



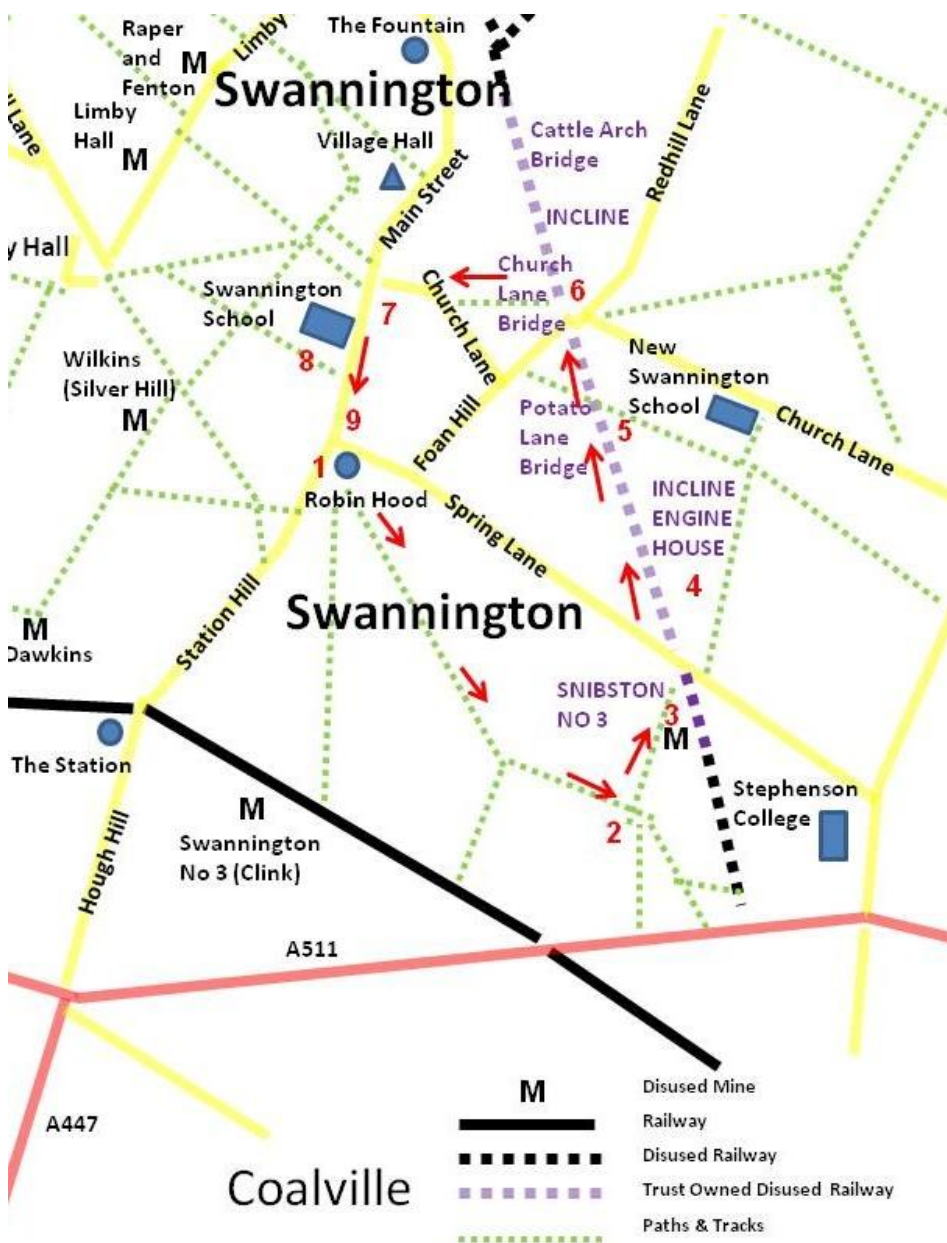
## Series – Just an Hour Walk – Goliath’s End

Starting at the Robin Hood Public House trek along an ancient green lane to the site of the former Snibston No 3 colliery and the 1832 Leicester and Swannington railway. Continue to the top of the Incline where locomotives such as Goliath and Atlas could go no further, as they waited for the winding engine to haul coal trucks (from the pits of Swannington, Peggs Green and Coleorton) up the 1 in 17 slope to join their railway journey to Leicester. Head down the Swannington Incline and then onwards into the village passing the Quaker Smithy, Old Wesleyan Chapel and one of Leicestershire’s oldest primary schools.

Walking on paths, only crossing one stile.

Distance = 1.6 miles / 2.5 kilometres, duration = 1 hour.

The sketch map below is not intended to be a substitute for an Ordnance Survey map.



1. Start the walk at the “Robin Hood” at the confluence of Station Hill, Main Street and Spring Lane. Follow the road to the right (not extreme right) of the Robin Hood and some houses. The road quickly becomes a public byway track that proceeds up hill.
2. Follow the track with young trees on the right. Continue until reaching a yellow footpath post next to a disused stile. Turn left up a short steep bank along a narrow track.
3. Continue until a fence and proceed through the small gap between two posts. Explore the grounds of the former Snibston No. 3 Colliery, including 2 pit wheels. There is

a section of rail track on the route of the 1832 Leicester to Swannington Railway.

4. Proceed over the stile, cross Spring Lane and through the gate onto the top of the Incline. Follow the rail track. This was literally the end of the line for locomotives such as Goliath, Atlas, Samson and Hercules as they collected their trucks and headed for the markets of Leicester.

Explore the layout of the former engine house. Search for the layout of the engine house cottages and the privy which was helpfully located on the other side of the track!

The engine could haul 3 full coal trucks up the 1 in 17 Swannington Inclined Plane from 1833 to the early 1870's. The trucks were attached to the locomotives of the Leicester to Swannington Railway. After the Coleorton, Peggs Green and Swannington collieries closed the engine would lower full coal trucks to the pumping station at the former Calcutta colliery.

5. Head down the Incline to Potato Lane Bridge an ancient cart track for taking midden waste to the fields. In 1996 stone gabions were installed on the sides and a wooden platform footbridge was assembled over the Incline.
6. Continue down the Incline to Church Lane Bridge. This was also rebuilt in the 1990's as part of the recovery of the Incline which at one time had been filled with shale waste. Immediately after the bridge head up the embankment to the left to the footpath that leads to the village across the field.
7. Exit the field and turn right along Church Lane towards the village. On reaching Main Street turn left. The building on the corner of Church Lane and Main Street is the former Quaker Smithy.

Swannington was a hotbed of nonconformity with visits from George Fox. The village church (on the northern fringe of the village) was not built until 1825.

A couple of houses to the South is the Old Tap House, whose inhabitants looked after the village tap (the semi circular trough on Main Street) until mains water reached the village in 1938.

8. On the other side of the road is the 1909 Old Wesleyan Chapel, now a house. Further along is the village school that opened in 1832.
9. Pass Centre Farm one of the four old village farms. On returning to the Robin Hood, look around and see the Primitive Methodist Chapel, the former butchers (now a joiner's shop), abattoir and animal pound.

Swannington Heritage Trust maintains:-

- Snibston No. 3 colliery 1850-95, adjacent the 1832 Leicester to Swannington Railway;
- Swannington Inclined Plane with a 1:17 slope connecting horse tramways to the railway
- Califat Spinney nature reserve, a mine 1855-1873
- Gorse Field, a fragile heath grassland, adit and bell pit mining from 1204.
- Hough Mill built shortly after the land purchased in 1804.



Details of more walks, guided walks and mill visits are on [www.swannington-heritage.co.uk](http://www.swannington-heritage.co.uk). Any constructive comment on the walks would be welcomed, email [walks@swannington-heritage.co.uk](mailto:walks@swannington-heritage.co.uk).