

October Update in conjunction with Wirksworth Town Council

The Meadows: Archaeological investigations (summary)

Work to commence a second phase of consultation regarding The Meadows by Wirksworth Town Council was unfortunately postponed in March at the onset of the current pandemic. However some minor works have continued in the intervening period and this includes tree works and archaeological surveys.

The Wirksworth Archaeological Society spent much of the early summer examining the area known locally as 'The Tump', the raised area to the north-west of the Meadows.



The Meadows looking south from the Tump towards Summer Lane

Following several painstaking investigations, which yielded comparatively few finds, this work indicated that the Tump was the result of human endeavour rather than the natural land level; it was concluded this area was perhaps not an archaeological site. Possibly the site was used to dump clay removed from the adjacent Yokecliffe estate at the time of its construction. So, a reminder archaeology takes into account more recent history too and this is attested to by the fact that archaeologists were able to confirm that mowing of the Meadows stopped in the early 1990s through their most modern finds. These included balls of all shapes and sizes and quarter vodka bottles but no alcopop bottles (in other public places a common find) which were not introduced into this country until 1995. Beneath the clay on the Tump there was one interesting find, a sherd of pottery, believed to be North Gaulish White Ware, dating from Roman Britain of the first century. The Society intends to return to the Tump at the end of the rest of its work in order to make sure of our provisional opinion about it.



Wirksworth Archaeological Society carrying out survey measurements in the Meadows



A metre test pit in progress on the Tump

In the autumn the Society refocussed our efforts upon the east side of the Meadows to investigate the ditch there and confirm, if possible, the belief it may date back to Medieval period. This work will continue but is delayed by the current situation.

With thanks to April Fussell for the original text of this report.