



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington

Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - November 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.

Old Shaft



As the documentation of the network of pipes had been completed, the pipe area was filled in. The stockpiled broken bricks were added to the hole first of all, then topped with the soil and other material from the dig. The ground next to the rectangular brick structure was lowered to showcase the brick structure.

The horizontal pipe that sticks out from the corner of the brick structure was supported with bricks that have been covered with soil.



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The October 2016 photograph (left) shows the original orientation and position of the pipe. The pipe has been replaced in a slightly different position and up side down so that visitors can appreciate the nature of the pipe which did not connect to anything. The interpretation will show the original situation.



As work on the pipe hole was completed the infill area spread across towards the section of coal stacking pavement that is being displayed.



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Without going inside the prohibited area (the brick rectangle around the old shaft) the heras fence was shortened by a panel, which was laid on top of the shaft.



The site now looks much more presentable and is ready for the Heritage Trust to add the wooden fence and interpretation.



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Miners Cottages



The site was tidied up ready for the black membrane to help protect it from frost. The blocks at the base of the windows were checked to confirm that they have the groove that prevents drips from entering the wall.