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 9 the moush of water from the old Limby workings of 1795-

The sketch below will hopefully explain the situation Bob Bradley

BOREHOLES DRILLED FRONT BUT MISSED THE CLD HEADING HEADING Nº 8 LIMBY STALL WORKING DIRECTION FLOODED OF FACE ADVANCE

BURENOLES

STALL

HEA SHOPE

FACE ADVANCED

DIP .

SURGED

WATER & DEBRIS

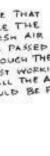
DOWN POADWAYS

(PROBABLY ABOUT 4'-0" HIGH MAX)

VENTILATION - TYPICAL SYSTEM -

PRESH AIR GLOURED BLUE FOUL AIR COLOURED RED. NOTE THAT ONCE THE FRESH AIR HAD PASSED THROUGH THE

FIRST WORKING STALL THE AIR COULD BE FOUL



OLD LIMBY B WORKINGS (FLOODED)

A

AS THE STALL WORKING HAD APPROACHED THE OLD HEADING, WATER BEGAN TO OUTE 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

WOULD HAVE DOORS TO DIVERT THE AIR WHILST OTHERS WOULD HAVE HESSIAN CLOTHS TO RESTRICT THE FLOW THE SYSTEM WAS DANGEROUS AT TIMES BECAUSE SOME PARTS OF THE OPEN WORKINGS WOULD HAVE HARBLY ANY FRESH AIR AS THE SYSTEM WAS IN SERIES. THIS ALLOWED

Some ROADWAYS

DANGEROUS GASES -

METHANE - TO BUILD UP. AND CARBON DIGKIDE

(BLACK DAMP) WHERE THERE WAS HARDLY ANY AIR MOVEMENT

AND METHANE (FIRE DAMP)

ALLOWED TO ACCUMBIATE IN THE ROOF .

BOREHOLES MAINTAINEP IN FRONT AT ALL TIMES IF OLD WORKINGS PICESEMT. FACE OR HEADING

CANDLES WOULD FIRE THE METHANS GAS & BETWEEN 5% AND 15% WOULD EXPLOSE.

BLACKDAMP WOULD EXTINGUISH A CANDLE NEAR THE FLOOR.

THE LATER SYSTEM OF -

BORING - HOLES AT 22% & 45" & AHEAD - HOPEFULLY WOULD LOCATE OLD WORKINGS