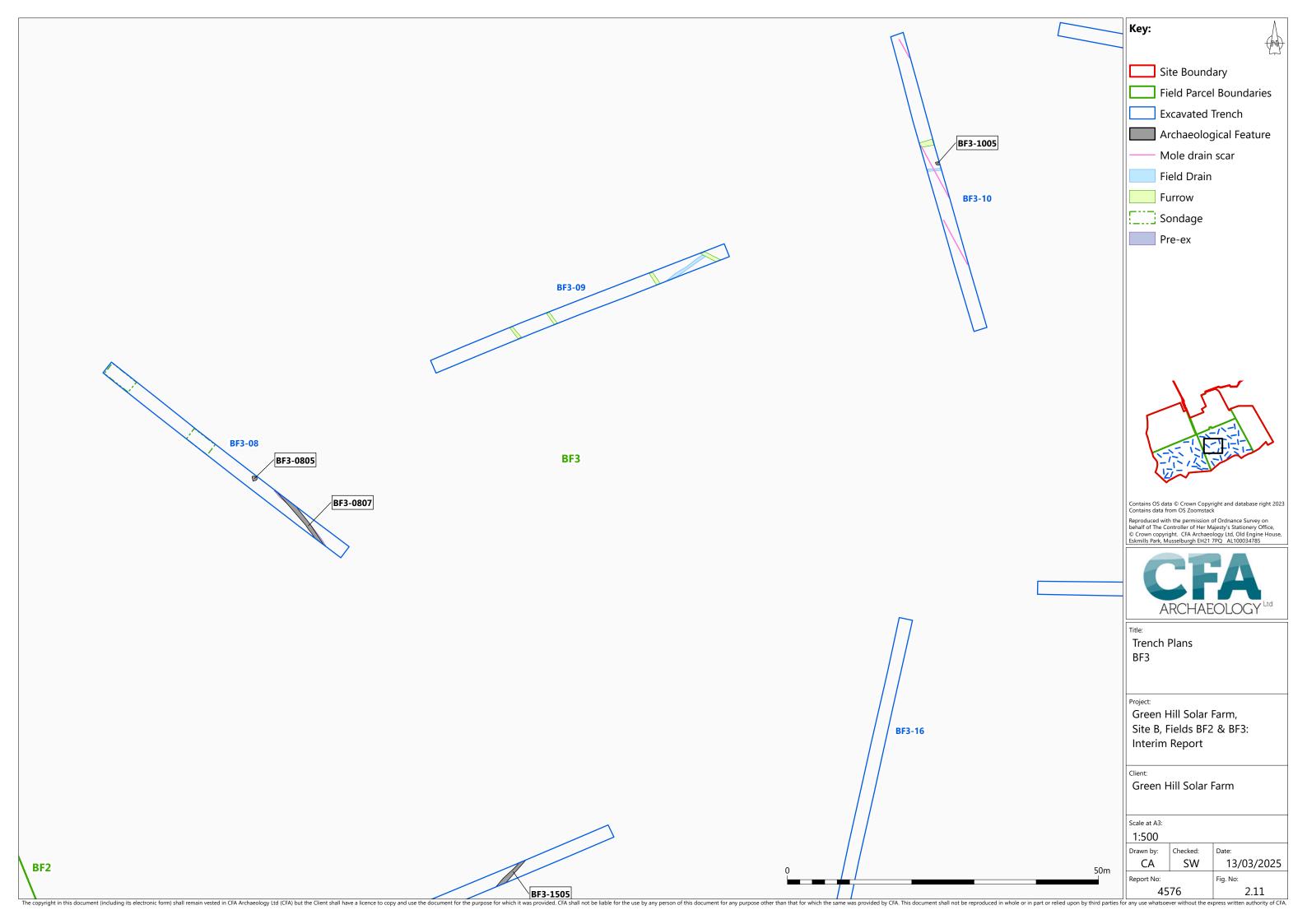


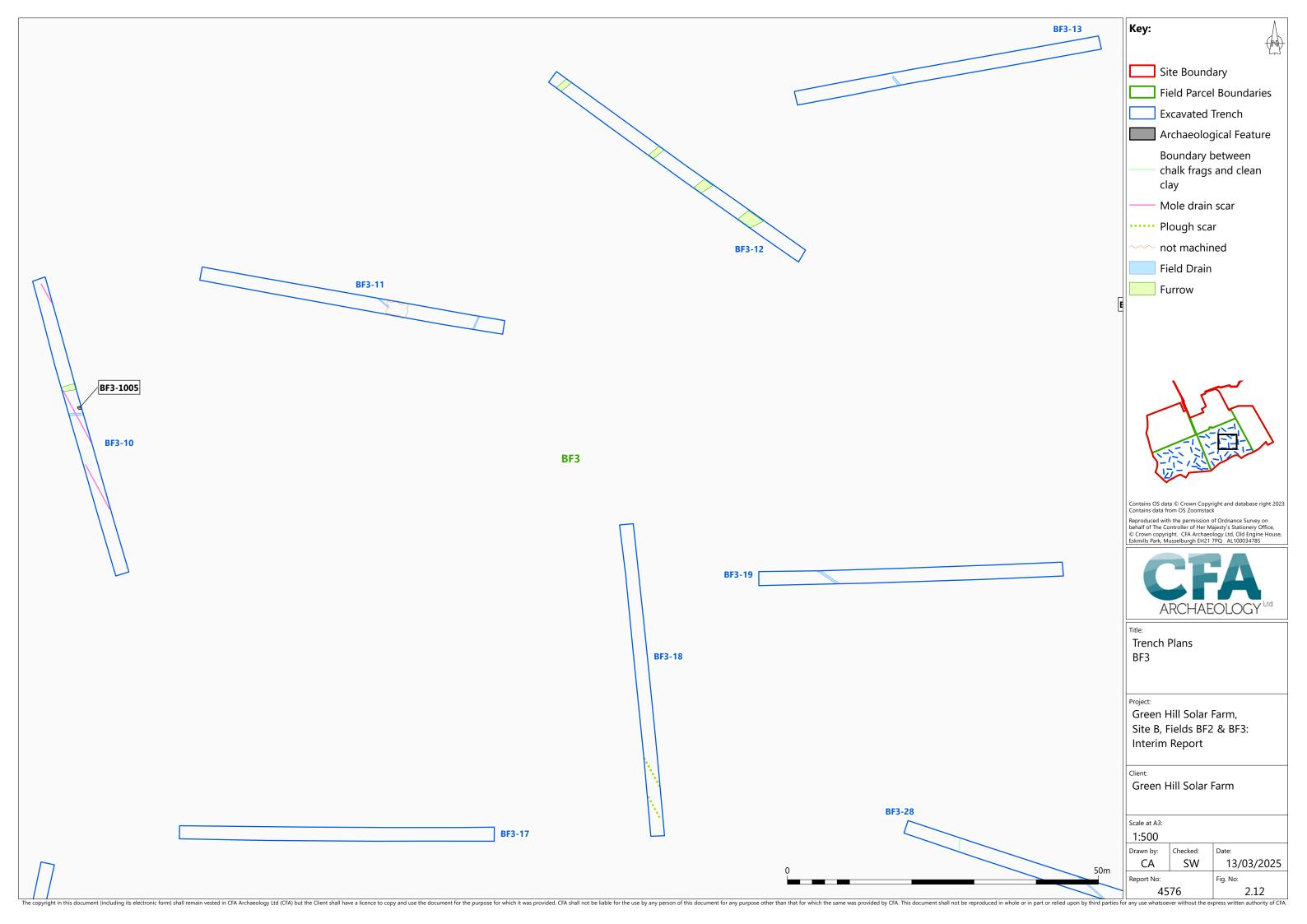


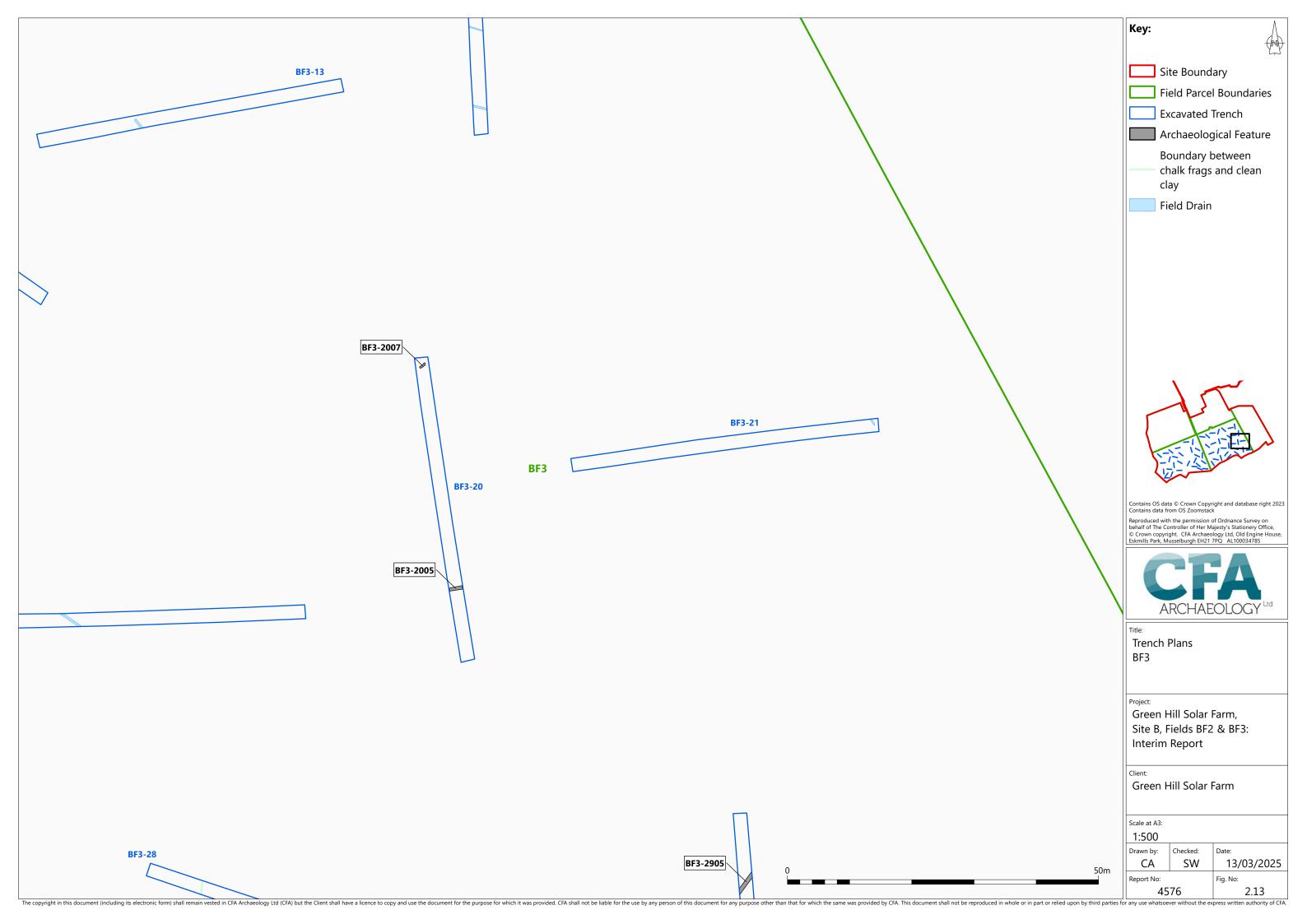


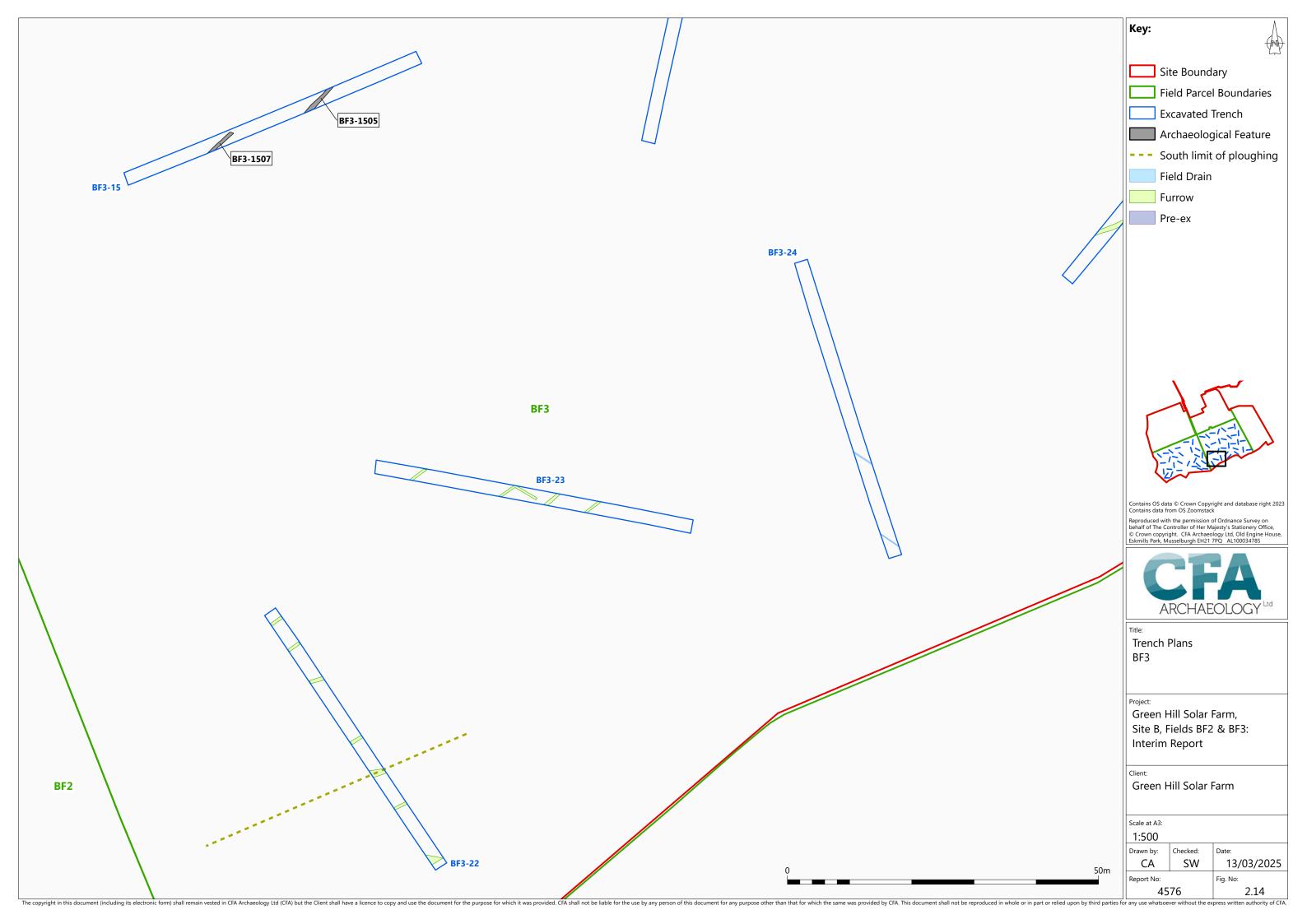


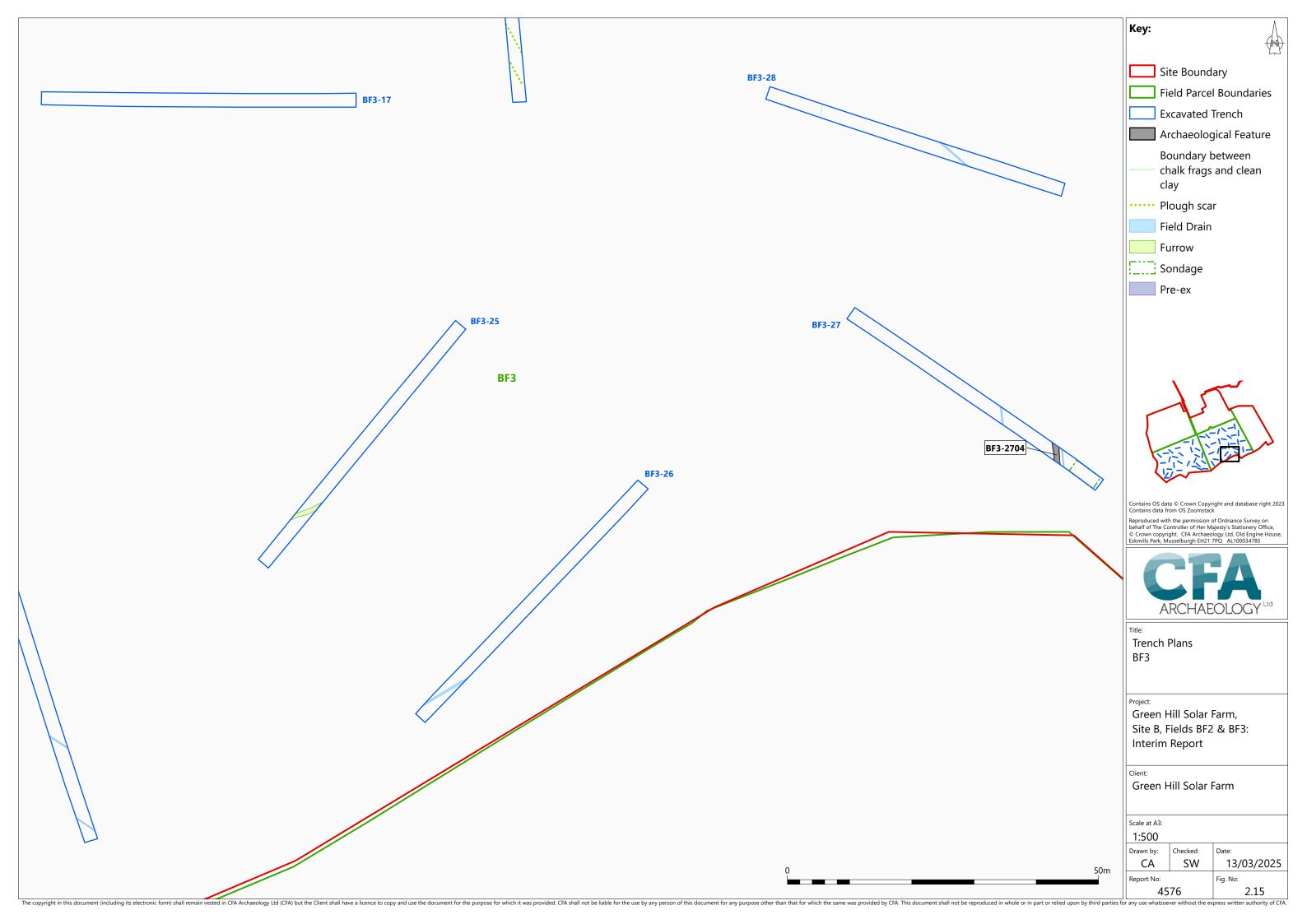


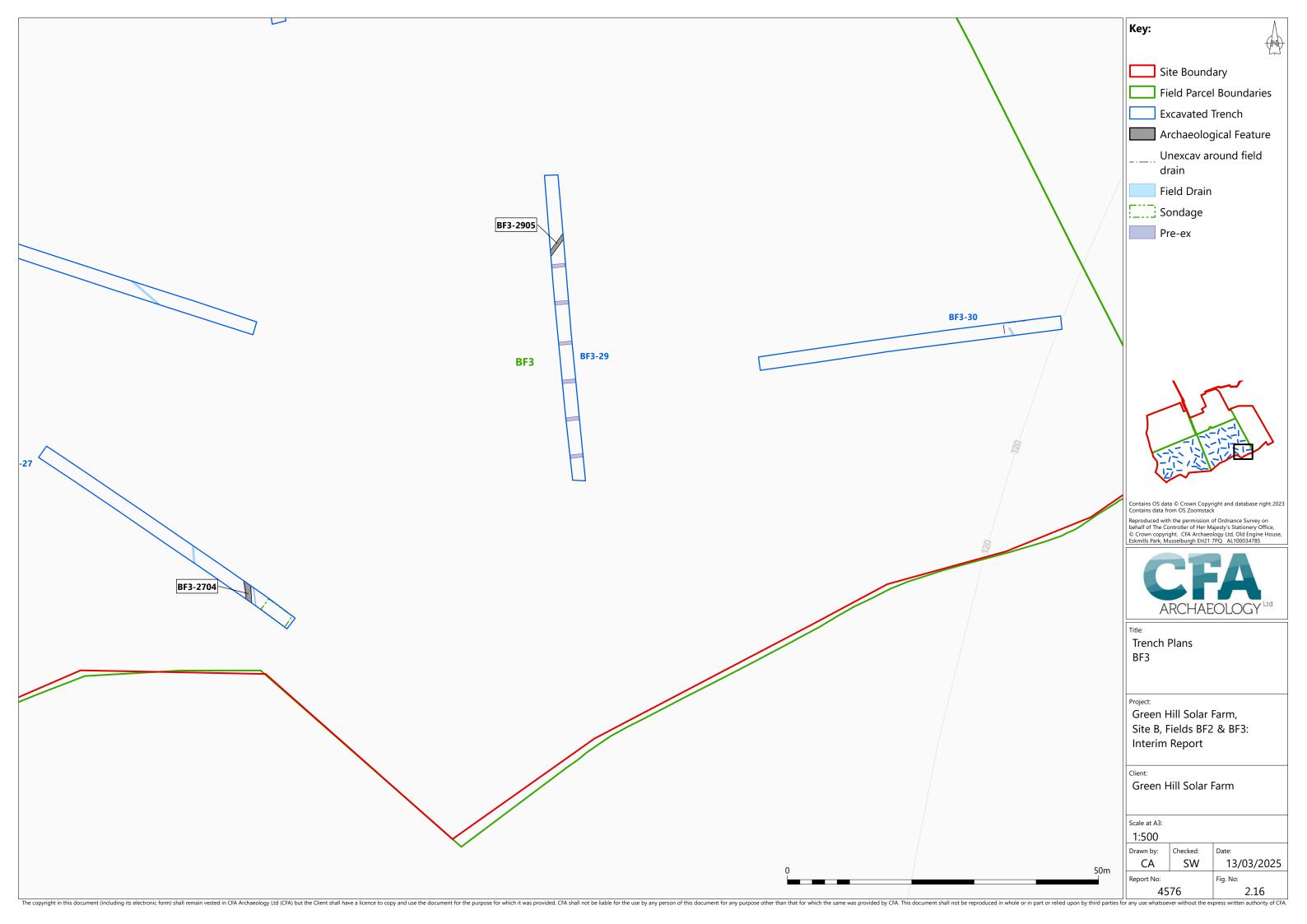


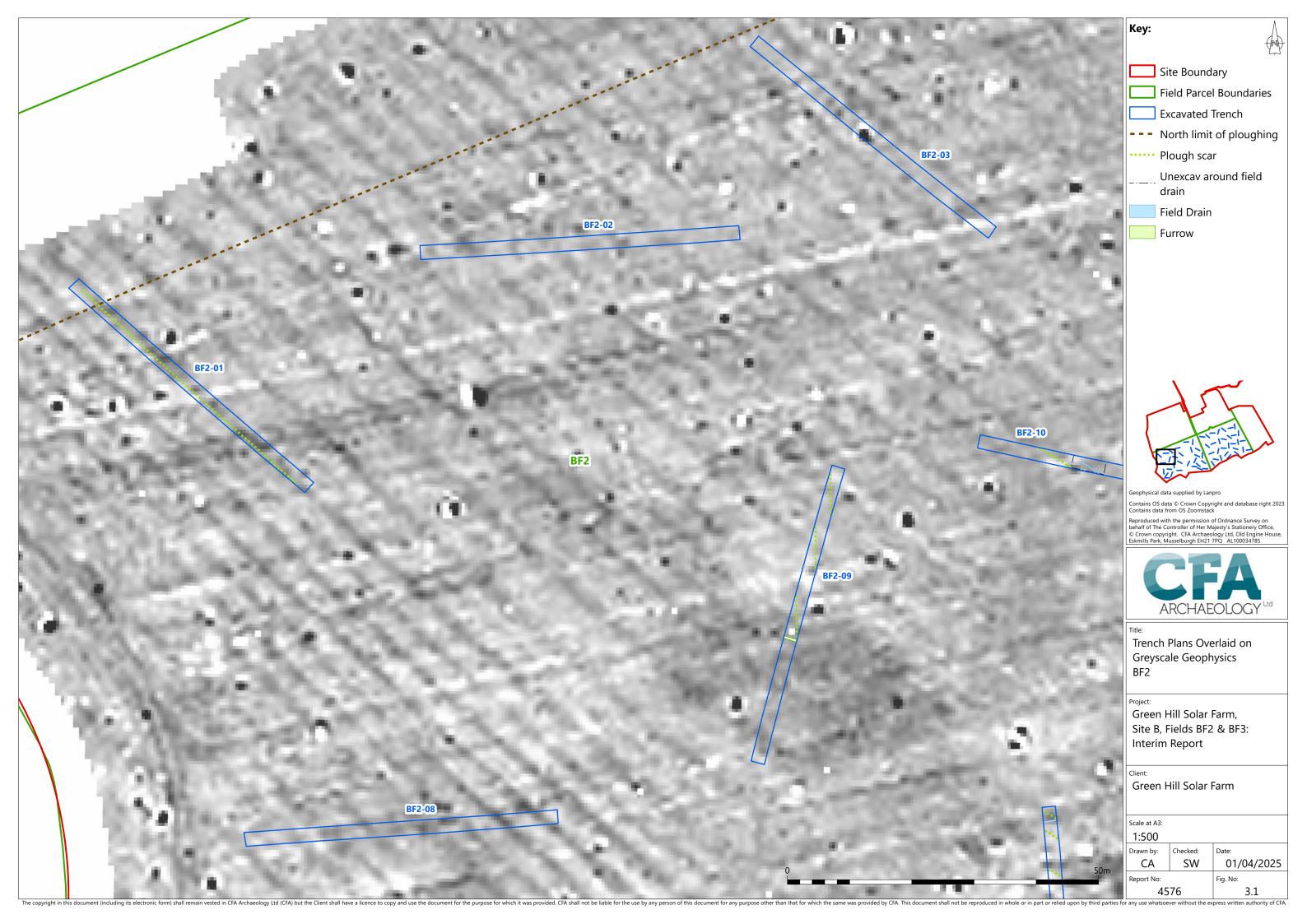


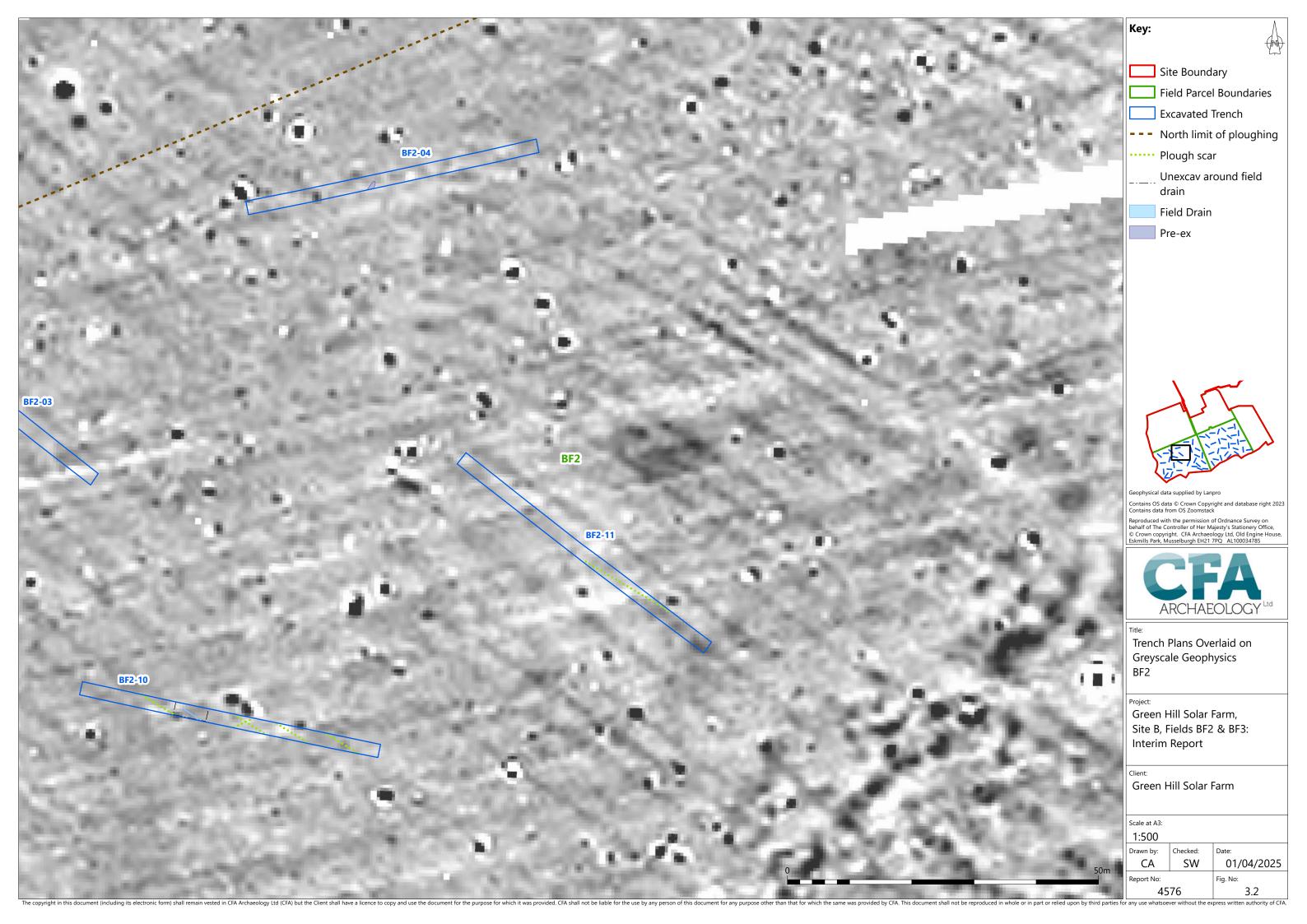


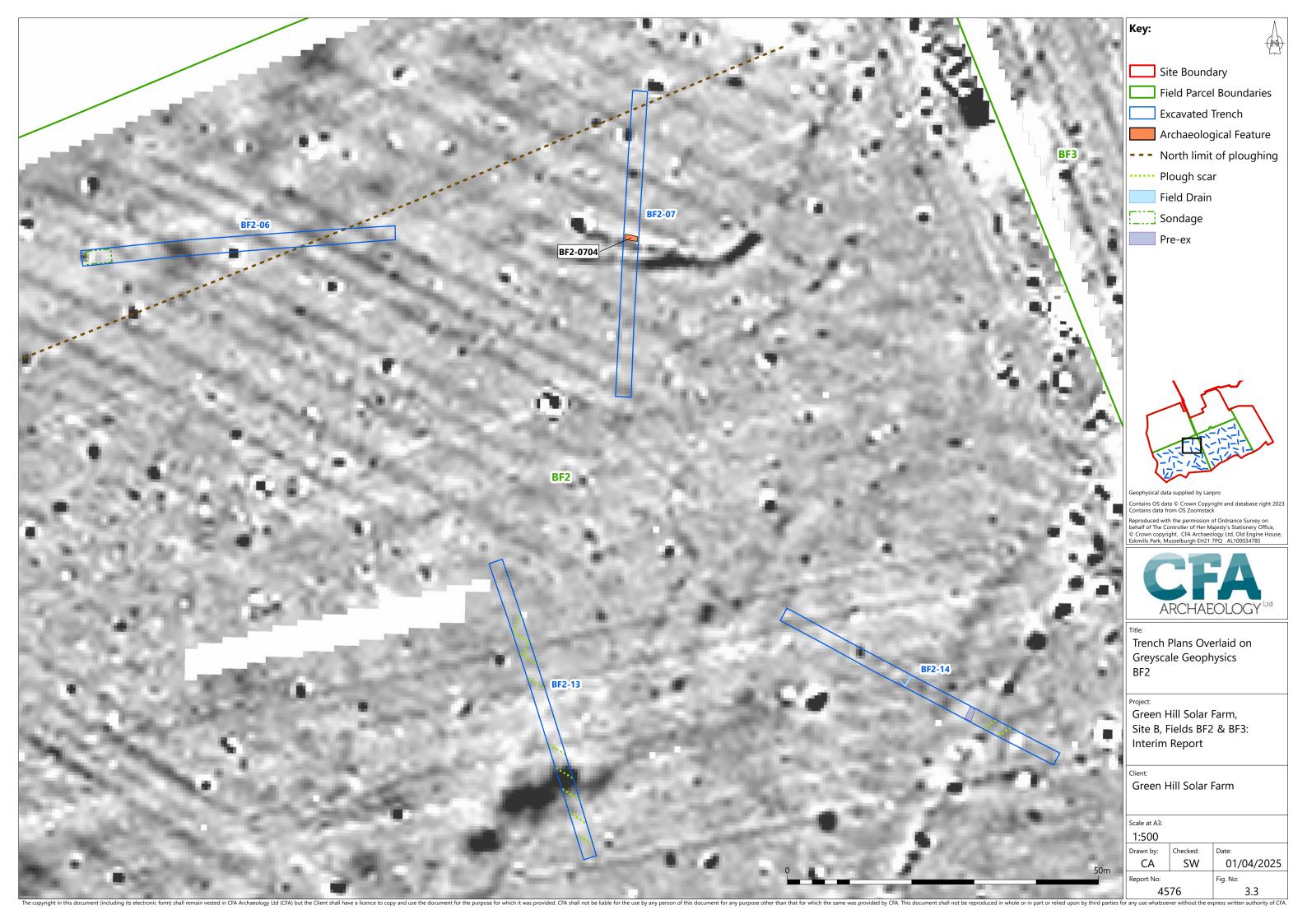


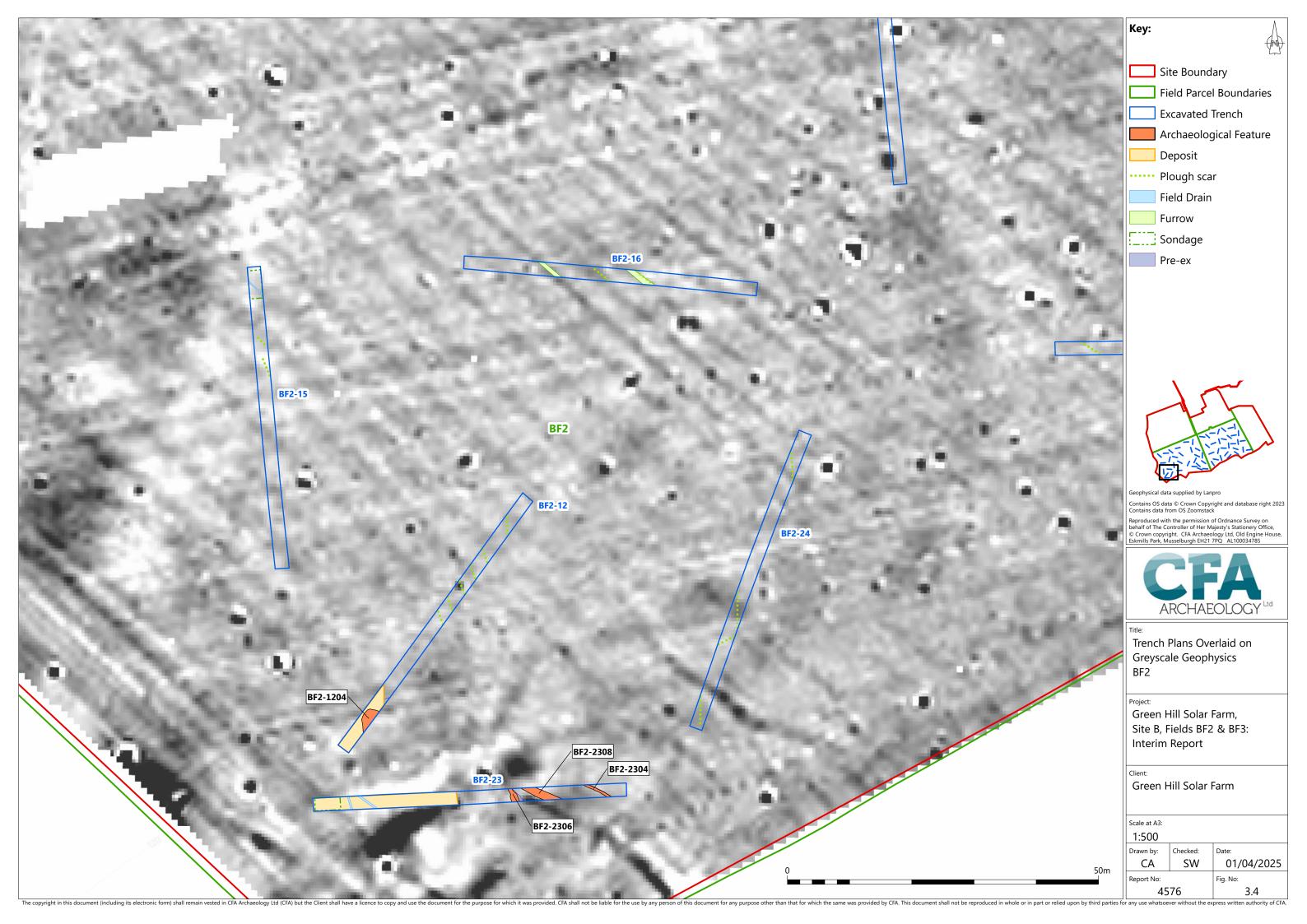


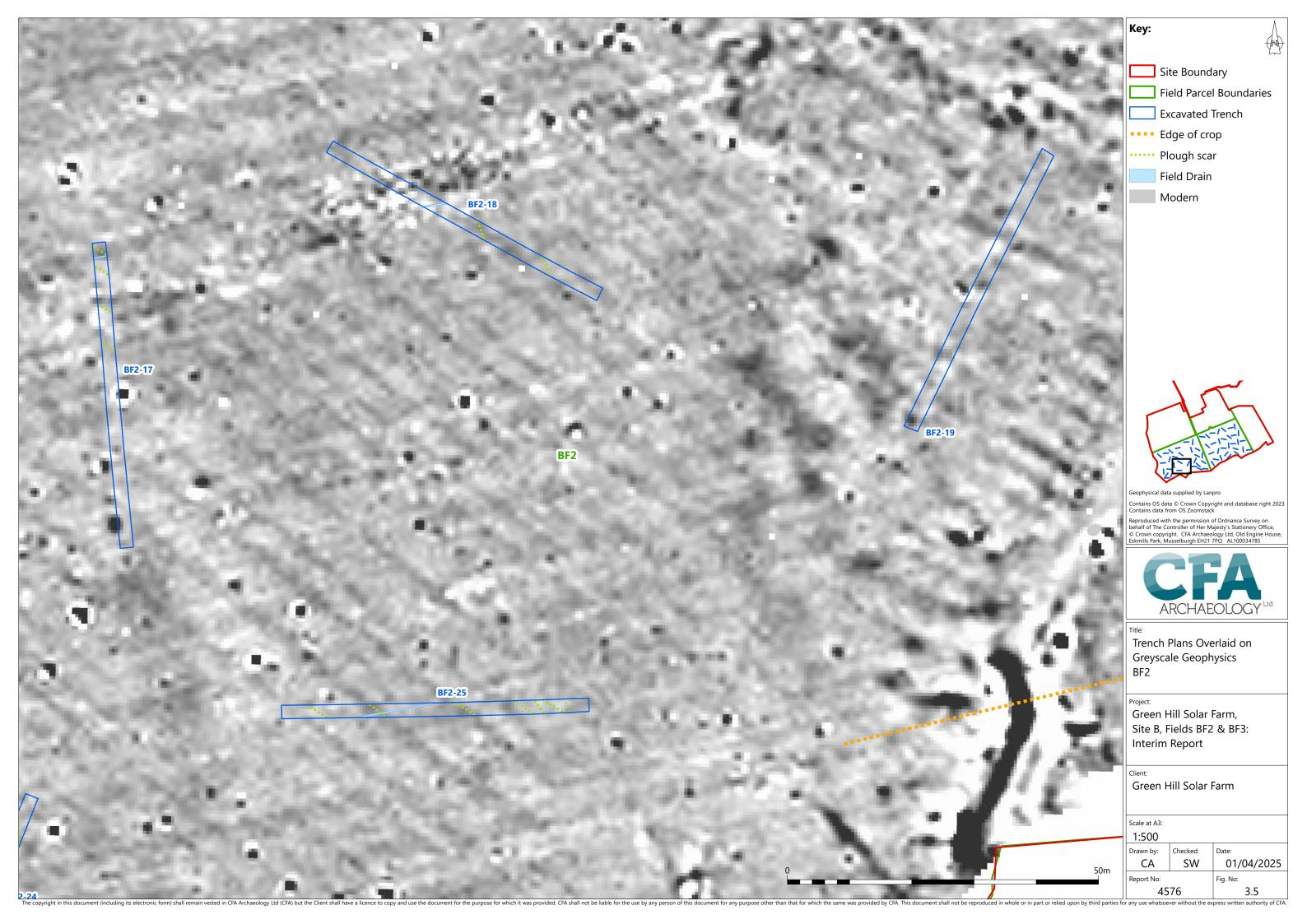


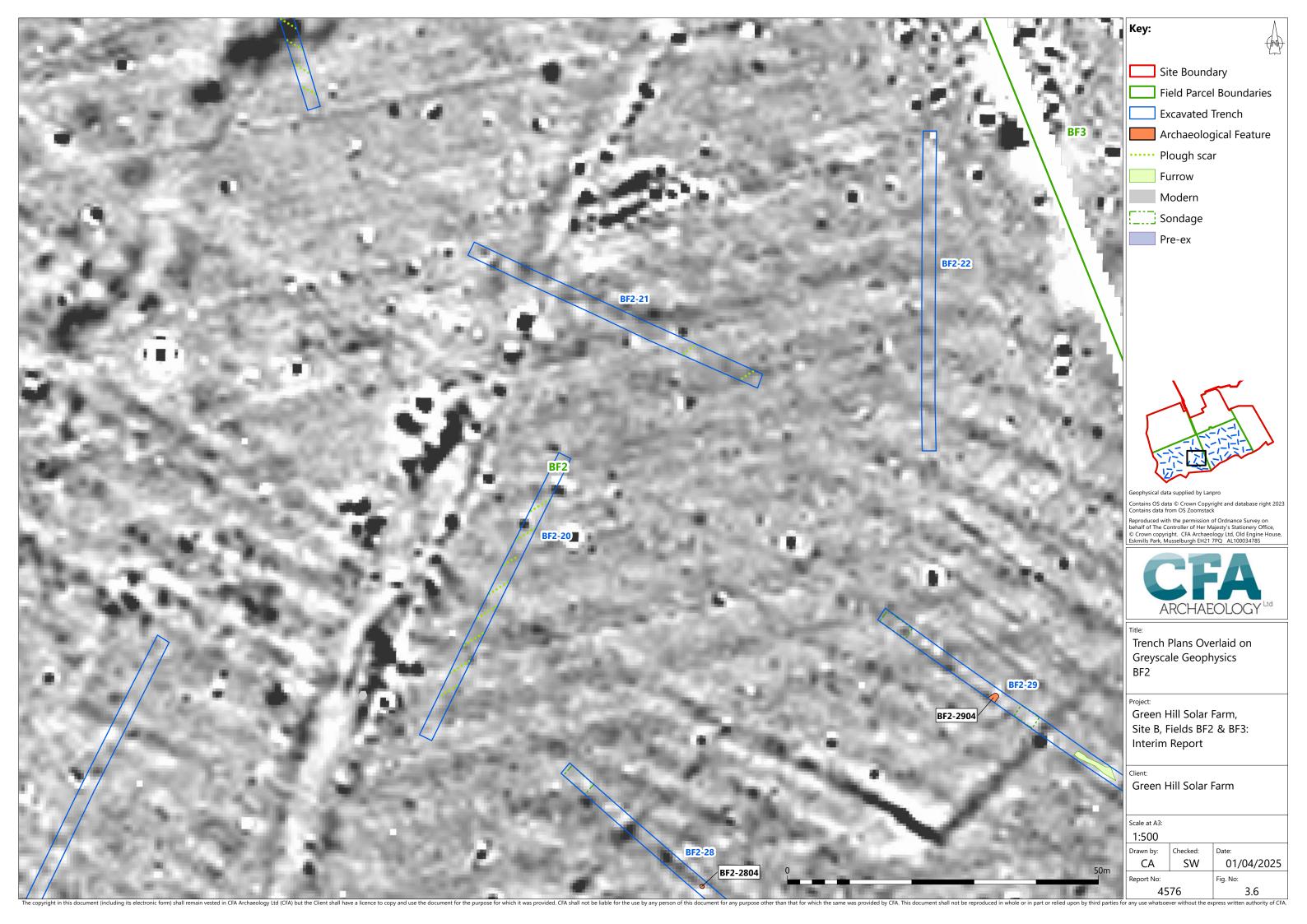


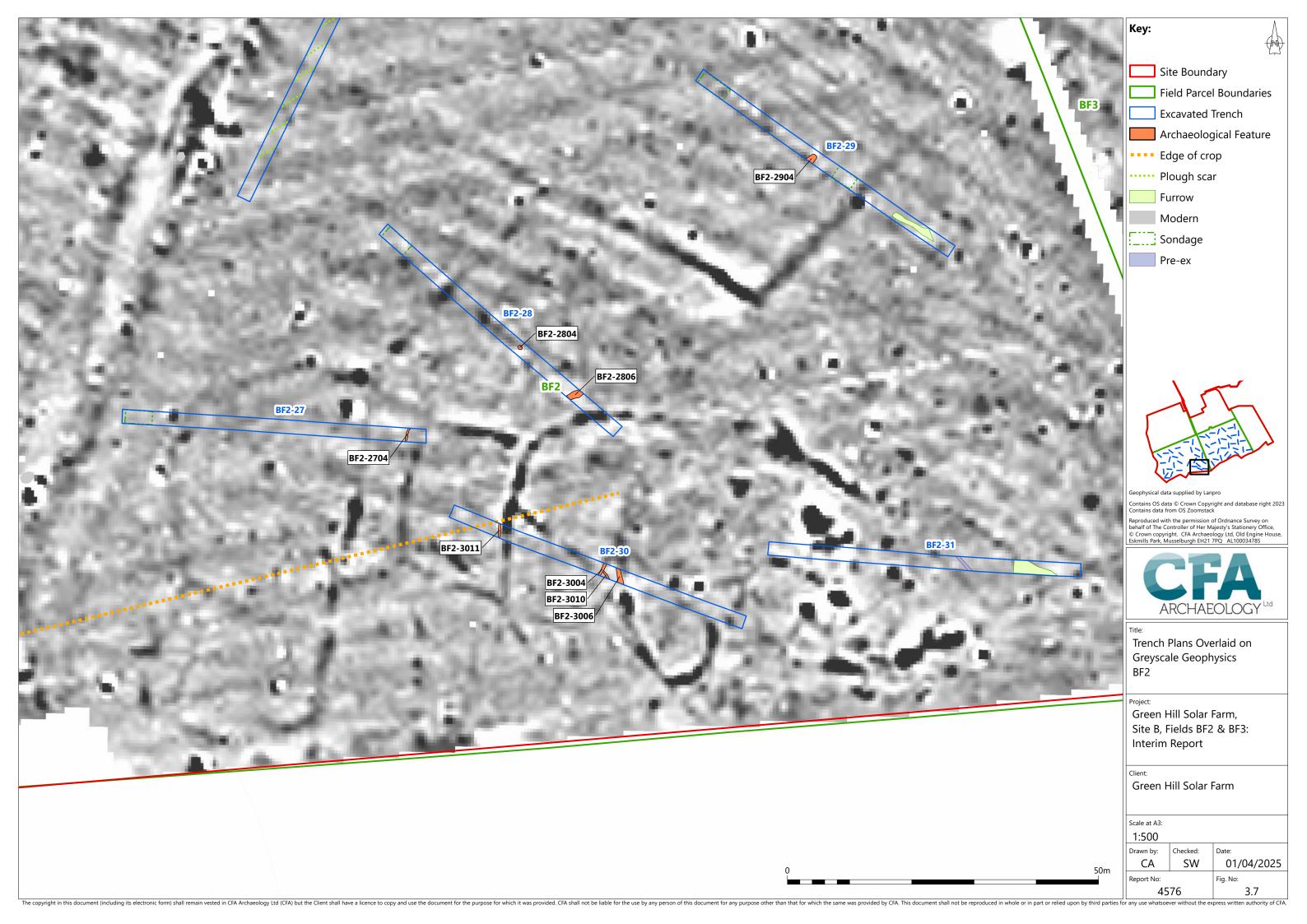


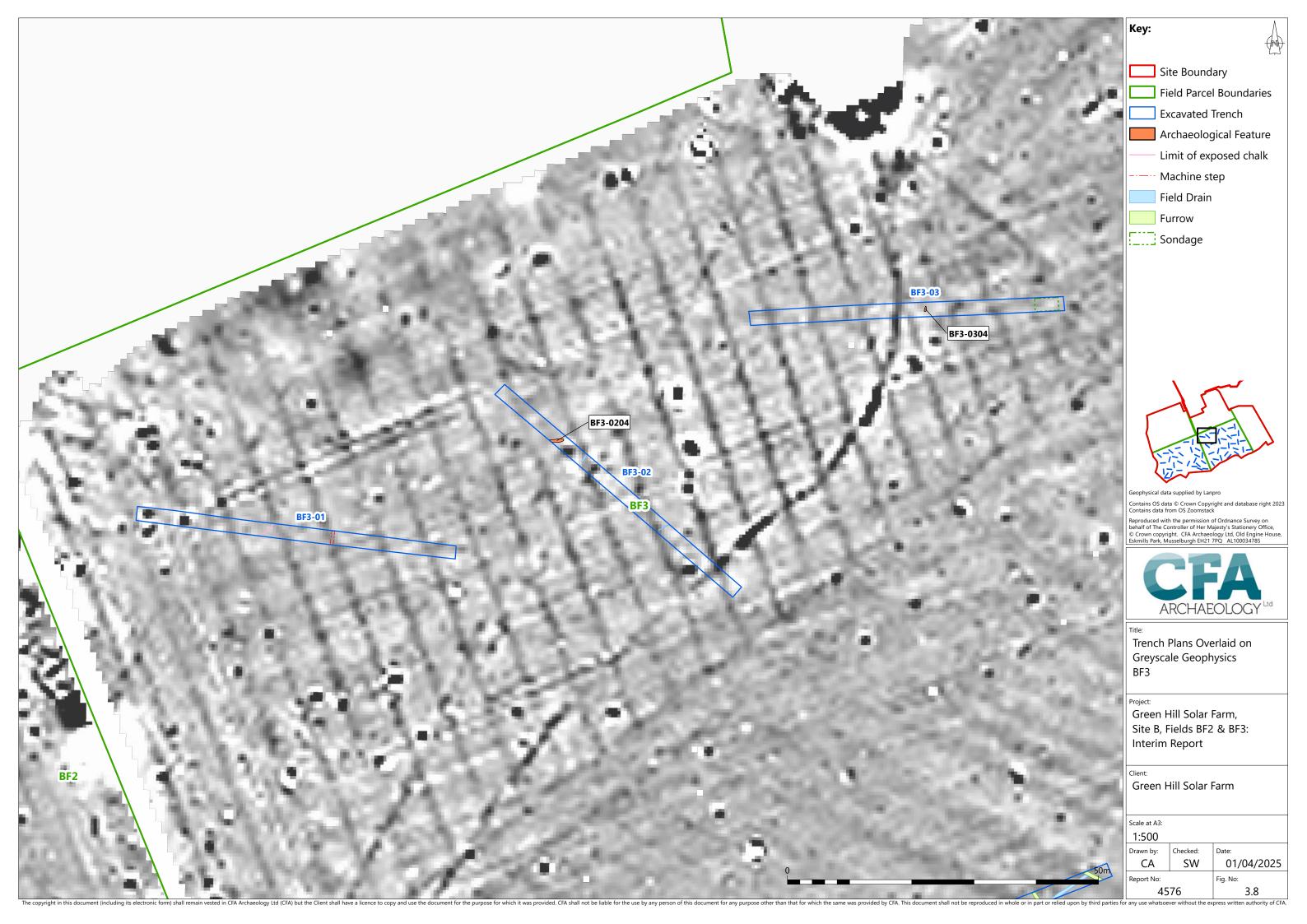


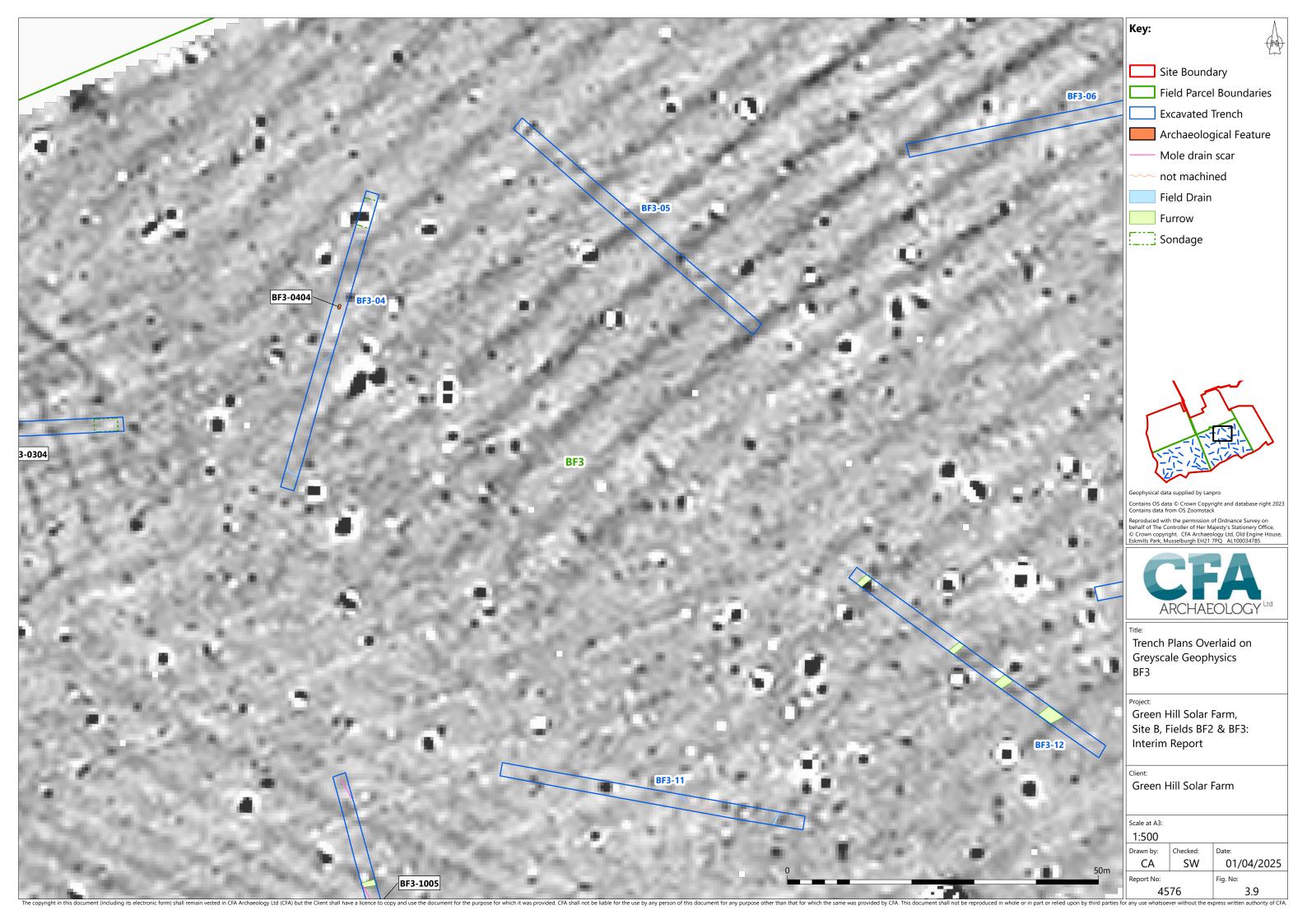


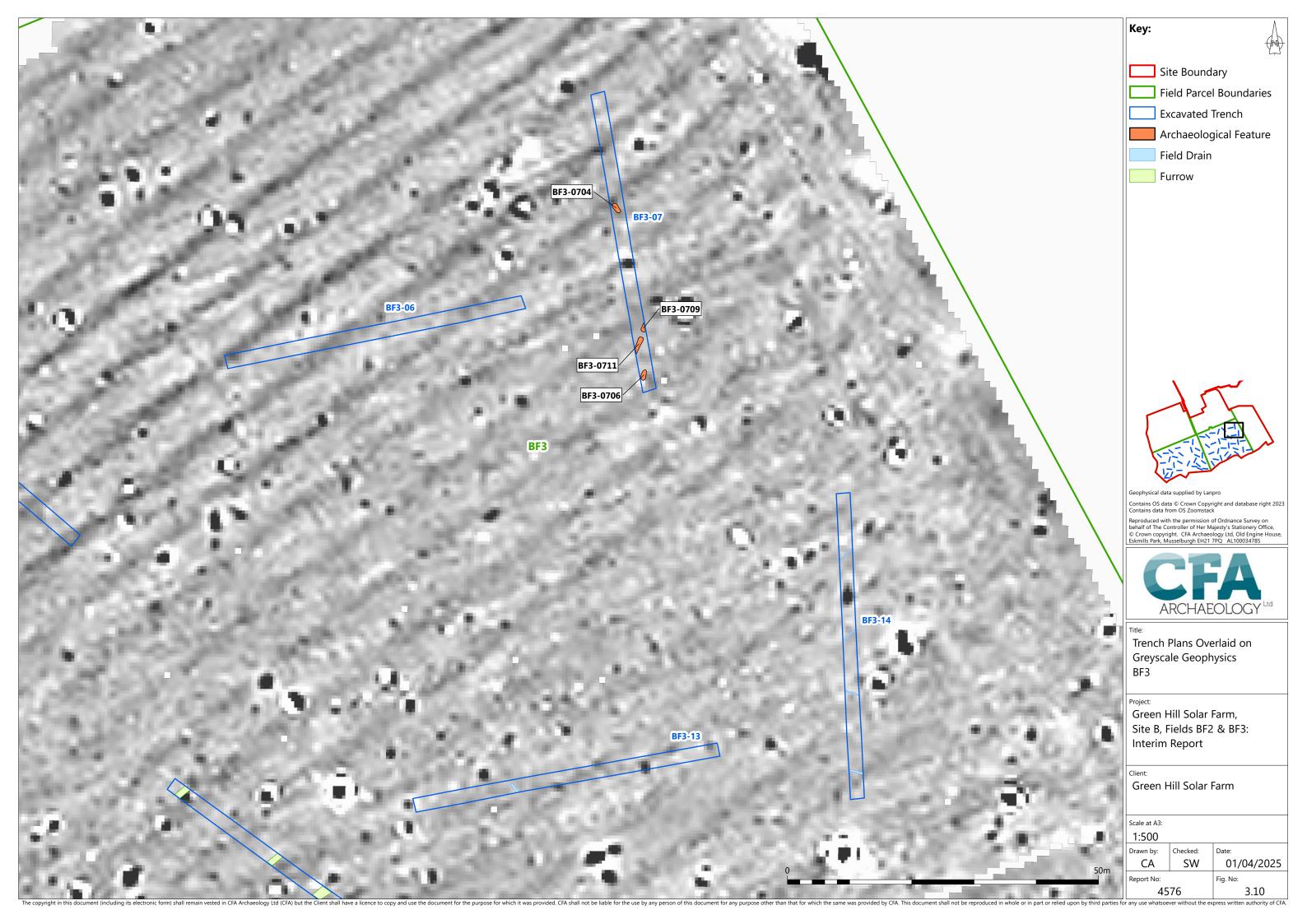


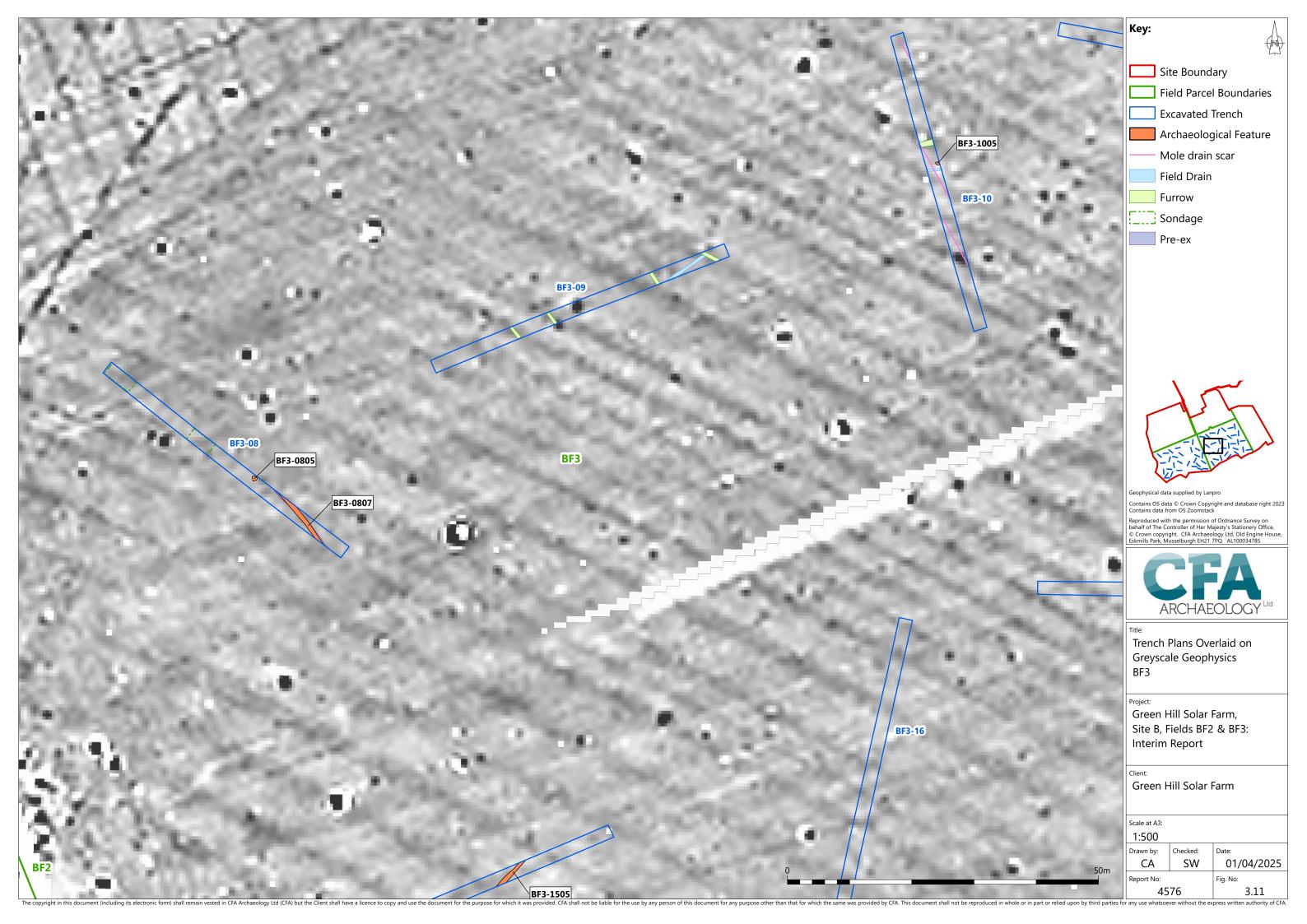


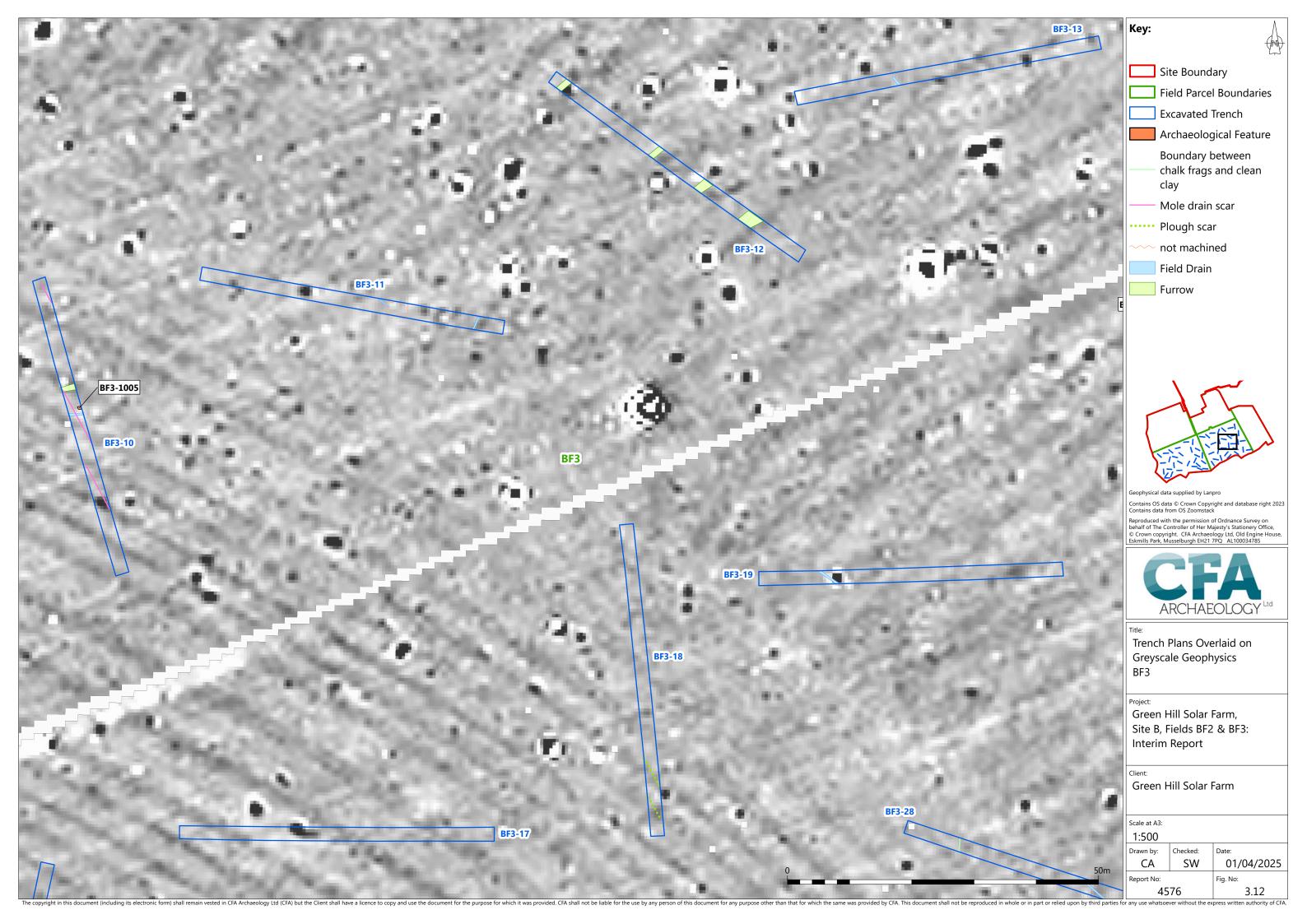


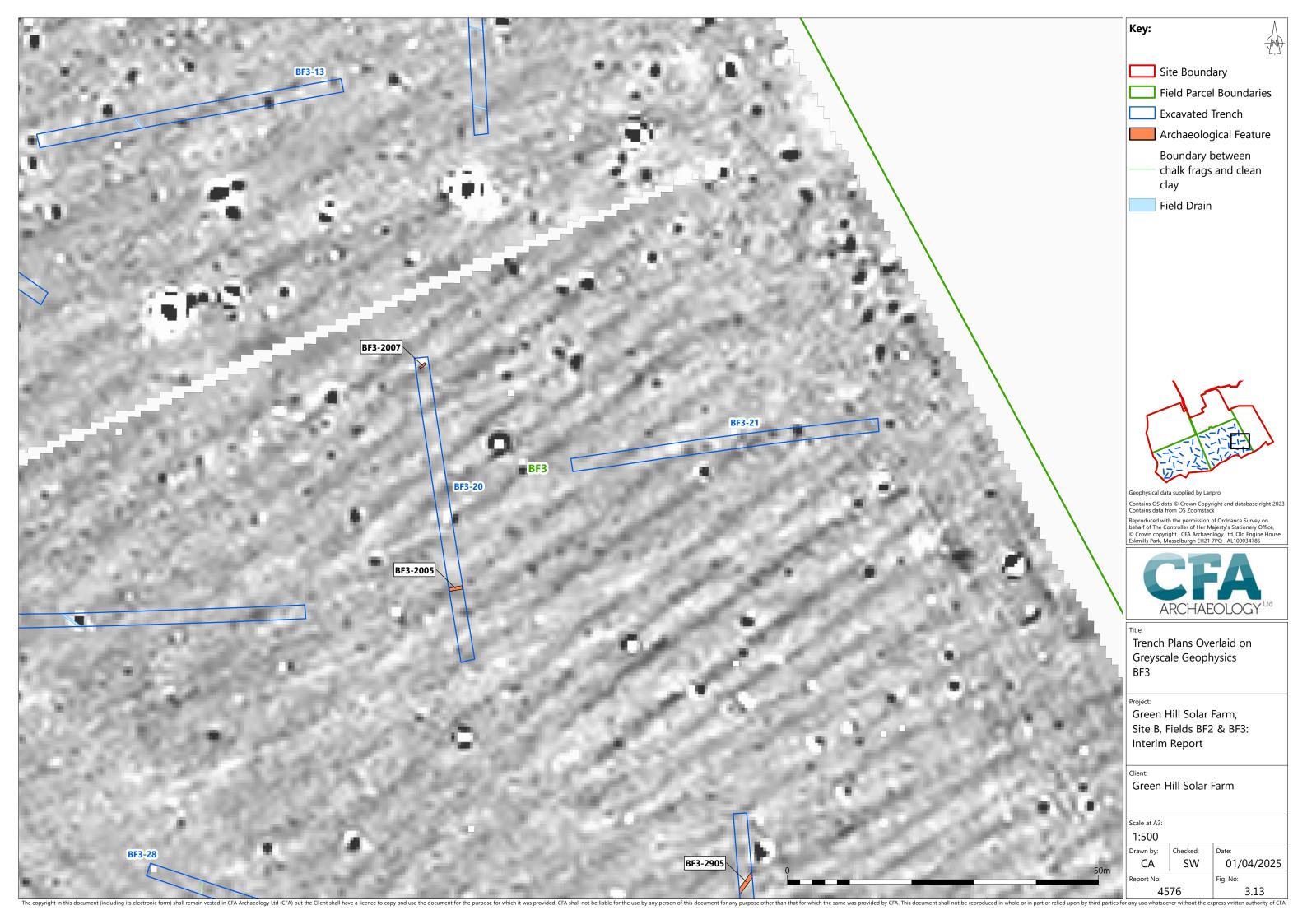


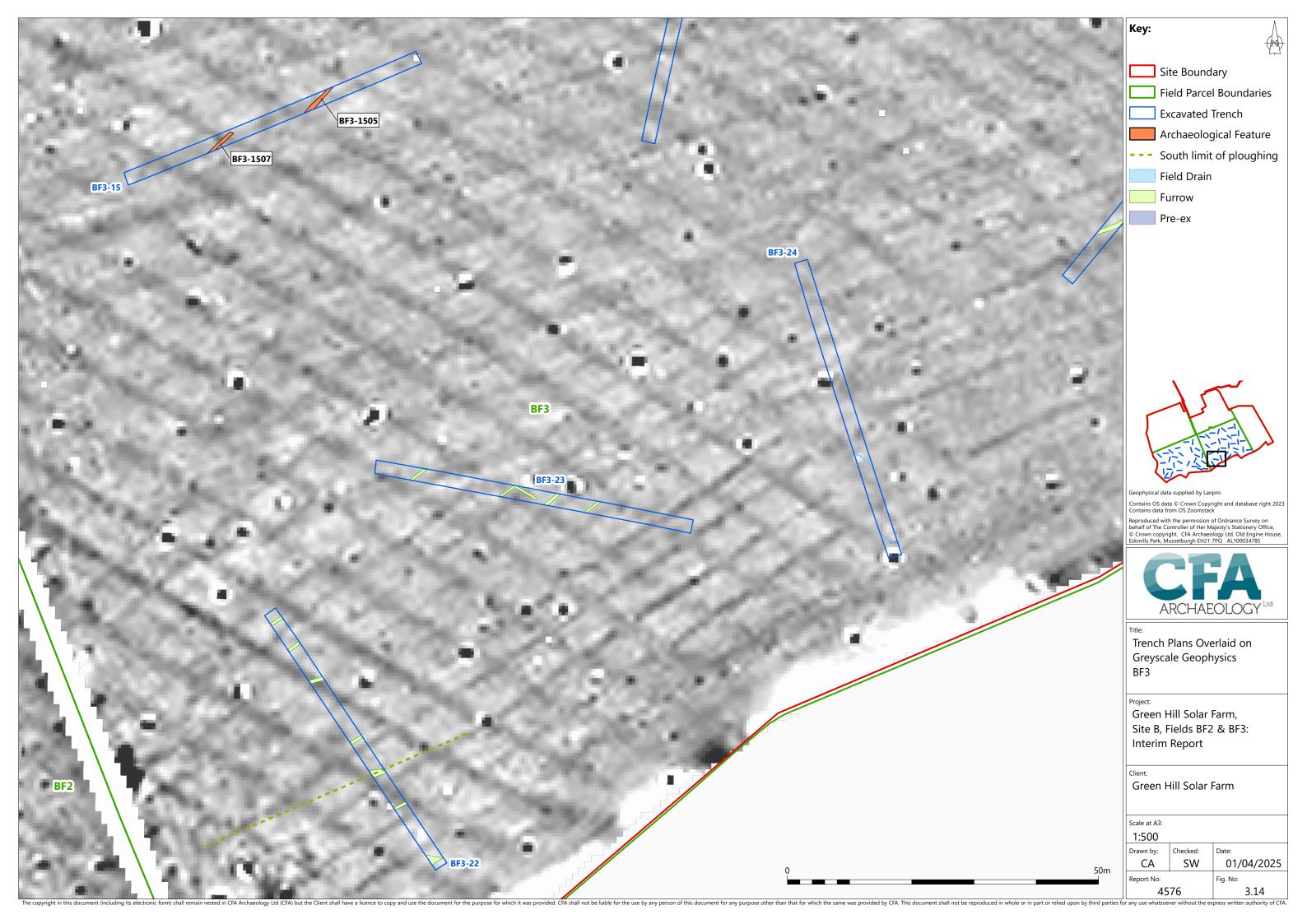


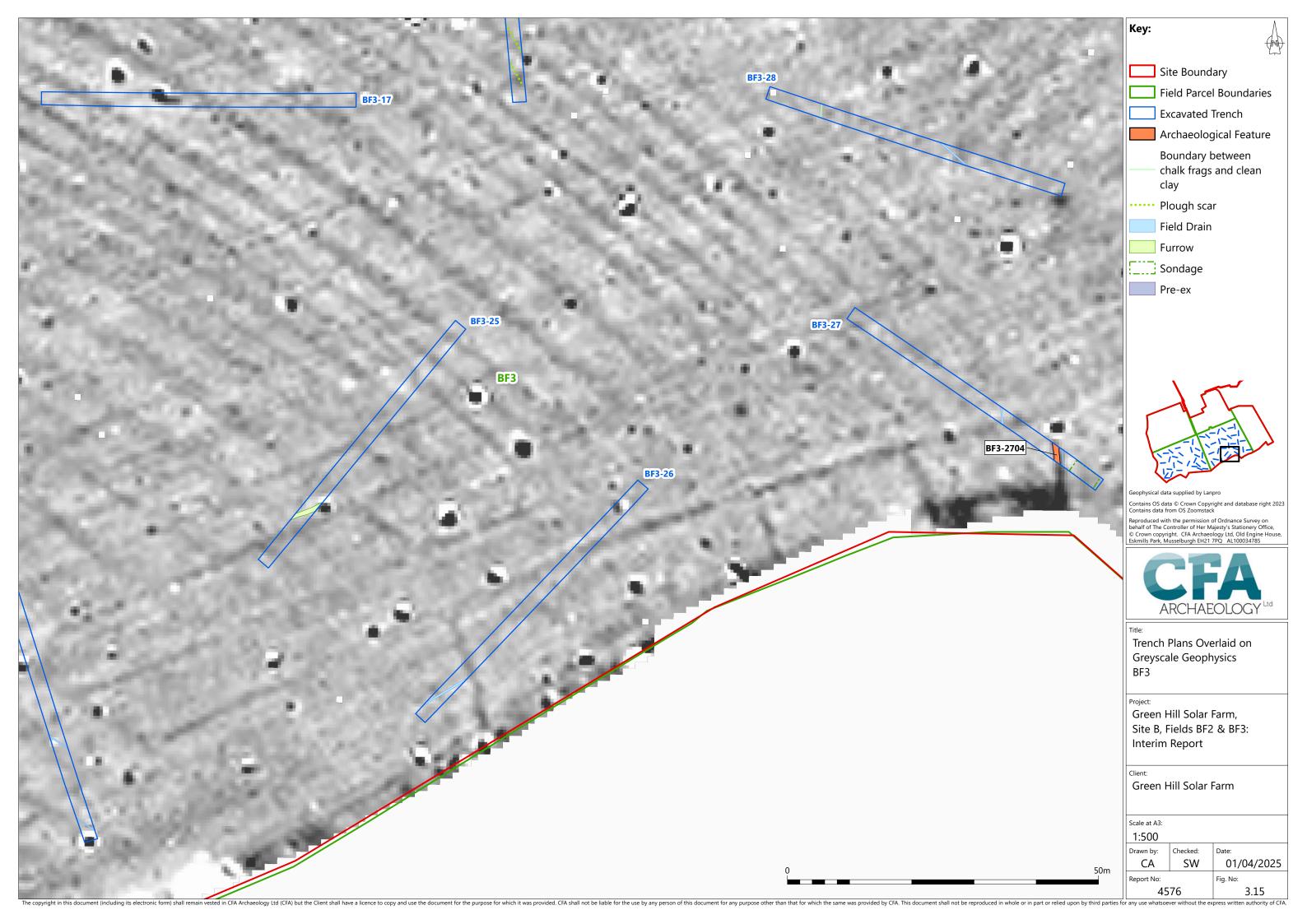


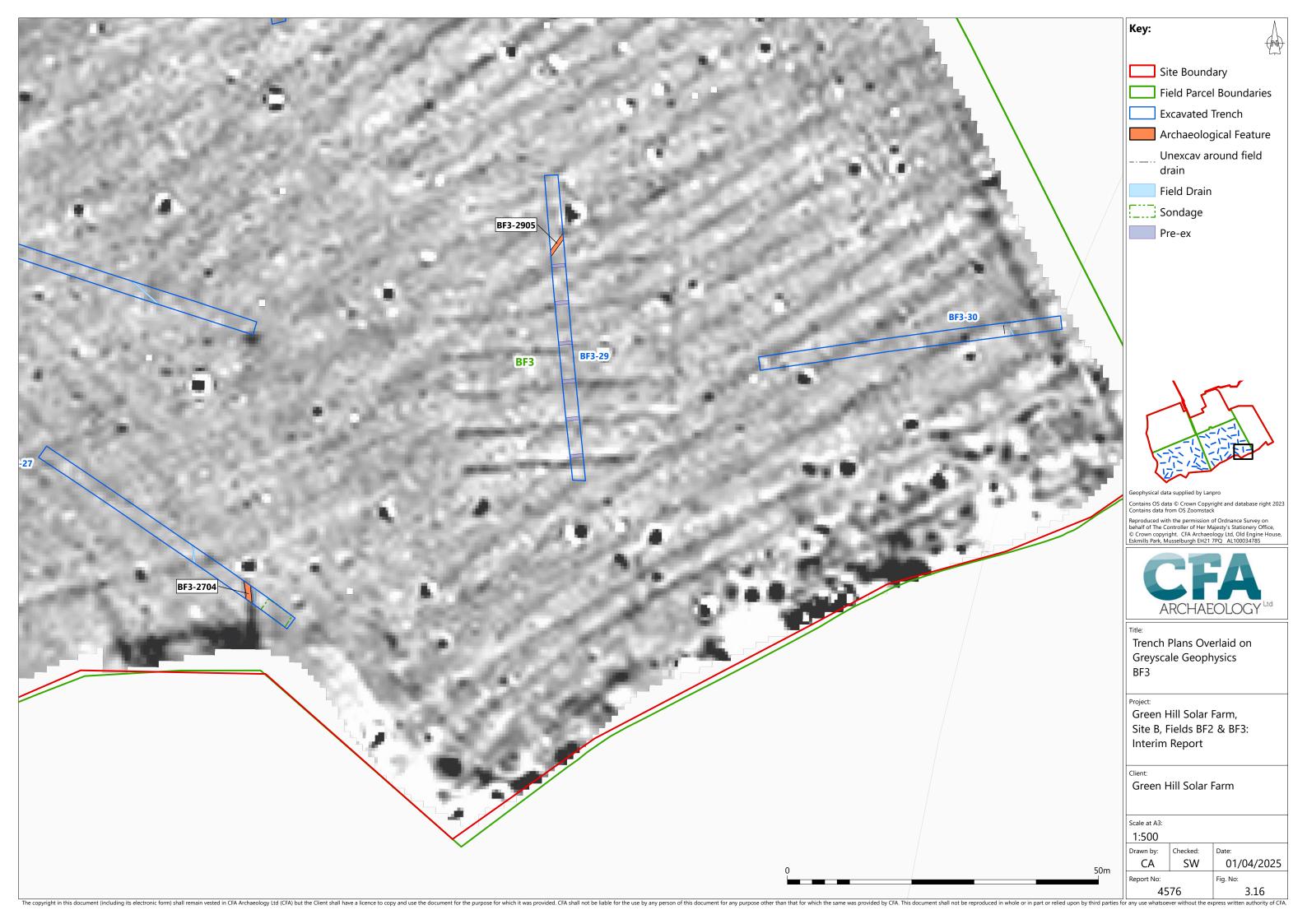












# **Appendix 1-Trench Strata Summary**

			Trench Depth
Trench	Topsoil Depth (m)	Subsoil Depth (m)	(m)
BF2-01	0.20 (avg.)	0.12-0.20	0.52-0.57
BF2-02	0.20 (avg.)	0.16 (avg.)	0.32-0.45
BF2-03	0.18-0.20	0.13-0.20	0.38-0.47
BF2-04	0.26 (avg.)	0.24 (avg.)	0.54-0.60
BF2-05	0.28 (avg.)	0.26 (avg.)	0.53 (avg.)
BF2-06	0.21 (avg.)	0.28 (avg.)	0.52 (avg.)
BF2-07	0.18 (avg.)	0.26 (avg.)	0.51 (avg.)
BF2-08	0.21 (avg.)	0.20 (avg.)	0.47-0.36
BF2-09	0.22-0.25	0.17 (avg.)	0.47-0.50
BF2-10	0.20-0.24	0.17-0.22	0.50 (avg.)
BF2-11	0.25 (avg.)	0.10-0.15	0.48 (avg.)
BF2-12	0.25-0.30	0.14-0.34	0.44 (avg.)
BF2-13	0.26 (avg.)	0.14-0.18	0.44-0.48
BF2-14	0.25 (avg.)	0.21 (avg.)	0.54-0.58
BF2-15	0.28-0.30	0.25 (avg.)	0.52-0.68
BF2-16	0.25 (avg.)	0.10 (avg.)	0.50 (avg.)
BF2-17	0.24-0.26	0.14 (avg.)	0.50 (avg.)
BF2-18	0.28 (avg.)	0.14-0.20	0.40-0.48
BF2-19	0.30 (avg.)	0.21 (avg.)	0.51 (avg.)
BF2-20	0.28-0.30	0.14 (avg.)	0.48-0.55
BF2-21	0.28 (avg.)	0	0.31 (avg.)
BF2-22	0.28 (avg.)	0.05-0.20	0.37-0.70
BF2-23	0.30 (avg.)	0.16 (avg.)	0.56 (avg.)
BF2-24	0.19 (avg.)	0.18 (avg.)	0.37 (avg.)
BF2-25	0.24 (avg.)	0.14 (avg.)	0.43 (avg.)
BF2-26	0.24-0.30	0.10-0.20	0.34-0.50
BF2-27	0.30 (avg.)	0	0.38-1.00
BF2-28	0.30 (avg.)	0	0.34-0.78
BF2-29	0.20-0.25	0.01-0.20	0.45-0.75
BF2-30	0.30 (avg.)	0	0.38-0.47
BF2-31	0.30 (avg.)	0	0.40-0.46
BF3-01	0.25-0.30	0.30-0.44	0.58-0.78
BF3-02	0.23-0.25	35.00 (avg.)	0.58-0.60
BF3-03	0.20-0.24	0.38 (avg.)	0.58 (avg.)
BF3-04	0.25 (avg.)	0.20-0.30	0.50-0.66
BF3-05	0.24 (avg.)	0.10-0.13	0.37-0.48
BF3-06	0.22-0.26	0.10-0.26	0.44-0.50
BF3-07	0.24 (avg.)	0.12 (avg.)	0.44-0.52
BF3-08	0.27 (avg.)	0.16 (avg.)	0.54-0.95
BF3-09	0.24 (avg.)	0.20 (avg.)	0.55 (avg.)

			Trench Depth
Trench	Topsoil Depth (m)	Subsoil Depth (m)	(m)
BF3-10	0.18-0.22	0.26 (avg.)	0.44-0.54
BF3-11	0.22-0.26	0.12-0.20	0.44-0.50
BF3-12	0.24 (avg.)	0.18 (avg.)	0.38-0.52
BF3-13	0.24 (avg.)	0.20 (avg.)	0.42-0.48
BF3-14	0.20-0.26	0.24 (avg.)	0.50-0.55
BF3-15	0.20 (avg.)	0.17-0.22	0.40-0.60
BF3-16	0.20 (avg.)	0.18-0.23	0.50 (avg.)
BF3-17	0.20-0.25	0.16-0.20	0.43-0.50
BF3-18	0.33 (avg.)	0.22 (avg.)	0.49 (avg.)
BF3-19	0.37 (avg.)	0.26 (avg.)	0.64 (avg.)
BF3-20	0.25 (avg.)	0.22 (avg.)	0.49 (avg.)
BF3-21	0.33 (avg.)	0.36 (avg.)	0.52 (avg.)
BF3-22	0.22-0.24	0.24 (avg.)	0.50-0.55
BF3-23	0.21-0.30	0.18-0.34	0.39-0.64
BF3-24	0.24-0.28	0.30 (avg.)	0.52-0.56
BF3-25	0.27 (avg.)	0.18-0.25	0.50-0.57
BF3-26	0.27-0.30	0.10-0.20	0.46-0.50
BF3-27	0.24-0.28	0.10-0.20	0.50 (avg.)
BF3-28	0.29-0.32	0.32 (avg.)	0.48 (avg.)
BF3-29	0.25-0.30	0.22-0.28	0.01-0.64
BF3-30	0.24 (avg.)	0.35 (avg.)	0.54 (avg.)

# **OASIS Summary for cfaarcha1-531971**

OASIS ID (UID)	cfaarcha1-531971
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at Greenhill Solar Farm
Sitename	Greenhill Solar Farm: Site A2, Green Hill Solar, Site C, North Northamptonshire, United Kingdom, Green Hill Solar, Site E, West Northamptonshire, United Kingdom, Green Hill Solar Farm, Site A, Northamptonshire, Green Hill Solar Farm, Site B, Northamptonshire
Sitecode	GHSO, GHSO2, GHSO5, GHSO3, GHSO4
Project Identifier(s)	GHSO
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Lanpro Archaeology + Heritage
Project Dates	05-Aug-2024 - 14-Mar-2025
Location	Greenhill Solar Farm: Site A2
	NGR : SP 82245 72912
	LL: 52.348121009528036, -0.794024387778809
	12 Fig : 482245,272912
	Green Hill Solar, Site C, North Northamptonshire, United Kingdom
	NGR : SP 89169 67889
	LL: 52.30189012757474, -0.693731233477592
	12 Fig : 489169,267889
	NGR : SP 83473 68395
	LL: 52.30733605482163, -0.7771241593268
	12 Fig : 483473,268395
	Green Hill Solar, Site E, West Northamptonshire, United Kingdom
	NGR : SP 80219 72183
	LL: 52.34186503070412, -0.823932364583015
	12 Fig : 480219,272183
	NGR : SP 80557 73653
	LL: 52.35503552761861, -0.818615495602427
	12 Fig : 480557,273653
	Green Hill Solar Farm, Site A, Northamptonshire
	NGR : SP 80333 73528
	LL : 52.3539408089448, -0.821939853235936
	12 Fig : 480333,273528
	Green Hill Solar Farm, Site B, Northamptonshire
	NGR : SP 79327 68435
	LL: 52.3083094990601, -0.837907204714243
	12 Fig : 479327,268435
	12 1 1g . T1 3021,200T00

Administrative Areas	Country: England
	1
	County/Local Authority: West Northamptonshire
	Local Authority District : West Northamptonshire
	Parish: Walgrave
	County/Local Authority: North Northamptonshire
	Local Authority District : North Northamptonshire
	Parish : Wellingborough, unparished area
	Parish : Mears Ashby
	Parish : Sywell
	Parish : Old
	Parish : Holcot
Project Methodology	The proposed Green Hill Solar Farm comprises nine sites (Green Hill A, A2, B, C, D, E, F,
	G, and BESS). Eight of the sites are located between Northampton and Wellingborough
	in Northamptonshire (Green Hill A to F and BESS). Site G is located to the north of
	Lavendon in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Collectively, the sites cover
	approximately 1224ha within a swathe of land measuring approximately 23km from
	north to south and11.5km from east to west.
	During the excavation of the evaluation trenches, the topsoil and recent overburden were removed down to the natural substrate in successive level spits of a maximum 0.2m thickness, using a tracked machine equipped with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The groundwork was carried out under direct archaeological supervision. All the exposed features were cleaned and excavated by hand. The sections of the excavated features were drawn at a 1:10 scale and planned at a 1:20 scale.
	All archaeological features were scanned with an XR ADX150 metal detector prior, during, and after excavation. The trenches and all archaeological remains were surveyed and tied into the National Grid using a Trimble GPS.
Project Results	Archaeological evaluation trial trenching was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm from August 2024 to March 2025 to inform a planning application for a solar farm development.
	The archaeological features recorded across the Sites are indicative of rural settlement and agricultural practice dating from the Iron Age into the Roman periods.
	These features include rectilinear enclosures of varying complexity, probable round houses, and
	boundary ditches which may have served as land divisions or functional drainage.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation Greenhill Solar Farm Ltd
HER	Northamptonshire SMR - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	
Archives	



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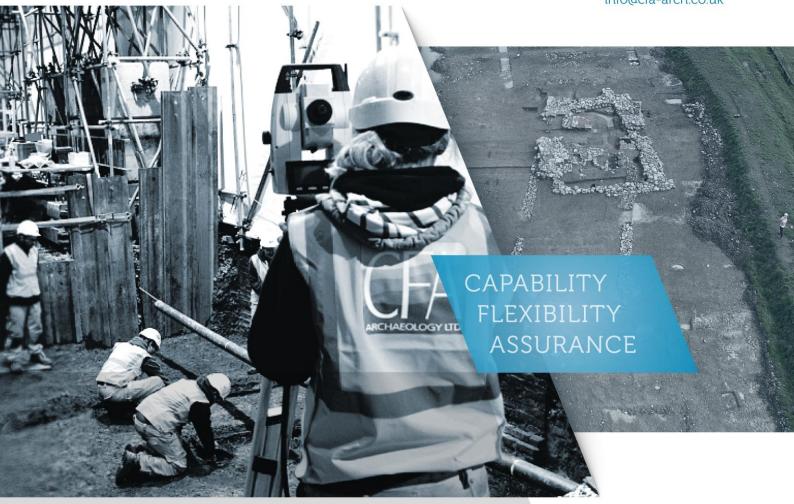








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# Green Hill Solar Farm, Site C Northamptonshire

Report type: Interim- Archaeological Evaluation Report No. 4574

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

# Green Hill Solar Farm Site C Northamptonshire

**Archaeological Evaluation** 

Interim Report Report No. 4574

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#### **Summary**

Archaeological evaluation trial trenching was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Site C, Fields CF1, CF2, CF5, and CF6 of the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm in October and November 2024 to inform a planning application for a solar farm development. The purpose of the archaeological works was to identify and record any remains of archaeological and historical significance.

The archaeological features recorded across Site C are indicative of rural settlement and agricultural practice dating from the late Iron Age into the Roman period. These features include rectilinear enclosures of varying complexity, probable round houses, and boundary ditches which may have served as land divisions or functional drainage. There may be some remnants of earlier prehistoric activity, particularly in Field CF1.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation trial trenching evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) for Lanpro on behalf of Green Hill Solar Farm Limited, with evaluation trial trenching taking place between the 8th October to the 1st November, 2024. The CFA site code and project number for the works are GHSO2 and 5291, respectively.

The work was conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), produced by CFA Archaeology (Walker 2024) and approved by the Northamptonshire County Council Lead Planning Archaeologist.

The works were required in support of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for a solar development. The development scheme consists of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) site and eight electricity generating site, each with a capacity of over 50 megawatts (MW) consisting of ground mounted solar arrays and 'Associated Development'; comprising of energy storage, grid connection infrastructure, and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the scheme.

#### 1.1 Site Location and Description

The proposed Green Hill Solar Farm comprises nine sites (Green Hill A, A2, B, C, D, E, F, G, and BESS). Eight of the sites are located between Northampton and Wellingborough in Northamptonshire (Green Hill A to F and BESS). Site G is located to the north of Lavendon in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Collectively, the sites cover approximately 1224ha within a swathe of land measuring approximately 23km from north to south and 11.5km from east to west.

Site C (hereafter 'the Site') is located to the west of Wellingborough, centered at NGR SP 83473 68404 (Fig. 1). It is comprised of c.56 hectares of arable land, surrounded by further fields and scattered agricultural buildings. An area of woodland stands to the north-west of the Site.

The bedrock geology of the Site is comprised of Wellingborough Limestone Member (limestone and mudstone, interbedded); Stamford Member (sandstone and siltstone, interbedded); and Northampton Sand Formation (Ironstone, ooidal). Superficial deposits of Diamicton of the Oadby Member are recorded in some areas of the site, a superficial deposit formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS 2024). It has lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage as well as slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils and freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils (LandIS 2024).

# 1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

A full archaeological and historic background is available in the Desk Based Assessment (Lanpro 2024), and the relevant information from this document is summarised below.

There are seven non-designated heritage assets listed on the HER within the bounds of Site C. They are described with their HER number below.

## **Prehistoric**

The earliest evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area comprises the numerous worked flints that have been recovered during fieldwalking. These include twelve pieces of worked flint found within Field CF1 (HER 7902/0/0) and 32 pieces within CF5 (HER 8335/0/0) within Green Hill C. These were all struck flakes with no tool types present. Fieldwalking by Mr Callis at Mears Ashby during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s recovered 176 worked flints, nearly all of which have been identified as Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, although 42 microliths of likely Mesolithic date have also been recovered (Callis 1991, 19). Other tool types present include two axe heads, six arrowheads, one fabricator, four blades, 34 scrapers and 42 flakes.

In 2013-4 a geophysical survey was undertaken in Fields CF7 – CF10 as part of the assessment of the proposed Sywell Road Solar Farm (Event ENN108117). Archaeological remains comprising possible Iron Age enclosures and other features were identified, and a subsequent phase of evaluation trenching was undertaken (Event ENN108116), including 16 trenches which were excavated within Green Hill C. These trenches confirmed the locations of two areas of probable Iron Age settlement within Fields CF8, CF9 and CF10 (HER 1524/0/1 and 1524/0/2), and these areas were subsequently excluded from the development area.

#### Roman

Fieldwalking surveys identified sparse scatters of Roman pottery and finds in Fields CF5 and CF1(8335/0/0, 7902/0/0). Further, a possible site of Late Iron Age into Romano-British settlement is known in Field CF1 (7902).

#### Medieval

A possible medieval / post medieval ditch and bank (HER 6599/1/3) is recorded by the HER as running along the western park of the northern boundary of Field CF1, and a scatter of medieval pottery is recorded as being found through fieldwalking in Field CF5 (HER 4520/0/0). The study site was located outside of the focus of any known medieval settlement and is likely to have remained in agricultural use throughout the period.

#### Post-Medieval

The HER records that a civilian airfield run by the Northamptonshire Flying Club was established to the north of Sywell in 1928 and extended in 1932. This became a military airfield during the Second World War but was closed in 1953 (HER 8445/1). The HER polygon for the airfield extends across Field CF1 within the study site, but the OS map of 1952 depicts the extent of the airfield just prior to its closure, and it is shown as abutting the north-western and south-eastern boundaries of Field CF1. An Air Ministry Record Site Plan of Sywell Aerodrome dating to 1944 (Figure 18) provides a detailed catalogue of the buildings and areas within airfield, the edge of which is demarcated by a dashed line, and this shows that Field CF1 was abutting the boundary of the airfield but was outside of it. The legend to the plan provides details of buildings within the airfield immediately adjacent to Field CF1, including two blister hangars immediately to the north-west (nos. 155 and 158), and another to the south-west (no.154) which was adjacent to two Nissen huts for 'Dispersal' and a '50 men blast shelter' (no. 98). To the south of Wood Lodge Farm was another cluster of small buildings including a 'Cloak room & lavatories – female ground staff (no. 97), a 'Dispersal hut' (no. 83 and a 'Latrine' (no. 85) and a pillbox (no.71) Field CF1 is also referenced as one of three 'Dispersal Areas M.U.' It is unclear as to whether these areas external to the airfield were for the dispersal of military personnel or military assets, but it appears likely that it was for the use of personnel during potential bombing raids, due to the presence of the aircraft hangars immediately adjacent.

A World War Two east-facing pillbox made of mixed materials (brick, stone, breeze, concrete) is recorded by the HER within Field CF4 (HER 8445/3/22). However, it should be noted that none of the pillboxes mapped by the Defence of Britain project (from which this data is derived; DoB) at Sywell Aerodrome are accurately plotted, generally being c.15m from their locations as mapped by the Air Ministry. The Air Ministry plan shows the locations of seven pill boxes, and six of these were mapped by the DoB project with the description 'Destroyed World War II Type 22 pillbox at Sywell Airfield' followed by a description of the location. The location of the example to the west of Field CF4 (NRHE 1412448) is described as 'On the edge of the aerodrome 40m southwest of the entrance to Wood Lodge Farm from Wellingborough Road' and this is clearly referring to pillbox no. 72 on the Air Ministry Plan which is c.35 from the location provided by the DoB project and the HER. The description for the putative pill box within CF4 (HER 8445/3/22) does not follow the same formula as the other six examples, and it appears likely, therefore, that this was derived from a different source,

and it also appears likely that this is also referring to the pillbox (no.72) guarding the entrance to Wood Lodge Farm, but with an even more inaccurate grid reference than that provided by the DoB project. This is bolstered by an air photograph from 1944 available to view online via Google Earth which shows Field CF4 as devoid of features at

#### 1.3 Previous Work

Archaeological geophysical surveys were undertaken across the whole of the study site (ASWYAS 2024).

The geophysical survey has identified what appears to be late prehistoric and/or Romano-British settlement activity in the form of conjoined enclosures and linear ditches of a possible associated field system towards the western edge of Field CF1, as well as fainter linear features within the central area of CF1 that could be related to this field system. A ring ditch, possibly a roundhouse of Iron Age or Romano-British date, has also been identified towards the south-western corner of Field CF1. This is approximately 14m in diameter with an apparent entrance to the south-east and is within what appears to be a large rectilinear enclosure, although only two sides of this are visible, the ditches continue beyond the edge of the field and the surveyed area. A service trench of likely modern date has also been identified, running along the northeastern edge of the field, and continuing to the south-east across Fields CF4 and CF5.

Towards the north-eastern edge of Field CF2 the survey has identified a linear boundary ditch, with a series of rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures appended to the north-east which are also likely to represent late prehistoric and/or Romano-British settlement activity.

In Field CF4 the survey has identified part of a small rectilinear enclosure of potential archaeological interest towards the eastern boundary of the field, with a potential entrance facing to the south-west. As mentioned above, the service trench identified in Field CF1 continues across this field along its north edge, with a second service trench running from south-west to north-east also identified by the survey.

Towards the northern end of Field CF5 the survey has identified a cluster of curvilinear ditches that are likely to form part of a series of settlement enclosures that are probably related to the Iron Age settlement activity previously identified immediately to the east in CF10 (HER 1524/0/1) as part of the evaluation undertaken ahead of the submission of the planning application for the Sywell Road Solar Farm (Events ENN108116 and ENN108117).

In Field CF6, the survey identified an almost square enclosure in the south-western part of the field, immediately to the north of Sywell Road. Immediately to the north of this is a block of parallel linear ditches, indicative of a cultivation system. Whilst these might be related to medieval ridge and furrow agricultural practices, they are on a different alignment to other ridge and furrow identified within Field CF6, and their association

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with the enclosure suggests that they may be contemporary with it. It is possible that they could be of Romano-British origin

The survey has identified further linear features towards the north-western corner of Field CF8, which correlate with the location of one of the areas of Iron Age settlement activity discussed above (HER 1524/0/2) that was identified as part of the evaluation undertaken ahead of the submission of the planning application for the Sywell Road Solar Farm (Events ENN108116 and ENN108117).

The survey has also identified further linear features towards the south-western corner of Field CF10, which correlate with the location of the Iron Age settlement discussed above (HER 1524/0/1) and are likely to be associated with this. Further linear trends that were identified by the survey towards the north and east in Field CF10 might also be contemporary, although a more recent origin cannot be discounted.

#### 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with the WSI (Walker 2024, Appendix 3), the overall aim of the archaeological works was to obtain sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the Proposed Development Area (PDA). This will allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made for further archaeological mitigation works, the scope of which would be detailed in a project design in agreement with the Archaeological Advisor(s) to the relevant Local Planning Authority(s).

This was achieved through the following objectives:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the PDA;
- To excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- · To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret identified archaeological features;
- To report the results of the archaeological assessment and place them in their local and regional context; and
  - To compile and deposit a site archive and to provide information for the HER.

# 2.1 Regional Research Framework

Targeted research priorities to include in the complete report have been identified from the East Midlands Regional Research Framework (Regional Frameworks 2025) and include:

Neolithic and Early to Middle Bronze Age Research Priorities:

- 3.3.4: When did the first field and boundary systems develop, how did this vary regionally and what processes may underlie their development?
- 3.4.3: Can we further refine our knowledge of the selective use of particular landscapes for ritual, agriculture and other activities?
- 3.5.3: How might settlement morphology and functions have varied regionally and over time, and in particular when, where and why may the first enclosed settlements have developed?

#### Romano-British Research Priorities:

- 5.4.2: How and why did settlement forms and building traditions vary within the region and over time?
- 5.4.4: How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time?
- 5.4.5: What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?
- 5.5.4: Can we chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems?
- 5.6.6: What can artefact research contribute to studies of eating, drinking and other manifestations of social identity?

## 3 WORKING METHODS

#### 3.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd is a registered organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CFA Archaeology follows all relevant CIfA and Historic England Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2022 & 2023 and Historic England 2011 & 2015).

All features and trenches were surveyed using an industry standard Trimble GPS. The same equipment was used to establish the levels above Ordnance Datum for the areas of archaeological investigation. Modern finds (c. 20th-century onwards) were identified but not retained.

A summary of the results of the archaeological works has been submitted for inclusion in the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS V, Appendix 2). The OASIS reference is cfaarcha1-531971.

#### 3.2 Method of Excavation

A total of sixty-nine 50m x 2m evaluation trial trenches were excavated across four fields (Fields CF1, CF2, CF5, and CF6; Figs. 1 & 2), in line with the scope of works set out and agreed in the WSI (Walker 2024).

During the excavation of the evaluation trial trenches, the topsoil and recent overburden were removed down to the natural substrate in successive level spits of a maximum 0.2m thickness, using a tracked machine equipped with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The groundwork was carried out under direct archaeological supervision. All the exposed features were cleaned and excavated by hand. The sections of the excavated features were drawn at a 1:10 scale and planned at a 1:20 scale (Figs. In prep.).

All archaeological features were scanned with a metal detector prior, during, and after excavation. The trenches and all archaeological remains were surveyed and tied into the National Grid using a Trimble GPS.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The locations of the excavated trenches can be seen in Figure 1. The trenches containing archaeological features are described below. A table with the topsoil, subsoil and trench depths can be found in Appendix 1. These results should be read in conjunction with Figures 1 & 2. Recorded trenches and archaeological features are prefixed by the site designation (C) and field number (F#).

Unless otherwise stated, no finds were recovered from the following features.

# 4.1 Factual Summary of Key Archaeological Findings

Site C, Field CF1

A total of 11 trenches were excavated in Field CF1, with archaeology being recorded in 4 of them (Trenches CF1-01, CF1-02, CF1-06, and CF1-09).

Site C, Field CF2

17 trenches were excavated in Field CF2, of which 9 had archaeological features (Trenches CF2-01, CF2-02, CF2-03, CF2-04, CF2-05, CF2-07, CF2-08, CF2-10, and CF2-12).

Site C, Field CF5

21 trenches were excavated in Field CF5, with recorded archaeology in 2 trenches (Trenches CF5-04 and CF5-05), a continuation of a ditch excavated in CF-04 was also identified in Trench CF2-03 but was not excavated.

Site C, Field CF6

20 trenches were excavated in Field CF6, of which 4 had archeological features (Trenches CF6-04, CF6-09, CF6-016, and CF6-17).

## 4.2 Results by Trench

#### 4.2.1 Field CF1

# Trench CF1-01 (Fig. 2.1)

Trench CF1-01 contained an area of dense archaeological features at its south-western end which was consistent with the geophysical survey of the area. Eight ditches and an animal burial were identified within Trench CF1-01 of which two ditches and the animal burial were excavated and recorded. The first ditch (**CF1-0104**) was orientated north to south with steeply sloping sides and a gradual break of slope, although the base was not reached as it exceeded the safe depth of excavation (Plate 1). It measured 1m long, 1.92m wide, and 0.88m deep (excavated) and contained two fills. The basal fill (**CF1-0105**) was a plastic mid-yellowish grey silty clay with rare flint fleck inclusions, measuring 1.1m wide and 0.22m deep. The upper fill (**CF1-0106**) was a plastic mid-brownish grey silty clay with medium-sized sandstone and flint fleck inclusions, measuring 1.92m wide and 0.22m deep.



Plate 1: South-east facing section of Ditch CF1-0104

The second ditch (**CF1-0109**) was orientated north to south with stepped and steep sides and the base was not reached as it exceeded the safe depth of excavation. It measured 0.7m long, 1.21m wide, and 0.68m deep (excavated) and contained three

fills. The basal fill (**CF1-0110**) was a plastic mid-greyish orange silty clay with rare charcoal and flint fleck inclusions, and measured 0.54m wide and greater than 0.28m deep. The middle fill (**CF1-0111**) was a firm mid-orangey grey silty clay with rare small to medium angular to sub-rounded sandstone inclusions, Roman pottery of possible 2<sup>nd</sup> century date, and iron panning, and measured 0.82m wide and 0.28m deep. The upper fill (**CF1-0112**) was a firm mid-greyish brown clayey silt with rare small flint inclusions, measuring 1.3m wide and 0.18m deep.

The animal burial (**CF1-0107**) was an irregular sub-rectangular shape in plan, measuring 0.79m long and 0.39m wide (Plate 2). It was filled by plastic mid-brownish grey silty clay (**CF1-0108**). The bones were articulated, and the burial was not excavated at the request of the county archaeologist.



Plate 2: Plan of unexcavated Burial CF1-0107

## Trench CF1-02 (Fig. 2.1)

Trench CF1-02 contained four ditches and two pits. Located in the northern half of the trench, Ditch **CF1-0204** was orientated broadly east to west, with steeply sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 3). It measured greater than 1.8m long, 1.1m wide, and 0.28m deep and contained a single fill (**CF1-0205**) of malleable midbrownish grey silty clay. Ditch **CF1-0204** was cut by the later Ditch **CF1-0206**, which was moderately sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base. Ditch **CF1-0206** measured greater than 1.8m long, 1.8m wide, and 0.7m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (**CF1-0207**) measured 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep and was comprised of firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay. The upper fill (**CF1-0208**) was a loose dark greyish black silty clay, measuring 1.8m wide and 0.25m deep, and contained pottery of possible 1st to 2nd date.



Plate 3: West facing section of Ditches CF1-0204/CF1-0206/CF1-0209

Sited directly north of Ditches **CF1-0204/CF1-0206**, was Ditch **CF1-0209** with moderately sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base. It measured greater than 1.8m long, 1.2m wide, and 0.3m deep and contained a single fill (**CF1-0210**) of loose mid-blackish grey silty clay.

Found centrally in the trench, sub-oval Pit **CF1-0211** had moderately sloping sides and a gradual break to an uneven base and measured 0.81m long, greater than 0.61m wide, and 0.18m deep (Plate 4). It contained a single fill (**CF1-0212**) of firm greyish black clayey silt that may have been the result of burning, and from which pot, bone, and worked flint were recovered.



Plate 4: Plan of Pit CF1-0211

Circular Pit **CF1-0215** was a shallow pit with rounded base, measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.2m deep (Plate 5). It contained a single fill (**CF1-0216**) of friable dark blackish grey silty clay. It was cut by Ditch **CF1-0213**.

Located in the southern half of the trench, Ditch **CF1-0213** cut Pit **CF1-0215**, and was orientated north-east to south-west. It had gently sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 5). It measured greater than 2m long, 2m wide, and 0.46m deep and contained a single fill (**CF1-0214**) of malleable mid-orangey brown silty clay.



Plate 5: North-east facing section of Ditch CF1-0213 (left) cutting Pit CF1-0215 (right)

# Trench CF1-06 (Fig. 2.2)

Trench CF1-06 contained a single north-east to south-west orientated ditch (**CF1-0604**) with moderately sloping sides (Plate 6). It measured greater than 0.8m long, 2.28m wide, and greater than 0.5m deep – the entire depth was not excavated as it exceeded the safe depth of excavation. It contained a single fill (**CF1-0605**) of malleable mid-brownish grey silty clay with occasional angular to sub-angular flint inclusions.



Plate 6: North-east facing section of Ditch CF1-0604

# Trench CF1-09 (Fig. 2.2)

Trench CF1-09 contained three ditches, one pit, and one tree throw. At the northern end of the trench was a north-west to south-east orientated linear ditch which belonged to a larger rectilinear enclosure surrounding the sub-circular feature **CF1-0904**), this ditch was not excavated in Trench CF1-09 as it had been previously recorded in Trench CF1-06 (**CF1-0604**).

Located towards the southern end of the trench were two sections of ditch which were part of the same sub-circular feature, Ditch **CF1-0904** was the southern-most of these and was orientated north-west to south-east and had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 7). It measured greater than 1.8m long, 1.7m wide, and 0.5m deep and contained a single fill of firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular to sub-rounded chalk and flint inclusions (**CF1-0905**). Pottery of possible Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age was recovered from this ditch.



Plate 7: West facing section of Ditch CF1-0904

Pit **CF1-0906**, sited in the centre of the trench, was circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a sharp break to a flat base. It measured 1m long, greater than 0.66m wide, and 0.47m deep and contained two fills (Plate 8). The basal fill (**CF1-0908**) was a firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay with manganese flecks, measuring greater than 0.5m wide and 0.14m deep. The upper fill (**CF1-0907**) measured greater than 0.6m wide and 0.33m deep and was comprised of a malleable dark yellowish brown silty clay with rare sub-angular to sub-rounded chalk and flint inclusions. This pit continued beyond the trench baulk.



Plate 8: North-west facing section of Pit CF1-0906

North of Pit **CF1-0906**, Tree Throw **CF1-0909** had gently sloping sides with a gradual break to an uneven base (Plate 9). It measured 1.7m long, greater than 1.4m wide, and 0.44m deep and contained a single fill (**CF1-0910**) of firm mid-orangey brown silty clay with moderate manganese flecks and rare small sub-angular to sub-rounded chalk and flint inclusions. This feature was recorded as a tree throw due to the irregular nature of the base, but it may have been a heavily bioturbated pit.



Plate 9: South-west facing section of Tree Throw CF1-0909

#### 4.2.2 Field CF2

# Trench CF2-01 (Fig. 2.5)

Trench CF2-01 contained two ditches and a post hole.

Located to the eastern end of the Trench, Ditch **CF2-0104** was orientated north-west to south-east and had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base. It measured greater than 1m long, 1.25m wide, and 0.65m deep and contained a single fill (**CF2-0105**) of loose dark greyish brown silty clay from which pottery of Late Iron Age to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and 1<sup>st</sup> century date, and bone were recovered.

Post Hole **CF2-0106** was recorded within Ditch **CF2-0104**, cutting the ditch fill. It was circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a sharp break to a rounded base, and measured 0.2m long, 0.25m wide, and 0.34m deep. It contained a single fill (**CF2-0107**) of friable dark greyish brown silty clay.

Found near the centre of the trench, north to south orientated Ditch **CF2-0108** had steeply sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 10). It measured greater than 1.1m long, 1.6m wide, and 0.42m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (**CF2-0109**) was a firm light brownish yellow silty clay with rare angular to subrounded flint inclusions, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep. The upper fill (**CF2-0110**), measuring 1.25m wide and 0.36m deep, was a firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional angular to sub-rounded flint inclusions.



Plate 10: South facing section of Ditch CF2-0108

# **Trench CF2-02 (Fig. 2.5)**

Trench CF2-02 contained three ditches and a pit. Located to the western end of the trench, Pit **CF2-0215** was oval in plan with gently sloping sides and a gradual break to a flat base. It measured 0.52m long, 1.1m wide, and 0.12m deep and contained a single fill (**CF2-0216**) of plastic dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular flint and moderate angular to sub-rounded charcoal fleck inclusions. Animal bone and degraded pottery of Iron Age to 2<sup>nd</sup> Century date was recovered from this fill, mostly towards the south-eastern edge.

Sited in the central trench area, north to south orientated Ditch **CF2-0204** had steeply sloping sides and a gradual break to a flat base (Plate 11). It measured greater than 1m long, greater than 2.8m wide, and 0.44m deep and contained three fills, with pottery and animal bone being recovered from the top two. The basal fill (**CF2-0207**) was a firm mid-yellowish orange silty clay with moderate small angular to sub-angular stone inclusions, measuring 1.67m wide and 0.14m deep. The middle fill (**CF2-0206**), measuring 2.5m wide and 0.21m deep, was a plastic dark blackish grey clay with a lens of sand within it, and pottery of Late Iron Age to Early Roman date. The uppermost fill (**CF2-0205**) was a plastic light yellowish brown clay with a lens of sand, measuring greater than 2.8m wide and 0.22m deep.



Plate 11: North facing section of Ditch CF2-0204

Towards the eastern end of the trench, were intercutting Ditches **CF2-0208** and **CF2-011** and Tree-throw **CF2-0213**. Ditch **CF2-0211**, orientated north to south, had moderately sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base. It measured greater than 0.8m long, 1m wide, and 0.35m deep and contained a single fill (**CF2-0212**) of friable mid-greyish brown silty clay. Ditch **CF2-0211** was cut by Ditch **CF2-0208** which was orientated north-west to south-east and had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a rounded base (Plate 12). It measured greater than 0.8m long, 1.7m wide, and 0.45m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (**CF2-0210**) was a friable light yellowish brown silty clay, measuring 1m wide and 0.15m deep. The upper fill (**CF2-0209**) contained pottery of Iron Age to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date.



Plate 12: South facing section of Ditches CF2-0208, CF2-0211 and Tree throw CF2-0213

A tree throw (**CF2-0213**) was recorded on the eastern side of Ditch **CF2-0208**, circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a sharp break to a rounded base. It measured 0.3m long, 0.7m wide, and 0.45m deep and contained a single fill (**CF2-0214**) of friable mid-orangey brown silty clay.

# Trench CF2-03 (Figs. 2.4 & 2.5)

Trench CF2-03 contained a two north-west to south-east orientated ditch, one of which was a continuation of Ditch CF2-1412 and was therefore left unexcavated in this trench. Situated to the south-west of this ditch was ditch (**CF2-0304**) which had gently sloping sides and a gradual break to an uneven base (Plate 13). It measured greater than 1.8m long, 1.26m wide, and 0.1m deep and contained a single fill (**CF2-0305**) of firm midorangey grey clay with moderate small to medium angular flint inclusions. CBM was noted on the surface of this deposit.



Plate 13: North-west facing section of Ditch CF2-0304

# **Trench CF2-04 (Fig. 2.5)**

Trench CF2-04 contained three ditches, a gully and a possible post hole or gully. Located to the north of the trench, Ditch **CF2-0404** was orientated north-west to south-east, had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base, and measured 1m long, 0.66m wide, and 0.24m deep (Plate 14). It contained a single fill (**CF2-0405**) of firm dark greyish brown silty clay with rare small angular to sub-rounded flint inclusions, and from which pottery of Iron Age to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date and animal bone was recovered. Ditch **CF2-0404** was cut by later Ditch **CF2-0406**, which had steeply sloping sides and a sharp break to a tapered base. It measured 1m long, 0.68m wide, and 0.44m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (**CF2-0407**), measuring 0.65m wide and 0.32m deep, was a firm dark greyish brown silty clay with rare medium-sized sub-rounded sandstone and angular to sub-rounded flint flecks and pottery of Late Iron Age to 2<sup>nd</sup> century and 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date. The upper fill (**CF2-0408**) was a firm dark yellowish brown silty clay, measuring 0.65m wide and 0.11m deep.



Plate 14: North-west facing section of Ditch CF2-0404/CF2-0406

In the centre of the trench, east to west orientated Gully **CF2-0409** had steeply sloping sides and an imperceptible break to a rounded base, measuring 0.79m long, 0.31m wide, and 0.24m deep (Plate 15). It contained two fills. The basal fill (**CF2-0410**) was a firm light greyish brown silty clay with rare small sub-rounded to rounded pebble inclusions and Roman pottery of 2<sup>nd</sup> century or later date, measuring 0.2m wide and 0.08m deep. The upper fill (**CF2-0411**) was a malleable dark brownish black silty clay with frequent charcoal fleck and occasional angular to sub-angular flint fleck inclusions, measuring 0.3m wide and 0.11m deep.



Plate 15: East facing section of Gully CF2-0409

Towards the southern end of the trench, Ditch **CF2-0412**, orientated north-west to south-east, had dipping concave sides and a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 16). It measured greater than 0.6m long, 1.6m wide, and 0.66m deep and contained three fills. The basal fill (**CF2-0413**) was a mid-yellowish brown silty clay with moderate charcoal fleck and occasional small to medium angular to sub-angular flint inclusions, measuring 0.73m wide and 0.24m deep, from which pottery was recovered. The middle fill (**CF2-0414**) was a firm light yellowish brown clay with occasional small to medium angular to sub-angular flint inclusions, although the fill was noted as being a sterile redeposit of the natural substratum, and it measured 1.28m wide and 0.16m deep. The uppermost fill (**CF2-0415**) was a firm dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular to sub-angular flint and rare charcoal fleck inclusions, measuring 1.6m wide and 0.28m deep. This fill was cut by a row of post holes / a possible gully to its north-east.

Post hole **CF2-0416** cut the northern edge of Ditch **CF2-0412**. It was linear in plan with steep sloping sides and a sharp break to a tapered base, measuring greater than 0.6m long, 0.3m wide, and 0.38m deep (Plate 16). It contained a single fill (**CF2-0417**) of malleable mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature was interpreted as a possible line of post holes possibly forming a palisade trench or as a gully.



Plate 16: East facing section of Ditch CF2-0412 (left) and Post Hole CF2-0416 (right)

# **Trench CF2-05 (Fig. 2.5)**

Trench CF2-05 contained two sections of a rectilinear ditch, one north-west to south-east orientated ditch towards its western end and one north-east to south-west at its eastern end which was left unexcavated. The western end of the rectilinear Ditch **CF2-0504** had gently sloping sides with a gradual break to a flat base and measured greater than 1.8m long, 1.8m wide, and 0.31m deep (Plate 17). It contained a single fill (**CF2-0505**) of firm mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare small angular stone inclusions.

Ditch **CF2-0504** appeared to have been recut at a later date by Gully **CF2-0506**, which had moderately sloping sides and a sharp break to a rounded base (Plate 17). It measured greater than 1.8m long, 0.62m wide, and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (**CF2-0507**) of firm mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare small angular stone inclusions. The fill in this gully was recorded as being indistinguishable from the fill within the original ditch (Deposit **CF2-0505**), suggesting that both were accumulated through similar silting or washing processes.



Plate 17: North-west facing section of Gully CF2-0506 (left) and Ditch CF2-0504 (right)

# **Trench CF2-07 (Fig. 2.4)**

Trench CF2-07 contained a single ditch (**CF2-0704**) sited towards its centre. This ditch was orientated north-west to south-east and had dipping concave sides with an imperceptible break to a flat base (Plate 18). It measured greater than 1m long, 2.8m wide, and 0.7m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (**CF2-0705**) was a firm midgreyish blue clay with occasional small to medium angular to sub-angular flint and charcoal and rare medium sub-rounded chalk inclusions, measuring greater than 2.7m wide and 0.4m deep. A degraded long bone was recovered from this deposit. The upper fill (**CF2-0706**) was a firm mid-orangey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular to sub-angular flint inclusions, measuring greater than 2.3m wide and 0.38m deep. This fill was cut by two field drains. Ditch **CF2-0704** has been interpreted as the remains of a field boundary present on the 1844 Tithe map of the area.



Plate 18: South-east facing section of Ditch CF2-0704

# Trench CF2-08 (Fig. 2.4)

Trench CF2-08 contained a single north-east to south-west orientated ditch (**CF2-0804**) with gently sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 19). It measured greater than 1m long, 0.5m wide, and 0.12m deep and contained a single fill (**CF2-0805**) of firm dark reddish brown silty clay with rare small sub-angular flint inclusions. Ditch **CF2-0804** was on the same alignment as the ditch in Trench **CF2-10**, indicating they may be agricultural in nature.



Plate 19: Plan of Ditch CF2-0804

# Trench CF2-10 (Fig. 2.4)

Trench CF2-10 contained a single north-east to south-west orientated ditch (**CF2-1004**) with moderately sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 20). It measured greater than 1.8m long, 0.9m wide, and 0.17m deep and contained a single fill (**CF2-1005**) of firm mid-orangey brown clay with small chalk and occasional small angular stone inclusions.



Plate 20: South-west facing section of Ditch CF2-1004

### **Trench CF2-12 (Fig. 2.4)**

Trench CF2-12 contained two features towards its southern end. Curvilinear Ditch Terminus **CF2-1204**, orientated north-east to south-west, had steeply sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base. It measured 1m long, 0.28m wide, and 0.45m deep and contained a single fill (**CF2-1205**) of plastic dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small angular to sub-rounded flint and rare small, rounded pebble inclusions.

North of that was Pit **CF2-1206**, oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a gradual break to a flat base. It measured 1.18m long, greater than 0.69m wide, and 0.45m deep and contained a single fill of firm dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small angular to sub-rounded flint inclusions. It was noted that this feature could be either a pit or a ditch terminus, as it continues into the trench baulk.



Plate 21: North-west facing section of Pit CF2-1206

### 4.2.3 Field CF5

# Trench CF5-04 (Figs. 2.6 & 2.7)

Trench CF5-04 contained four ditch features. North-east to south-west orientated Ditch **CF5-0412** was located towards the trench's north-western edge. It had steeply sloping sides and a gradual break to a flat base and measured greater than 1m long, 1.44m wide, and 0.38m deep (Plate 22). It contained a single fill (**CF5-0413**) of firm light yellowish brown silty clay with rare small angular to sub-angular chalk inclusions. Animal bone was recovered from this deposit.



Plate 22: North-east facing section of Ditch CF5-0412

In the central trench area, Ditch **CF5-0404**, orientated north-east to south-west, had steeply sloping sides and a sharp break to a flat base (Plate 23). It measured greater than 1m long, 1.48m wide, and 0.49m deep and contained a single fill (**CF5-0405**) of firm light yellowish brown silty clay with rare small angular to sub-rounded flint inclusions, and one iron nail. This feature was interpreted as a possible post-medieval boundary ditch.



Plate 23: South-east facing section of Ditch CF5-0404

Sited at the trench's south-eastern end, Ditch **CF5-0406** was orientated north-east to south-west and had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a flat base (Plate 24). It measured greater than 1m long, greater than 1.83m wide, and 0.71m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (**CF5-0408**) was a firm dark greyish black clay with occasional chalk and rare large angular sandstone inclusions. It measured greater than 1.23m wide and 0.43m deep, and pottery was recovered from it. The upper fill (**CF5-0407**) was a firm light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional flecks of angular stone and moderate charcoal fleck inclusions, measuring greater than 1.83m wide and 0.53m deep. Pottery of 1st to 2nd century date was recovered from this deposit.

Cutting Ditch **CF5-0406** and, therefore, later than it was Ditch **CF5-0409**. It had dipping concave sides with a gradual break to a flat base and measured greater than 1m long, greater than 0.77m wide, and 0.32m deep and contained two fills (Plate 24). The basal fill (**CF5-0411**) was a firm dark greyish black clay with occasional medium sub-rounded stone inclusions, and measured greater than 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. The upper fill (**CF5-0410**) was a plastic light yellowish brown silty clay with rare stone fleck inclusions, measuring greater than 0.77m wide and 0.25m deep. Pottery of 2<sup>nd</sup> century or later date was recovered from this deposit.



Plate 24: North facing section of Ditch CF5-0409 (left) and Ditch CF5-0406 (right)

### **Trench CF5-05 (Fig. 2.7)**

Trench CF5-05 contained two ditches. Towards its northern end, Ditch **CF5-0504** was orientated north-east to south-west and had steeply sloping sides with a sharp break to a flat base (Plate 25). It measured greater than 1m long, 1.9m wide, and 0.85m deep and contained three fills. The basal fill (**CF5-0507**) was a friable mid-greyish blue silty clay measuring 0.8m wide and 0.18m deep. The middle fill (**CF5-0506**) was a friable mid-greyish orange silty clay measuring 1.35m wide and 0.43m deep. The uppermost fill (**CF5-0505**) was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay measuring 1.9m wide and 0.2m deep.



Plate 25: South-west facing section of Ditch CF5-0504

Sited towards the trench's southern end, Ditch **CF5-0508**, orientated north-west to south-east, had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 26). It measured greater than 1m long, 0.88m wide, and 0.6m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (**CF5-0510**) was a friable mid-orangey brown silty clay measuring 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep. The upper fill (**CF5-0509**) was a friable mid-greyish brown silty clay measuring 0.87m wide and 0.52m deep. Pottery of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date was retrieved from this deposit.



Plate 26: North-west facing section of Ditch CF5-0508/CF5-0511

Ditch **CF5-0508** was cut by Ditch Recut **CF5-0511**, which had moderately sloping sides and a gradual break to a rounded base. It measured greater than 1m long, 0.7m wide, and 0.38m deep and contained a single fill (**CF5-0512**) of friable dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. This ditch recut was itself cut by a 19th or 20th-century land drain.

#### 4.2.4 Field CF6

### Trench CF6-04 (Fig. 2.11)

Trench CF6-04 contained a single north-west to south-east orientated ditch (**CF6-0405**) towards its eastern end. This ditch had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base and measured greater than 1m long, 0.84m wide, and 0.16m deep (Plate 27). It contained a single fill (**CF6-0404**) of malleable mid-orangey brown clayey silt with rare flint fleck inclusions.



Plate 27: North-west facing section of Ditch CF6-0405

# Trench CF6-09 (Figs. 2.10 & 2.12)

Trench CF6-09 contained a single north to south orientated ditch (**CF6-0904**) towards its north-eastern end. It had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base and measured greater than 1m long, 0.63m wide, and 0.24m deep (Plate 28). It contained a single fill (**CF6-0905**) of firm mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular to sub-angular flint inclusions. Pottery of 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century date was recovered from this deposit.



Plate 28: South facing section of Ditch CF6-0904

# Trench CF6-16 (Fig. 2.12)

Trench CF6-16 contained two east to west orientated linear ditches. Located at the northern end of the trench, Ditch **CF6-1604** had gently sloping sides with a gradual break to a flat base and measured greater than 1.1m long, 1.54m wide, and 0.12m deep (Plate 29). It was truncated on its southern edge by a land drain. It contained a single fill (**CF6-1605**) of firm mid-brown clayey silt with occasional small to medium stone inclusions. This feature was interpreted as a possible furrow.



Plate 29: Plan of Ditch CF6-1604 with field drain to the right

Sited at the southern end of the trench, Ditch **CF6-1606** was orientated east to west and, had moderately sloping sides with a gradual break to a rounded base (Plate 30). It measured greater than 1m long, 1.18m wide, and 0.32m deep and contained a single fill (**CF6-1607**) of firm mid-brownish grey silty clay with moderate small sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions. Pottery of possible prehistoric date was recovered from this deposit.



Plate 30: East facing section of Ditch CF6-1606

# Trench CF6-17 (Fig. 2.12)

Trench CF6-17 contained two sections of a rectilinear ditch, one north to south orientated ditch (**CF6-1704**) towards its south-eastern end and one east to west orientated ditch at its north-western end which was left unexcavated. It had moderately sloping sides with a sharp break to a rounded base and measured greater than 3m long, 2.05m wide, and 0.7m deep (Plate 31). It contained a single fill (**CF6-1705**) of friable mid-greyish brown silty clay.



Plate 31: Plan of Ditch CF6-1704

#### 5 INTERIM FINDS SUMMARY

The pre-quantified finds from Site C can be found in Table 1 below, organised by find type. At this stage, no cleaning or specialist assessment has been undertaken.

Find Type	Quantity	Weight (g)
Animal Bone	72	943
Iron Nail	1	15
Flint	3	7
Pottery and bone	48	3263
Pottery	243	6025
<b>Grand Total</b>	367	10253

**Table 1: Artefactual Finds Pre-Quantification** 

### 5.1 Interim Pottery Summary

Overall, most of the pottery recovered from Site C is relatively similar in nature, being comprised of grog-tempered wares in the Belgic tradition. These can date from the Late Iron Age through to the early 2nd century. The second most common type found were shell tempered wares, which are similar in date range to grog-tempered wares and included general undecorated body sherds. They ranged in date from the prehistoric period through to the late Roman or medieval periods, although the latter tend to be finer body sherds when compared to the prehistoric handmade vessels. Overall, most of the pottery from Site C likely dates from the Late Iron Age through to the early 2nd century. One exception is a thick square-rimmed everted rim jar with

impressed thumb/finger decoration on the top of the rim and in a shell-tempered fabric, recovered from Context **CF1-0905**, which may date from the Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age, making it earlier in date than the rest of the assemblage.

Table 2, below, contains spot dates for a selection of pottery sherds with identifiable elements such as rim sherds, decoration, or obvious fabric. A full analysis of the complete pottery assemblage will be undertaken for the full report (forthcoming).

Context	Comments	Spot Date
CF1-0002	White ware jar (Bs)	EC2
CF1-0111	Possible Harrold shell	C2?
CF1-0208	Grey sandy ware cordon body jar (Belgic form)	C1-EC2
CF1-0208	Grog tempered storage jar	EC2
CF1-0208	Various shells tempered body sherds (IA/Harrold)	C2+
CF1-0905	Shell Tempered ware body sherds with thumb impressed rim, Hand made	EPH (NEO-LBA)
CF2-0105	Grog tempered cordoned body bead rim	C1
CF2-0105	Grog and shell tempered Channel rim jar with small slashed bead	LIA-EC2
CF2-0206	Grog conical/carinate bowls jars	LIA-ERO
CF2-0209	Handmade ox and shell	IA-C2
CF2-0216	Handmade shell poss. Harrold?	IA-C2
CF2-0405	Red grog, bead rim glob jar Belgic	IA-C2
CF5-0407	Grog cordon Belgic jar	C1-EC2
CF5-0407	Grog cordon carinate jar/bowl, IA scored, Shell temper Channel Rim Jar	LIA-EC2
CF5-0410	Shell Harrold?	C2+
CF5-0509	Shell tempered body sherds (Harrold)?	C2
CF6-0905	Handmade incised groove vertical comb	C1-EC2
CF6-1607	Single sherd handmade	Prehistoric?

**Table 2: Pottery Preliminary Spot Dates** 

### 5.2 Interim Animal Bone Summary

Some animal bone has been recovered from a range of features reported on within this interim report. The results from the animal bone assessment will be included in the final report produced at the completion of the evaluation trenching works.

### 5.3 Interim Palaeo-Environmental Summary

Samples have been taken from a range of features reported on within this interim report. The results from the environmental assessment will be included in the final report produced at the completion of the evaluation trenching works.

#### 6 INTERIM DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

#### 6.1 Site C, Field CF1

An enclosure complex, including potential ring ditches, seen at the western end of site on the geophysical greyscale was confirmed within Trenches CF1-01 and CF1-02. Pottery from these trenches dated from the first to second centuries, indicating that settlement activity here dated to the early Roman period, although an Iron Age origin cannot be discounted without further investigation

A second enclosure, rectilinear in shape with a ring ditch within it, was excavated in Trenches CF1-06 and CF1-09, at the southern corner of the site. Pottery from the curvilinear ring ditch in Trench CF1-09 was dated to the Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age period, suggesting this series of features may have an earlier origin than those on the other side of the field, and may be indicative of early settlement activity.

### 6.2 Site C, Field CF2

A complex series of ditches, forming possible settlement activity or enclosure, were excavated in Trenches CF2-01, CF2-02, CF2-03, CF2-04, and CF2-05, clearly matching archaeological trends seen on the geophysical survey. Pottery recovered from Trenches CF2-02 and CF2-04 has been dated to the late Iron Age into the Roman period.

An isolated linear feature of unknown origin seen on the geophysics greyscale was excavated in Trench CF2-12.

A post-medieval field boundary depicted on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps was excavated in Trench CF2-07.

Features of an unknown origin were recorded in Trenches CF2-08 and CF2-10, these features were on the same alignment and thus may be agricultural in origin.

### 6.3 Site C, Field CF5

Ditches excavated in Trenches CF5-04 and CF5-05 aligned with those seen on the geophysical survey, forming a possible incomplete, small rectilinear enclosure or otherwise serving as boundary ditches possibly associated with the settlement evidence previously excavated further to the west in field CF9 and CF10 and recorded on the HER (1524/0/1). Pottery recovered from both trenches dates from the Late Iron Age into the Roman Period.

### 6.4 Site C, Field CF6

An irregular square enclosure seen on the geophysical greyscale, with a northward continuation of its western-most edge, was confirmed by excavations in Trenches CF6-09, CF6-16, and CF6-17. Pottery from Trench CF6-09 was dated to the early Roman

Green Hill Solar Project Site C: Fields CF1, CF2, CF5 & CF6: Interim Report for Evaluation Trenching Report No. 4574 v3

period (1st to 2nd century). Pottery from the square enclosure feature in Trench CF6-16 was identified as being possibly prehistoric.

Additionally, a long east to west ditch, possibly a double-ditched track, was recorded in Trench CF6-16. It was not seen in Trench CF6-18, but this trench was interrupted by a post-medieval to modern furrow, which would have obscured the earlier double-ditch feature.

An isolated feature of unknown origin was excavated in Trench CF6-04.

#### 6.5 Conclusion

Altogether, the archaeological features recorded across Site C are indicative of rural settlement and agricultural practice dating from the late Iron Age into the Roman period. These features include rectilinear enclosures of varying complexity, probable round houses, and boundary ditches which may have served as land divisions or functional drainage. There may be some remnants of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age activity, particularly in Field CF1.

Furrows were noted across the site, generally aligning with the ridge and furrow system visible on the geophysical greyscale and consistent with its use as arable land in the recent historic period.

Further assessment of the artefactual finds and clarification of the results from the geophysical survey will provide greater information and will be included in the final assessment report.

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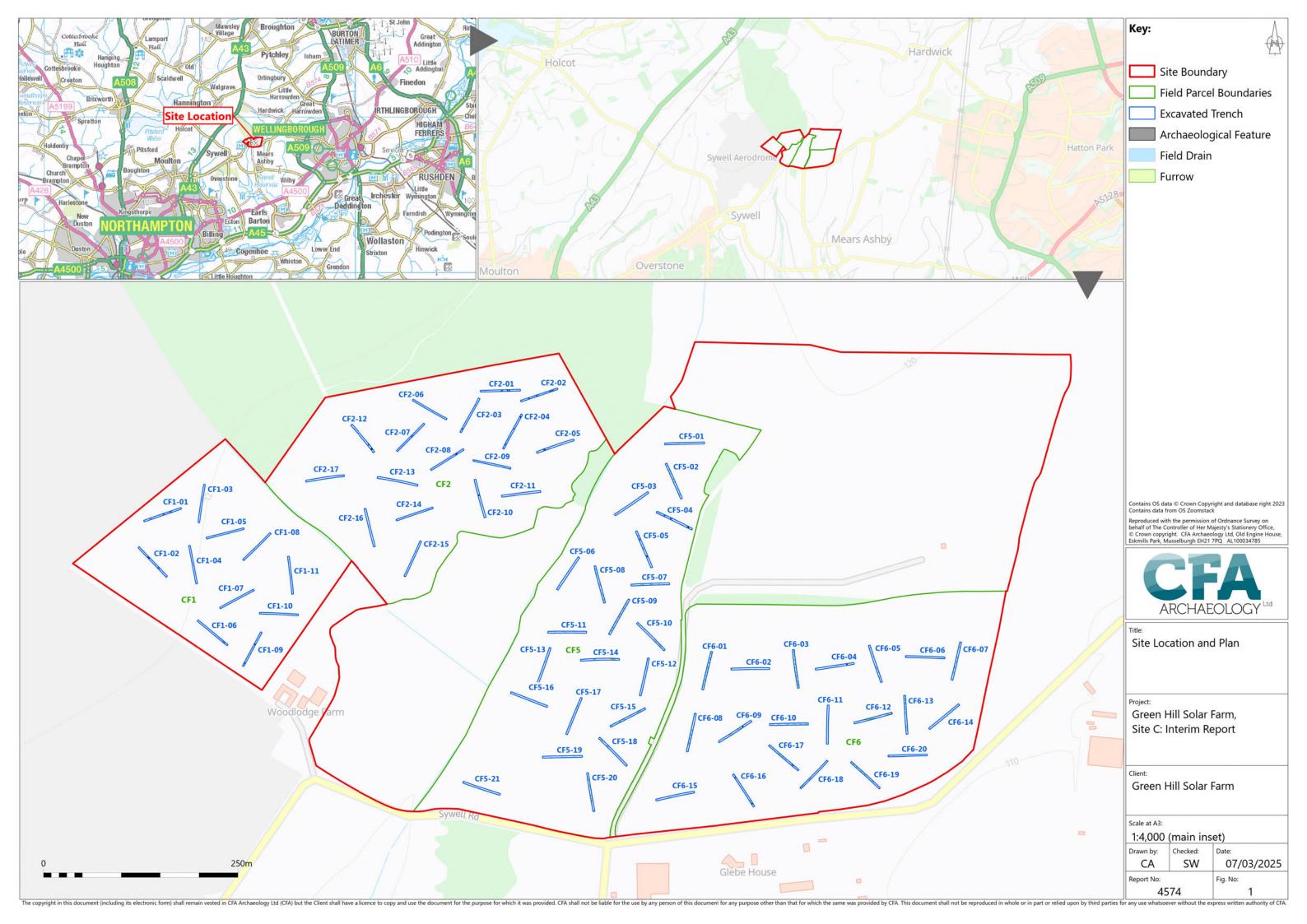
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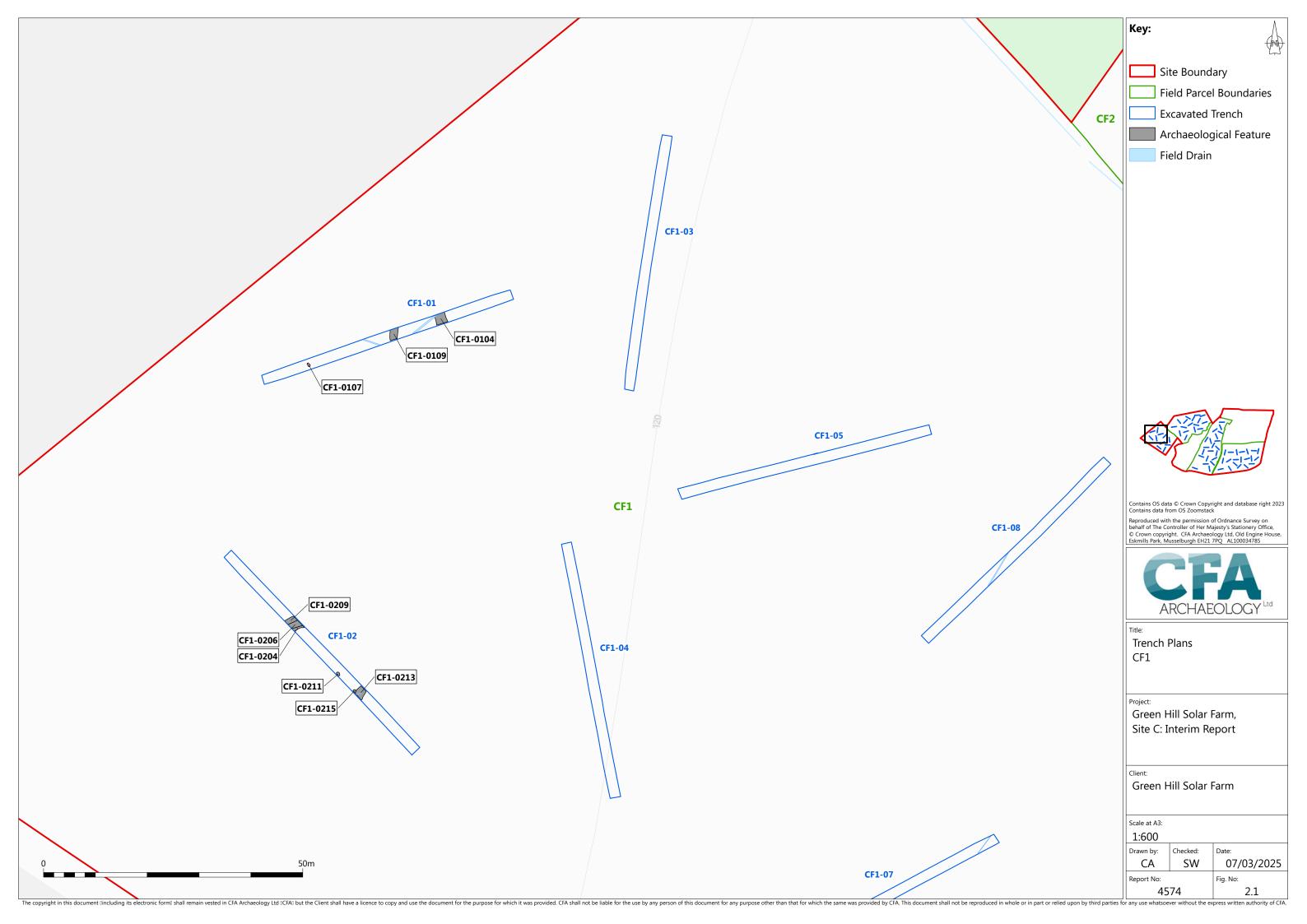
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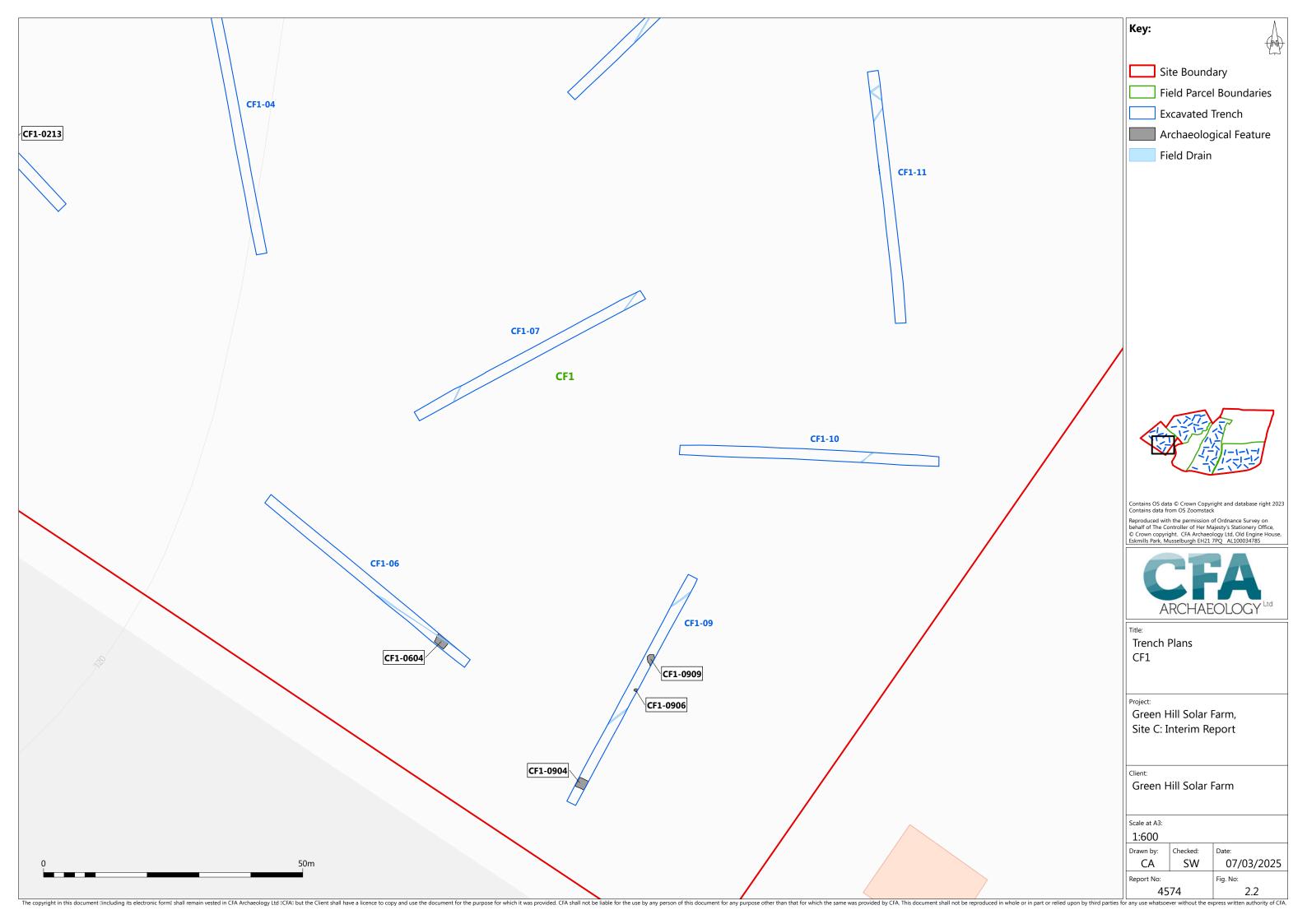
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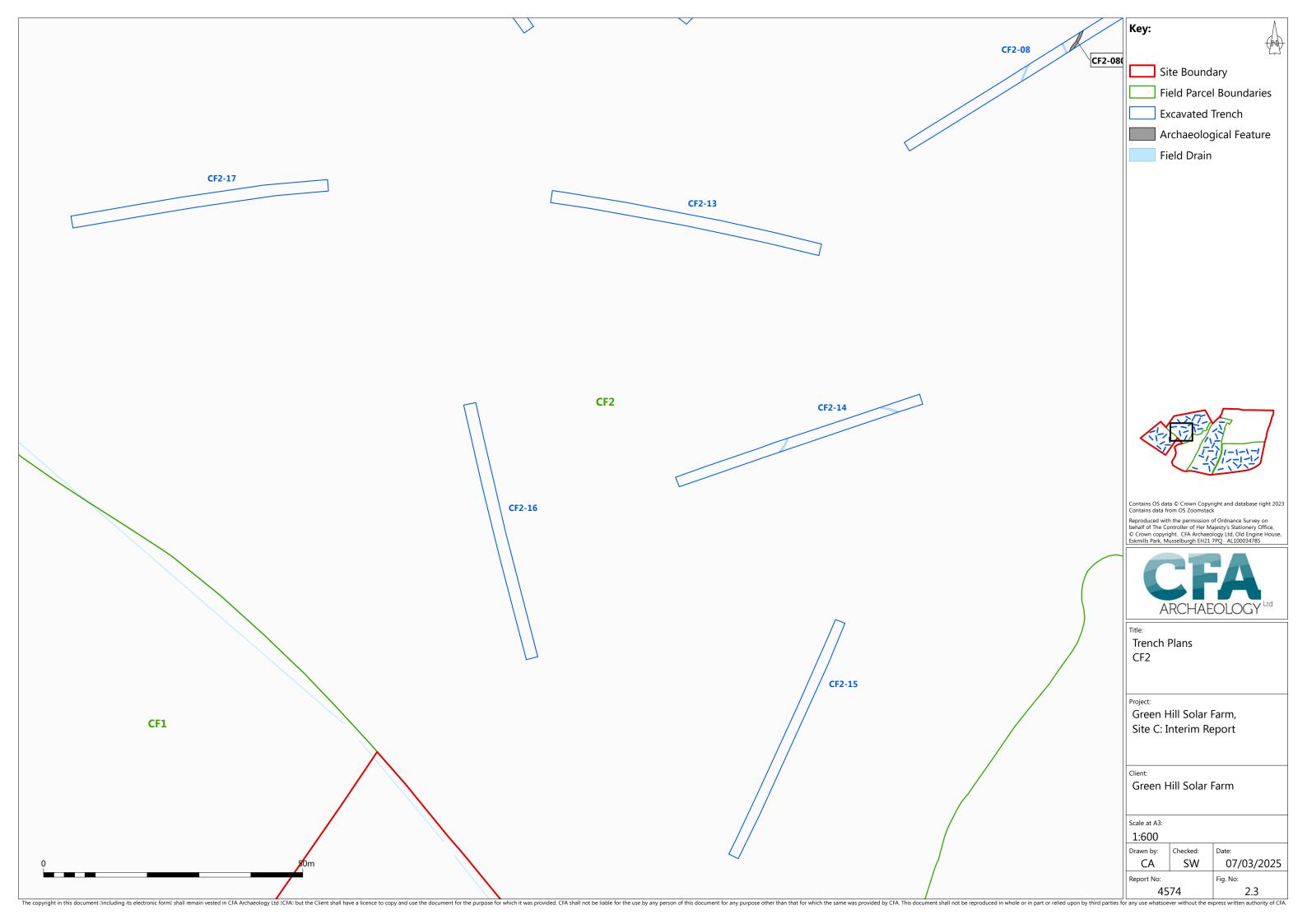
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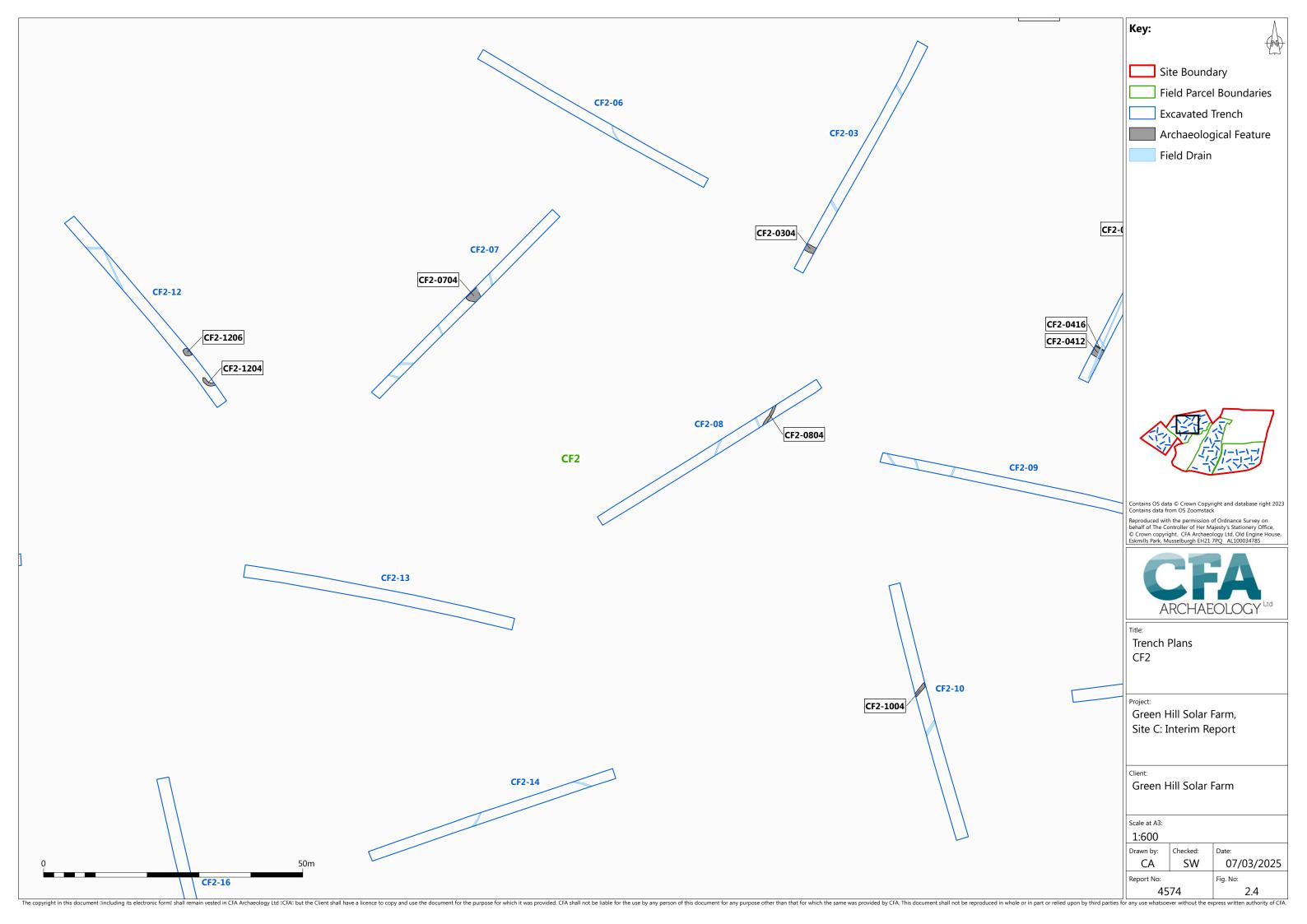
# **FIGURES**

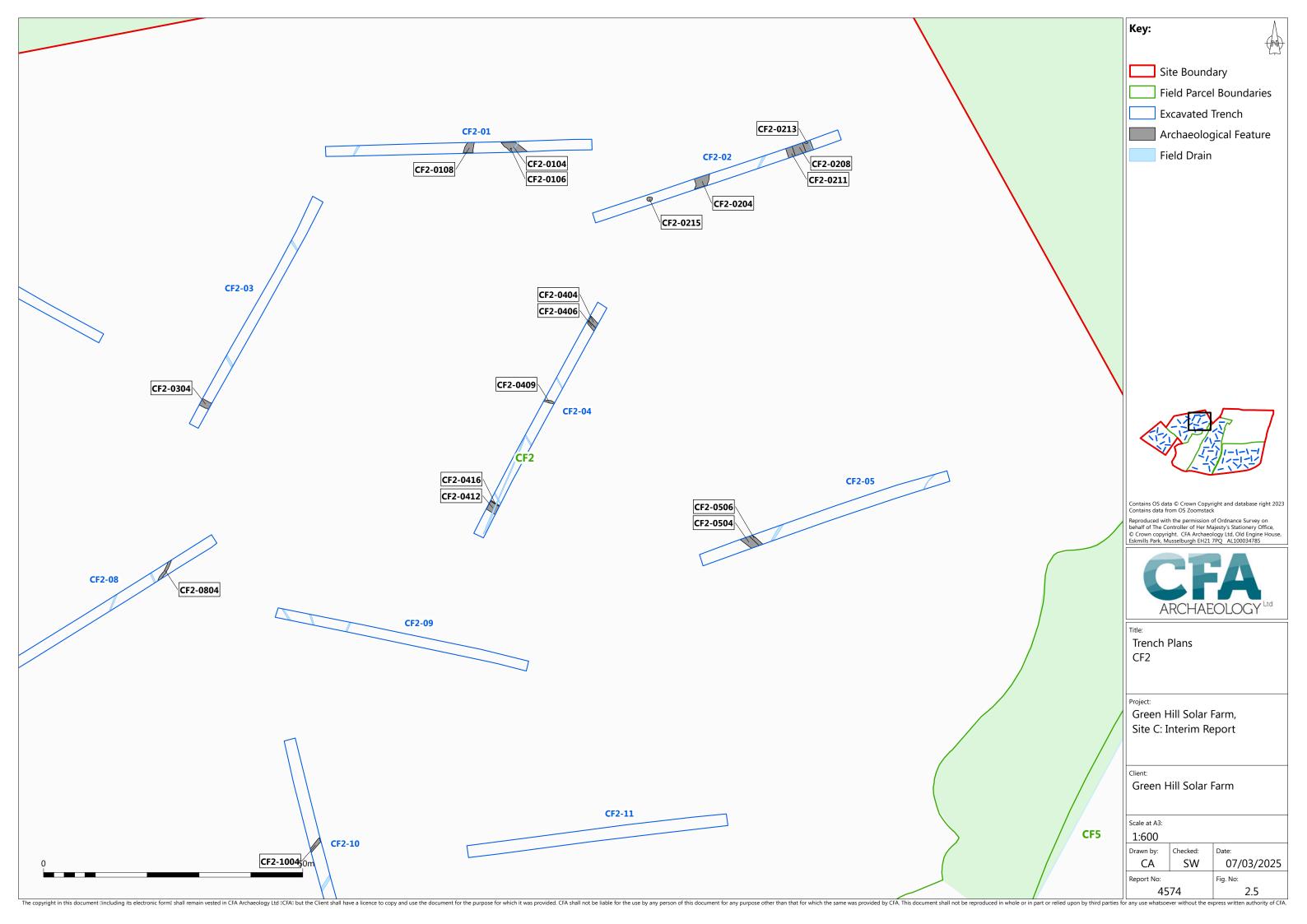


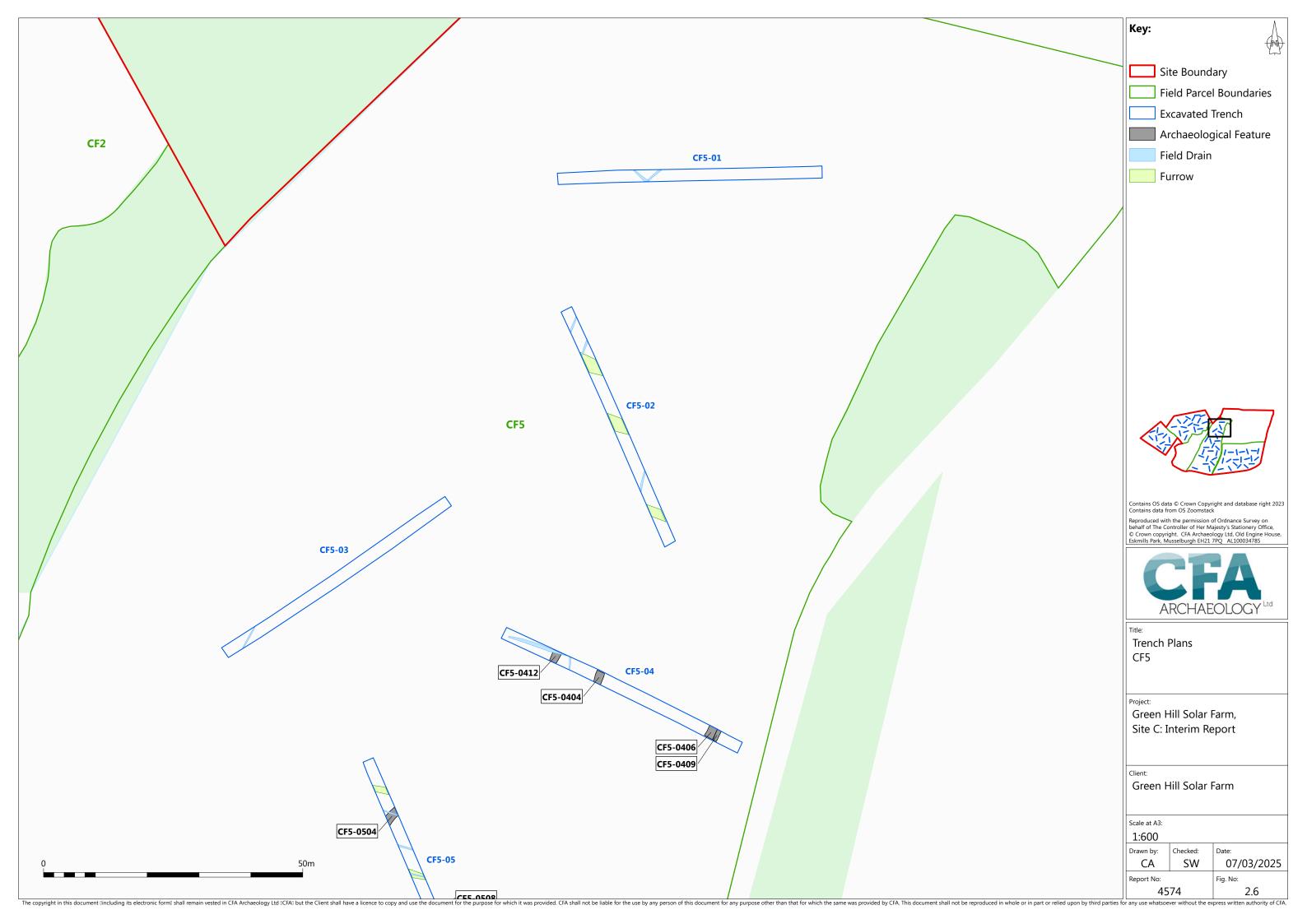


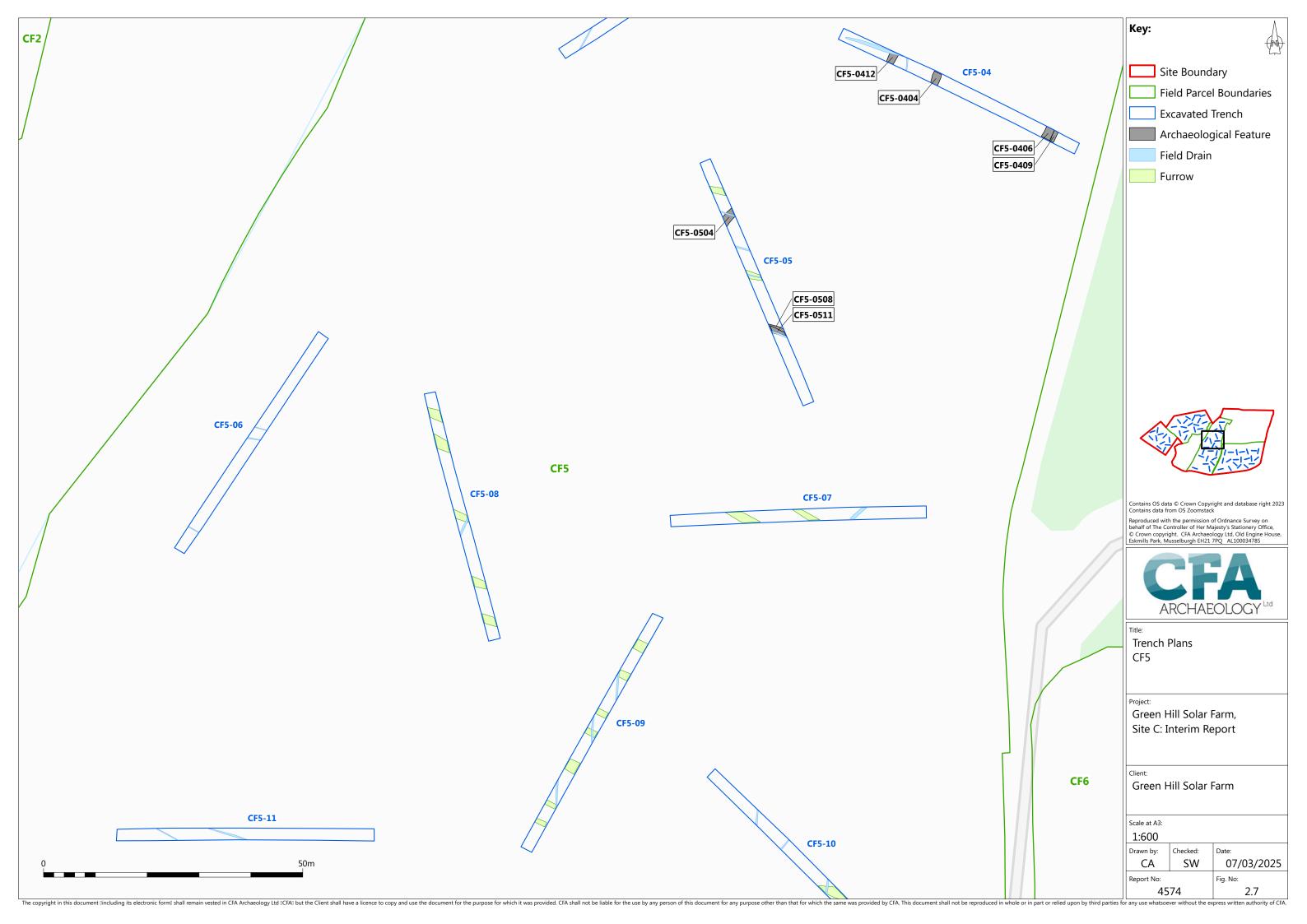


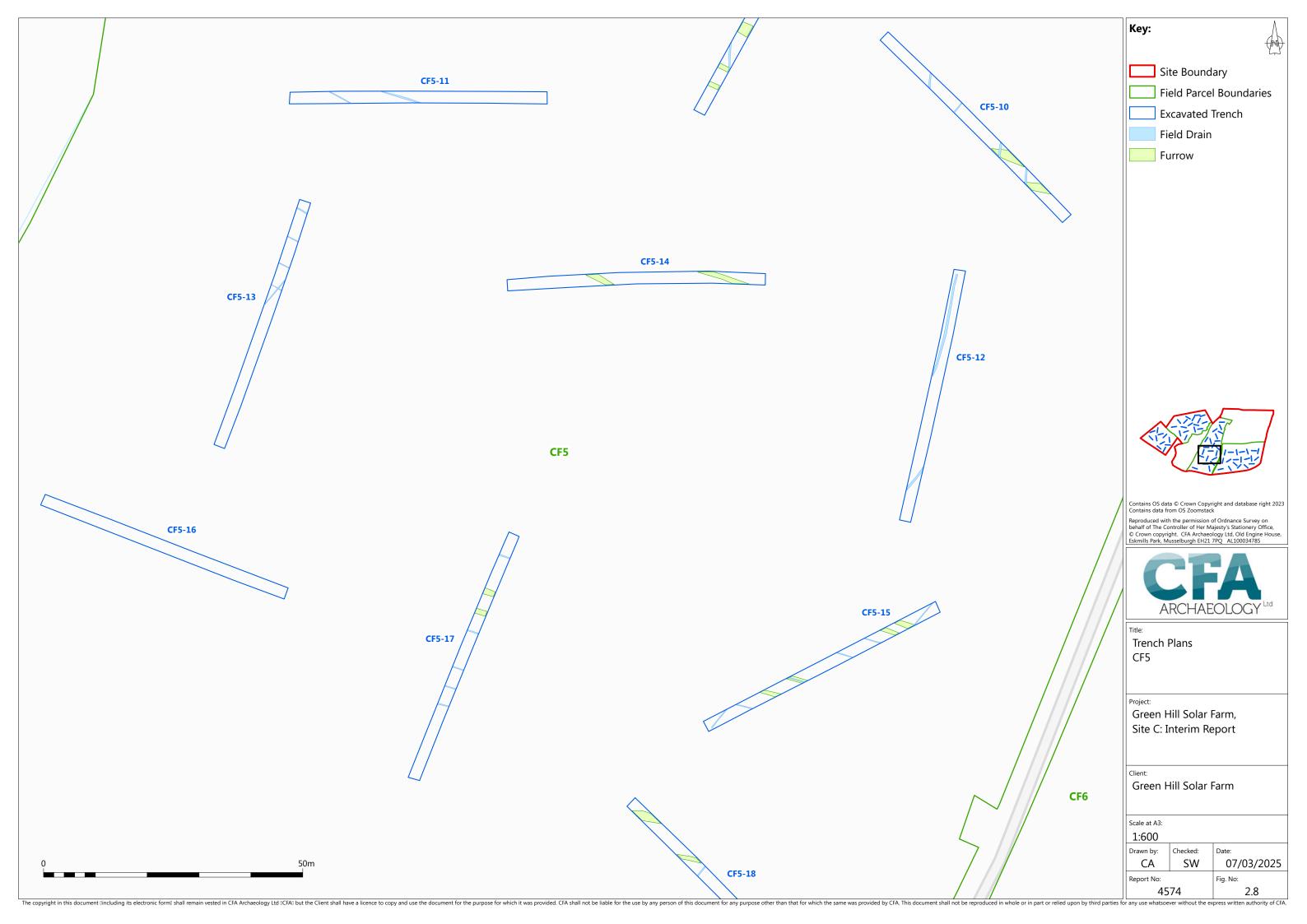


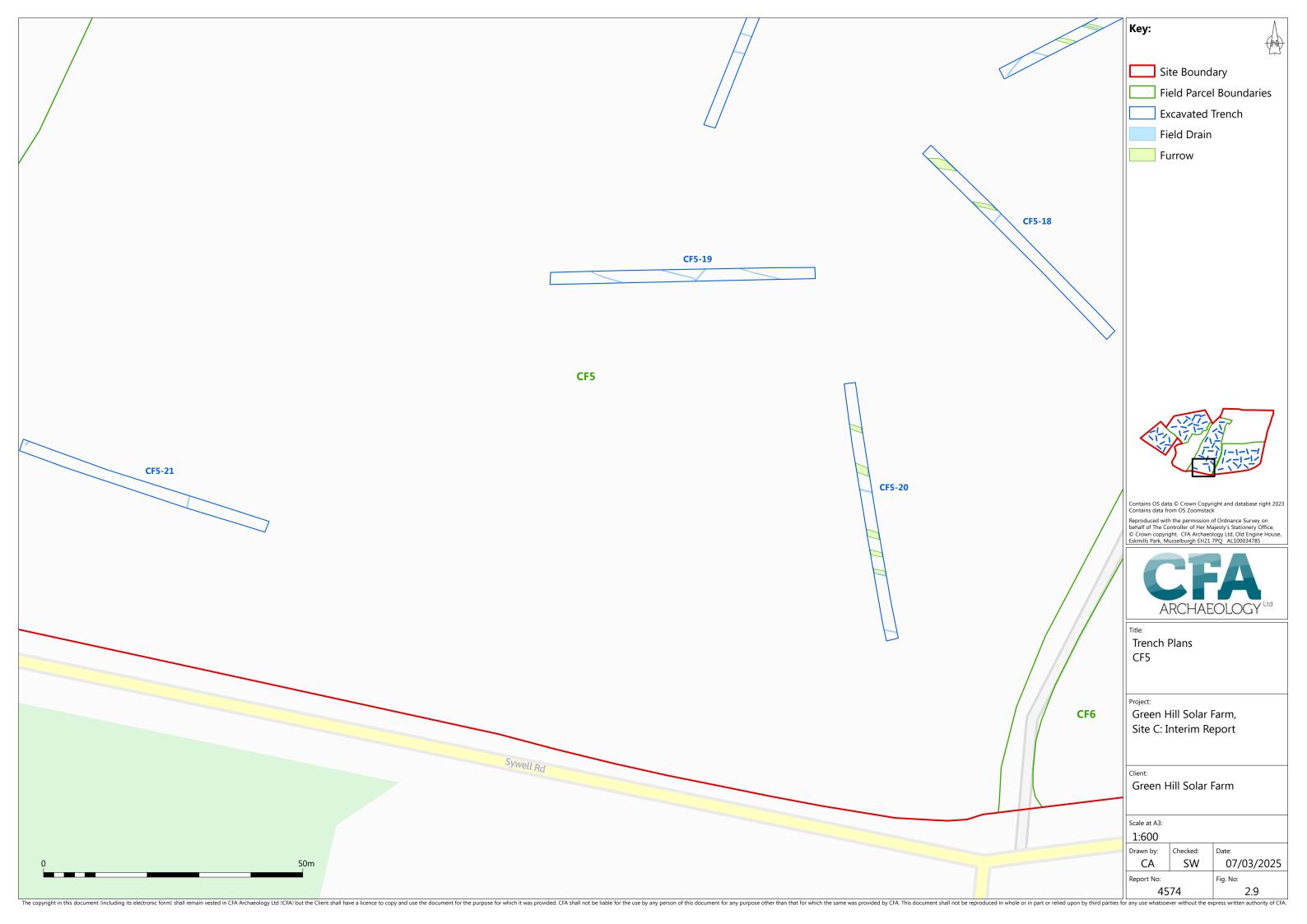


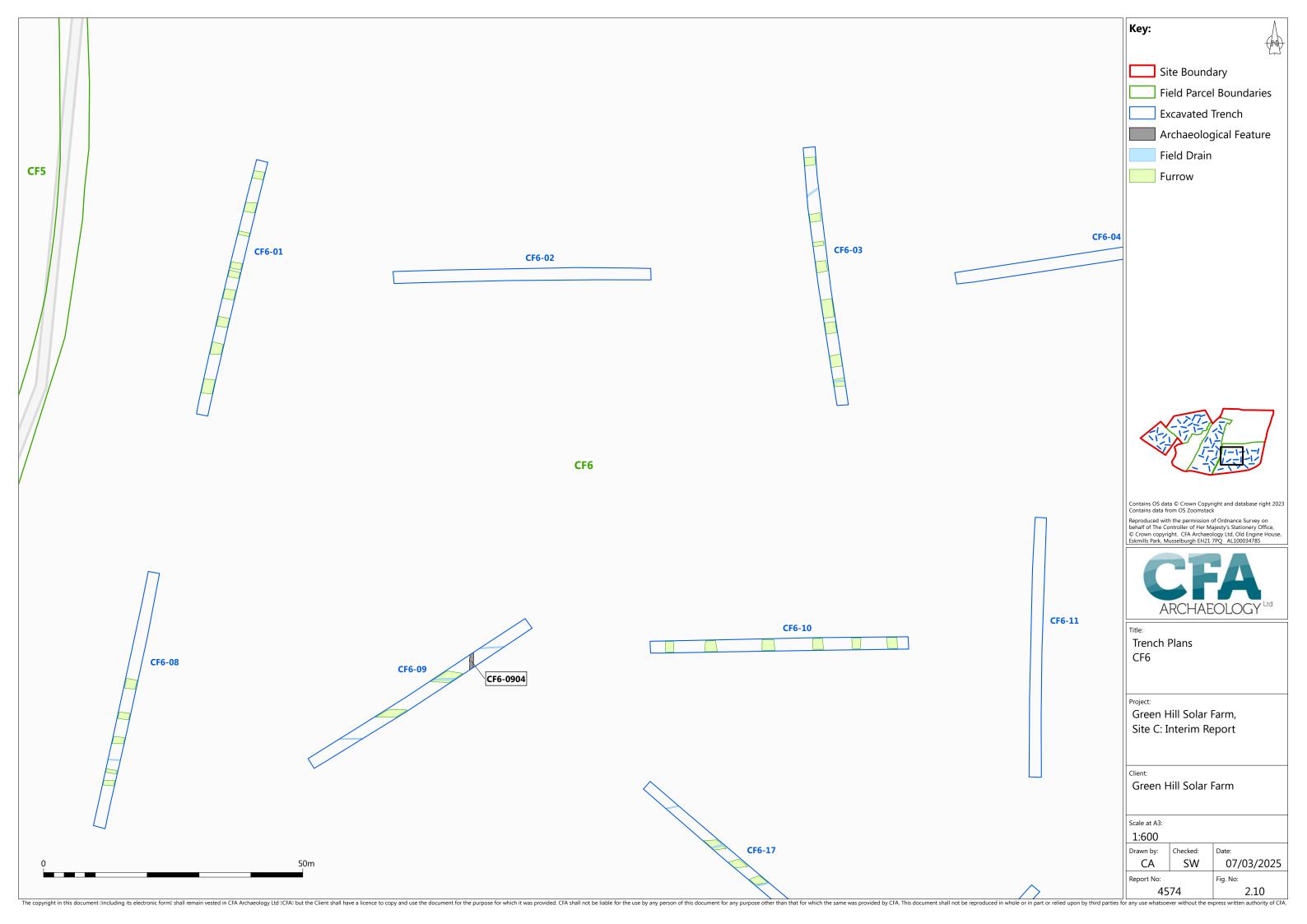


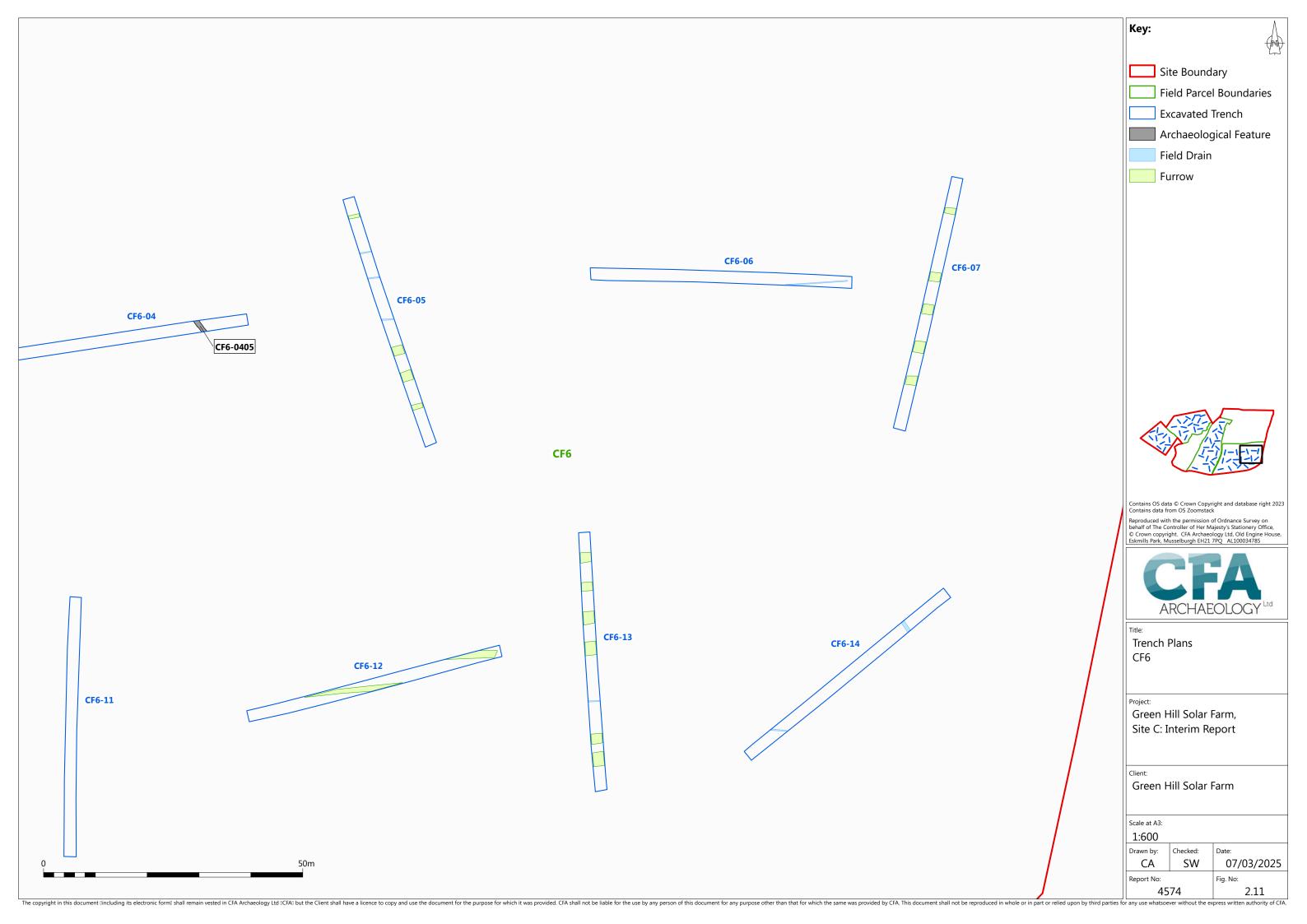


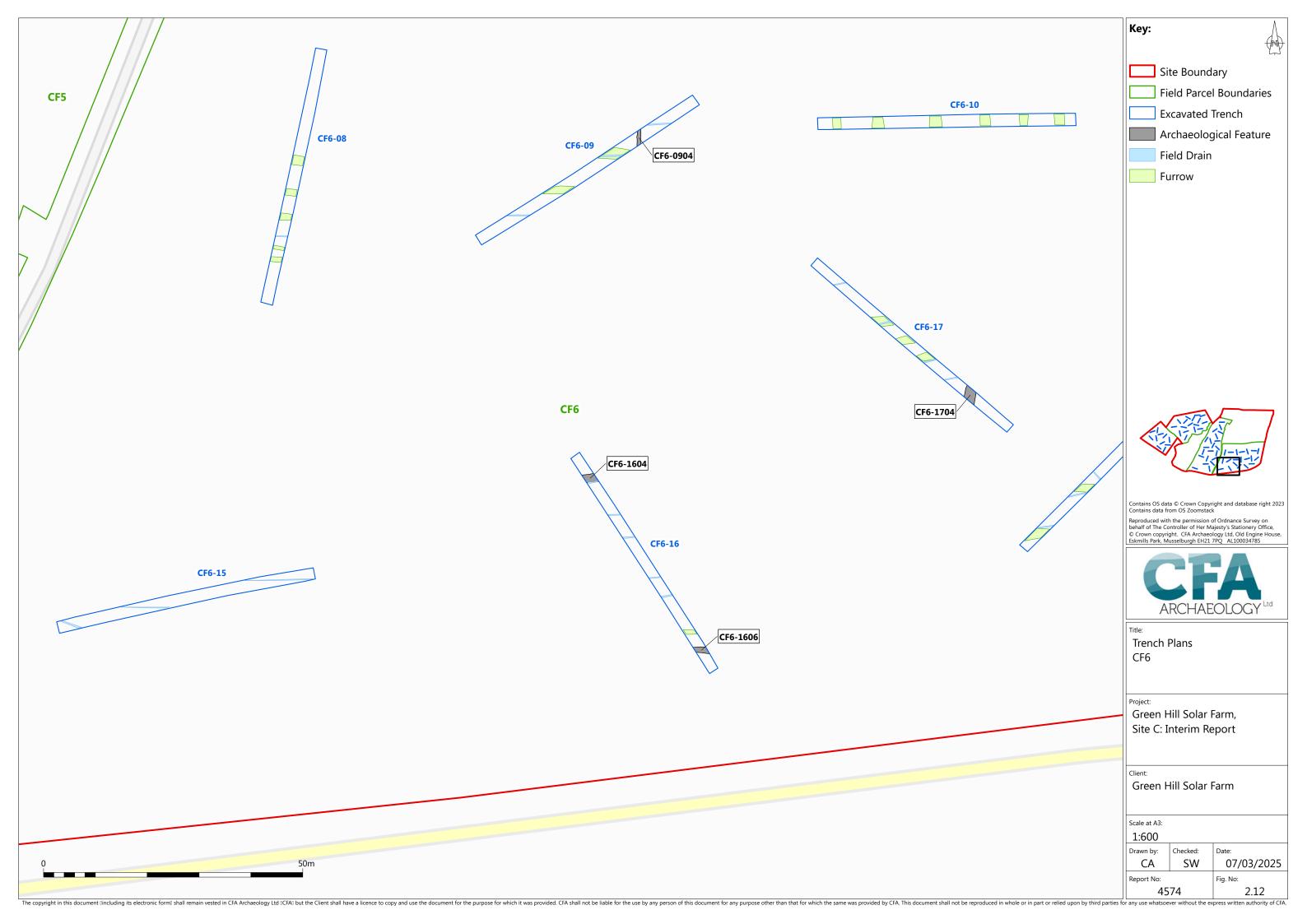


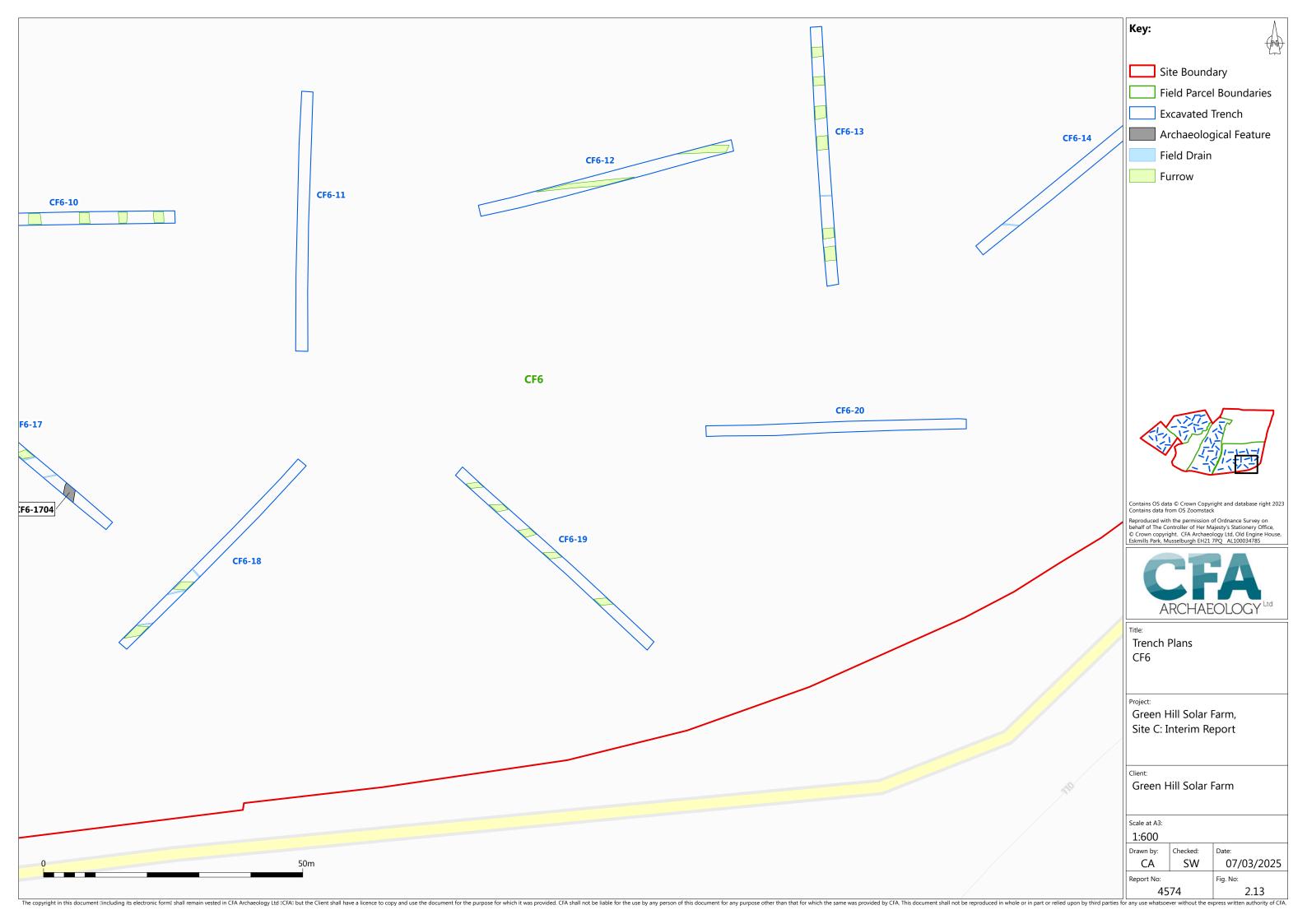


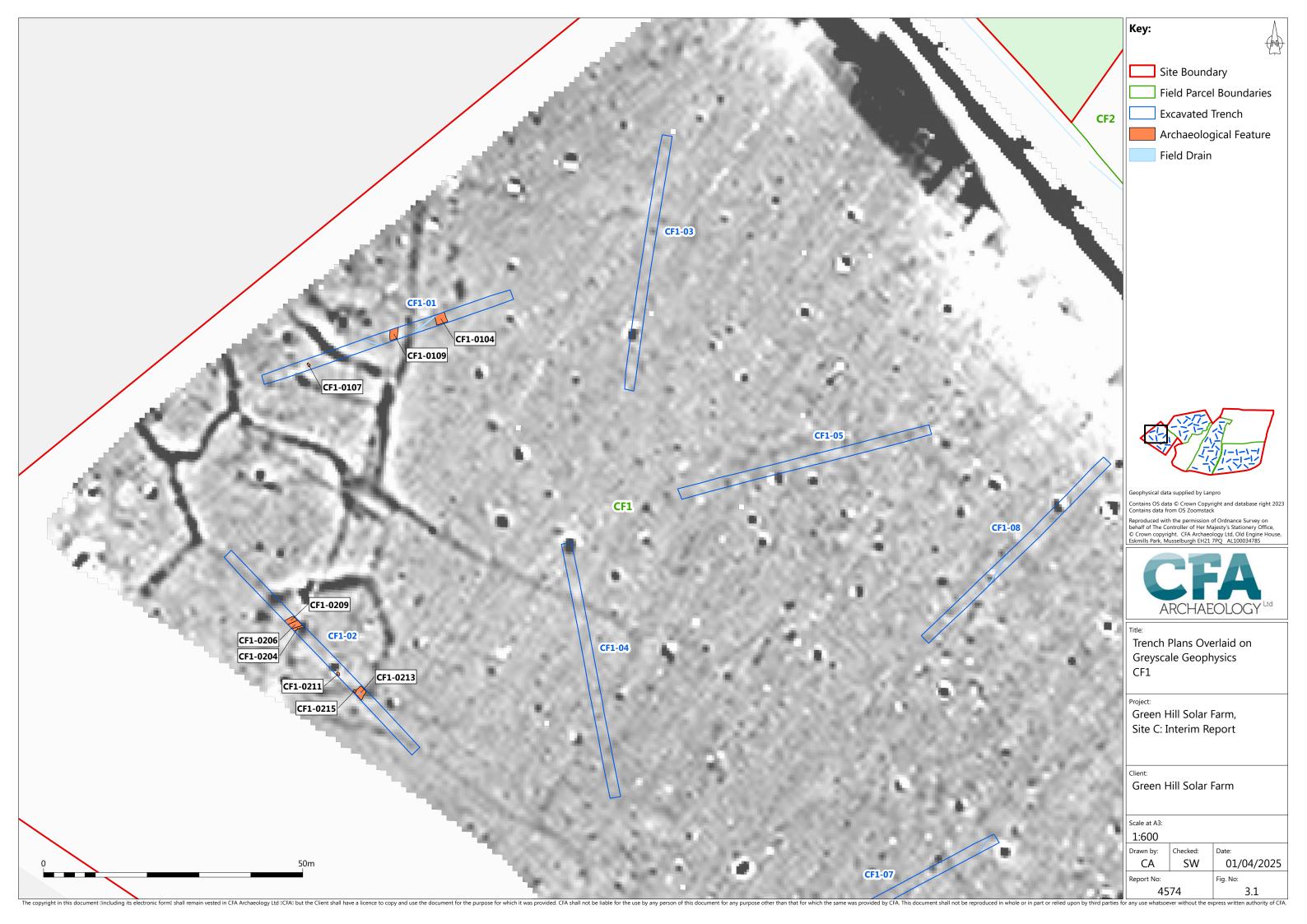


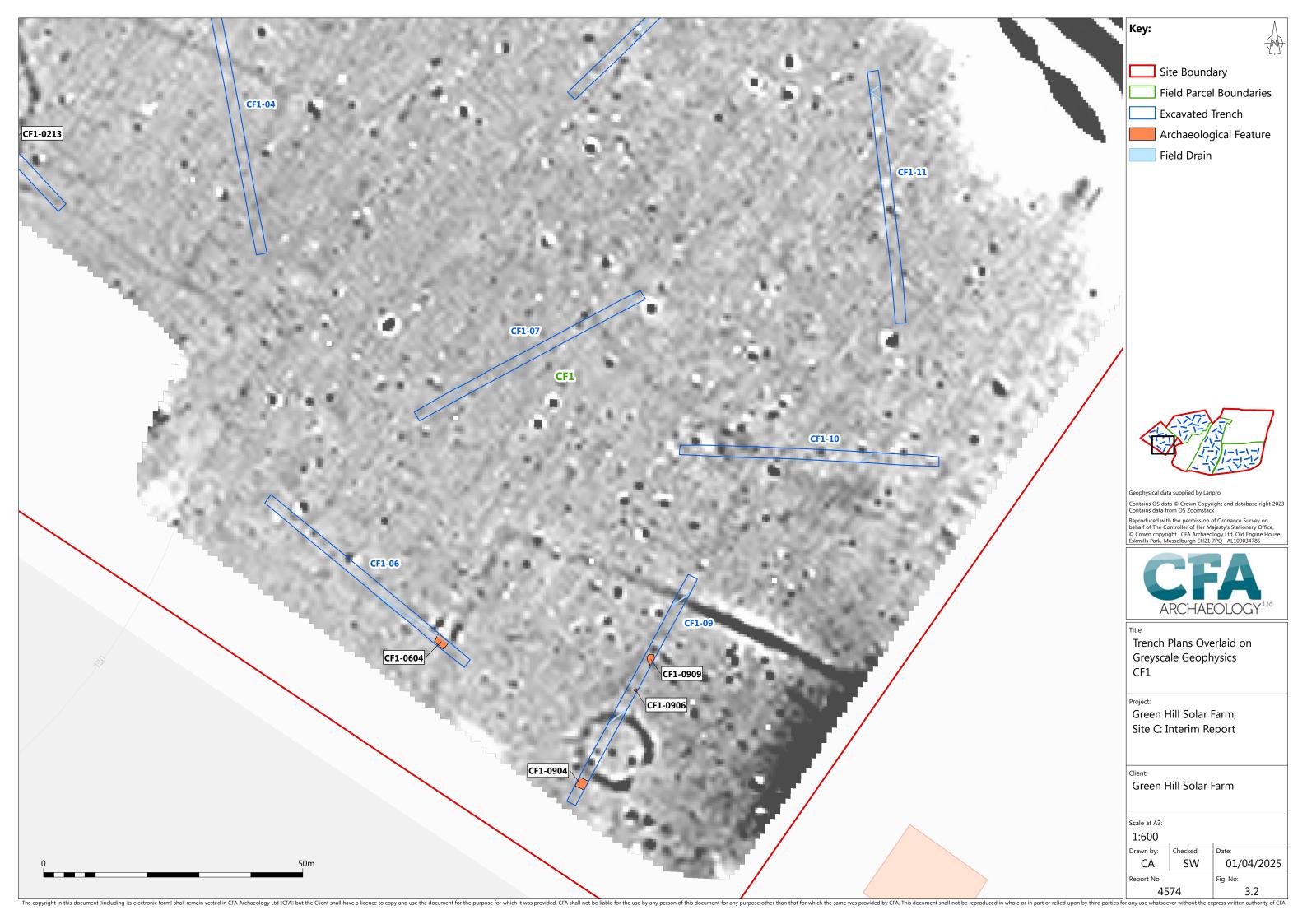


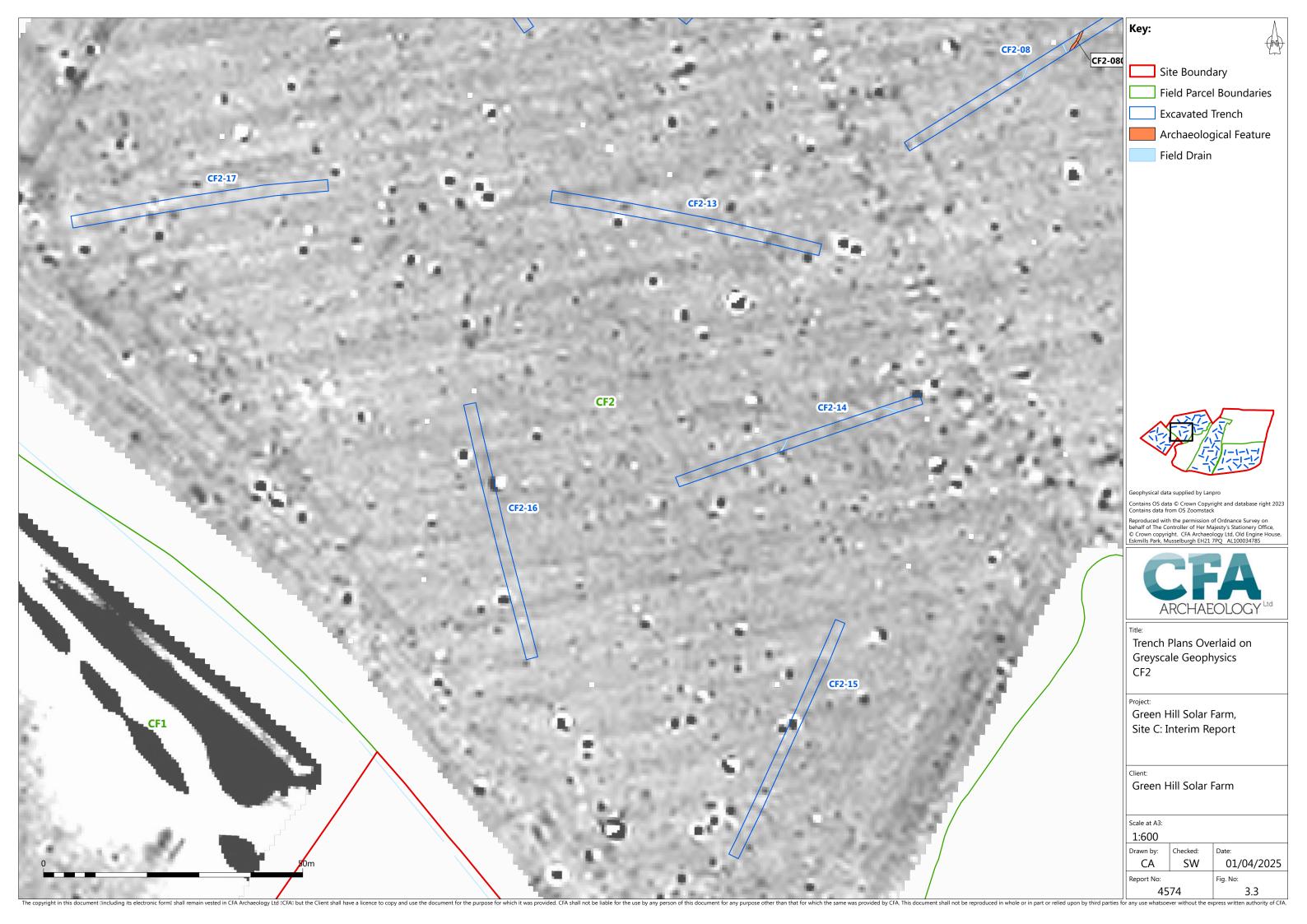


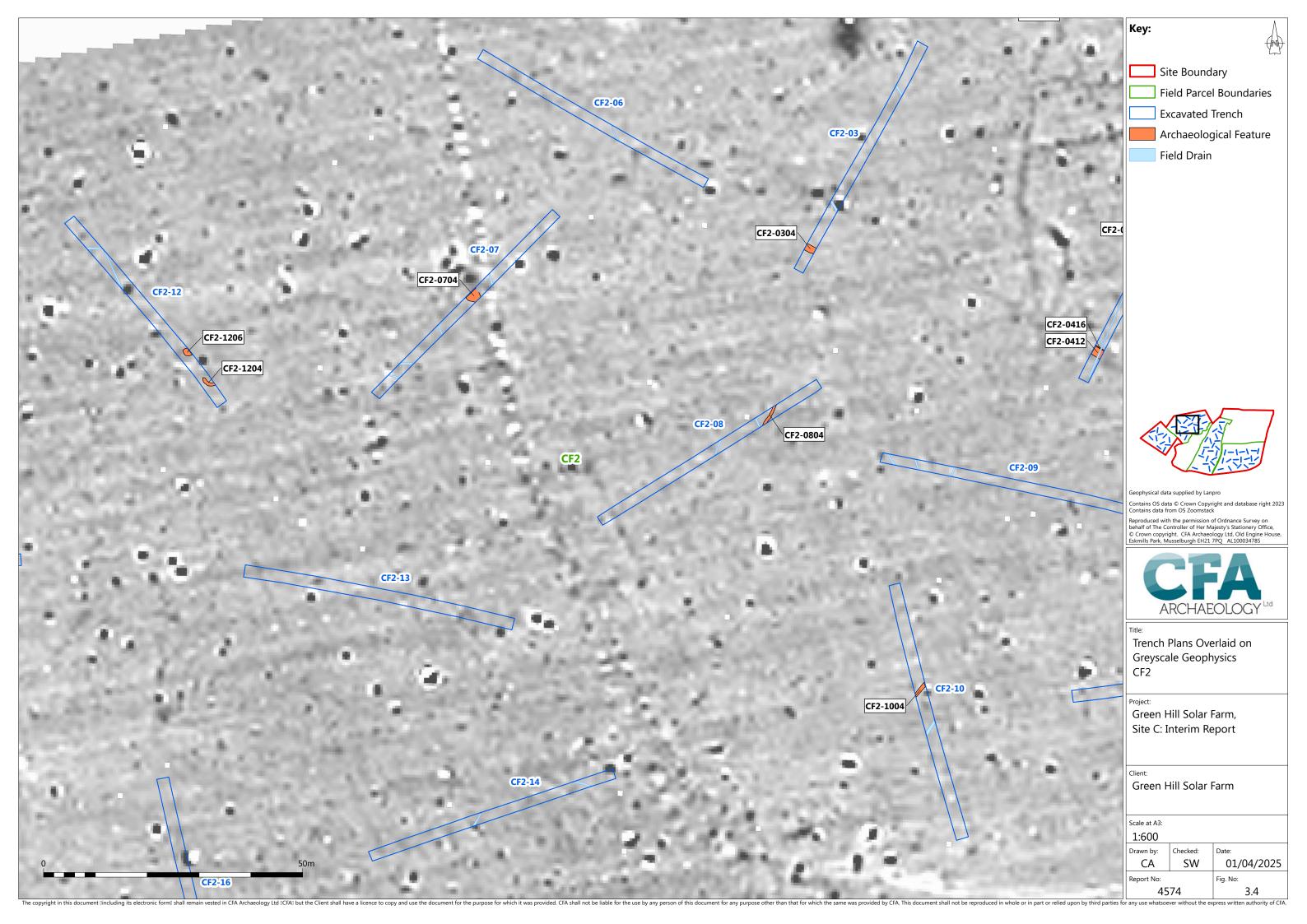


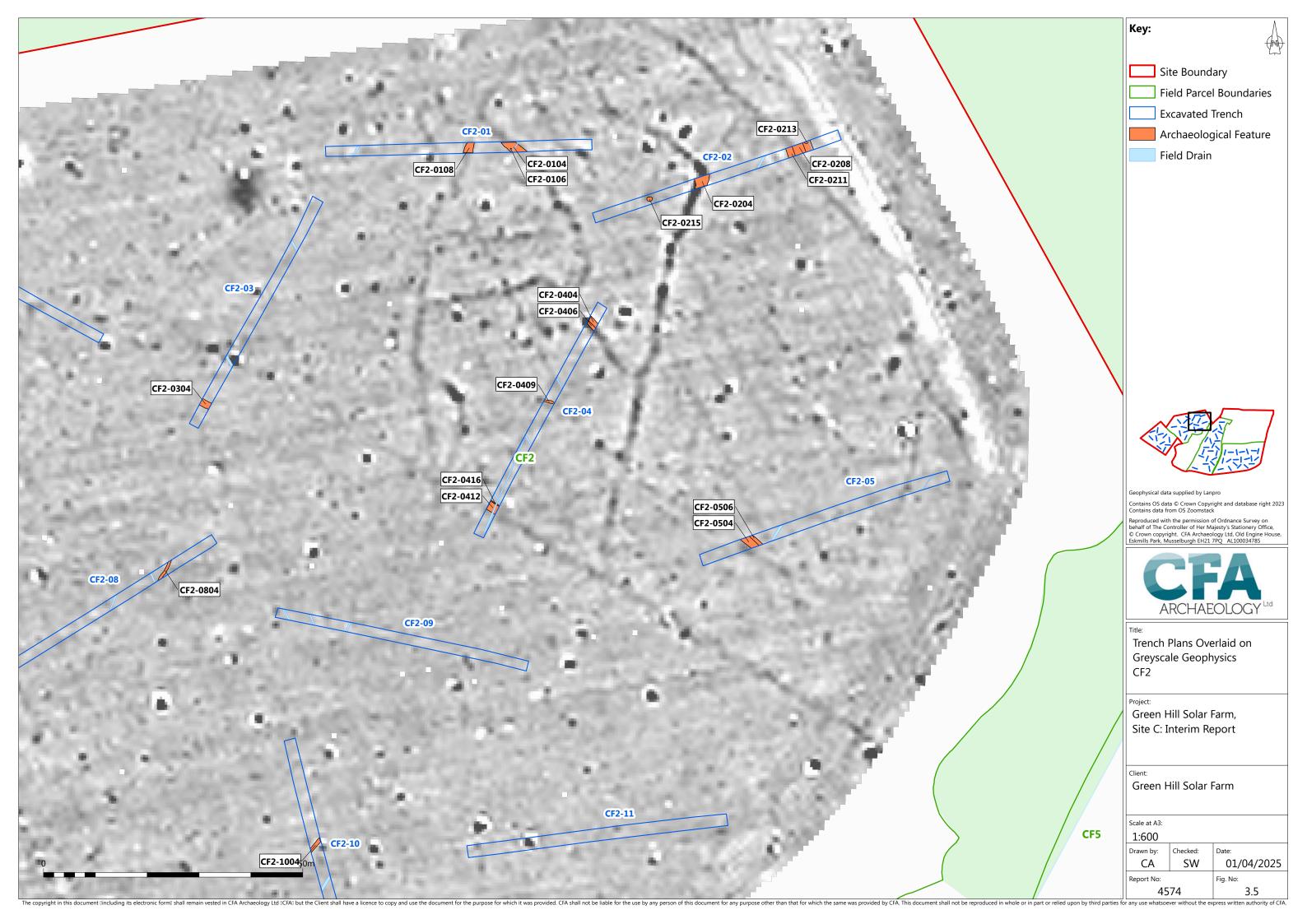


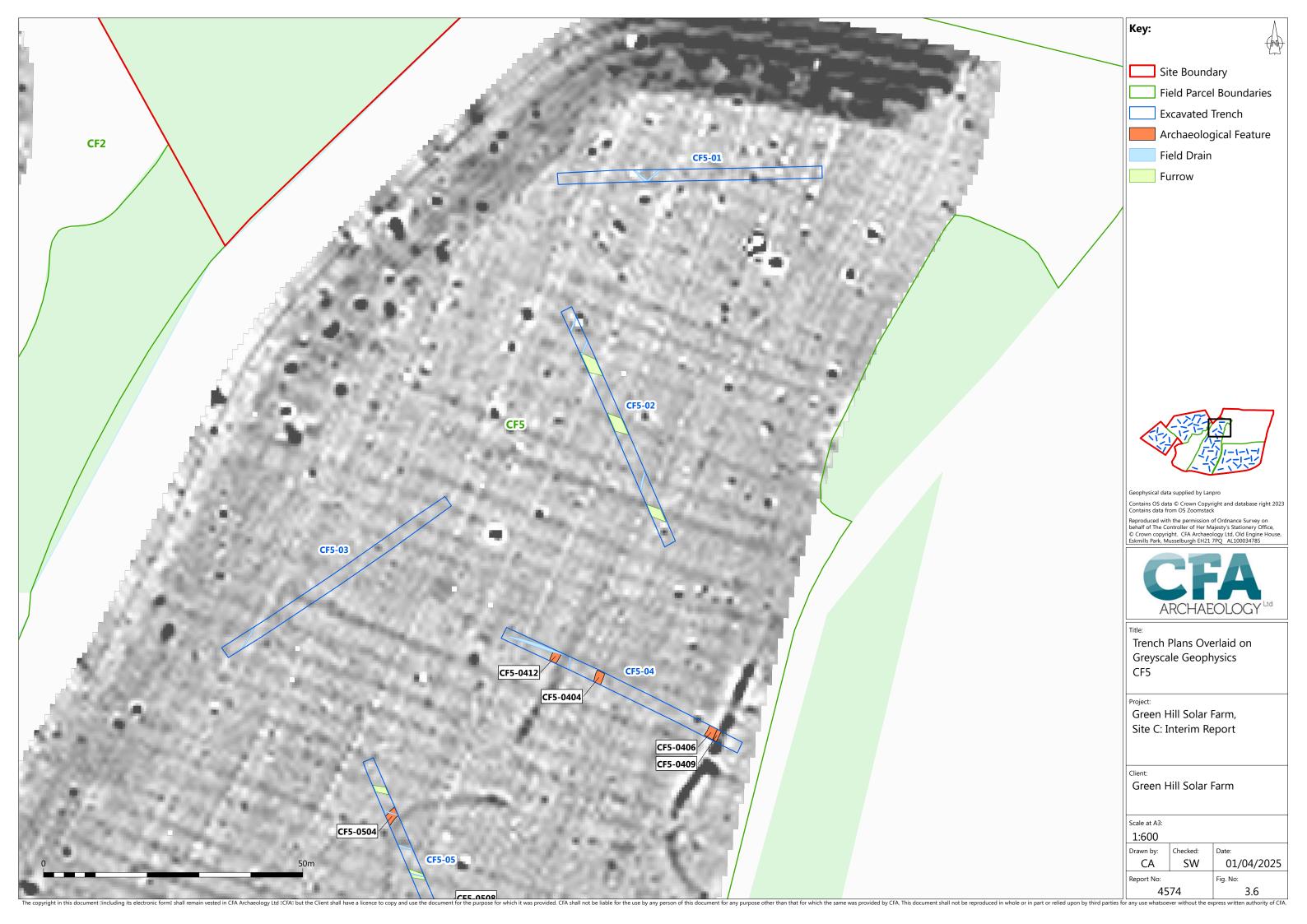


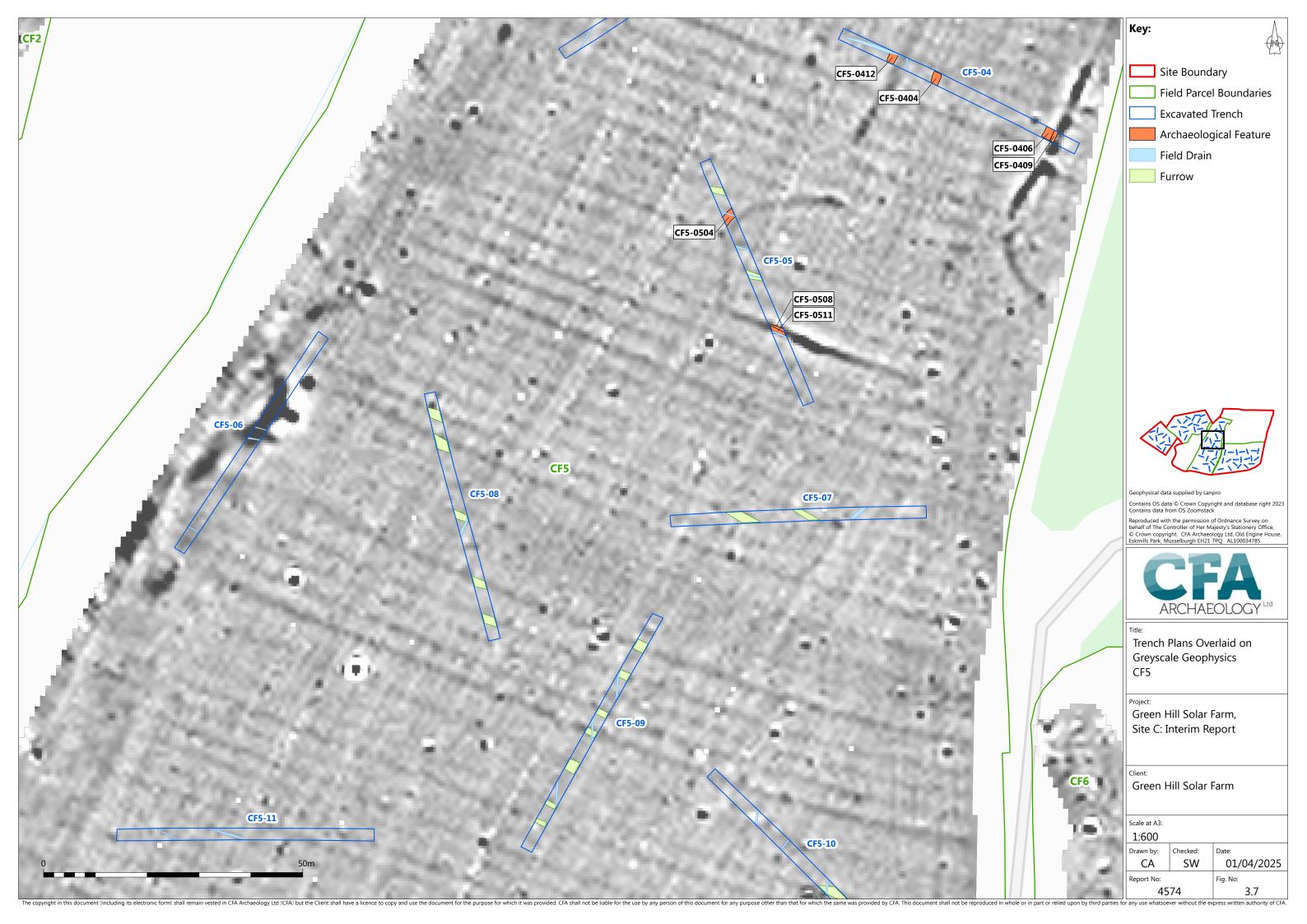




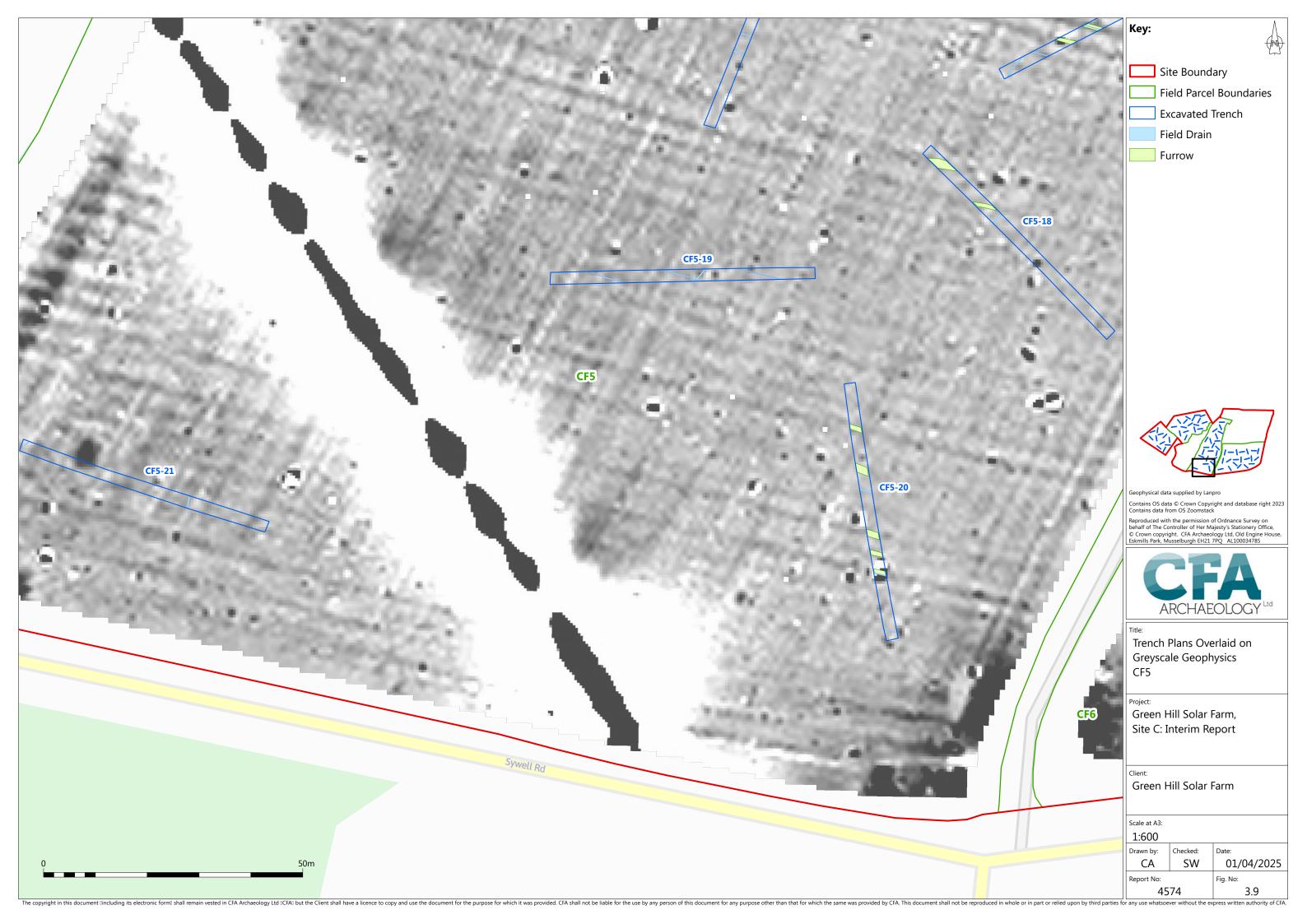


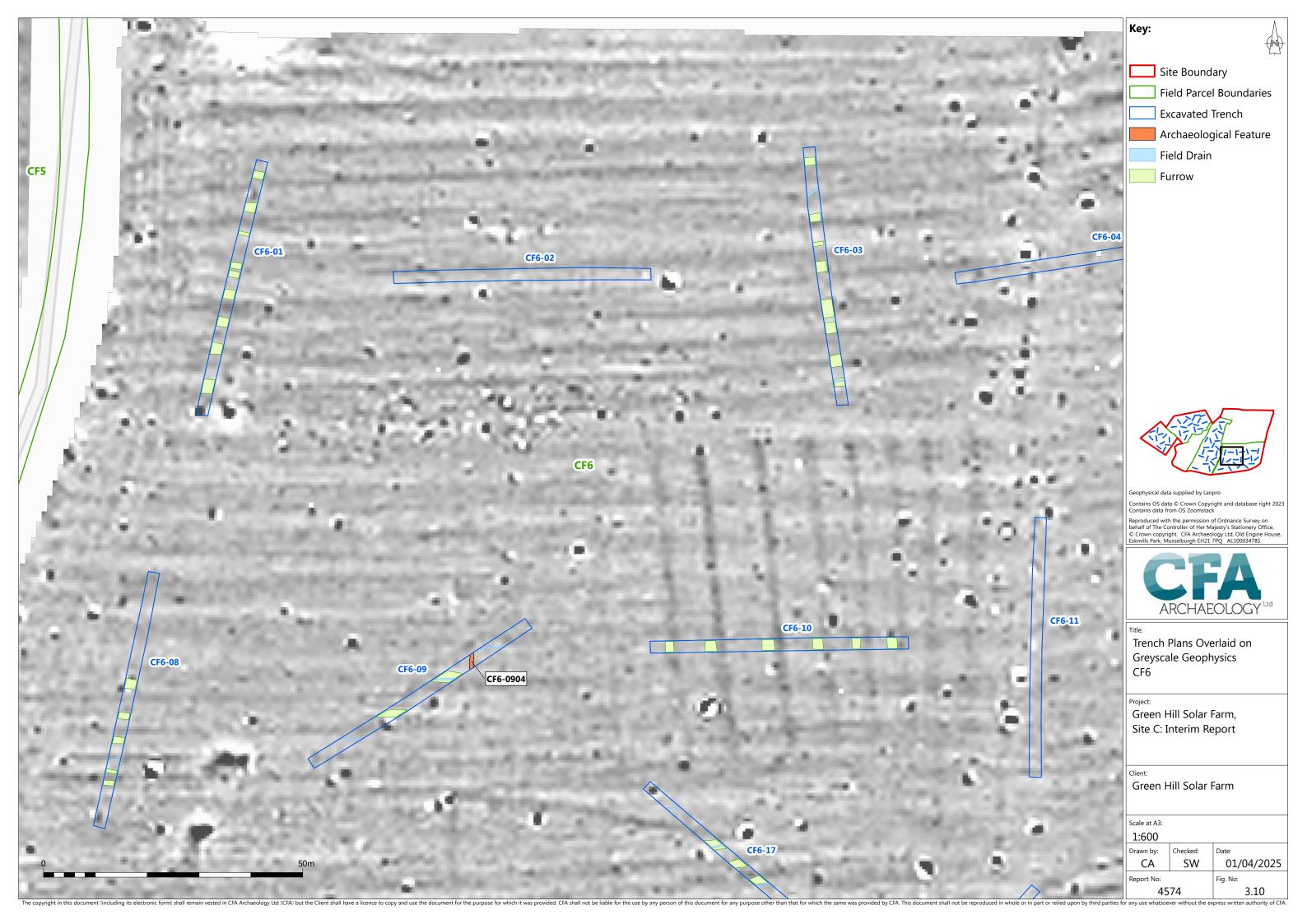


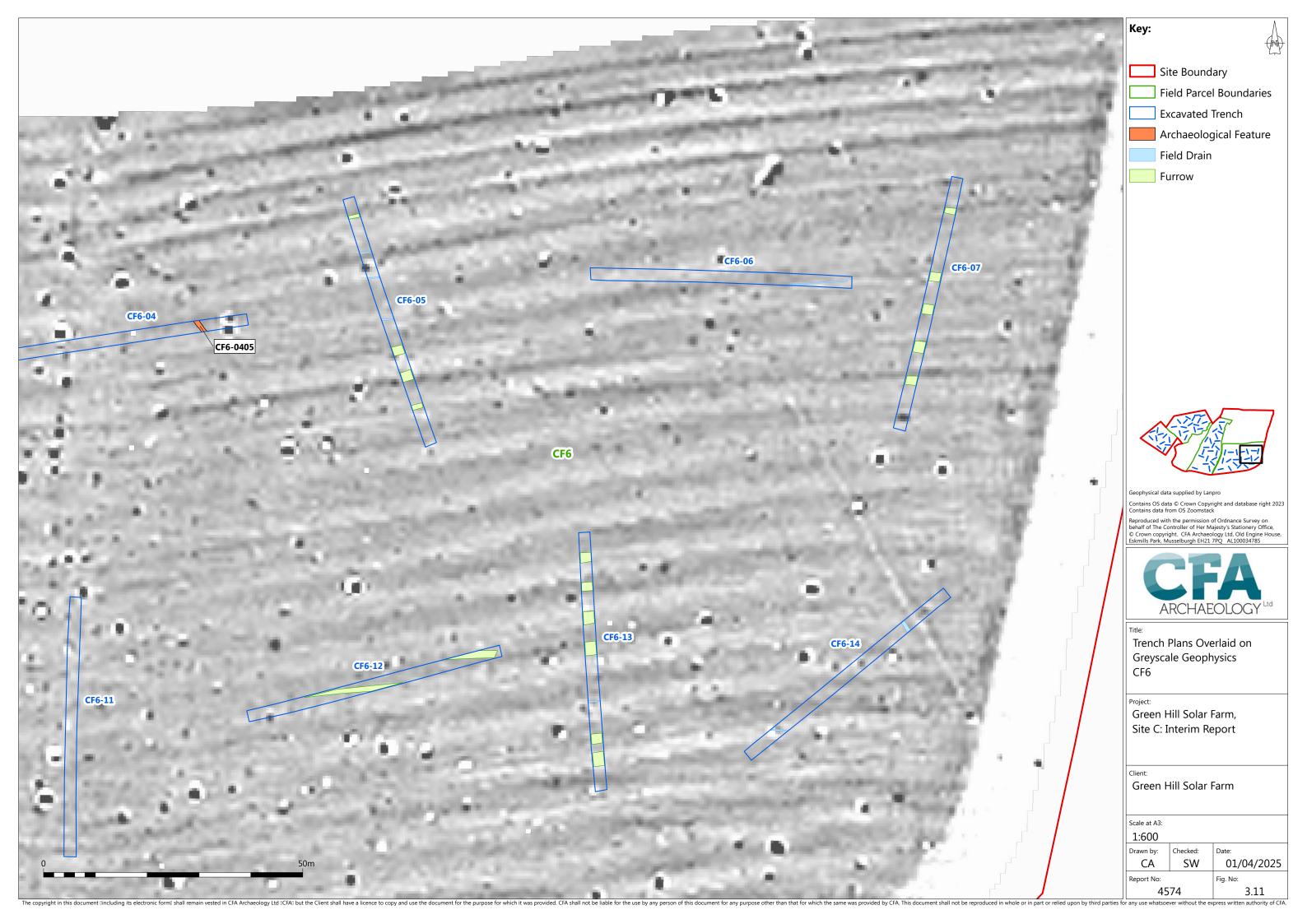


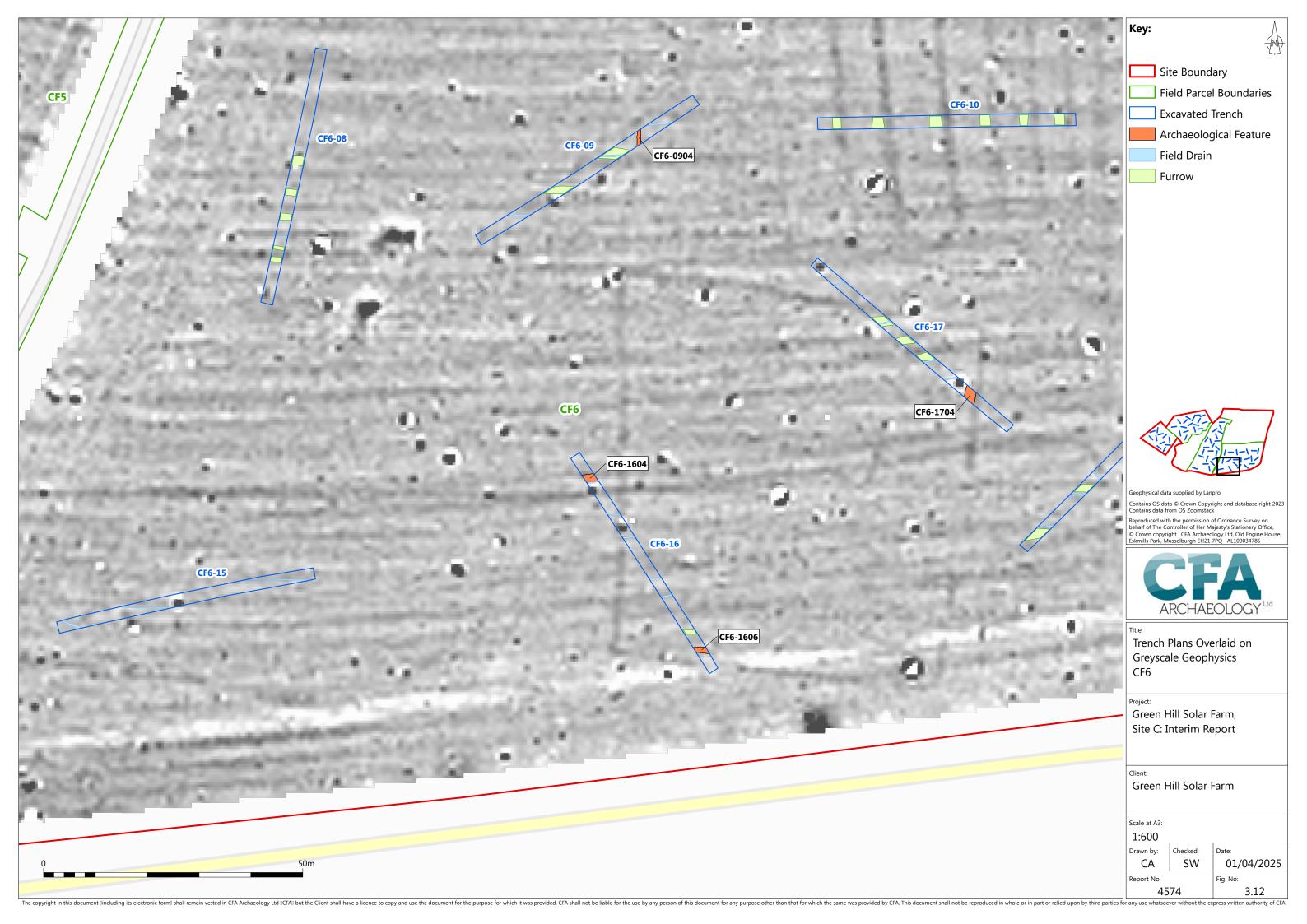


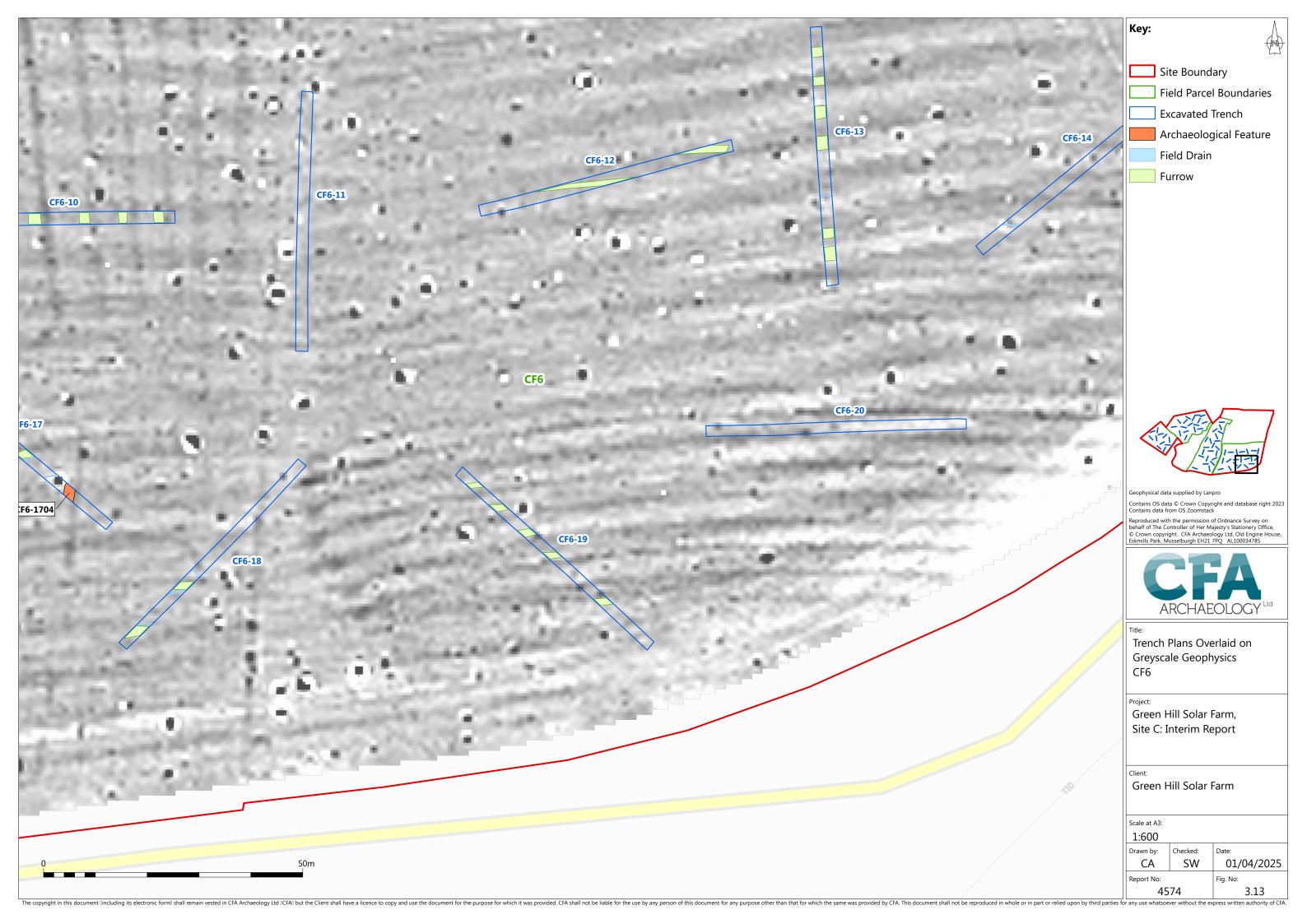












# **APPENDIX 1: Trench Strata Summary**

Trench	Topsoil depth (m)	Subsoil depth (m)	Trench depth (m)
CF1-01	0.24-0.26	0.08-0.10	0.32-0.34
CF1-02	0.26-0.32	0.04-0.06	0.32-0.36
CF1-03	0.20-0.26	0.04-0.25	0.25-0.32
CF1-04	0.24-0.26	0.04-0.06	0.29-0.31
CF1-05	0.22-0.24	0.10-0.12	0.32-0.36
CF1-06	0.22-0.24	0.08-0.10	0.30-0.32
CF1-07	0.22-0.24	0.06-0.10	0.30-0.32
CF1-08	0.22-0.24	0.06-0.08	0.28-0.32
CF1-09	0.24-0.26	0.08-0.10	0.32-0.33
CF1-10	0.24-0.28	0.05-0.10	0.29-0.38
CF1-11	0.26-0.28	0.08-0.30	0.34-0.58
CF2-01	0.28-0.20	0.11-0.13	0.39-0.29
CF2-02	0.31-0.20	0.10-0.08	0.38-0.26
CF2-03	0.20-0.30	0.06-0.10	0.30 (avg.)
CF2-04	0.29-0.30	0.08-0.10	0.28-30.00
CF2-05	0.28-0.32	0.02 (avg.)	0.30-0.32
CF2-06	0.27-0.34	0.05-0.08	0.33-0.40
CF2-07	0.22-0.26	0.05-0.09	0.31 (avg.)
CF2-08	0.27-0.34	0.05-0.08	0.39-0.45
CF2-09	0.25-0.26	0.04-0.05	0.29-0.32
CF2-10	0.28-0.34	0.02-0.08	0.28-0.34
CF2-11	0.24-0.27	0.02-0.03	0.26-0.30
CF2-12	0.22-0.26	0.02-0.04	0.30-0.28
CF2-13	0.28-0.32	0.02-0.05	0.30-0.37
CF2-14	0.31-0.36	0.03-0.05	0.36-0.39
CF2-15	0.27-0.35	0.04-0.05	0.32-0.39
CF2-16	0.28-0.32	0.02-0.03	0.30-0.35
CF2-17	0.27-0.30	0.02-0.05	0.29-0.35
CF5-01	0.05-0.29	0.02-0.25	0.29-0.32
CF5-02	0.26-0.28	0.02 (avg.)	0.28-0.30
CF5-03	0.03-0.27	0.02-0.31	0.26-0.34
CF5-04	0.32-0.28	0.03-0.02	0.28-0.34
CF5-05	0.30-0.36	0.02-0.05	0.30-0.36
CF5-06	0.31-0.34	0.03-0.10	0.35-0.44
CF5-07	0.28-0.29	0.03-0.04	0.31-0.33
CF5-08	0.26-0.29	0.03-0.10	0.30-0.36
CF5-09	0.30-0.34	0.04-0.05	0.35-0.39
CF5-10	0.27-0.33	0.03-0.04	0.30-0.37
CF5-11	0.26-0.32	0.03-0.32	0.32-0.58
CF5-12	0.29-0.31	0.03-0.04	0.32-0.35
CF5-13	0.30-0.34	0.17-0.32	0.50-0.62

Trench	Topsoil depth (m)	Subsoil depth (m)	Trench depth (m)
CF5-14	0.27-0.32	0.03-0.04	0.30-0.36
CF5-15	0.29-0.45	0.03-0.10	0.32-0.48
CF5-16	0.20-0.26	0.04-0.10	0.28-0.30
CF5-17	0.26-0.28	0.02-0.10	0.30-0.36
CF5-18	0.27-0.35	0.05 (avg.)	0.32-0.40
CF5-19	0.20-0.32	0.06-0.16	0.35-0.46
CF5-20	0.31-0.32	0.03-0.06	0.35-0.37
CF5-21	0.29-0.35	0.02-0.05	0.31-0.40
CF6-01	0.28-0.30	0.02 (avg.)	0.30-0.32
CF6-02	0.25-0.32	0.02 (avg.)	0.27-0.32
CF6-03	0.20-0.30	0.10-0.12	0.30-0.42
CF6-04	0.39-0.42	0.10-0.08	0.40-0.50
CF6-05	0.30-0.40	0.10-0.16	0.40-0.56
CF6-06	0.28-0.36	0.04-0.14	0.40-0.42
CF6-07	0.29-0.32	0.02-0.06	0.31-0.38
CF6-08	0.30-0.33	0.03-0.04	0.34-0.36
CF6-09	0.38-0.30	0.05-0.03	0.33-0.43
CF6-10	0.28-0.32	0.02-0.04	0.32-0.36
CF6-11	0.29-0.31	0.02-0.05	0.31-0.36
CF6-12	0.28-0.29	0.02-0.04	0.30-0.33
CF6-13	0.27-0.30	0.02-0.05	0.29-0.35
CF6-14	0.30-0.31	0.03-0.05	0.33-0.35
CF6-15	0.31-0.32	0.02-0.05	0.34-0.36
CF6-16	0.26-0.32	0.05-0.08	0.34-0.40
CF6-17	0.30-0.34	0.02-0.06	0.36-0.38
CF6-18	0.20-0.30	0.02-0.18	0.28-0.48
CF6-19	0.26-0.30	0.08-0.18	0.34-0.38
CF6-20	0.24-0.30	0.08-0.16	0.32-0.46

# **OASIS Summary for cfaarcha1-531971**

OASIS ID (UID)	cfaarcha1-531971
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at Greenhill Solar Farm
Sitename	Greenhill Solar Farm: Site A2, Green Hill Solar, Site C, North Northamptonshire, United Kingdom, Green Hill Solar, Site E, West Northamptonshire, United Kingdom, Green Hill Solar Farm, Site A, Northamptonshire, Green Hill Solar Farm, Site B, Northamptonshire
Sitecode	GHSO, GHSO2, GHSO5, GHSO3, GHSO4
Project Identifier(s)	GHSO
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Lanpro Archaeology + Heritage
Project Dates	05-Aug-2024 - 14-Mar-2025
Location	Greenhill Solar Farm: Site A2
	NGR : SP 82245 72912
	LL: 52.348121009528036, -0.794024387778809
	12 Fig : 482245,272912
	Green Hill Solar, Site C, North Northamptonshire, United Kingdom
	NGR : SP 89169 67889
	LL: 52.30189012757474, -0.693731233477592
	12 Fig : 489169,267889
	NGR : SP 83473 68395
	LL: 52.30733605482163, -0.7771241593268
	12 Fig : 483473,268395
	Green Hill Solar, Site E, West Northamptonshire, United Kingdom
	NGR : SP 80219 72183
	LL: 52.34186503070412, -0.823932364583015
	12 Fig : 480219,272183
	NGR : SP 80557 73653
	LL: 52.35503552761861, -0.818615495602427
	12 Fig : 480557,273653
	Green Hill Solar Farm, Site A, Northamptonshire
	NGR : SP 80333 73528
	LL: 52.3539408089448, -0.821939853235936
	12 Fig : 480333,273528
	Green Hill Solar Farm, Site B, Northamptonshire
	NGR : SP 79327 68435
	LL: 52.3083094990601, -0.837907204714243
	12 Fig : 479327,268435
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Administrative Areas	Country: England	
	County/Local Authority: West Northamptonshire	
	Local Authority District : West Northamptonshire	
	Parish: Walgrave	
	County/Local Authority: North Northamptonshire	
	Local Authority District : North Northamptonshire	
	Parish : Wellingborough, unparished area	
	Parish : Mears Ashby	
	Parish : Sywell	
	Parish : Old	
	Parish : Holcot	
Project Methodology	The proposed Green Hill Solar Farm comprises nine sites (Green Hill A, A2, B, C, D, E, F,	
	G, and BESS). Eight of the sites are located between Northampton and Wellingborough	
	in Northamptonshire (Green Hill A to F and BESS). Site G is located to the north of	
	Lavendon in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Collectively, the sites cover	
	approximately 1224ha within a swathe of land measuring approximately 23km from	
	north to south and11.5km from east to west.	
	During the excavation of the evaluation trenches, the topsoil and recent overburden were removed down to the natural substrate in successive level spits of a maximum 0.2m thickness, using a tracked machine equipped with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The groundwork was carried out under direct archaeological supervision. All the exposed features were cleaned and excavated by hand. The sections of the excavated features were drawn at a 1:10 scale and planned at a 1:20 scale.	
	All archaeological features were scanned with an XR ADX150 metal detector prior, during, and after excavation. The trenches and all archaeological remains were surveyed and tied into the National Grid using a Trimble GPS.	
Project Results	Archaeological evaluation trial trenching was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm from August 2024 to March 2025 to inform a planning application for a solar farm development.	
	The archaeological features recorded across the Sites are indicative of rural settlement and agricultural practice dating from the Iron Age into the Roman periods.	
	These features include rectilinear enclosures of varying complexity, probable round houses, and	
	boundary ditches which may have served as land divisions or functional drainage.	
Keywords		
Funder	Private or public corporation Greenhill Solar Farm Ltd	
HER	Northamptonshire SMR - unRev - STANDARD	
Person Responsible for work		
HER Identifiers		
Archives		



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