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January to March 2018 dig report. Present - 12 diggers in January and 11 in March.

### Engine House Area



The engine house complex was wet in January and the rain stopped the dig even starting in February.

Although the March dig day was fine, parts of the site were flooded.

To the south of the engine house the focus has been on tidying up the area to make it presentable for visitors. A shallow trench at the bottom of the slope will help catch rainwater before it reaches the brickwork. Tunnels and other features have been more clearly delineated.



At the northern end of the pit the end of the brick plinth opposite the engine house has been uncovered.

To the north of the pit the peeling bark tree has been carefully removed by the Heritage Trust. This area contains underground brickwork that it is hoped can be investigated when the work around the engine house has been completed.

### Engine House Area

At the north end of the pit there was an earth “cliff drop”. Work in January and March was on making this a slope for safety and access purposes.



### Miners' Cottages

Up until January the approach was to work along the inside of the south and east walls.

Tactics changed in March when the team started working out from the south east corner towards the middle of the room.

After moving bricks, slates, soil and other debris, including a hawthorn stump and root, a large floor area has been cleared. The tile floor is in very good condition for 100 years of use and 60 years of being buried.



Although numerous pieces of slate have been found during the last two years, these pieces found near the fireplace are the most complete.

At each cottages dig about 40% of the resource is spent sorting the spoil between bricks, slates, glass, roots etc.



### Miners' Cottages



While clearing inside the east wall in January two pieces of metal fire surround were uncovered. They were near a brick structure that could be a fire place. The third piece had been found in the summer of 2017.



The steady succession of shoe finds continued. They have all been found near the step from inside the porch down to the room floor.



Look one brick width to the right of the trowel to see the black shoe sticking out above the second brick. The right picture shows the same sight in front of the bricks and to the right of the leg.



All the shoes are being stored together. Quite a collection is being assembled.

One piece is covered with hobnails. A heel has also been found.

