



## **Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington**

### **Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - December 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.

### **Califat Boiler House Coal Stacking Pavement and Old Shaft**



Hole filling and landscaping around the old shaft and coal stacking pavement was completed, although there is some work between the pavement and engine house to carry out.





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The landscaping work included replanting the shrubs removed when investigating the pavement.

### **“Barbecue” Circular Brick Structure**



The jerry built “barbecue” that has so mystified diggers for years was carefully dismantled.





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The two “diggers” removed the bricks layer by layer and closely examined the inside materials. The soil was used to fill in the adjacent hole.



During the dismantling identified triangular clay sections holding the bricks in place.





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The bricks forming the “barbecue” were carefully stacked against the engine house wall. The bricks from the centre of the structure were stacked against or on the boiler house.



Squirrels had been using the “barbecue” for storing hazelnuts, many of which ended up floating in the hole that was being filled in.



Finds included bark, thin glass and an animal bone.





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#### **Miners Cottages**



The Trust had already covered the exposed cottage with a black membrane to help protect it from frost.

#### **Ordnance Survey**



A surprise for the Trust land management volunteers was the appearance of a surveyor from the Ordnance Survey the morning after the dig. The current dig was picked up on an aerial photograph about a year ago. The surveyor was very enthusiastic about the Califat's heritage and took readings of all the shafts and cottage in addition to the engine and boiler house complex. The OS database will have been updated overnight but it will take weeks or months for the updates to filter through to map applications.