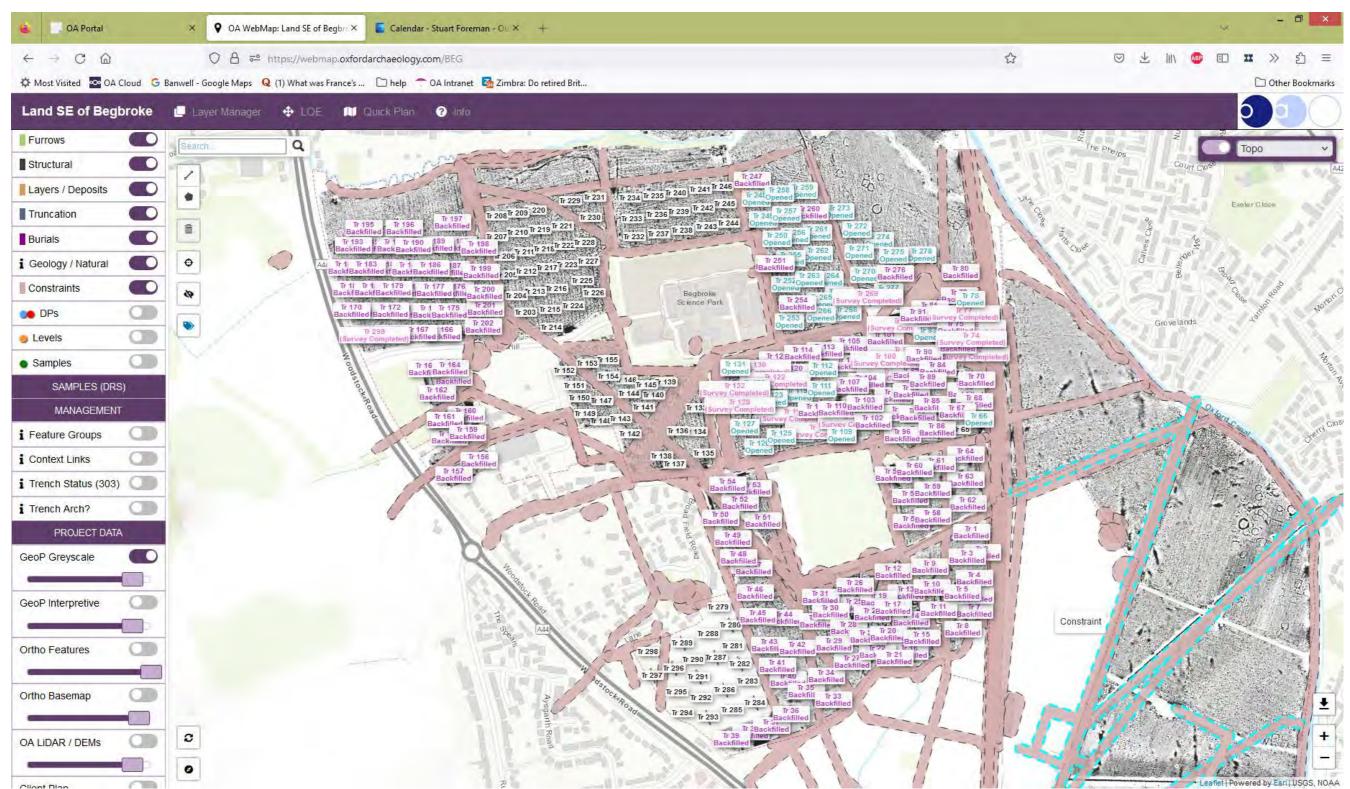
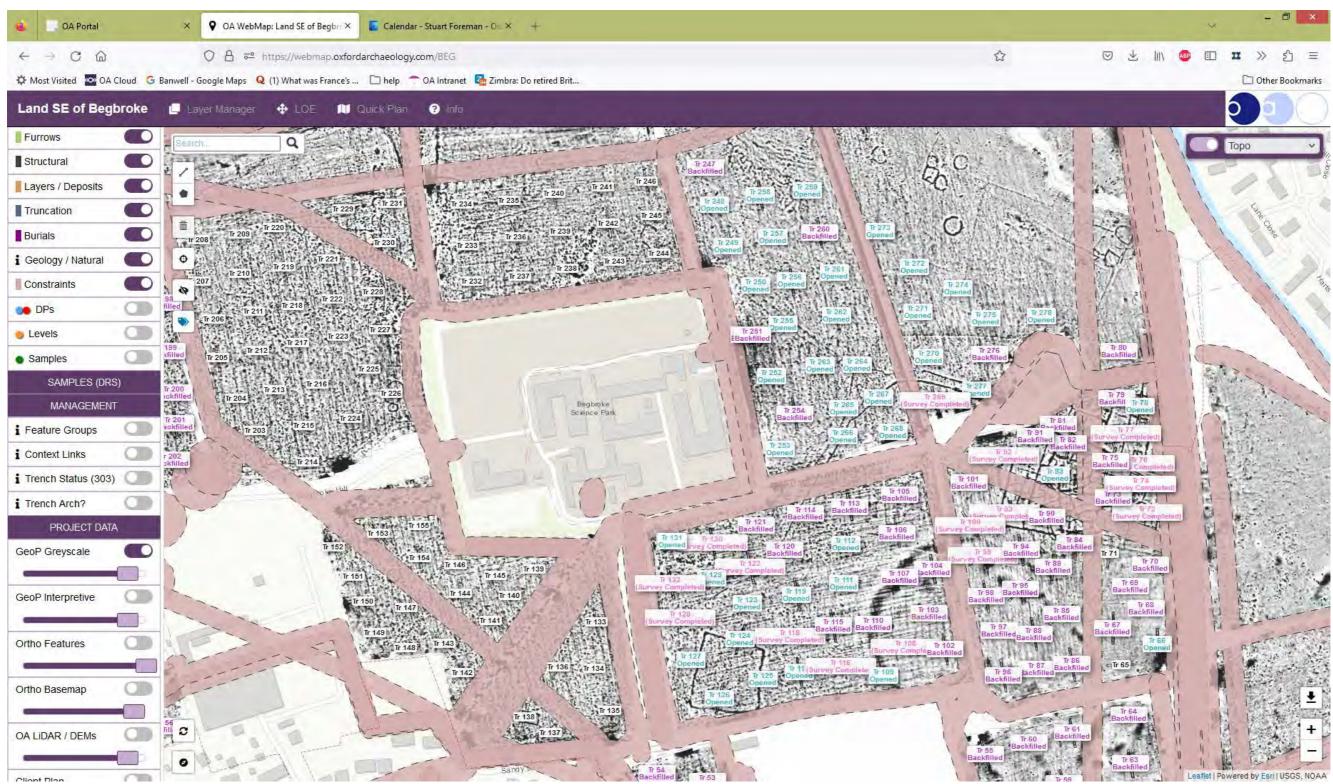




Trench plan updates showing current progress in the current fields





WEEK 9 PROGRESS REPORT

Please find below a summary of the Begbroke trenching progress to 10/02/2023 (the 9th week of the programme, excluding the Christmas holiday). The trench progress plans attached to this report was updated on 10/02/23. To date 298 trenches were originally specified, of which 21 are not accessible. Of 277 trenches available to dig in total, 187 have been completely finished and another 42 are in progress, leaving 48 not yet started. We are planning to offhire the 2nd machine on 17th Feb as it will not be fully occupied by that date. We are aiming to complete in 2 more weeks beyond this one. This is looking tight given the amount of archaeology in the trenches. The magnetometer survey continues to be a very reliable guide to the presence / absence of significant archaeology.

Work this week was focussed in the fields to the NW and NE of the Science Park, as shown on the attached trench progress plans. The newly opened trenches to the NW of the Science Park revealed ditches and gullies in the areas predicted by the geophysical survey. An array of discreet features found cut into the terrace gravel were examined by specialist geoarchaeologists during a site visit on Thursday 9th and most are thought to be natural features probably caused by root action. They don't form any clear patterns, are widely dispersed and show no surface signs of being man-made. A sample of these features will be excavated to check for artefacts, charcoal or any other evidence that they are manmade. Vicky Green (OCAS) has agreed with this approach.

The second very dense concentration of Roman settlement features was completed and backfilled this week. Spot-dating of the finds recovered suggests that the pottery is predominantly of mid-late Roman date and appears broadly contemporary with the previously trenched settlement to the south of Sandy Lane. Both sites are provisionally interpreted as "complex farmsteads" in the terminology of the Roman Rural Settlement Project. They lack evidence for high status buildings as would be present on a villa. They are enclosed by ditches and characterised by much evidence for reorganisation of the interior space. Finds assemblages are relatively sparse.

Vicky Green (OCAS) asked that four trenches (Trenches 124-127) be left open for as long as possible in case any features weather out. They are investigating a large rectangular enclosure on the magnetometer plot to SE of the Science Park whose interior appears to be devoid of features.

Team size averaged about 14 this week, higher than planned but justified by the large number of features to dig. As agreed with the client the team was increased by one geoarchaeologist to cover logging of geotechnical holes by Hydrock, which continued. This monitoring is mainly focussed on observing the hand dug test pits preceding each hole.

The trenches to the north of the Science Park are well-drained.

Trench signing off

Vicky Green (OCAS) visited on Thursday 2nd October and inspected open trenches in the areas currently being worked on, as described above and shown on the attached trench progress plan. It was provisionally agreed that no monitoring visit would be required in the week ending 17th Feb. Photos will be circulated of any trenches that require signoff that have not previously been inspected.

Stuart Foreman, Oxford Archaeology 15/02/2023 The following photographs are of a selection of features and trenches worked on this week to the north of Sandy Lane. The trench progress plans are at the end.











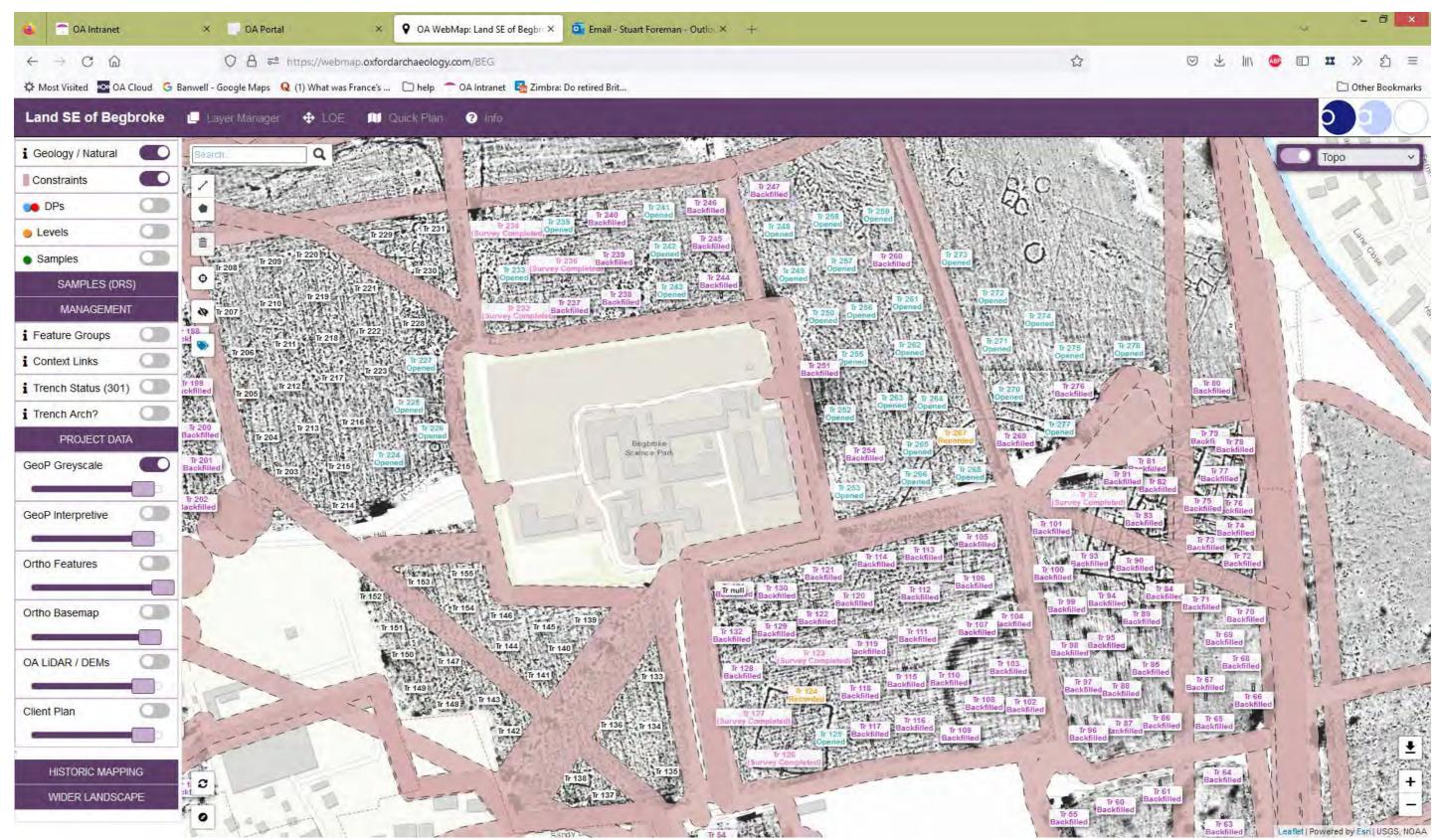
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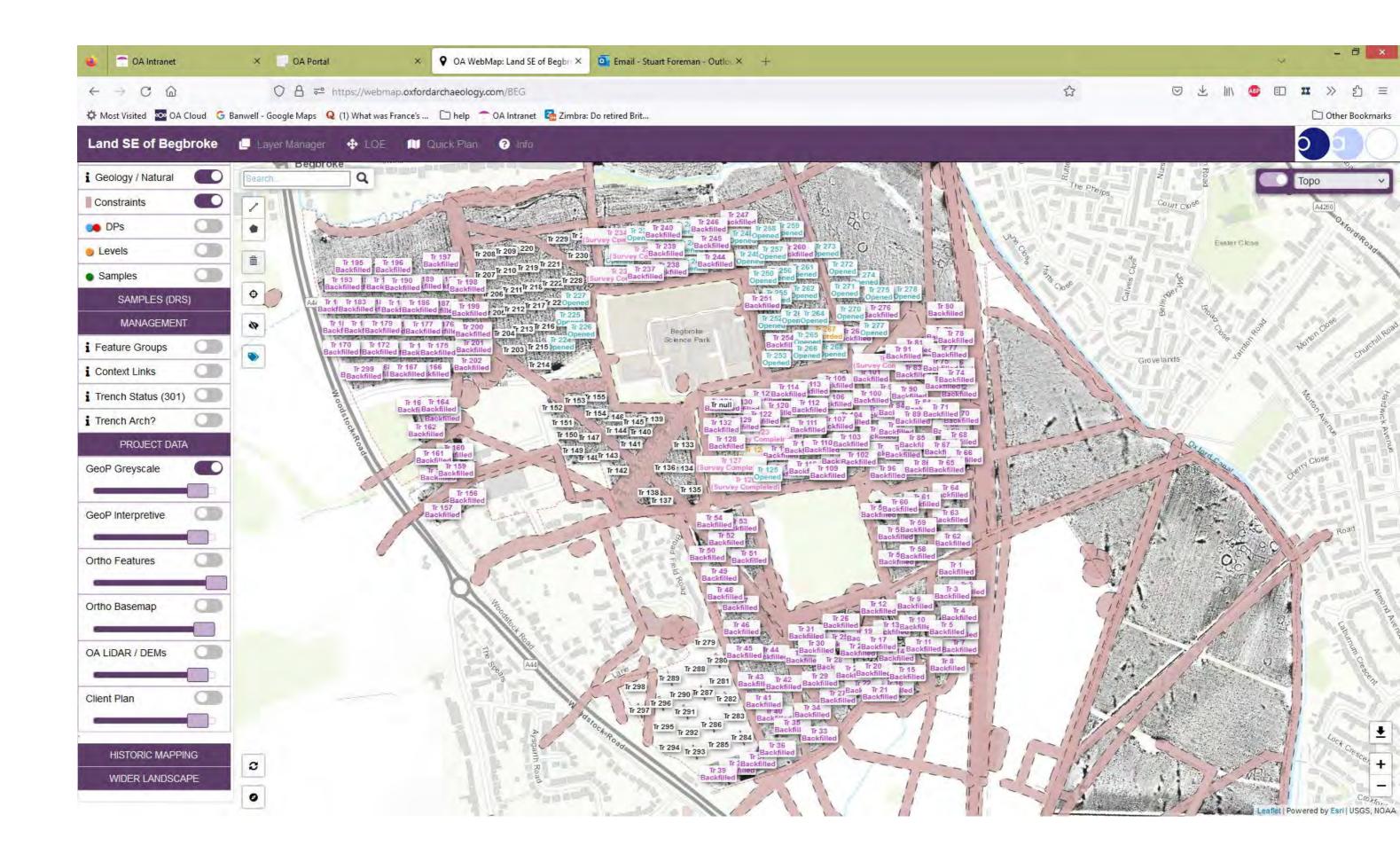


Example backfilled trench



Trench plan updates showing current progress in the current fields





WEEK 10 PROGRESS REPORT

Please find below a summary of the Begbroke trenching progress to 17/02/2023 (the 10th week of the programme, excluding the Christmas holiday). The trench progress plans attached to this report was updated on 17/02/23. 298 trenches were originally specified, of which 21 are not accessible. Of 277 trenches available to dig in total, 204 have been completely finished, 63 are in progress and 10 still to open, as of 17/02/2023. The last trenches to be opened by 22/02/2023. We are aiming to complete by 03/03/2023 but there may be a tail of backfilling into the following week.

The magnetometer survey continues to be a very reliable guide to the presence / absence of significant archaeology.

Hand-excavation work this week was focussed in the fields to the NW and NE of the Science Park, as shown on the attached trench progress plans. Trenches were also opened in the fields SW of the Science Park revealing a few features, mostly as predicted by the geophysical survey.

Team size averaged about 12 this week.

The trenches to the north and south-west of the Science Park come down onto gravel and are welldrained.

Trench signing off

No monitoring visits were necessary in the week ending 17/02/2023. Photos were circulated of any trenches that required signoff that have not previously been inspected.

Stuart Foreman,

Oxford Archaeology

24/02/2023

The following photographs are of a selection of features and trenches worked on this week to the north of Sandy Lane. The trench progress plans are at the end.











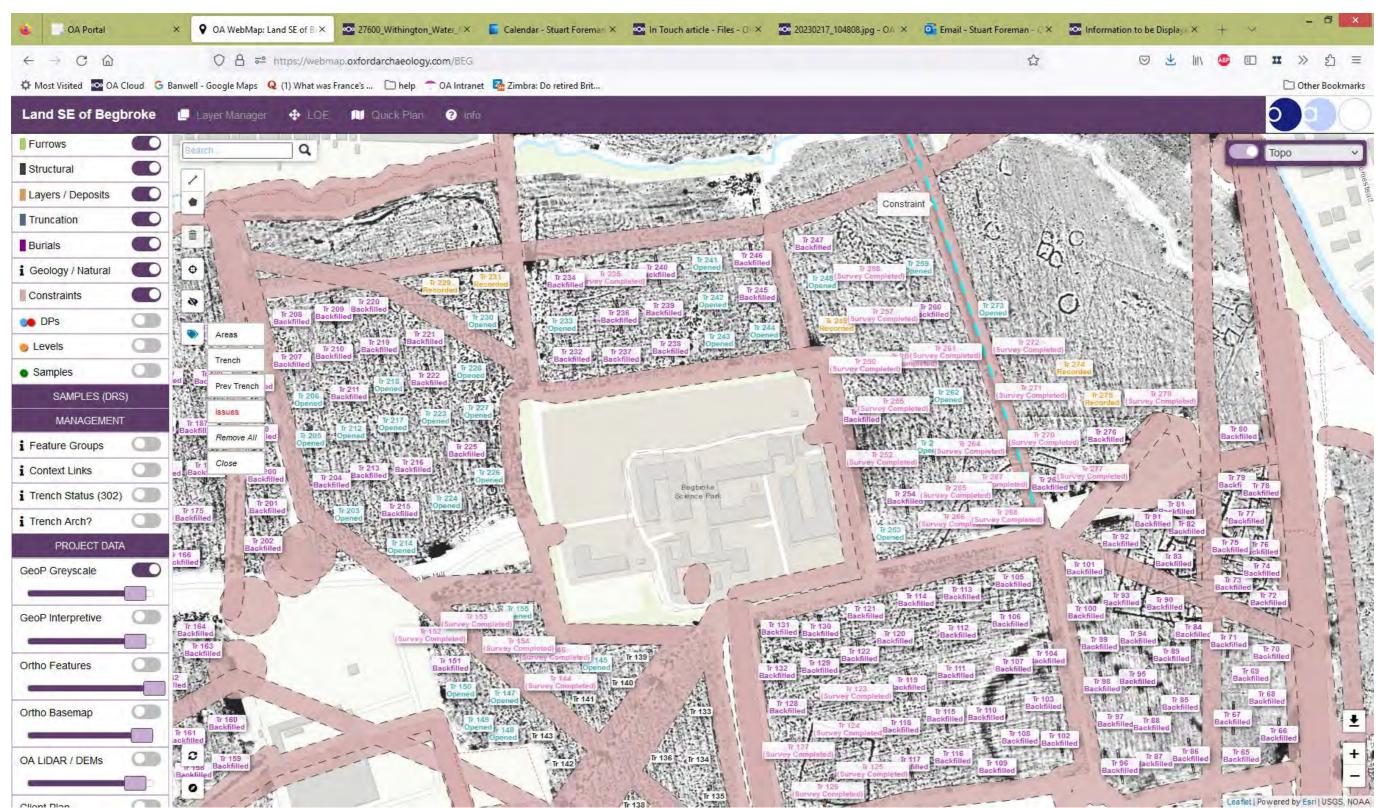












Trench plan updates showing progress in the current fields to 17/02/2023

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