welcome to Swannington heritage trust

Gorse field

this is a really special site for its

mining history we had bell pits

um here that went down to about nine

meters dug from the early 13th century

probably before so family would dig

their hole every year

dig out the coal and it formed a bell

shape and you'll notice the topography

is very undulating

and we're standing in the bottom of a

bell pit and it's the bell pits that caused this undulation

the families from Swannington would each

claim they're part of Swannington common

to do the mining

and they would one family would dig down

a hole dad would stay at the top and

he'd send his wife and kids down the

hole

to do the mining because he had the

strength to haul them all back up again

so if he went down he'd end up staying

down there

around the 1500s the mining had evolved

they had

got the horse gin and this is our

replica horse gin mine

where you'd have their horse attached to

the gin

they'd walk it round and round in a

track again and again and that would

link up over to the

headstocks which would allow a lot more

leverage to pull

weight of the coal and the men and what

the families

up and down the shaft these would have

gone down to about 45-50 meters

so they could access a lot more coal and

they were a lot more effective

these are the footprints of the

buildings associated with the

Victorian caliphate coal mine this is a

steam-powered mine

that could allow the miners to get to a

much greater depth so the buildings have

been excavated with Leicestershire

industrial heritage society in

partnership with Swannington heritage

trust

and we're in the process of

consolidating it and making it look a

lot smarter for our visitors