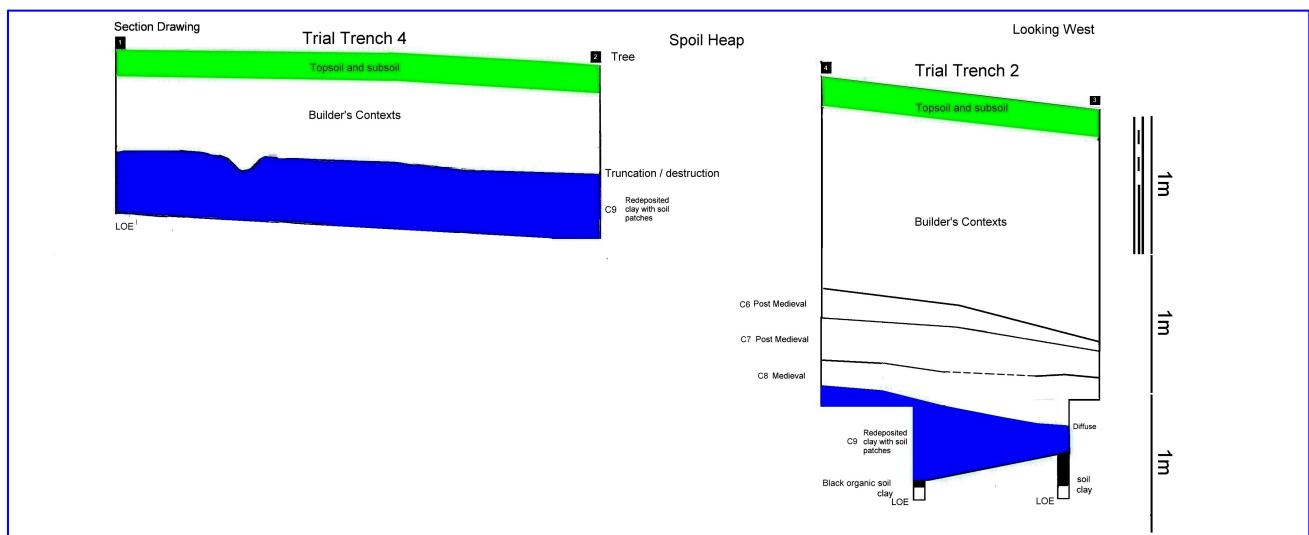


Wirksworth Archaeological Society

Progress Report August 2026

Work during August has concentrated on finishing and backfilling Trial Trench 4, this trench contained the truncated archaeology of what we believe to be the remains of the south seating bank of the feature. However, this truncation, that is to say where the builder has stripped off (destroyed) almost the whole of the top, except for perhaps 30 cm overlaying what appears to be the original field surface, represents all that is left in this part of the feature, which is also missing all its medieval and post medieval contexts.

There are two further oddities of Trial Trench 4. The first is that the builder appears to have taken too much off the top and then has had to dump material back onto it to level up the garden rather substantially. This in itself is strange, given that the survey work to provide the levels should have been correct in the first place (he's built an entire housing estate here remember) and to have to put it back doesn't make a lot of sense to us at the moment.



Simplified section diagram showing Trial Trench 4 and Trial Trench 2
Note the drop in the archaeology (in blue) between the two

Secondly, remembering we're looking for a wall and specifically a retaining wall, there is an unusual drop between the archaeology in Trial Trench 4 and that in Trial Trench 2. This is currently unaccounted for. Consequently the dig priority for

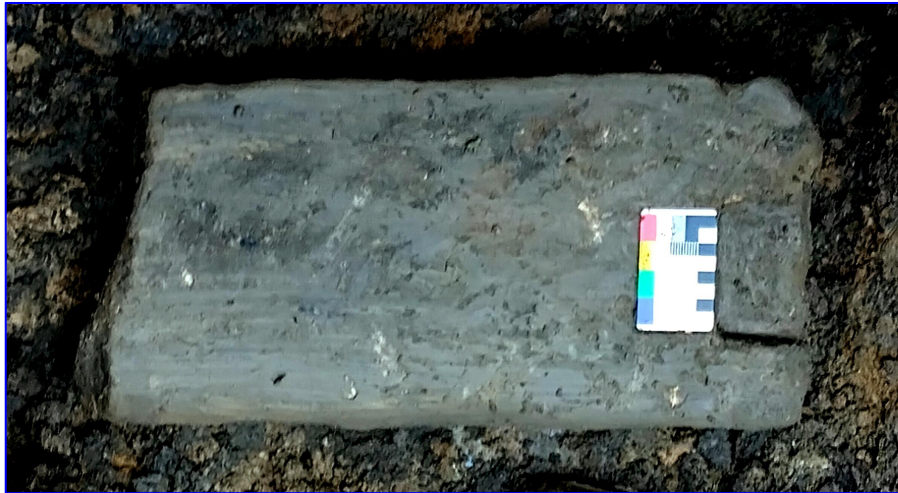
September will be to examine the gap between the two trenches to find out why there is this drop. Again, we might be looking at something odd the builder has done, or we might be looking at a missing structure between the two trenches. Predictably, this is under the spoil heap.



Trial Trench 2 looking north, showing shuttering and fall arrest (cushions)

In the meantime, we welcomed a party from the Derbyshire Archaeological Society to the site on the 22nd of August, which followed a talk at the Wellspring Meeting Room about locating Lutudarum using the known (and under-examined) Roman sources and how we have followed this up based on finds mapping and examination of the road network, in the 20 years which our Society has been

doing this work. The DAS visit looked at our site and in particular at the dressed stone found in the dig, including a doorstep which was upside down in the side of Trial Trench 2, out of its correct location, which was roped to the surface while the visit was taking place.



Doorstep found in Trial Trench 2
Note the inset cut on the right for the door post

Work will continue shortly