



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington

Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - January 2020

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.

Various other commitments meant that a smaller than usual number of diggers attended the first dig of 2020. Their enthusiasm undaunted they slaved away until the intensity of the rain suggested that an early lunch at the Bull's Head was the best solution.

Califat Boiler House Coal Stacking Pavement and Old Shaft



The fence around the complex will be about two feet from the boiler house wall. Diggers were busy smoothing out the bumps and dips highlighted by the line of the blue rope.



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Stoke Pits Slope



The stoke pits slope had not previously been graded and therefore comprised several multi-directional mini slopes. Retaining sleepers were fitted at the ends of the two filled in stoke pits. These enabled the slope to be dug and raked over to provide a more even gradient that will enable the Trust to maintain the grass.

Miners Cottages



The material at the far end of the black membrane was wheel-barrowed to the disposal point.



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William Worswick and the Coleorton Railway

A Coleorton Railway journal held by the Records Office for Leicestershire, Leicestershire and Rutland for the period 1st May 1851 to 30th April 1853 has been photographed. It comprises:

- 14 pages re Smoile Colliery (Benjamin Walker and William Worswick)
- 32 pages re Peggs Green Colliery (Bostock, Price & Co)
- 2 pages re Worswick - these have been transcribed and analysed and are shown below
- 1 page re R Orton

	Worswick				
Date	Description	Miles	No	Tons	Cwt
1/1/1853	From Swannington to Lane by horse Barrow lime	0.5	7	3	19
3/1/1853	Stone from Coleorton Pits to Swannington	1	30	6	9
3/1/1853	Stone from Coleorton Pits to Swannington	1	102	4	15
3/1/1853	Down the Incline Rails	0.25		8	17
6/1/1853	Stone from Coleorton Pits to Swannington	1	77	2	17
6/1/1853	Sand from Swannington to Lane	0.5	6075	5	18
6/1/1853	Sand from Swannington to Lane	0.5	17	5	0
12/1/1853	Sand from Swannington to Lane	0.5	63	6	2
12/1/1853	Sand from Swannington to Lane	0.5	6875	7	5
12/1/1853	Fire Bricks from Swannington to Lane	0.5	1155	4	13
12/1/1853	Fire Bricks from Swannington to Lane	0.5	497	3	16
12/1/1853	Sleepers from Swannington to Lane	0.5	99	2	5
13/1/1853	Barrow Lime from Swannington to Lane	0.5	7	4	3
14/1/1853	Slates from Swannington to Lane	0.5	714	6	1
15/1/1853	Cast Iron bars from Swannington to Lane	0.5	5980	4	6
15/1/1853	Sand from Swannington to Lane	0.5	6875	5	8
15/1/1853	Lime from Swannington to Lane	0.5	20	4	6
15/1/1853	Stone from Coleorton to Swannington	1	21	5	9
15/1/1853	Stone from Coleorton to Swannington	1	1177	6	7
18/1/1853	Barrow Lime from Swannington	0.5	14	4	0
18/1/1853	Barrow Lime from Swannington	0.5	16	4	0
26/1/1853	Engine to ? from Swannington	0.5	4454	2	10
26/1/1853	Engine to ? from Swannington	0.5	6470	3	5
	January Total			102	14



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	Worswick				
Date	Description	Miles	No	Tons	Cwt
2/2/1853	Barrow Lime	0.5	30	4	2
2/2/1853	Barrow Lime	0.5	10	3	17
3/2/1853	Castings	0.5	2282		
3/2/1853	Castings	0.5	5146	12	0
3/2/1853	Castings	0.5	1833		
5/2/1853	Castings	0.5	2484	4	0
10/2/1853	Fire Bricks	0.5	7764	4	18
10/2/1853	Fire Bricks	0.5	4246	4	9
10/2/1853	Fire Bricks	0.5	1149	4	11
10/2/1853	Sand from Glenfield	5	53	5	6
11/2/1853	Sand from Glenfield - Tare 2T 10C	5	6875	4	15
11/2/1853	Sand from Glenfield - M A Local - Tare 2T 13C	5	2470	4	12
14/2/1853	Castings	5	5529	3	10
14/2/1853	Castings	5	6010	3	7
15/2/1853	Sand from Glenfield	5	6875	5	8
				64	15
	Worswick				
Date	Description	Miles	No	Tons	Cwt
	Amount brought up			64	15
18/2/1853	Sand	0.5	17	3	17
18/2/1853	Sement	0.5	4612	2	14
22/2/1853	Sand	0.5	2470	4	8
22/2/1853	Sand	0.5	19	4	0
23/2/1853	Castings	0.5	5511	4	18
23/2/1853	Castings	0.5	3254	4	15
24/2/1853	Ropes	0.5	4674	1	2
	February Total			90	9



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	Worswick				
Date	Description	Miles	No	Tons	Cwt
4/3/1853	Barrow Lime	0.5	13	4	6
8/3/1853	Barrow Lime	0.5	4	4	1
8/3/1853	Casting Belows	0.5	59	1	0
9/3/1853	Sand	0.5	2470	4	7
9/3/1853	Fire Bricks	0.5	4144	3	8
9/3/1853	Fire Bricks	0.5	4141	4	11
10/3/1853	Timber	0.5	111	2	2
10/3/1853	Fire Bricks	0.5	37	3	4
12/3/1853	Lime	0.5	10	3	17
12/3/1853	Sand	0.5	6875	5	15
15/3/1853	Sand	0.5	1	4	17
15/3/1853	Sand	0.5	2470	5	19
17/3/1853	Lime	0.5	11	4	2
21/3/1853	Castings	0.5	3392	4	16
23/3/1853	Castings	0.5	1652	3	19
	March Total			55	14

	Worswick				
Date	Description	Miles	No	Tons	Cwt
13/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Ashes	1	3428	4	19
15/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Ashes	1	958	2	12
15/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Ashes	1	3808	4	19
26/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Stone	1	1	3	14
26/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Stone	1	23	3	9
26/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Stone	1	87	5	11
26/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Ashes	1	20	3	5
26/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Ashes	1	27	2	14
27/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Ashes	1	2	3	0
27/4/1853	Coleorton to Swannington Stone	1	87	4	9
	April Total			38	12



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Although it is a shame that the journal does not give more detail re loads, starting and end points, the journal nevertheless provides a very interesting account. During the first four months of 1853 journeys on behalf of William Worswick comprised:

- 11 loads of barrow lime = 44 tons 13 cwt
- 9 loads of stone = 43 tons
- 16 loads of sand = 82 tons 17 cwt
- 8 loads of fire bricks = 33 tons 10 cwt
- 9 loads of castings = 45 tons 11 cwt
- 6 loads of ashes = 21 tons 9 cwt
- 1 load of rails = 8 tons 17 cwt
- 1 load of sleepers = 2 tons 5 cwt
- 1 load of slates = 2 tons 1 cwt
- 2 loads of engines = 5 tons 15 cwt
- 1 load of sement = 2 tons 14 cwt
- 1 load of ropes = 1 ton 2 cwt
- 1 load of casting belows = 1 ton
- 1 load of timber = 2 tons 2 cwt

The big question is why did William Worswick have all of this material moved on the Coleorton Railway?

Peter Neaverson's report of the 1993-1999 excavation of the engine house near the Alabama shaft stated "William Worswick had offered to take a lease of the remaining 747 acres of Main Coal.....A 35-year lease was agreed and dated 31st December 1852, at a rate of £111 per acre of coal worked, and the lessee had to pay for the equivalent of 12 acres per annum, even if no coal was worked."

Was the material moved on the Coleorton Railway between the 1st January and 27th April 1853 used for the establishment of the Califat Colliery?