

What have we done?



Based at Hough Mill (*with features at the other heritage sites*) we have created a museum with five themes:

Farm to Food

We may have a 200 year old mill but it did not operate in isolation. Farmers grew the wheat, barley, oats and beans that were brought to the mill to be ground into flour or animal feed. During Hands On Family Heritage events the refurbished winnower can be used to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Milling

New for 2014 is the Miller at Work exhibition whereby information boards and leaflets will guide you along the path of the grain from its entry into the mill to its exit as graded flour. There will also be new hands on activities for the 2014 season.

Mining

Most of the mining theme is outdoors:

- A replica horse gin on the Gorse Field on the site of a gin pit that would have closed hundreds of years ago
- The former engine houses and a Newcomen boiler in the Califat Spinney
- Snibston No. 3 mine site next to the former railway

Railways

Most of the railway theme can be studied on the Swannington Incline that was restored from 1984 to 1994, the Trust removed thousands of tons of debris, had three bridges rebuilt and excavated the former winding engine house. A great place to walk if you do not mind nearly half a mile of 1:17 slope.

During 2014 a model of the Incline will be added to the indoor collection.

Social History

A lot of the social history collection is located within the village archive and is available for research. A second website (www.swannington-history.co.uk) was set up to provide information on the **Swannington Before The War** project based upon the 1911 census.

The Trust is always seeking to add documents and old film clips to this collection and would love to hear from you if you have any that could be copied. Likewise, if you have memories that could be recorded.



What do we do?

The Trust act as custodians of five important heritage sites. Volunteers maintain the 12 acres of woodland and nature reserves, 2.2 miles of hedges and boundaries and 2 miles of paths and mown open spaces. They also undertake a restoration programme at Hough Mill.

Volunteers research local history and share it via:

- Family hands on heritage events such as an Easter Egg Hunt and Take Teddy To The Mill
- Mill openings and visits by schools, youth groups, walkers, history and other groups
- Guided walks, websites, the Hough Mill facebook page, and talks to community groups
- Half yearly magazines and other publications for adults and children

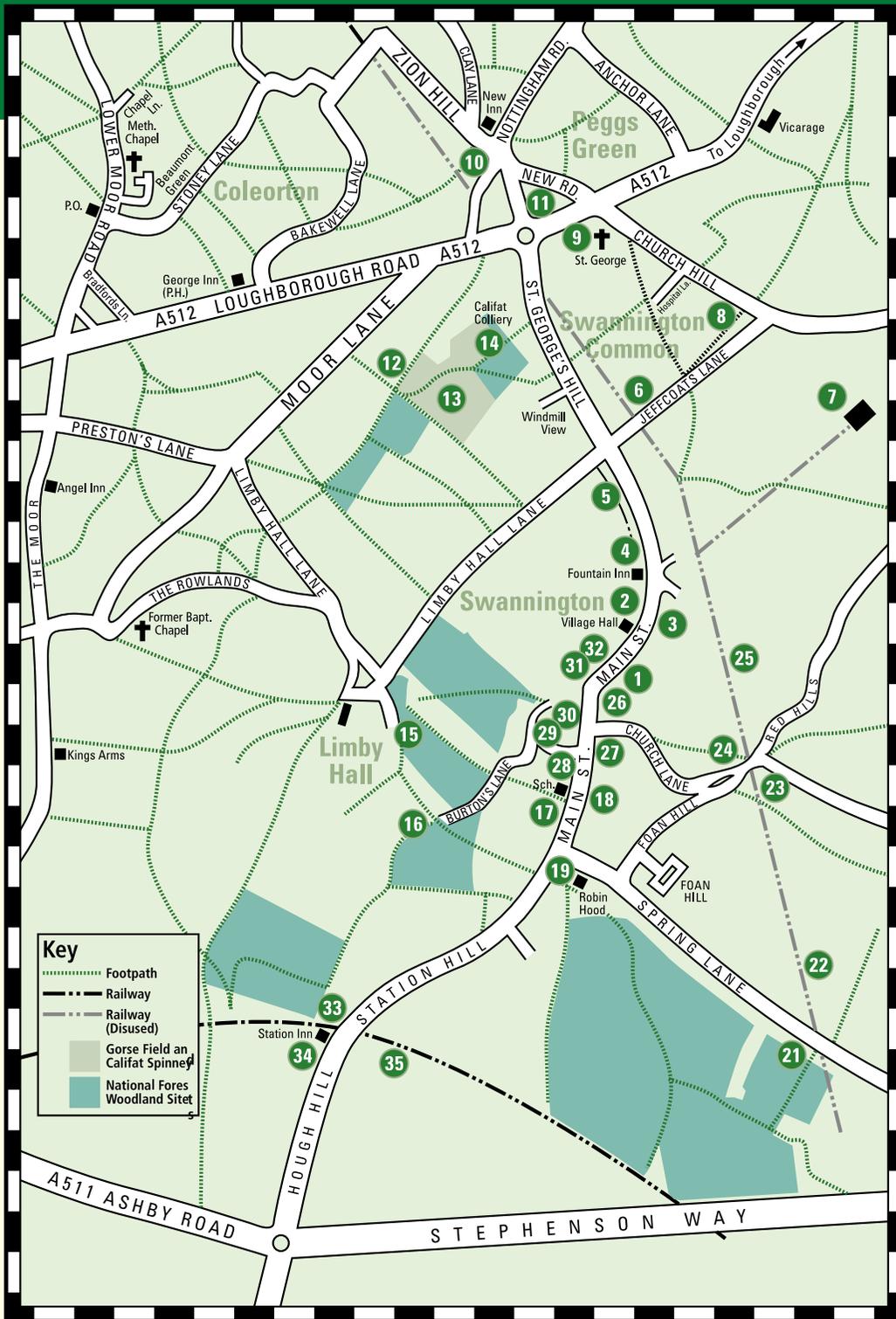


SWANNINGTON HERITAGE TRUST



SWANNINGTON VILLAGE TRAIL

The map shows many of the key heritage sites including the 5 sites managed by Swannington Heritage Trust.



22 Swannington Incline

Visit the western end of Robert Stephenson's 1825 Leicester and Swannington Railway, the first railway in the English Midlands. Explore the outline of the former winding engine house that hauled the last (empty) coal truck up the Incline in 1948. See one of the engines from the former Calcutta Pumping Station.



21 Snibston No. 3 Mine

See the mining wheels at the former coal mine that operated from 1850 to 1880 and 1892 to 1895. It is next to the railway line. Some of the Trust's walks visit Snibston No. 3, download them from the Village Walks tab on the website.



14 Califat Spinney

A walk around the site of the mid-19th century coal mine will include the remains of two former engine houses and an 18th century Newcomen boiler. The spring blossom and autumn leaf colour on the trees are beautiful as are the steadily increasing snowdrops, bluebells, foxgloves and other flowers. A new trail is being set up in 2014.



13 Gorse Field

The humps, bumps, hollows and depressions of the Gorse Field, evidence centuries of coal mining using bell pits and horse gin pits. The replica horse gin pit is the focal point for some while others admire the gorse bushes, trees, flowers and wildlife.



12 Hough Mill

Visit the 200 year old Hough Mill (*open 2-5pm Sundays and Bank Holidays April to September*) to see its amazing transformation from a derelict building in 1994 to a popular visitor centre packed with milling equipment and artefacts. Check our website for details of hands on family heritage events and other activities.

