

Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - April 2019

The Excavation

Swannington Heritage Trust own the Califat Spinney, which is the site of the Califat Coal Mine (1855-1873). Leicestershire Industrial History Society have led the monthly excavation of the coal mine buildings near the Califat winding shaft since June 2006.

Swannington Heritage Trust produce this monthly photographic report for the benefit of SHT and LIHS, so that they can share it with their members, volunteers and supporters. LIHS make the technical recordings of the dig and will produce a report at the end of the excavation.

Engine House and Boiler House



Looking north from the exposed stoke pit, the coal storage pavement has been exposed. To the north the brick has an uneven edge as if it is surrounding a curved shape. The eastern side has a clearly defined straight edge.

The Trust has a small stock of granite lintels that LIHS could use to make the pavement steps.

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Miners' Cottages



It was great to see Denis Baker again after his recent illnesses. His expertise was put to good use at the east wall of the cottages. It had been believed that the neat pile of bricks in the middle of the east wall indicated a fireplace. The voice of wisdom suggested that it was a fortuitous chance that they were so neat as this was not the position for a fireplace. Further investigation confirmed that Denis was right as the bricks were a neat stack on top of rubble.



In the middle of the cottage some of the debris to the north of what could be a central fireplace was removed. As this work continues it will be interesting to see if there is a doorway between the rooms and next to the north wall.

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Miners' Cottages - Artefacts



More flowery pieces of the gazunder were found and added to the collection.

A terracotta tile with the legend "California Brick Works Coleorton" was found. The brickworks was next to the Califat's sister mine, California, opposite the New Inn, Peggs Green.

While working carefully through the spoil, a complete ridge tile was uncovered.