

This photo report is produced by 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.

### September 2018 dig report.

The dig was attended by 11 diggers, special welcome to Robin and Jed on their first dig with us.

### Engine House Area



Diggers progressed the digging out of the coal storage pavement next to the open stoke hole for the third boiler. There is now a considerable mound of spoil that can be used to backfill the pipes area around the old shaft (there are also plenty of broken bricks at the Califat that can be used for backfilling).

The Califat Liaison Group agreed that work will stop at the shrub hedge. Diggers have been contemplating whether there may be a benefit in digging further and LIHS will raise this with the Califat Liaison Group if they believe additional work is required.



The team has also been preparing the northern end of the winding drum void.

Two of the team continued recording the pipework and building in the old shaft area. When this has been completed the pipe trench will be backfilled after LIHS have added this to their risk assessment.



### Miners' Cottages



Part of the team focussed on the corner of the room closest to the porch. The tiles in that area were broken. As the work progressed it was noted that the broken tiles were square, whereas the remainder of the floor comprises rectangular tiles.



The soil in the bottom corner, next to the step, was a darker shade than the rest.



### Miners' Cottages



The days of shorts and t-shirts have given way to drizzle and cooler temperatures as demonstrated by the models in the September dig photos.

Near the diagonally opposite corner to the porch, a live hawthorn root that was embedded in the wall was carefully uncovered and severed. Avoiding destabilising the wall was a challenge.



The sorting, separating and sieving system continues to work well, apart from the bottleneck at the sieving stage. Perhaps it is too much to expect one lady to process the output of three men! LIHS need to consider whether to modify the system or provide an additional body. Likewise the Trust need to consider what they wish to do with the growing pile of sieved material.

Progress across the floor is clearly visible.



### Alabama Engine House Area



Trust volunteers have been clearing trees and shrubs on the eastern side of the spinney to minimise congestion and admit more light. A dead hedge has been built most of the way around the 1993-99 dig site. When developing their further work proposals for the Califat Liaison Group, LIHS will consider whether the dead hedge gives sufficient room.

### Califat Coal Mine Tours



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During 2018 the dig has been visited on the National Forest Walking Festival (May) walks, as well as the LIHS tours (led by Paul) during the Festival of Archaeology (July) and Hello Heritage (September). Many thanks to everyone who has helped with these plus those involved in the Incline Walks and Glenfield Tunnel tours as the LIHS and Trust events advertise each other. The Trust has also taken several community groups around the coal mine.

Owen has already been discussing the 2019 walks programme with the Trust Events Group. LIHS input into how the dig is advertised within Trust events is always welcome.