

This photo report is produced by a member of the dig team. It is given to Swannington Heritage Trust and Leicestershire Industrial History Society to use, publish and distribute as if they own the copyright without attributing the author.

August 2018 dig report.

The dig was attended by 13 diggers, special welcome to Richard on his first dig.

Engine House Area



Diggers started digging out the coal storage pavement next to the open stoke hole for the third boiler. Bricks were removed and stacked ready for further consolidation work.



At the north end of the winding engine void a small area is being dug out on both sides so that a low sleeper wall can be supported by the brickwork.



Engine house finds included glassware and a pipe.

Engine House Area



These drone photos give a clear layout of the Califat engine house site.

Reservoir / Pond



As the hot weather had dried up the pond, Trust volunteers had dug out 40% of the bulrushes, plus the bricks and stones.



The clogged drainage pipe near the access track does not appear to have any connection to the former reservoir.



The metal finds have been stored by the Trust.



LIHS moved the remaining bricks and made a neat pile near the north of the winding drum void. Some of the stones had been dressed to create a rough flat edge.

Miners' Cottages



On the east wall and to the north of what is believed to be the fireplace, diggers uncovered a single brick cemented into place at right angles to the wall.

In the north each corner there are additional cemented bricks as if they are there to support something.



Weeds were removed from in front of the cottages and to the west of the porch. Some of the hawthorn roots were very tenacious.

Miners' Cottages



The stack of bricks and the area to the west of the porch.



The porch from the front.



The porch and internal step from the east wall.



The east room from the front.



Multiple plastic containers are used to store slate, mortar etc while excavating. Our chief sifter ensures finds are saved.



Miners' Cottages



Finds included lots of pieces of what appears to be a flower patterned gazunder, a couple of nails, some more segments of what could be the hearth and another thin Whitwick Colliery brick.

Social



The coffee break continues to be an important part of the dig along with the post dig lunch.

Califat Coal Mine Tours

Sunday 2nd September, meet at 1.30pm for the 2pm and 3pm tours. All helpers welcome.