

Monthly dig report for members of Leicestershire Industrial History Society and Swannington Heritage Trust.

Morning dig with 18 LIHS diggers in attendance, then lunch at the Bull's Head.

Engine House near Califat Shaft - Excavation 2006-2016 - South of Engine and Boiler Houses



The area to the south of the engine house more spoil as been removed, some was cinders and other parts were clay. Gradually working down the south wall, should see the rag holes shortly. Notice the two posh green wheelbarrows, these are new purchases by LIHS to add to the three provided by SHT, so we now have a combined fleet of five wheelbarrows which is great as it has relieved the productivity bottlenecks.



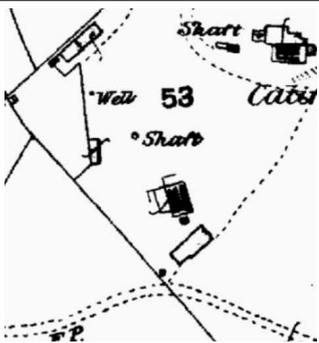
Near the BBQ, in the corner between the engine house and the boiler house good progress has been made digging out the gooey clay from the quarter circle. Because of the confined space our glorious LIHS chairman has been loosening the clay with his spade then scooping it out with his hands. He has progressed from five to seven courses of bricks across the board then several courses deep in a smaller hole.



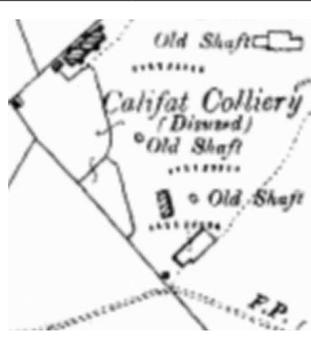
The corner between the boiler house and the chimney has been further excavated. While the bottom of the boiler house wall is straight and vertical, the bottom of the chimney wall expands in five stepped levels to provide a broader, solid base for the weight of the chimney.

When work to the south of the engine and boiler houses has been completed the base of the tunnel can be exposed as it will no longer be at risk from ongoing work. Due consideration can then be given to (not) recreating some sections of the tunnel.

West Side of the Califat Spinney



1883 map



1903 map

Alan has been putting his surveying skills to good use to confirm that the well to the south of the miners' cottages, plus the building (blacksmith's shop?) are not on SHT land.

The dot west of the reservoir shown on both the 1883 and 1903 maps (but not 1923 and 1962) was plotted as being near the gate into the Gorse Field. A hole revealed a jumble of bricks that could have been placed there when the access track was built.

The dressed stone (possibly from the pit shaft top) was placed in the hole to mark it.

Old Shaft to East of Califat Boiler House



The trench along the east of the structure was broadened. An exploratory trench to the south was started to see if there are any traces of a configuration to match the area to the north of the shaft, this will be continued next time.

Miners' Cottages



To the east of the cottage a brick pavement has been revealed, so far it is about a metre wide. As well as exposing the pavement the intention is to remove material from inside the house so as to reduce the one sided pressure on the walls.