



Swannington Heritage Trust

Guided Tours, Walks and Talks

The Swannington Heritage Trust museum at Hough Mill, the Gorse Field and Califat Spinney are adjacent sites off St. George's Hill, LE67 8QW. The Swannington Incline and Snibston No 3 sites are more than a mile to the south off Spring Lane, LE67 8QR. The Hough in Hough Mill rhymes with rough.

1. Tour of Hough Mill



Allow an hour for a guided tour of the amazing transformation of Hough Mill, derelict in 1994 now with a cap, fantail, machinery, doors, floors and associated buildings including the railway room.

2. Coal Mining Tour



Allow an hour for the coal mining tour comprising sites of bell pits, a replica of the gin pit that replaced bell pits during the fifteenth century, an eighteenth century Newcomen boiler and two engine houses from a mid nineteenth century mine named after a Romanian city.

3. Bell Pit Simulation

Spend half an hour with a light hearted re-enactment of a day in the life of a family working a bell pit, in which you can become familiar with the precarious 30 feet descent, winching up the coal and the grim conditions of the mine. As it is unsafe to descend 30 feet vertically we use a grass slope instead.

4. Refreshments

Tea and biscuits can be arranged for groups visiting Hough Mill.

5. Swannington Incline Tour



Allow an hour and a half for a tour of the Swannington Incline, the western end of Robert Stephenson's 1832 Leicester and Swannington Railway. Starts at the Snibston No 3 coal mining site which has a car park.

The Incline is a 1:17 slope and about 750 yards long, great for going down but you do have to walk back up! If you want to add an extra half hour or so we can return via some of the village's historic buildings.



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6. Guided Walks

Take part in a guided walk of Swannington's heritage including former coal mines, horse drawn tramways, historic buildings and railways. These can start from either Hough Mill or the Snibston No 3 site.

If you prefer to conduct your own self guided walk, there are several on the village walks tab on our website www.swannington-heritage.co.uk

7. Suggested Minimum (Per Person) Donations For Group Visits

Our focus is on sharing Swannington's fabulous heritage and we do not make a set charge, we hope that visitors on Sunday afternoons (who do not have a tour) put something in the donations box. However, we have to survive financially and with running costs that include insurance £1,300 and electricity £500 we invite group visitors to make a minimum donation of:

Mill Tour	£2	Mill Tour + Mining Tour	£3	Mill Tour + Mining Tour + Bell Pit Simulation	£4	Mill Tour + Mining Tour + Bell Pit Simulation + Tea/coffee and biscuits	£5
Mining Tour	£2						
Bell Pit Simulation	£1						
Tea/coffee and biscuits	£1.50						
Swannington Incline	£2						
Guided Walks - 1.5 hours	£2						
Guided Walks - 3 hours	£3						
Youth Groups may visit free of charge, but we would not object to a £1 per head donation.							
Schools may visit free of charge, we would be delighted if you would provide us with photographs of your visit or examples of work your pupils complete relating to the visit.							

These suggested donations are very reasonable compared to the adult cost of other local heritage sites:

Ashby Castle - £4.70

Bosworth Battle Field Exhibition Centre £7.95

Guided walks Leicester/Loughborough - £4-£5

Calke Abbey £11

John Taylor Bellfoundry museum £4

John Taylor Bellfoundry tour £10

8. Talks

A Trust volunteer could visit your group to provide an illustrated talk, subjects include:

Swannington Before The War - based on hundreds of hours of research into the 1911 census, parish boundary changes and other related material.

Swannington's Industrial History - eight centuries of coal mining, tramways, railways, milling and more.

It is suggested that an appropriate donation to the Trust is £40.

9. Publications

Publications are £2.50 each or five for £10.

Swannington Village Trail	Teddy's work at Hough Mill
Califat - A Victorian Mining Disaster in Leicestershire	Christmas decorations at Hough Mill
History of the Leicester and Swannington Railway	Becca and the Bell Pit
Swannington: One time Railway Centre	

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