



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington

Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - October 2019

Swannington Heritage Trust own the Califat Spinney, which is the site of the Califat Coal Mine (1855-1873). Leicestershire Industrial History Society have led the monthly excavation of the coal mine buildings near the Califat winding shaft since June 2006.

Swannington Heritage Trust produce this monthly photographic report for the benefit of SHT and LIHS, so that they can share it with their members, volunteers and supporters. LIHS make the technical recordings of the dig and will produce a report at the end of the excavation.

Coal Storage Pavement



The retaining wall of sleepers was backed by a wall of broken bricks that will help with the drainage.



The retaining walls have been back filled with previously excavated material, when complete this will grass over.



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington

Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - October 2019

Old Shaft



Diggers weeded the area inside and to the side of the heras fencing. This enabled two people to measure the area and document the network of pipes, without going inside the prohibited area (the brick rectangle around the old shaft).



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - October 2019



The wall next to the trees was examined. It is suggested that it could have been built in phases with various bits being added over a period of time.

Social



As usual the mid morning break was an important part of the dig, the tea and cakes being greatly appreciated.



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington

Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - October 2019

Miners Cottages



Work continued in what is believed to be a doorway between two rooms. As usual a trowel being the tool of choice in addition to hands.



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington

Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - October 2019



By the end of the morning the area had been cleared and the brick and tile floor revealed. The team is still wondering why a group of upside down roof tiles have been placed on the floor. This must have been a deliberate placement, as if they were directly from the collapsing roof they would have been overlapping.



The bricks removed from the doorway area were a higher quality brick than those used elsewhere in the cottage. They had smooth sides. The white on one side indicated that they were part of the inside of the wall.



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - October 2019



Two sloping bricks were uncovered of the type that might support a window and shed the water below. However the tops seemed too thin to support a window frame.



Another blacksmith made nail was found. Also a quosh orange drink bottle.