

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

Morning dig with LIHS diggers in attendance.

Engine House near Califat Shaft - Excavation 2006-2016 - Pit

It was decided to stop the work on the brickwork in the pit next to the engine house. The work to date will protect the walls during the winter. SHT will make arrangements for a bricklayer to stabilise the walls to a similar standard to the 2013 and 2014 stabilisations.

Engine House near Califat Shaft - Excavation 2006-2016 - Tunnels



The area to the south of the tunnel leading to the chimney was sloped to assist both access and the drainage of rainwater before it reaches the tunnel.

Old Shaft to East of Califat Boiler House



At the north east corner a wide spur juts out to the north, more material was removed to enable it to be more fully investigated. The different soil levels can be seen. The question is whether there are similar structures at the southern end.

Disposal of Excavated Material



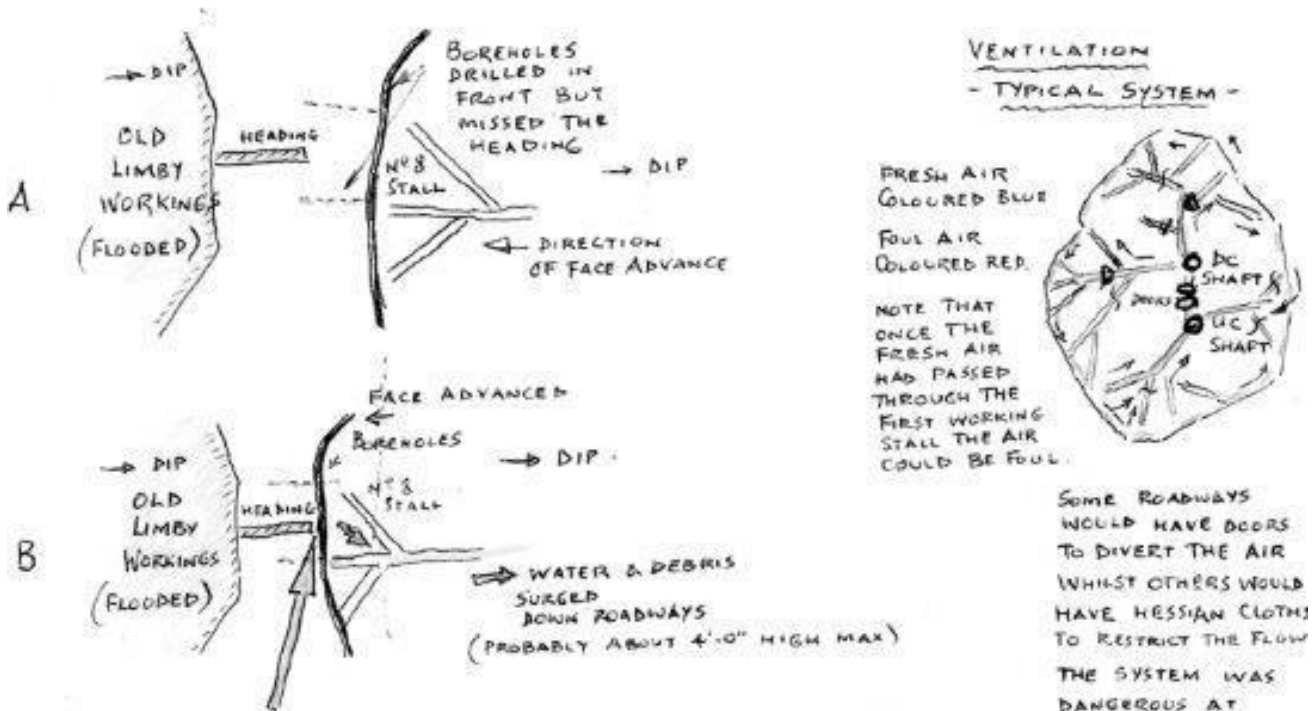
The excavated spoil was deposited near the mature sycamore. This enabled the SHT team to spread the material during the following week (plus take the mickey out of the SHT chairman). There is room for more excavated material to be spread in this area and it has the benefit of being close to the dig site.

Paul Siddals sketch of the flooding

sketched out my understanding of them superimposed on the Coal Authority plans that BobBradly kindly found for us

The newspaper articles had a good description of the inrush of water from the old Limby workings of 1795.

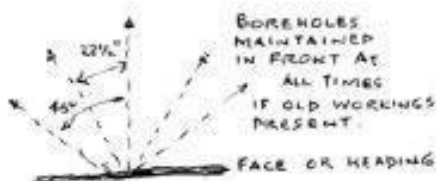
The sketch below will hopefully explain the situation.
Bob Bradley



AS THE STALL WORKING HAD APPROACHED THE OLD HEADING, WATER BEGAN TO Ooze THROUGH THE BREAKS IN THE COAL AND THEN DUE TO THE WEIGHT OF WATER UNDER PRESSURE THE COAL FRACTURED AND BURST THROUGH AND RUSHED DOWN HILL TOWARDS THE CALIFAT PIT BOTTOM

NOTE:- A LOW READING ON A BAROMETER WOULD ALLOW GASES TO MIGRATE FROM THE GOAF BEHIND THE FACE - WHERE THE COAL HAS BEEN EXTRACTED

METHANE - TO BUILD UP. AND CARBON DIOXIDE (BLACK DAMP) WHERE THERE WAS HARDLY ANY AIR MOVEMENT AND METHANE (FIRE DAMP) ALLOWED TO ACCUMULATE IN THE ROOF.



- THE LATER SYSTEM OF BORING - HOLES AT 22° & 45° & AHEAD - HOPEFULLY WOULD LOCATE OLD WORKINGS

CANDLES WOULD FIRE THE METHANE GAS & BETWEEN 5% AND 15% WOULD EXPLODE.

BLACK DAMP WOULD EXTINGUISH A CANDLE NEAR THE FLOOR.