

Monthly dig report for Leicestershire Industrial History Society and Swannington Heritage Trust. Present - 10 diggers.

Engine House Area



Digging out the area to the south of the engine house complex continued. It helps that the spoil can be emptied into the dumper which effortlessly takes it away. The front of the pit is also being dug out.

The aim is to enable visitors to clearly see all of the features - drains, tunnels and the “bbq” which still mystifies everyone.



Pipes east of Boiler House



It continues to be slow, painstaking and difficult work in such a restrictive space to safely dig out and explore the drainage system. The rain before the dig did not help, making it even muddier.

Looking at the first photo, the plan is to dig out the corner near Dave’s left hand, digging in the direction of a well drained dry area.

Getting rid of the water will make it much easier to explore the area. The oblong sump seems to be about three feet deep when probed with a metal stake.



Miners' Cottages



During August the Heritage Trust land management team took the tior for to the cottages site to winch out the large hawthorn tree stumps.

They had to work very carefully, pulling the stump from different directions as it loosened to avoid damaging the cottage walls.



The land management guys also cleared a large area to the east of the cottages, creating plenty of room to store bricks, slates, glass and spoil from the dig.

The site has been fenced off because of the amount of glass being uncovered, which is also why spoil is no longer being spread in the woodland.



Part of the cleared area next to the cottages was covered with a membrane by Land Management, who also stacked the whole bricks and started the piles of broken bricks and spoil to keep the membrane in place.

The September diggers added to the piles.



The JCB has scraped the woodland to remove the scattered glass. We would hate to hear of people being hurt by the shards.

Diggers recovered a brick like cube from the woodland and are perplexed when contemplating its purpose.



Diggers were in action on both sides of the front wall of the cottages.

Clearing the inside is relieving the pressure on the walls.





The left photo is the inside of the front wall taken from the left / porch.

The right photo is the inside of the front wall taken from the right / eastern corner.



During the July open digs for the Festival of Archaeology the brick floor was uncovered in the front east corner (right photo).

Just before the end of the September dig what appears to be more of the floor was uncovered (left photo). This will be further explored in October.



In August Bill climbed the stepladder to take photos from near the Trust's boundary.

They provide a good perspective of the explorations.

