

Swannington Heritage Trust

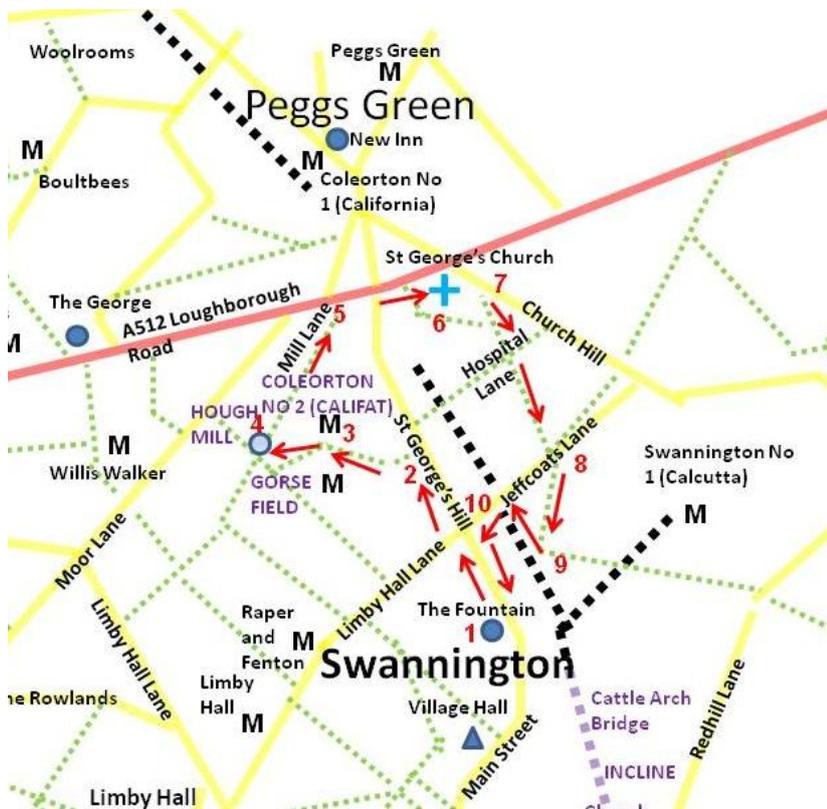
Walk 1.4 – Coal, Corn and C of E

Starting at the Fountain Inn follow the path to the former mining areas of the Califat Spinney and the Gorse Field which are now nature reserves. Wonder at the stories that could be told by the weathered bricks in the 200 year old Hough Mill. Visit St George's Church with its literary origins and sad link with the 1863 Califat Colliery Disaster.

Walking on paths, crossing stiles

Distance = 2.2 miles / 3.5 kilometres, duration = 1 hour.

The sketch map below is not intended to be a substitute for an Ordnance Survey map.



1. Start the walk at the "Fountain Inn". Proceed northwards up St. George's Hill, pass Windmill View and take the footpath on the left in the middle of the row of houses.
2. Follow the footpath along the lane, then part way along turn right and cross the field. Continue into the woodland and emerge onto the stone track between St. George's Hill and Hough Mill.
3. Turn right, towards St. George's Hill, then left into the Califat, the site of the former Coleorton No. 2 (Califat) mine and now a nature reserve. Follow the path to the right around the edge of the Califat,

with a diversion to see the excavation of the former Engine House. Continue around the edge of the Califat until emerging through a gate back onto the stone track.

Turn right and proceed through a second gate into the Gorse Field. Appreciate the Horse statue and the replica Horse Gin, then turn left and follow the path through the Gorse Field. It will curve to the right and bring you back to the stone track near the pond.

4. Go over the stile and study Hough Mill (Hough rhymes with rough) which is open 2-5pm on Sundays April to September.
5. While looking at Hough Mill with your back to the Gorse Field, turn right and exit the mill compound, pass the two cottages on your left and proceed along Mill Lane to the A512. At the A512 turn right and follow the pavement, cross St. George's Hill and continue along the A512 pavement.
6. Turn into the grounds of St. George's Church, built in 1825 on a site selected by William Wordsworth while staying with Sir George Beaumont in Coleorton Hall. Near the A512 side of the churchyard is the headstone of Harry Clements, the 16 year old who was one of three killed during the Califat mining disaster of 1863.

7. Exit the churchyard onto Church Hill and head down the hill before taking the first footpath on the right. Cross the field, admiring the view of the countryside and the headstocks of the former Calcutta (Swannington No 1) mine. At the bottom of the field, ignore the track on the left (this is Hospital Lane, a track for the two houses, it leads to Church Hill). Instead turn right and go over the style, then immediate left to head down the field keeping the house on the left.
8. On reaching Jeffcoats Lane, take the footpath on the other side of the road. The path bears to the right as it skirts around a couple of houses. Continue until reaching an embankment.
9. Go up the embankment to reach the Coleorton railway along which horses hauled coal carts from the Peggs Green, California and other mines through a tunnel (under the A512 roundabout) to the bottom of the Swannington Incline for its onward journey to Leicester. Ignore the left turn towards the Incline and turn right towards Jeffcoats Lane.
10. At Jeffcoats Lane turn left, then take a second left turn at St. George's Hill to return to the Fountain Inn.

Swannington Heritage Trust maintains:-

- Snibston No. 3 colliery 1850-95, adjacent the 1832 Leicester to Swannington Railway;
- Swannington Inclined Plane with a 1:17 slope connecting horse tramways to the railway
- Califat Spinney nature reserve, a mine 1855-1873
- Gorse Field, a fragile heath grassland, adit and bell pit mining from 1204.
- Hough Mill, built shortly after the land purchased in 1804.



Details of more walks, guided walks and mill visits are on www.swannington-heritage.co.uk. Any constructive comment on the walks would be welcomed, email walks@swannington-heritage.co.uk.