

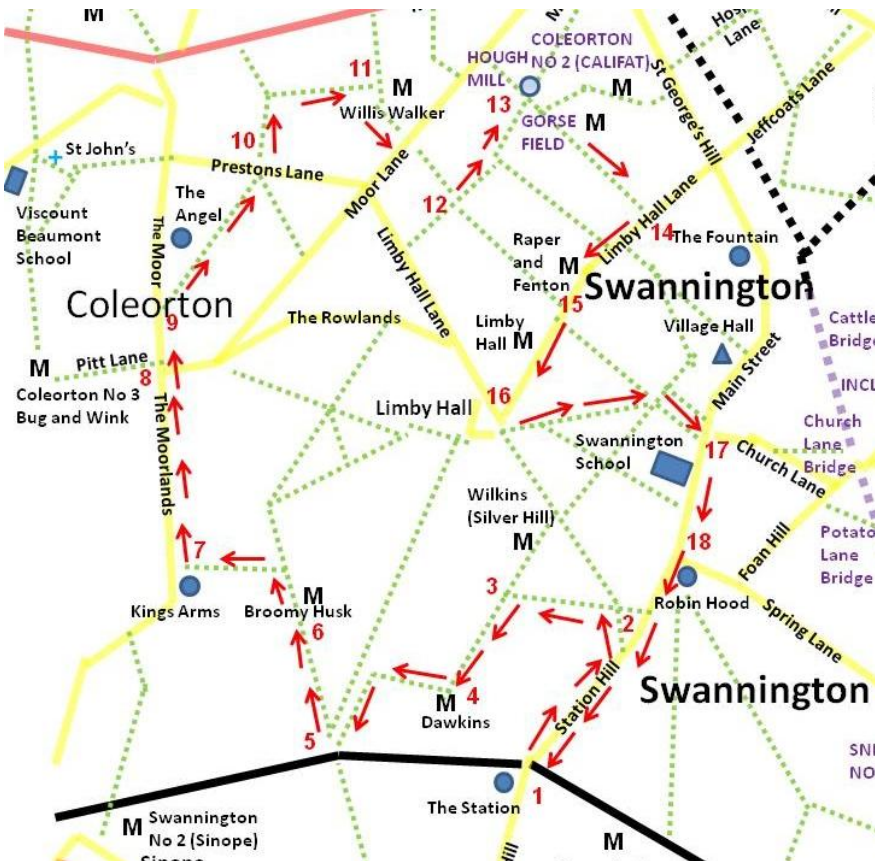


## Series – Developing A Thirst Walk – Swannington’s Hidden Heritage

From the Station public house follow ancient green lanes and miners’ paths to Coleorton, Hough Mill and Limby Hall. Open your eyes to unlock the secrets of the woodlands and roads with wide verges. Visualise the mines and horse drawn tramways where now there are only trees, brambles and grass.

Walking on paths, crossing stiles. Distance = 4.7 miles / 7.5 kilometres, duration = 2.5 hours.

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



1. Start at “The Station” at the bottom of Hough Hill. Cross the railway line and keep heading north / down hill.
2. Turn left up a few steps onto path diagonally across a small field. Turn left onto an ancient track used to take midden waste to the fields. It lies in a shallow holly lined cutting.
3. At the T junction admire the view across the Coleorton valley, before turning left along the track.
4. The track turns sharply to the right at the site of the former Dawkins mine, before turning left and heading for the tunnel under the railway line.

5. Before reaching the railway line, turn right immediately after the copse, after a few metres follow the path through the copse. Cross small field, on into a larger field heading towards the left of the two houses near the site of the former Broomy Husk mine.
6. The public footpath is through a garden, but it is courteous to aim for the left hand yellow post which goes behind the garden. Proceed along the stone track on the left edge of the field. Ignore the stone track’s turn to the left and continue straight ahead along the grass path with the hedge to the left.
7. Look straight ahead and admire Hough Mill through the winter trees, in summer the leaves may obscure the view. Turn left and head for the houses across the field, cross a parcel of land next to the houses and emerge on The Moorlands, Coleorton just north of the “Kings Arms”.
8. Head north along The Moorlands, just after the junction with Moor Lane there is the option to turn left along Pitt Lane and walk around Coleorton Wood planted in 1991 on the site of the former Coleorton No 3 colliery, known locally as the “Bug And Wink” 1875-1933. This would add a mile to the walk.
9. Before reaching “The Angel” and virtually opposite the post box, turn right through a garden. Emerge into a field and head diagonally left and enter the nature reserve which includes a grove of young

willows. Exit the nature reserve and proceed straight ahead across the field towards the white house, follow the hedge along the side of the house. Proceed through the garden, then cross Prestons Lane.

10. Continue straight ahead along a track with a wood on the left and a field with a pond on the right. The track enters the woodland before emerging into a field. Ignore the left turn for the A512. Instead take the path to the right, cross the field then along a narrow track between woodland to the left and field.
11. Reach two stiles set at 90 degrees to each other, admire the view of Hough Mill. There is the option to turn left to sample the hospitality at "The George". Instead turn right and cross the field (passing the former Willis Walker mine site) aiming for the right of the large brick house on Moor Lane.
12. Cross over Moor Lane and proceed across the field, at the end turn left along the track to the mill.
13. Hough Mill is approximately 200 years old and has been extensively restored by the Heritage Trust. It is open 2-5pm Sundays, April to September or by arrangement. There are a couple of picnic tables which could be used if you brought a snack.

Head south east passed the ponds. There is an option to divert to the east to explore the Califat Spinney (former Coleorton No 2 mine, the Califat, 1855-1873) and the horse gin statue in the Gorse Field. From the ponds continue south east with the hedge on the right, exit the Gorse Field.

14. Continue down hill through a young plantation to Limby Hall Road. Turn right and walk along the road. The grass verge is wide because it was the 1795 Jessops horse drawn tramway with horses pulling coal carts along the rails, continuing along Jeffcoats Lane to the Charnwood Forest Canal terminus near the George and Dragon in Thringstone.
15. The grass verge narrows where the tramway enters the woods which now cover the former Raper and Fenton mine site. While walking along the road, look out for the Brook House and The Bradleys information board on the left at the bottom of gunpowder field. On the right pass the site of the Limby Hall mine whose waters broke into the Califat mine in 1863 causing three deaths.
16. At Limby Hall the road turns right. Instead take the spur that is straight ahead, and then turn left at the footpath, ignoring the gate that states "private". Keep following the footpath. Take the track to the left (leading to Burtons Lane) which eventually forks to the right and emerges into Main Street.
17. Turn right and admire the Quaker Smithy, Tap House, Old Wesleyan Chapel (1909) and the school (1862) while walking south along Main Street.
18. Just before the Robin Hood is the former Primitive Methodist Chapel, Butchers (now a joiners), Abattoir and Animal Pound. Proceed up Station Hill, cross the railway line and return to "The Station".

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](http://www.swannington-heritage.co.uk). Any constructive comment on the walks would be welcomed, email [walks@swannington-heritage.co.uk](mailto:walks@swannington-heritage.co.uk).