



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington

Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - July 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.

Califat Engine House



The area between the old shaft and boiler house was weeded.



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - July 2020



The stoke pit area was also weeded and the grass mown. Some of the bumps were scraped and used to fill in the dips with the aim of producing consistent slopes and level surfaces suitable for mowing.



The slope to the engine house was weeded and mown. Some landscape engineering moved the mound of soil (apart from the bit with the swarm of bees) using it to smooth out the dips in the slope.



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - July 2020



The area at the top of the winding drum void was mown. The self seeded grass is still patchy, but it is making progress.

Overall the work during 2019 and 2020 has made significant progress in landscaping the area to the north of the boiler and engine houses, so as to provide surfaces that can be primarily maintained by mowing.

Break



The Leicester coronavirus lockdown and related factors meant that only five diggers attended. This made it easy to keep socially distanced. It was a pleasure to receive a visitation from the Ramseys and we hope they will come again soon.



Califat Coal Mine, St George's Hill, Swannington Photographic Report Of LIHS Excavation - July 2020

Miners Cottages



After removing the fence it was possible to mow the grass.



Weeding was the main activity, as weeds grow so fast at this time of year. It emphasises the need to clear a wide area all around the cottage so that it can be maintained with a mower.

Overall July was a month where all the progress related to landscaping the site and making it easy to maintain in a neat condition.