



Heritage Statement in Advance of the
Proposed Development for a footbridge at
Oare Gunpowder Works, Faversham,
Kent.

April 2019

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National Grid Reference TR 00415 62548



Report for Swale Borough Council

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SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Heritage Statement in Advance of the Proposed Development for a footbridge at Oare Gunpowder Works, Faversham, Kent.

Summary

SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by Swale Borough Council to prepare a Heritage statement relating to the proposed development area (PDA) of a new wooden footbridge to cross a leat located within Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park on the outskirts of Faversham, Kent.

There is a requirement under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for the client to explain the significance of any particular designated heritage assets that have been identified in the vicinity of the study site and demonstrate any potential impacts that a proposal will have upon their significance.

This report has demonstrated that the Oare Gunpowder Works is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and therefore there is a requirement to understand the heritage significance and the likely impact of the proposed works on that significance.

Whilst it is clearly understood that the gunpowder works themselves have local and national significance. This report demonstrates that specifically within this scheduled area, the significance of the tramway and bridge reside in their historical and local interest and the bridge is only of minor significance to the overall gunpowder works, given that the tramway was only in place for a few years in the later part of its life. Very little survives of the tramway, whilst elements of the bridge do survive, they are not of architectural merit. Although they do attest that a bridge was previously located there. It is possible that the location of the new bridge wooden piles will not necessitate removal of the old bridge brick piers, although one of the original concrete floor slabs will be need to be removed.

The new footbridge will allow for step free access to the wet meadow and will reinforce the historical element that a crossing over the leat was previously at that location especially if reinforced by an information board. The new footbridge will also be in keeping with the other footbridges currently located in the Country Park. The proposed development will cause less than substantial harm upon the significance of the scheduled site and will reinforce the setting of the earthen bank and route from the 1926 incorporating mills.

The proposed development for a new footbridge allowing step free access to the wet meadow and a safe way to cross the leat will offer public benefits and will outweigh any 'less than substantial' impact to the tramway bridge and the conservation area outweigh any potential harm done.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) was commissioned by Swale Borough Council (the 'Client'), to carry out a Heritage Statement relating to the proposed development area (PDA) of a new footbridge to cross the leat at Oare Gunpowder Works, Oare, Faversham, Kent centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TR 00415 62548 (Fig 4).
- 1.1.2 This document will be used in support of planning applications associated with the proposed development.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 Oare Gunpowder Works is situated at the south western end of Oare Creek on the north western edge of Faversham, which is circa 1.2km away. The Country Park of Oare Gunpowder Works are a Scheduled Monument. The schedule covering most of the works includes the best surviving part of the disused factory and runs from south west to north east for around 810m along a heavily wooded valley. The works survive here in the form of standing buildings and structures, ruins, earthworks and buried remains. Part of an associated water management system, a test range and a tramway are also included. The PDA itself is an area across a leat within the gunpowder works, where currently the leat is crossed by an unofficial means of logs put within the leat. Historically this area was part of a tramway network within the gunpowder works and this report is to explore the impact on the significance specifically in this area of the gunpowder works by the proposed development (Fig. 2).

1.3 Project Constraints

- 1.3.1 No constraints were associated with this project.

1.4 Scope of Document

- 1.4.1 This assessment was requested by the Client in order to determine, as far as is possible, the nature, extent and significance of the proposed development affecting the potential for archaeological remains in the area and the likely impact

the proposal will have upon such remains. The assessment forms part of the NPPF requirement and is intended to inform and assist with decisions regarding heritage assets and is to be used in the support of planning applications associated with the proposed development.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 National legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and proposed development on or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations is defined under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system.
- 2.1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), was updated in July 2018 and is the principal document which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework in which Local Planning Authorities can produce their own distinctive Local Plans to reflect the needs own their communities.

2.2 Heritage Assets

- 2.2.1 Designated heritage assets are defined in NPPF Annex 2 as:

'World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Park and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Conservation Areas designated under the relevant legislation.'

- 2.2.2 Designation is a formal acknowledgement of a building, monument or site's significance, intended to make sure that the character of the asset in question is protected through the planning system and to enable it to be passed on to future generations.
- 2.2.3 Statutory protection is provided to certain classes of designated heritage assets under the following legislation:

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and
- Protection of Wrecks Act 1973

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.3.1 The Historic Environment, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018): Annex 2, comprises:

‘all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.’

- 2.3.2 NPPF Annex 2 defines a Heritage Asset as:

‘a building monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)’.

- 2.3.3 NPPF Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment sets out the principal national guidance on the importance, management and safeguarding of heritage assets within the planning process. The aim of NPPF Section 16 is to ensure that Local Planning Authorities, developers and owners of heritage assets adopt a consistent approach to their conservation and to reduce complexity in planning policy relating to proposals that affect them.

- 2.3.4 Paragraph 185 of the NPPF states that:

‘Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. The planning authorities should take into account:

- a) The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*

- b) *The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;*
- c) *The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*
- d) *Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.'*

2.3.5 Paragraph 189 of the NPPF states that:

'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.'

2.3.6 Paragraph 190 of the NPPF states that:

'Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account to the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.'

2.3.7 The NPPF, Section 16, therefore provides the guidance to which local authorities need to refer when setting out a strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment in their Local Plans. It is noted within this, that heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.

2.3.8 The NPPF further provides definitions of terms which relate to the historic environment in order to clarify the policy guidance given. For the purposes of this report, the following are important to note:

- **Significance.** The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.
- **Setting.** The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

2.3.9 The NPPF advises local authorities to take into account the following points in paragraph 192 when drawing up strategies for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment;

- a) The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and preserving them in a viable use consistent with their conservation;
- b) The positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that the conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- c) The desirability of new development in making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

2.3.10 Paragraphs 193 and 198 consider the impact of a proposed development upon the significance of a heritage asset.

2.3.11 Paragraph 193 emphasises that when a new development is proposed, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and that the more important the asset, the greater this weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any

potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

2.3.12 Paragraph 194 notes that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) Grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;
- b) Assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

2.3.13 Paragraph 195 states that where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- b) No viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- c) Conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- d) The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

2.3.14 Conversely, paragraph 196 notes that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

- 2.3.15 The NPPF comments in paragraph 201, that not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 195 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 196, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.
- 2.3.16 Paragraph 198 states that LPAs should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.
- 2.3.17 Paragraph 200 encourages LPAs to look for new development opportunities within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.
- 2.3.18 Any LPA based on paragraph 202, should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.

2.4 Planning Policy Guidance

Planning Policy Guidance that help to preserve the built and archaeological heritage are:

Conservation Principles, Policy and Guidance (Historic England, 2008)

- 2.4.1 Historic England sets out in this document a logical approach to making decisions and offering guidance about all aspects of England's historic environment. The Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance are primarily intended to help us to ensure consistency of approach in carrying out our role as the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment in England. Specifically, they make a contribution to addressing the challenges of modernising heritage protection by

proposing an integrated approach to making decisions, based on a common process.

2.4.2 The document explains its relationship to other policy documents in existence at that time, including Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005), which includes the explicit objective of 'protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment' In this document, Heritage England provide detailed guidance on sustaining the historic environment within the framework of established government policy. In particular, the document distils from Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 15 Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and PPG16 Archaeology and Planning (1990) those general principles which are applicable to the historic environment as a whole.

2.4.3 The policy document provides details about a range of Heritage Values, which enable the significance of assets to be established systematically, with the four main 'heritage values' being:

- Evidential value. This derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. Physical remains of past human activity are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them especially in the absence of written records, the material record, particularly archaeological deposits, provides the only source of evidence about the distant past.
- Historical Value. This derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative. Illustration depends on visibility in a way that evidential value (for example, of buried remains) does not. Places with illustrative value will normally also have evidential value, but it may be of a different order of importance. Association with a notable family, person, event, or movement gives historical value a particular resonance.
- Aesthetic value. This derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. Aesthetic values can be the

result of the conscious design of a place, including artistic endeavour. Equally, they can be the seemingly fortuitous outcome of the way in which a place has evolved and been used over time.

- Communal value. This derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values are closely bound up with historical (particularly associative) and aesthetic values but tend to have additional and specific aspects. These can be commemorative and symbolic values reflect the meanings of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it or have emotional links to it. Social value is associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence. Spiritual value attached to places can emanate from the beliefs and teachings of an organised religion, or reflect past or present-day perceptions of the spirit of place.

Historic Environment Good Practice in Planning Notes

2.4.4 In March 2015, Heritage England produced three Good Practice Advice in Planning (GPA) notes. The notes provided information on good practice to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide (PPG). GPA1 covered 'The Historic Environment in Local Plans'. GPA2 provided advice on 'Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment' and GPA3 covered 'The Setting of Heritage Assets'. As at March 2017, GPA4 entitled 'Enabling Development and Heritage Assets' was still in draft.

GPA2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment.

2.4.5 The guidance focuses on understanding the significance of any affected heritage asset and, if relevant, the contribution of its setting to its significance. The significance of a heritage asset is the sum of its archaeological, architectural, historic, and artistic interest. The document sets out a number of stages to follow:

- Understand the significance of the affected assets

- Understand the impact of the proposal on that significance
- Avoid, minimise and mitigate impact in a way that meets the objectives of the NPPF
- Look for opportunities to better reveal or enhance significance
- Justify any harmful impacts in terms of the sustainable development objective of conserving significance and the need for change
- Offset negative impacts on aspects of significance by enhancing others through recording, disseminating and archiving archaeological and historical interest of the important elements of the heritage assets affected.

2.4.6 Since heritage assets may be affected by direct physical change or by change in their setting. It is important to be able properly assess the nature, extent and importance of the significance of a heritage asset and the contribution of its setting early in the process to assist with any planning decision-making in line with legal requirements.

GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets.

2.4.7 This document emphasises that the information required in support of applications for planning permission and listed building consents should be no more than is necessary to reach an informed decision, and that activities to conserve or invest need to be proportionate to the significance of the heritage assets affected and the impact on the significance of those heritage assets.

2.4.8 The NPPF makes it clear that the setting of a heritage asset is the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

2.4.9 The contribution of setting to the significance of a heritage asset is often expressed by reference to views, a purely visual impression of an asset or place which can be static or dynamic, including a variety of views of, across, or including

that asset, and views of the surroundings from or through the asset, and may intersect with, and incorporate the settings of numerous heritage assets.

2.4.10 It covers areas such as cumulative change, where the significance of a heritage asset has been compromised in the past by unsympathetic development affecting its setting, to accord with NPPF policies, consideration still needs to be given to whether additional change will further detract from, or can enhance, the significance of the asset. Change over time and understanding any history of change will help to determine how further development within the asset's setting is likely to affect the contribution made by setting to the significance of the heritage asset.

2.4.11 The implications of development affecting the setting of heritage assets to be considered on a case-by-case basis and since conservation decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of a heritage asset's significance, Historic England recommends the following broad approach to assessment, undertaken as a series of steps:

- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected.
- Step 2: Assess whether, how and to what degree these settings contribute to the significance of the heritage asset(s).
- Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance.
- Step 4: Explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm.
- Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

2.4.12 The guidance reiterates the NPPF in stating that where developments affecting the setting results in 'substantial' harm to significance, this harm can only be justified if the developments delivers substantial public benefit and that there is no other alternative (i.e. redesign or relocation).

Historic England has also published three core Advice Notes, which provide detailed and practical advice on how national policy and guidance is implemented.

These documents include; 'Historic England Advice Note 1: Understanding Place: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' (25th February 2016), 'Historic England Advice Note 2: Making Changes to Heritage Assets' (25th February 2016) and 'Historic England Advice Note 3: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans' (30th October 2015).

2.5 Local Policies

- 2.5.1 The Local Planning Authority for the study is Swale Borough Council. The Swale Borough Local Plan 'Bearing Fruits 2031' was formally adopted July 2017. The Local Plan sets out the Council's spatial vision, strategic objectives, development strategy and a series of core policy themes. It also contains allocations of land for development; a framework of development management policies to guide determination of planning applications and a framework for implementation and monitoring of the Local Plan.
- 2.5.2 The Local Plan sets out a number of development policies. The relevant ones are detailed below:
- 2.5.3 DM 32 Development Involving Listed Buildings – Development proposals, including any change of use, affecting a listed building, and/or its setting, will be permitted provided that: 1. The building's special architectural or historic interest, and its setting and any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses, are preserved, paying special attention to the: a. design, including scale, materials, situation and detailing; b. appropriateness of the proposed use of the building; and c. desirability of removing unsightly or negative features or restoring or reinstating historic features.
- 2.5.4 DM 34 Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites. Development will not be permitted which would adversely affect a Scheduled Monument, and/or its setting, or subsequently designated, or any other monument or archaeological site demonstrated as being of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This Built Heritage Statement was commissioned by Crabtree and Crabtree (Smarden) Ltd to support a planning application. This assessment has been

prepared in accordance with guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (see below).

3.2 Heritage Asset Assessment – Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2017)

3.2.1 This heritage asset study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014, revised 2017). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

‘Desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. Desk-based assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of ClfA. In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so) and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact.’

(2017:4)

3.2.2 The purpose of the Heritage Asset report is, therefore, an assessment that provides a contextual archaeological record, in order to provide:

- *an assessment of the potential for heritage assets to survive within the area of study*
- *an assessment of the significance of the known or predicted heritage assets considering, in England, their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests*
- *strategies for further evaluation whether or not intrusive, where the nature, extent or significance of the resource is not sufficiently well defined*
- *an assessment of the impact of proposed development or other land use changes on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings*

- *strategies to conserve the significance of heritage assets, and their settings*
- *design strategies to ensure new development makes a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment and local place-shaping*
- *proposals for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research, whether undertaken in response to a threat or not.*

CIFA (2017:4)

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The methodology employed during this assessment has been based upon relevant professional guidance including the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIFA, 2017).

4.2 Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.2.1 There are a number of criteria to address and they include the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the Heritage Assets.

Heritage Assets

- 4.2.2 Any Heritage Asset which includes a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Wreck, Registered Park or Garden, Conservation Area or Landscape can be identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage Assets are the valued components of the historic environment and will include designated Heritage Assets as well as assets identified by the Local Planning Authority during the process of decision making or through the plan making process.

Setting

- 4.2.3 The surroundings in which a Heritage Asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting

may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset or may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

Significance

4.2.4 The value of a Heritage Asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance may be informed by a number of factors which may include; assessment of the significance of the site, setting and building, where relevant, under a number of headings:

- Historic significance – the age and history of the asset, its development over time, the strength of its tie to a particular architectural period, the layout of a site, the plan form of a building, internal features of special character including chimneystacks and fireplaces,
- Cultural significance – the role a site plays in an historic setting, village, town or landscape context, the use of a building perhaps tied to a local industry or agriculture, social connections of an original architect or owner,
- Aesthetic/architectural significance – the visual qualities and characteristics of the asset (settlement site or building), long views, legibility of building form, character of elevations, roofscape, materials and fabric special features of interest,
- Archaeological significance – evolution of the asset, phases of development over different periods, important features, evidence in building fabric, potential for below ground remains.

4.3 Sources

4.3.1 A number of publicly accessible sources were consulted prior to the preparation of this document.

Archaeological databases

4.3.2 Although it is recognised that national databases are an appropriate resource for this particular type of assessment, the local Historic Environmental Record held at Kent County Council (KCCHER) contains sufficient data to provide an accurate

insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area and the surrounding landscape.

- 4.3.3 The National Heritage List for England (NHLE), which is the only official and up to date database of all nationally designated heritage assets and is the preferred archive for a comprehensive HER search.

Cartographic and Pictorial Documents

- 4.3.4 A full map regression exercise has been incorporated within this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by the Kent County Council, the internet, Ordnance Survey and the Kent Archaeological Society. A full listing of bibliographic and cartographic documents used in this study is provided in Section 9.

Aerial photographs

- 4.3.5 The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken (Plates 1-2).

Secondary and Statutory Resources

- 4.3.6 Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological studies, archaeological reports associated with development control, landscape studies, dissertations and research frameworks are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment.

Walkover Survey

- 4.3.7 The Site is visited for a walkover survey. This is for the purpose of:
- Identifying any historic landscape features not shown on maps.
 - Conducting a rapid survey for archaeological features.
 - Making a note of any surface scatters of archaeological material.
 - Identifying constraints or areas of disturbance that may affect archaeological investigation.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The history and development of the gunpowder mills at Oare are discussed in detail in the 1994 RCHME/ Faversham Society booklet, which provided the details added to the Scheduled listing seen section 10. It is not proposed to repeat the detail here. The site of the proposed footbridge is highlighted in the RCHME's 1991 survey drawing (Fig. 13) as the site of an area known as No. 27 – Tramway Causeway and Bridge. Therefore, focus will be given specifically in understanding the tramway and bridge aspect of the site. Other numbers provided in the following paragraphs also refer to the key in Fig. 13.
- 5.1.2 Documentary evidence suggests that gunpowder manufacturing has been in operation on the site since the 18th century under private ownership. Much of what is known regarding the buildings is from 19th century maps. Operation continued under several different ownerships and at times grouped with other manufacturing operations in the nearby area known as Marsh and Home Works. There were changes to the site throughout its operation. A major change occurred in 1926, under the ownership of Nobel Industries Ltd, which was absorbed in to ICI in that year, investment and refurbishment was made to the Oare site. By 1934 the Oare site closed following the transfer of works to Scotland.
- 5.1.3 It is known that at the end of its working life that the mill was served by a tramway system to transport the powder. This was powered by hand or by horses. Very little is known about the tramway, when it was originally laid down and exactly what routes it took across the site. Photographs of the site catch brief glimpses of the tramway at various buildings and along with surviving earthworks seen during the RCHME survey, aspects of the tramway can be understood.
- 5.1.4 The site of the northern eastern end of the leat originally had two bridges, with the site of No. 27, being the far northern bridge. The southern bridge (No. 23) was a footbridge. Both were brick built. The leat in this section of the gunpowder works was known to be approximately 5m in width and by the location of No. 27 had joined to form a single channel which then passed under a bridge into the lower pond through an earthen causeway located at No. 29. This section was interpreted as not a dam but to provide easy road across the valley.

- 5.1.5 The nature of the construction of the tramway has left little by way of evidence on earthen tracks. According to the RCHME/Faversham Papers report, one section survived by the Cartridge Packing Shed (No. 3), at the far southern end of the site. The RCHME reports suggests that the tramway may have also been utilising tracks by the Glazing House (No. 19). Photographs (Plate 11) show the tramway raised to first floor level in front of the 1926 incorporating Mills (No. 28) on a raised wooden platform. The route of the tramway from the incorporating mill towards the site of the bridge across the leat (No. 27) can be seen as a curved causeway which part of it cut away by a current footpath.
- 5.1.6 Another possible route for the tramway is north east from the Press House (No. 24), that runs in a straight line on the eastern side of the site up to what was the Stables (No. 35) given the tramway was powered by ponies (Plate 12). This building was in existence by 1897. It is not clear whether this eastern route would have been the main route for a tramway into the southern area of the works or whether, any tramway would have passed west from the stables across the main large causeway across the valley at the lower pond and down along the western side of the valley. However, we know that the horses pulled carts north of the works on a tramway at Oare Creek and surviving earthworks suggests this this continues out of the works on the eastern side.
- 5.1.7 The fact that there is no suggestion from the historic maps of a bridge crossing the valley at Site No. 27, it is possible that this crossing did not exist until the building of the incorporating mills (No. 28) in 1926 and that if the main tramway route was via the eastern side of the site, then this allowed access across the valley. Perhaps as the RCHME report suggests that north of these incorporating mills the tramway did cross the main causeway. If so, it is possible that the north eastern part of the works had a circular element to the tramway with the southern part following the line from the Press House (No. 24) following the track down all the way pass the group of buildings (No. 16, 15, 13), continuing southwards toward the southern most building (No. 3).
- 5.1.8 However, the relationship of the tramway across the bridge at No. 27 to the eastern side of the valley is obscured due to the Victorian dump. The Victorian dump has not been marked on any maps. The dump can clearly be seen on the 2014 LIDAR map and based on that, it measures some 50x45m rather than the

30x30m suggested in the RCHME report. The dump contains fragments of pottery and glass, along with smaller pits within the dump itself and obscures the relationship of the causeway (No. 27) on the eastern side of the valley. However, whilst the contents of the dump are Victorian, it does not make sense that it was there in 1926 when the tramway was built as where would the track go once it had crossed this side of the bridge, so the dump contents may have been dumped from elsewhere, possibly after the works had closed?

- 5.1.9 The RCHME survey in 1991 reports that the causeway was 6m wide and 1.2m high at the valley bottom and that it crossed the leat on a concrete bridge that had been supported on brick piers which had now fallen. Evidence at the time was seen of tracks on the surface of the concrete bridge floor.

5.2 Historical Map Progression

Andrews, Dury and Herbert map of 1769

- 5.2.1 Andrews, Dury and Herbert published their atlas some thirty years before the Ordnance Survey, immediately becoming the best large-scale maps of the county. Whilst the works were thought to be in existence at this time, there is no indications of the works other than 'A Mill' is shown in the location next to was watercourse that flows into Oare Creek. The centre of Oare is north west of the creek (Fig. 5).

Ordnance Surveyors Drawings 1797

- 5.2.2 This map shows the individual buildings and field boundaries and clearly states that there are Powder Works. Unlike the previous map the watercourse now looks intensely managed. There are large pools of water at the south western end of the site. North east of the PDA is a large pond and the PDA is on a long leat that feeds this pond in its eastern corner. The map shows buildings scattered across the south western part of the site. In addition to the main leat that traverses across the site there is another much shorted straight leat south of the main leat that feeds another leat eastern of the pond. A track passes along the eastern side of the site and there are also a number of other managed waterways across the site (Fig. 6).

Tithe Map from 1844

5.2.3 This shows a number of changes to the watercourses. The straight leat south of the main leat is no longer in place. The area is referred to as a meadow in the tithes. The main powder works in area designated 40, with 41 as a pond and 42 as house and garden. Although north east, closer to Oare Creek is area designated 14, which is also part of Oare Powder mill and yard. (Fig. 7)

London, Chatham and North Kent Railway Plan Oare Gunpowder Works, 1846

5.2.4 Whilst undertaken only a couple of years after the tithe map, this map clearly labels the various buildings seen at the gunpowder works for the first time. The Corning House is seen for the first time and included two dog-legs off the main leat. There is a track along the eastern side of the site until it reaches the Press House where it traverses across to the western side of the site to continue southwards. In addition, there is now a causeway at the southern end of the northern most pond with a footpath that crosses to the west side and peters out. The area of the PDA appears, marshy/meadow land. There is no suggestion of any crossing at the PDA site at this point in time (Fig. 8).

Historic OS map 1865

5.2.5 There is little change at the PDA itself. However, around the PDA there have been other changes at the gunpowder works. The area north of the PDA that was previously where the footpath petered out is showing as a pit. The track also now continues along the western side of the northern part of the leat towards the Corning House, and continues southwards to join up in the area of the main, much wider track that traverses the eastern side just south west of the Press House. The area north of the PDA is wooded, whilst that map south of the PDA does not show any defining features (Fig. 9).

Historic OS map 1896

5.2.6 There is little change. Outside of the gunpowder works there are now brickworks of the works that have a tramway from the brickworks towards Oare Creek. This tramway was probably substantial as at the gunpowder site there is still no mention of a tramway. At the PDA there is still a rectangular area of cleared ground of purpose unknown but now has a new large rectangular building located in the eastern corner of that rectangular area and is thought to be a stable block and perhaps a paddock for the horses. Interesting the OS map for this period does

show tramways at the other nearly gunpowder sites at the Uplees and Marsh works (Fig.10).

Historic OS Map 1906

5.2.7 No changes are noted (Fig. 11).

Historic OS Map 1938

5.2.8 No changes are noted. However, this is after the 1926 refurbishment and improvement and does not show the new incorporating mills that are to the north of the PDA. There is also no suggestion on the map of a tramway or a causeway crossing although the site had closed in 1934 (Fig. 12).

LIDAR 1m DTM

5.2.9 This clearly shows the curve of the earthen bank that the tramway would have taken from the new incorporating mills that was to the north of the PDA. This bank leads towards the leat and the area of the crossing. Immediately on the south eastern side of the leat is a large Victorian Dump of some 50x40m which has obscured the route of the tramway at this point (Fig. 14).

5.3 Aerial Photographs

5.3.1 Due to the significant amount of tree cover at the Gunpowder Works, there is little by way of information to be gained from the Aerial photography. Consequently, only the earliest and latest are provided.

1940s

5.3.2 This is after the site had closed. Some of the trackways and buildings can be seen but the tree cover obscures the area of the PDA and leat. The resolution is not great enough to identify if there are any tramways. (Plate 1).

2017

5.3.3 The visitors centre and car park can be seen. The rest of the site is tree covered. The boardwalk across the wetland area can be seen heading towards the bridge crossing area (Plate 2).

Arthur Percival's Photographic Collection

- 5.3.4 The RCHME/Faversham Papers report (pg. 15) refers to a photo in the Arthur Percival Photographic collection held by the Faversham Society. Despite the reference number quoted in the report, enquiries to the Faversham Society have unfortunately been unable to locate the relevant historic photograph of the tramway crossing.

5.4 Site Assessment

- 5.4.1 A walkover survey was undertaken on the 10th April 2019. The PDA is located west of the new incorporating mills (Plate 10), which have a re-constructed wooden walkway at the historic first floor level (Plate 11). The route of the path can be traced from this point towards the bridge crossing (Plate 6), which has a vegetation covered earthen bank to raise the ground level leading to the approach of the leat. Any bridge would have needed to be high enough to allow for the movement of punts along the leat (cover page).
- 5.4.2 At the leat crossing point itself on the northern bank are broken and tumbled blocks of bricks (Plate 3), which are the remains of the brick piers and to one side are a couple of concrete bases laying partly in the leat. On the southern side are the remains of one of the concrete bases where one end of the concrete base appears to be in situ, with the other end sloping sharply into the water (Plate 4). Underneath the concrete base are the remains of the decaying iron structure that would have originally been the beams to support the concrete floor of the bridge (Plate 5). The length of the surviving concrete floors suggested that more than one would have been needed for the bridge.
- 5.4.3 The Faversham Papers report, in 1991 mentions that the tramway tracks are visible on the surface of the concrete. There was no evidence of that at the site visit, but within the surface of the concrete spaced circa 45cm apart are metal studs which may have held the track on the bridge (Plate 7). It is not known what will happen to these concrete floors remains once the new bridge is constructed but they will need to be removed from their current position to make way for the new bridge.

- 5.4.4 The 1991 report mentions that tramway tracks survived in the area of the Cartridge Packing Shed. However, this was not able to be confirmed as this area is not part of the public country park and is on private land. However, one small piece of what looks like possible tramway was seen on the eastern trackway just to the south east of the bridge crossing (Plate 8-9). Confirming that it at least ran along the eastern side of the works.

5.5 Assessment of Heritage Assets

- 5.5.1 It has been identified that the PDA is located Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park, a designated heritage asset, which is a scheduled Ancient Monument. As such the following assessment seeks to identify the significance of this heritage asset and to what extent the PDA contributes to its significance.

Tramway Causeway and Bridge

Architectural Interest:

- 5.5.2 The map regression exercise does not appear to show that there is any bridge at the PDA. From documentary and photographic evidence, it suggests that the tramway itself was put into place circa 1926. With a tramway and surviving earthworks showing the path of the tramway following the construction of the 1926 incorporating mills, suggests this was when a concrete bridge was added to cross the leat at this point of the PDA. Unfortunately, I have not been able to track down photographs of when the bridge was in active use. Surviving material shows that the bridge was a utilitarian construction of brick piers and concrete floor supported by metal beam. It is possible that the base of the brick piers remain in situ on the banks of both sides and that it is the higher level of the brick piers that have tumbled. One of the concrete floors appears to remain partly in situ with possible evidence of the fixing for the tramway tracks embedded in the concrete.
- 5.5.3 The use of the concrete and brick piers does not retain much by way of architectural merit.

Historical Interest:

- 5.5.4 The tramway if it was constructed in 1926 as part of the investment and improvements in the site, was only in use for a short period until the site close in

1934. There is extremely little evidence left on site of the tramway. Aside from a possible surviving piece close to the Cartridge Store (unconfirmed), only one other small piece has been identified. It is not even clear as to the which parts of the site had tramway tracks also there is some evidence in the historical photographs.

- 5.5.5 Map regression confirms that horse drawn tramway tracks were extremely common in the Victorian period and, tramways were seen elsewhere in nearby gunpowder works. The tramways at Oare were not in use long enough to be recorded cartographically. Whilst the tramways and the bridge are part of the story at the Oare Gunpowder Works, they are not a major part of the story.

Setting:

- 5.5.6 The PDA and the new bridge will be located in a place where a crossing was added circa 1926 and will make sense in the setting of the existing earthwork curved bank that leads towards the leat. The remains of the old bridge currently attest to the site being a crossing place but the dilapidated state means that the bridge is not able to be resurrected. As when the works were active, the bridge will join up the tracks on either side of the leat.

Summary of Significance:

- 5.5.7 Given the above it is concluded that the extent of the heritage asset's original setting will be improved by the addition of a new crossing at this point. The asset remains of the existing bridge retains in part its original structure but it is not possible for it to be resurrected. The tramway crossing was only in use for a few years and it is not considered to have any particular architectural merit although its historical interest forms its primary heritage significance and will be reinforced by a new crossing, especially if accompanied by an information board like many others across the Country Park. In addition, perhaps one of the concrete slabs can be saved and placed on the approach on the northern side in order to show the original bridge floor. In addition, it may be possible to retain the brick piers if they do not interfere with the new wooden bridge piles.

6 PROPOSALS AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

6.1 Proposals

6.1.1 The proposed development is for new bridge over one of the leats. Within the works, this area is regularly used as a crossing point through the informal dumping of logs into the leat. The new wooden bridge design is to match existing ones at the works and will provide proper access to the boardwalk in the wet meadow area. There will be each side of the bridge, five Ekki timber piles, making a total of 10, of which a total of four would be located within the leat and six on the banks either side. The plans show the piles to be 1.25m in length. The boardwalks to tie the bridge into the existing path will be 1m length of Ekki timber, each set within a concrete block of 30x30cm. The purpose of this new bridge is to allow access to the boardwalk in the wet meadow area which is only currently accessible via steps by the 1926 incorporating mills. In addition, the current unofficial crossing at the location through the dumping of logs is potentially a safety issue. (Fig. 4).

6.2 Assessment of Impact

Tramway Causeway and Bridge

6.2.1 From our findings, the primary heritage significance of the tramway, causeway and bridge is its historic interest as part of the 1926 improvement to the Oare Gunpowder works. As for the tramway itself there are virtually no surviving remains. Of the original bridge, there are surviving remains, which do inform about its structure and setting, although the bridge is not able to be resurrected or used. The new bridge of wood is in keeping with its current setting but is somewhat different from the original utilitarian materiality of brick, metal and concrete. The leat historically was accessible by punt along its length. The location of two piles within the channel of the leat will no longer show this openness along the length of the leat and it is possible that there are chance finds dropped within the leat, these would be impossible to locate in the silt. However, the proposed development does show that the piles on either side of the bank are potentially set back from the bank far enough in order to prevent any disturbance to the brick pier remains as leaving evidence of them would be preferable. If a use could be found with regards to the remaining concrete floor, this will assist retaining some of the historical significance of the original

construction. The new footbridge will reinforce the significance and settling of this part of site, especially on the northern side of the leat.

- 6.2.2 Therefore, overall any impact caused to the significance of the heritage asset would be considered as 'less than substantial' in accordance with NPPF Paragraph 196. The public benefit by having a new bridge crossing to allow for no step access to the wet meadow far outweighs any harm done.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The purpose of this Built Heritage Statement was to assist the Local Authority to fully understand the impact of the proposed development as required by the NPPF on the significance of any Heritage Assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. This Built Heritage Statement has been prepared by SWAT Archaeology for Swale Borough Council in support of the application for proposed developments of a new footbridge at the Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park, Faversham, Kent.
- 7.1.2 This report has demonstrated that the PDA lies within the Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The PDA is located on a tramway crossing of the leat for the works created circa 1926 that existed for a few years until the closure of the works. This report has focussed specifically on the tramway and crossing within the scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 7.1.3 This statement demonstrates that the significance of the tramway and bridge reside in their historical interest and the bridge is only of minor significance to the overall gunpowder works, given that the tramway was only in place for a few years in the later part of its life. Very little survives by way of the tramway, whilst elements of the bridge do survive, they are not of architectural merit, although they do attest that a bridge was previously located there. It is possible that the location of the new bridge wooden piles will not necessitate removal of the old bridge brick piers, although one of the original concrete floor slabs will be need to be removed. The new footbridge will allow for step free access to the wet meadow and will reinforce the historical element that a crossing over the leat was previously at that location especially if reinforced by an information board. The

new footbridge will also be in keeping with the other footbridges currently located in the Country Park. The proposed development will cause less than substantial harm upon the significance of the scheduled site and will reinforce the setting of the earthen bank and route from the 1926 incorporating mills.

- 7.1.4 The proposed development for a new footbridge allowing step free access to the wet meadow and a safe way to cross the leat will offer public benefits and will outweigh any 'less than substantial' impact to the tramway bridge and the conservation area outweigh any potential harm done.

8 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Archive

- 8.1.1 Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this Heritage Asset Assessment will be submitted to the LPA and Kent County Council (Heritage) within 6 months of completion.

8.2 Reliability/Limitations of Sources

- 8.2.1 The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological 'grey' literature held at Kent County Council, and therefore considered as being reliable.

8.3 Copyright

- 8.3.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company and the author shall retain full copyright on the commissioned report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights are reserved, excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to Swale Borough Council (and representatives) for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

Paul Wilkinson PhD MCIfA.

SWAT Archaeology

April 2019

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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Statutory List Description

10.1.1 Oare Gunpowder Works

Heritage Environment Record Number: TR 06 SW 65

List Entry Number: 1016497

National Grid Reference: TR 00325 62468

Type of Record: Scheduled Monument

Date of Listing: 11th March 1999

Period: Medieval

Summary: The monument is situated at the south western end of Oare Creek on the north western edge of Faversham and includes most of the area occupied by the Oare gunpowder works. This represents the best surviving part of the disused factory and runs from south west to north east for around 810m along the wooded valley. The works survive here in the form of standing buildings and structures, ruins, earthworks and buried remains. Part of an associated water management system, a test range and a tramway are also included. In continuous use from the early 18th century to 1934, the factory complex underwent many phases of expansion and redevelopment. Most visible surviving components date to the 19th and early 20th centuries. Traces of the earliest, 18th century phases of the works will survive mainly in the form of below ground archaeological remains.

Historical records suggest that the privately owned gunpowder works were in operation by 1719. Raw materials such as sulphur and saltpetre, and the finished gunpowder, were transported to and from the mills by way of Oare and Faversham Creeks and the Swale Estuary. The early works were powered mainly by waterwheels and utilised a series of now mostly dry, brick and clay lined canals, also used for transporting materials between the buildings on small punts. The main feeder pond for the water management system was situated beyond the area of the scheduling to the south east. This area has been significantly disturbed by subsequent gravel extraction and is therefore not included in the scheduling.

The main entrance to the works was at the southern end of the monument, and a series of 19th century maps and descriptions indicate that the initial processing of the ingredients took place at the southern end of the site. The mixed ingredients were then transported to the more dispersed incorporating and refining mills situated in the central and northern parts of the monument.

From the mid-19th century steam power was introduced to the works. One of the most impressive surviving structures from this period is the corning

house situated in the central part of the monument, near its north western boundary. Corning involved the grading of the powder to produce grains of the correct size for the various end uses. The massive size of the corning house reflects the fact that this operation was one of the most dangerous parts of the refining process. Thought to have been constructed in around 1845 and substantially redeveloped in 1926, the north west-south east aligned, roughly rectangular structure has rounded corners and is set into a steep hill slope to the north west. The battered, brick and concrete retaining walls stand to a height of around 6m. Its open, south east facing entrance is screened by a huge earthen blast bank. The original superstructure and corrugated iron roof, designed to be blown clear of the building in the event of an explosion, have not survived.

In 1854, Hall and Company took over the ownership of the three Faversham gunpowder factories, resulting in more integrated production practices and new investment in the Oare works. The test range, where the strength and reliability of the gunpowder was checked by test firings, was constructed during this period. It survives as a levelled terrace around 170m long and 11m wide along the north western edge of the monument. Each side of the terrace was screened by specially planted avenues of Wellingtonia trees, the stumps of which survive at 9m intervals. Building foundations visible at the south western end of the range represent an associated laboratory and gun shed.

After World War I, British explosives manufacturers grouped together to form Nobel Industries Limited, and, because of the growing use of chemical explosives, gunpowder production became concentrated in a small number of factories. These included the now integrated Faversham works, comprising the Oare and Marsh works, the latter situated around 1km to the north east. In 1926, Nobel Industries were absorbed into Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), and the Oare works underwent a new phase of expansion, becoming for a time the largest gunpowder producer in Britain. Among the most impressive buildings constructed during this time was the electrically driven incorporating mill, situated within the north western sector of the monument. This 84m long, north west-south east aligned, concrete based building housed four pairs of mills set on either side of a central motor room. The building retains some of its concrete machine bases. Contemporary photographs have revealed that the building originally had a timber first floor and was fronted with glazed, wooden framed panels, although these features no longer survive. During this period a manually powered tramway was used to move goods around the works. Most of the metal rails were subsequently removed, although a short section is visible within a large storage building situated on the southern edge of the monument.

During the early 1930s it was recognised that the coastal position of the Faversham works made them vulnerable to wartime invasion or aerial bombardment. For this reason, the Oare works were closed for production in 1934, and the factory lands were auctioned in 1935. Some of the machinery was removed to the Ardeer works in Ayrshire, and many of the processing buildings were subsequently demolished. These, along with further, associated archaeological features will survive within the monument in the form of below ground remains.

Building number 23 at the southern boundary of the works adjacent to Bysing Wood Road, all modern fences, railings, signs and the modern surfaces of all paths and tracks are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included.

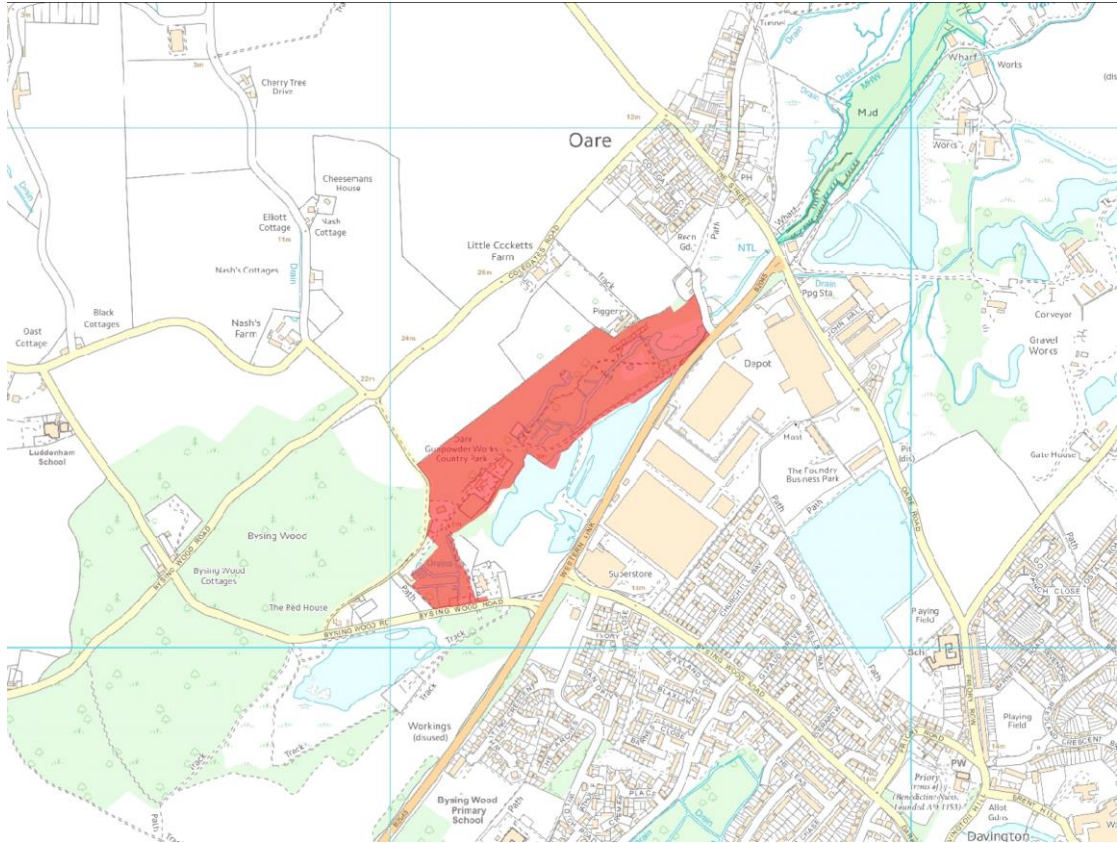


Figure 1: Scheduled Monument Location map of Oare Gunpowder Works

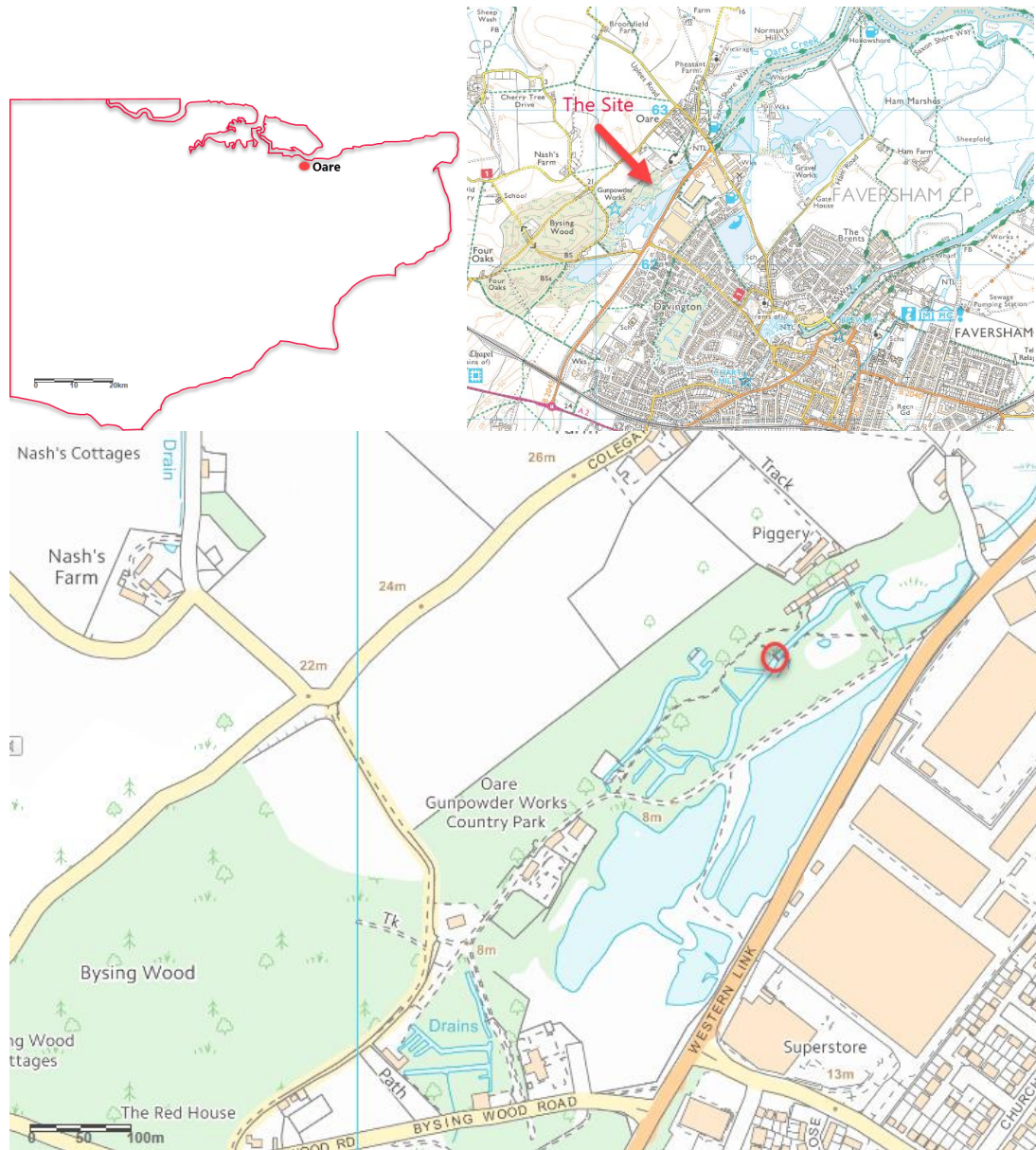
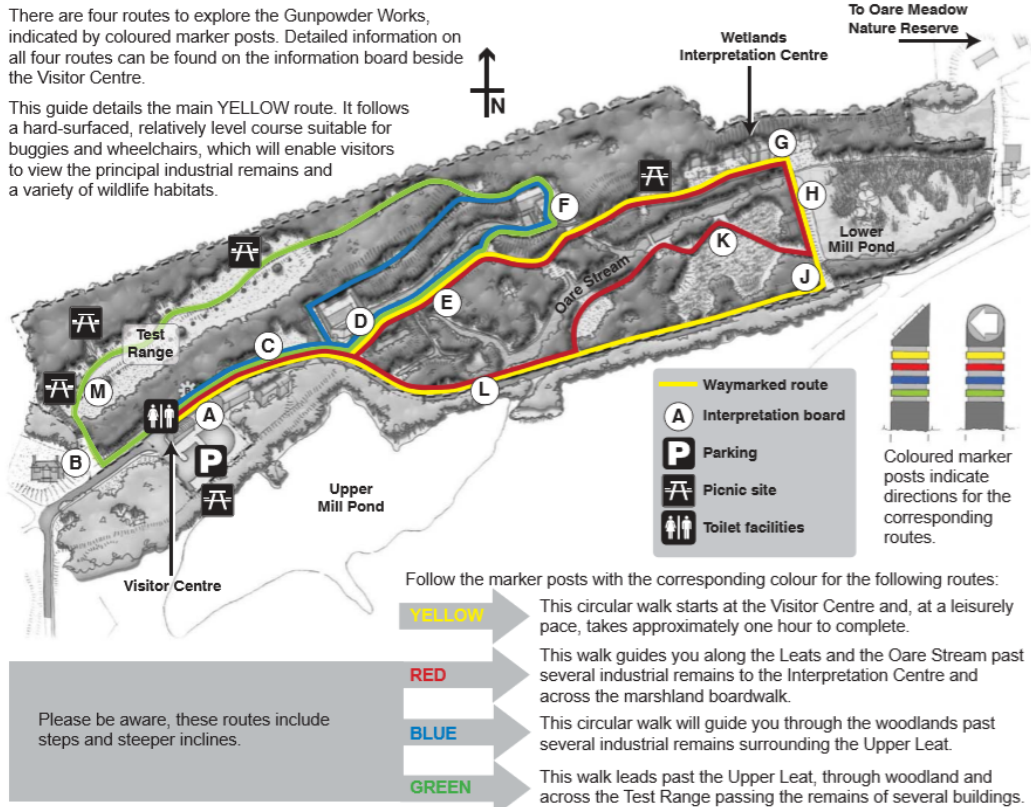


Figure 2: PDA location map, scale 1:640,000; 1:20,000 and 1:5,000.

Oare Gunpowder Works – Heritage and Nature Trail

There are four routes to explore the Gunpowder Works, indicated by coloured marker posts. Detailed information on all four routes can be found on the information board beside the Visitor Centre.

This guide details the main YELLOW route. It follows a hard-surfaced, relatively level course suitable for buggies and wheelchairs, which will enable visitors to view the principal industrial remains and a variety of wildlife habitats.



A Visitor Centre

You may begin your tour of Oare Gunpowder Works at the Visitor Centre, which offers a wealth of information on the Oare site. Once the building housed the Cooperage, where barrels were made for transportation of the gunpowder.

B Foreman's House, Offices and Packing Room

The building further down the track to your left was used as the Foreman's House since it was constructed in 1846-1865. The wall opposite the entrance to the car park is what remains of the Administration Offices and Packing Room.

C Nos. 1 & 2 Incorporating Mills

At the Incorporating Mills the three ingredients of gunpowder – sulphur, saltpetre and charcoal – were blended under the pressure of heavy edge-runner wheels. Remaining here are the bases of the wheels and the back 'blast' wall.

D The Glazing House

Built in 1844, the Glazing House is where the grains of gunpowder were treated to give them a final coating to improve their resistance to moisture. By 1865 it was enclosed in a 'blast' wall, much of which you can see today.

E The Leats

The Leats were a series of canals created to provide power for machinery and for the safe transport of gunpowder around the site in wooden 'Powder Punts'. Most of the Leats still contain water and provide a valuable wildlife habitat.

F The Corning House

Slabs of gunpowder arrived at the Corning House from the Press House to be reduced to grains or 'corns'. This Corning House was built in 1845 and was originally powered by a waterwheel. Today the damp blast walls offer good conditions for damp-loving plants such as ferns and mosses.

G 1926 Incorporating Mills

These electrically driven mills blended the constituents of gunpowder under huge iron edge-runner wheels. The long concrete base and brick walls are all that remain. A reconstruction of the Motor Room and one Mill House accommodate the Wetlands Interpretation Centre and one set of machinery.

H Lower Mill Pond

The Pond was one of two reservoirs constructed to power waterwheels and by the year 1700 they were both driving gunpowder mills. The Pond supports a wide range of plants, animals and insects.

J Site of Stables

By the 1920's the site was served by horse-drawn powder trams; the Stables were located here. The marshland behind the site is an area frequented by insects including butterflies and dragonflies.

K Marshland Boardwalk

The area is currently being developed to encourage a greater variety of plant species that will in turn attract a greater number of insect species.

L The Press Houses

These woodlands were the location for the two Press Houses; one manual and one hydraulic, where gunpowder from the Incorporating Mills was pressed between copper plates into slabs in order to remove air and improve its quality. Today the woodlands are home to bats and a wide range of birds.

M Test Range and Laboratory

The various types of gunpowder at the Oare Works were tested here, surrounded by newly planted woodland. The brick and concrete footings are the remains of the Laboratory. The Test Range is managed as a woodland glade habitat to encourage plants, insects and birds. In spring the Test Range has a carpet of bluebells.

Figure 3: The Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park: Guide and Information

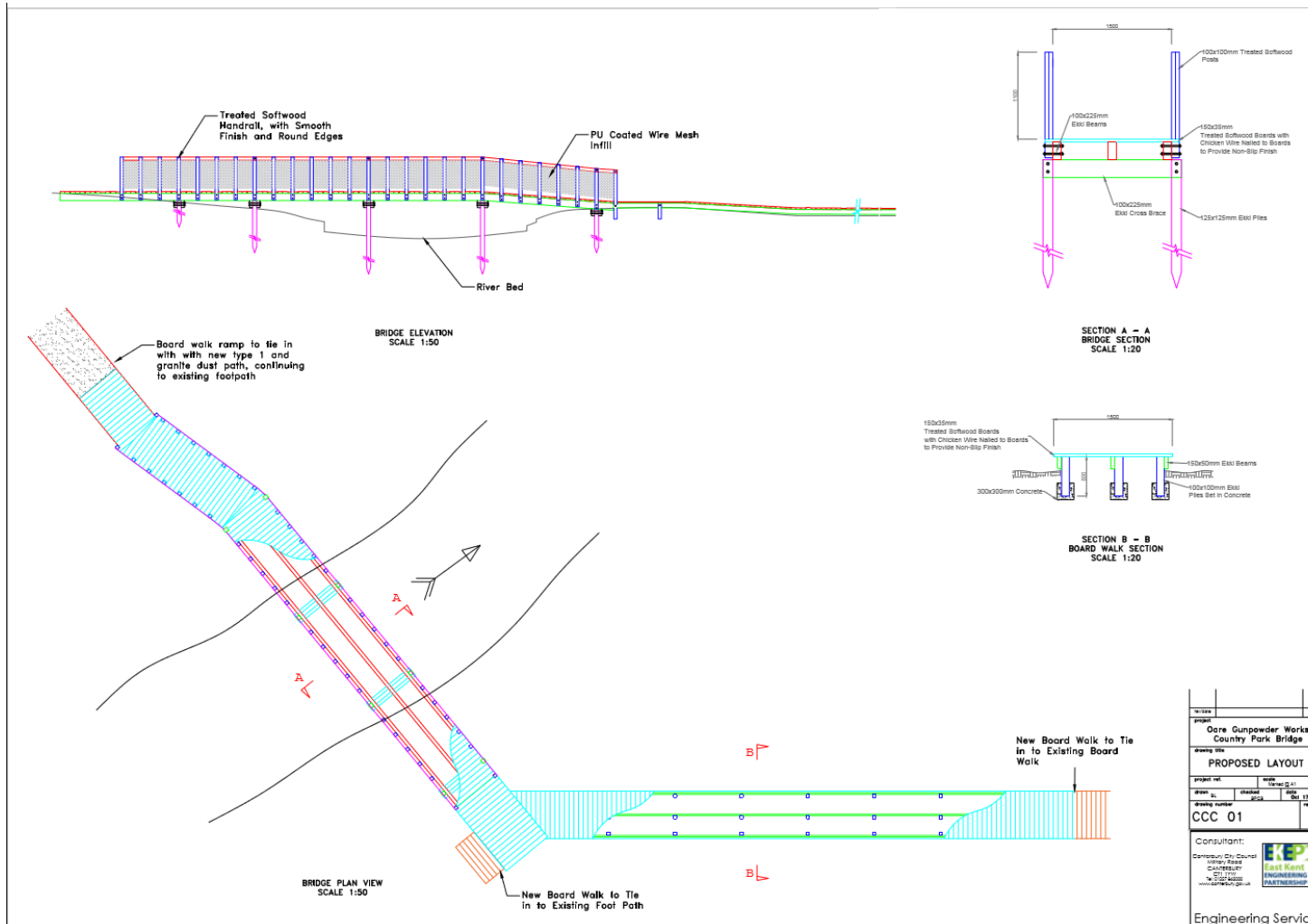


Figure 4: Proposed Development

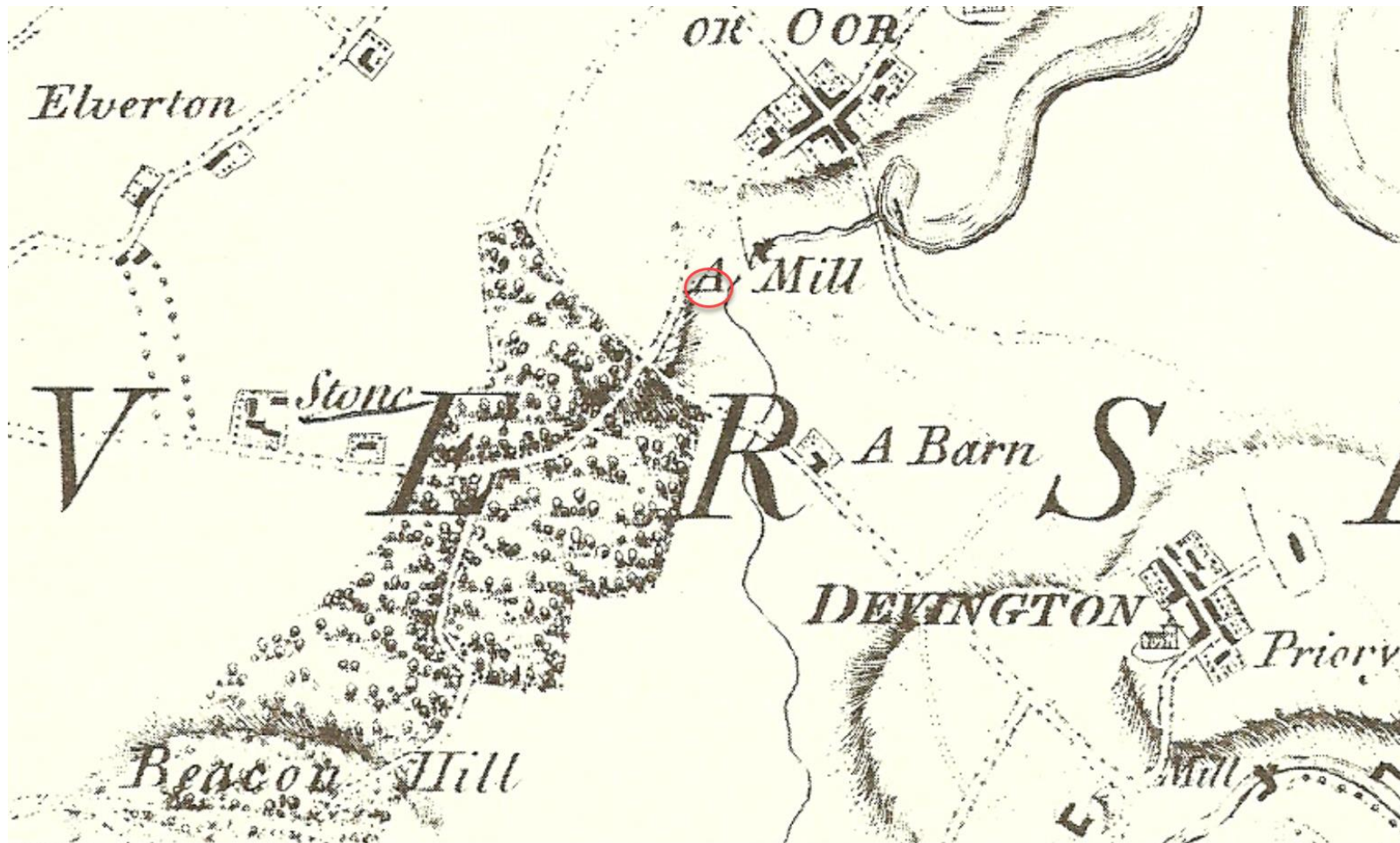


Figure 5: Andrew, Dury and Herbert Map from 1769



Figure 6: Ordnance Surveyors Drawing, 1797



Figure 7: 1844 Davington Tithe Map

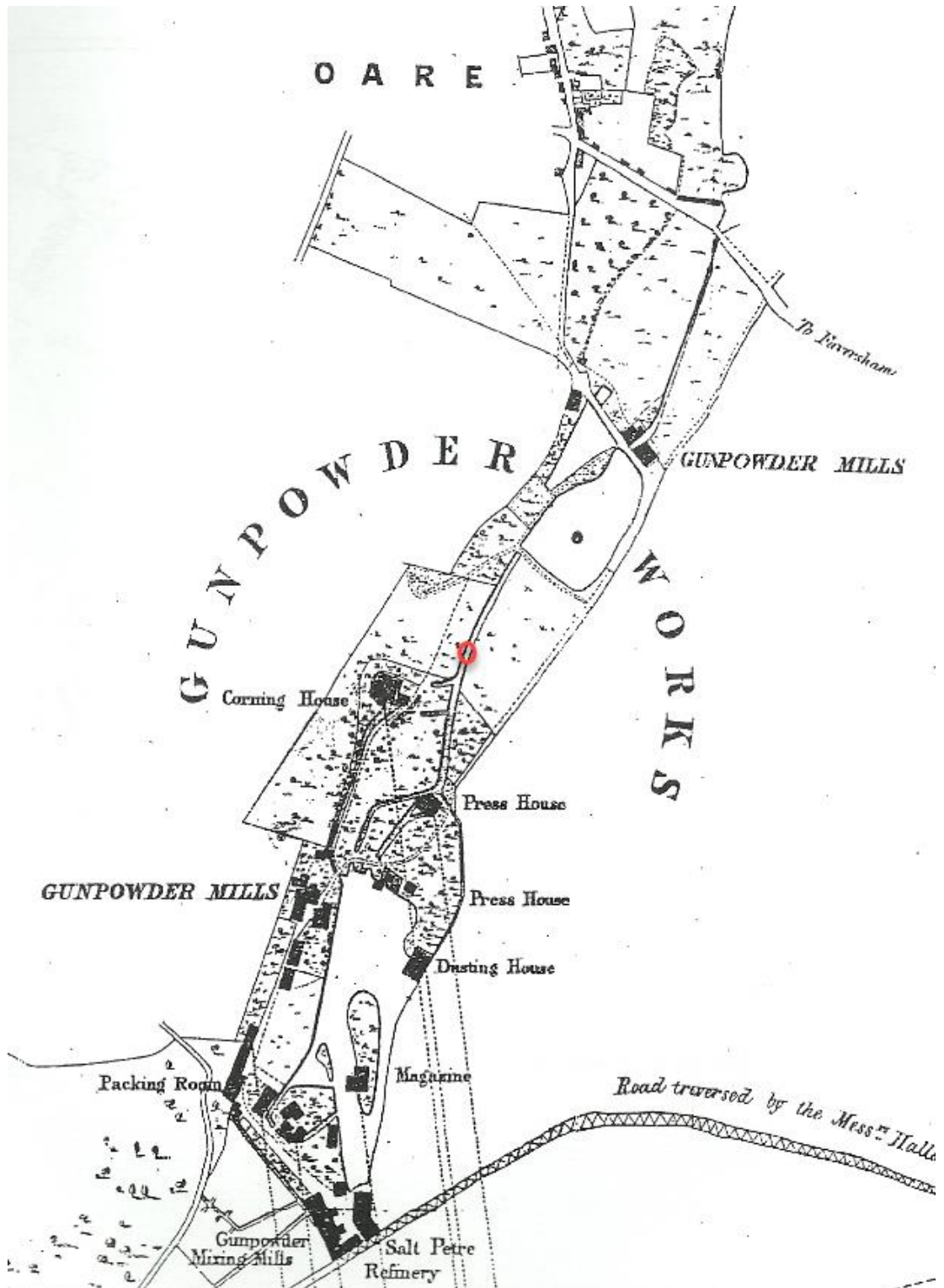


Figure 8: London, Chatham and North Kent Railway Plan of Oare Gunpowder Works, 1846

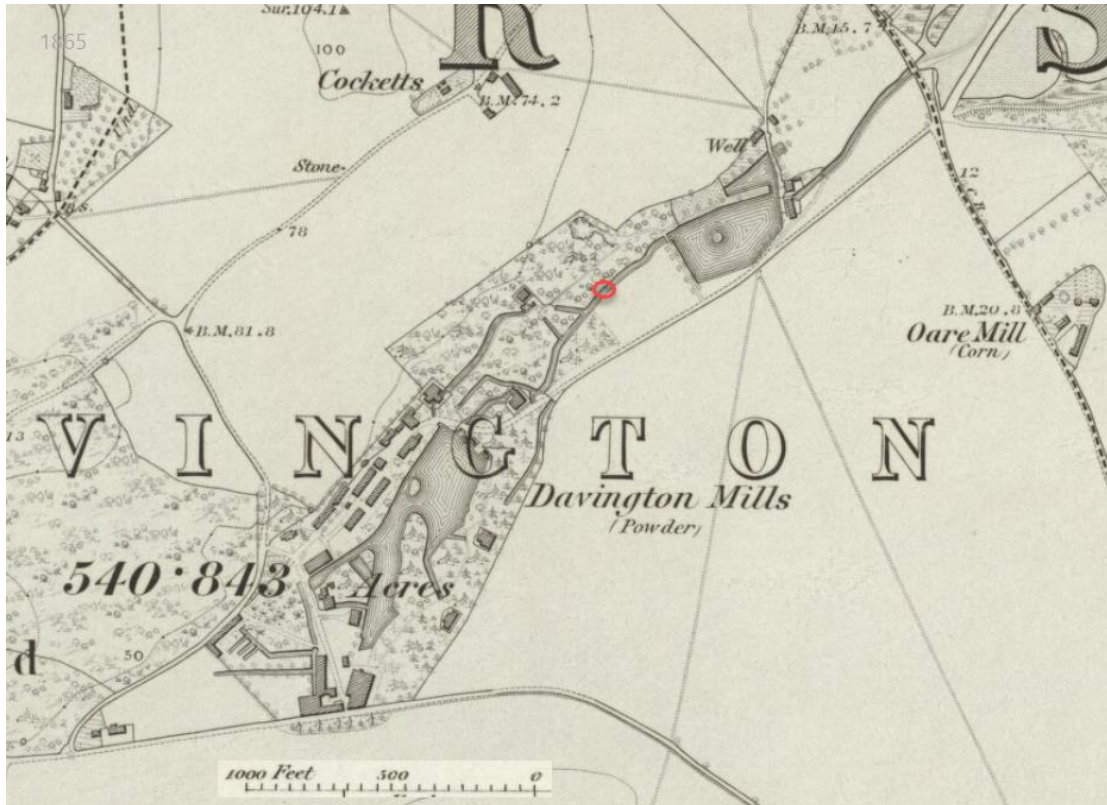


Figure 9: Historic OS Map 1865



Figure 10: Historic OS Map from 1896

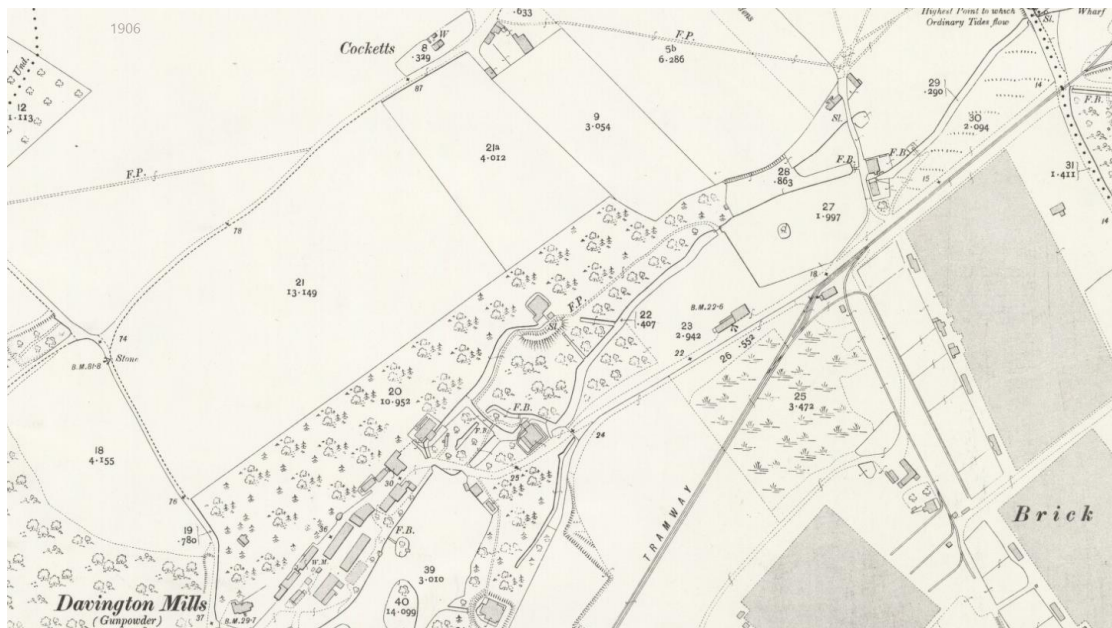


Figure 11: Historic OS Map 1906

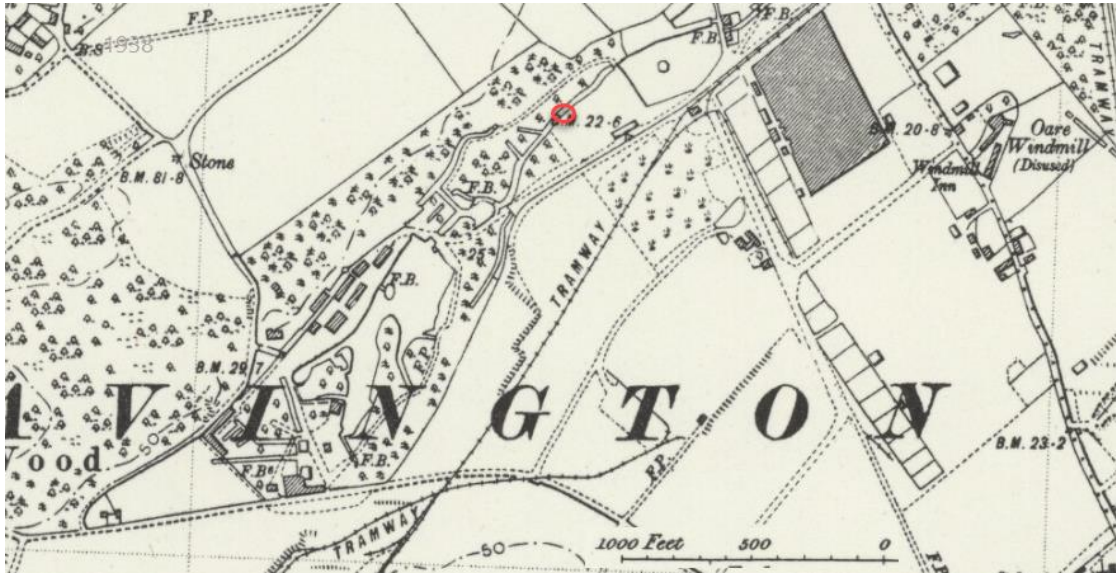


Figure 12: Historic OS Map 1938

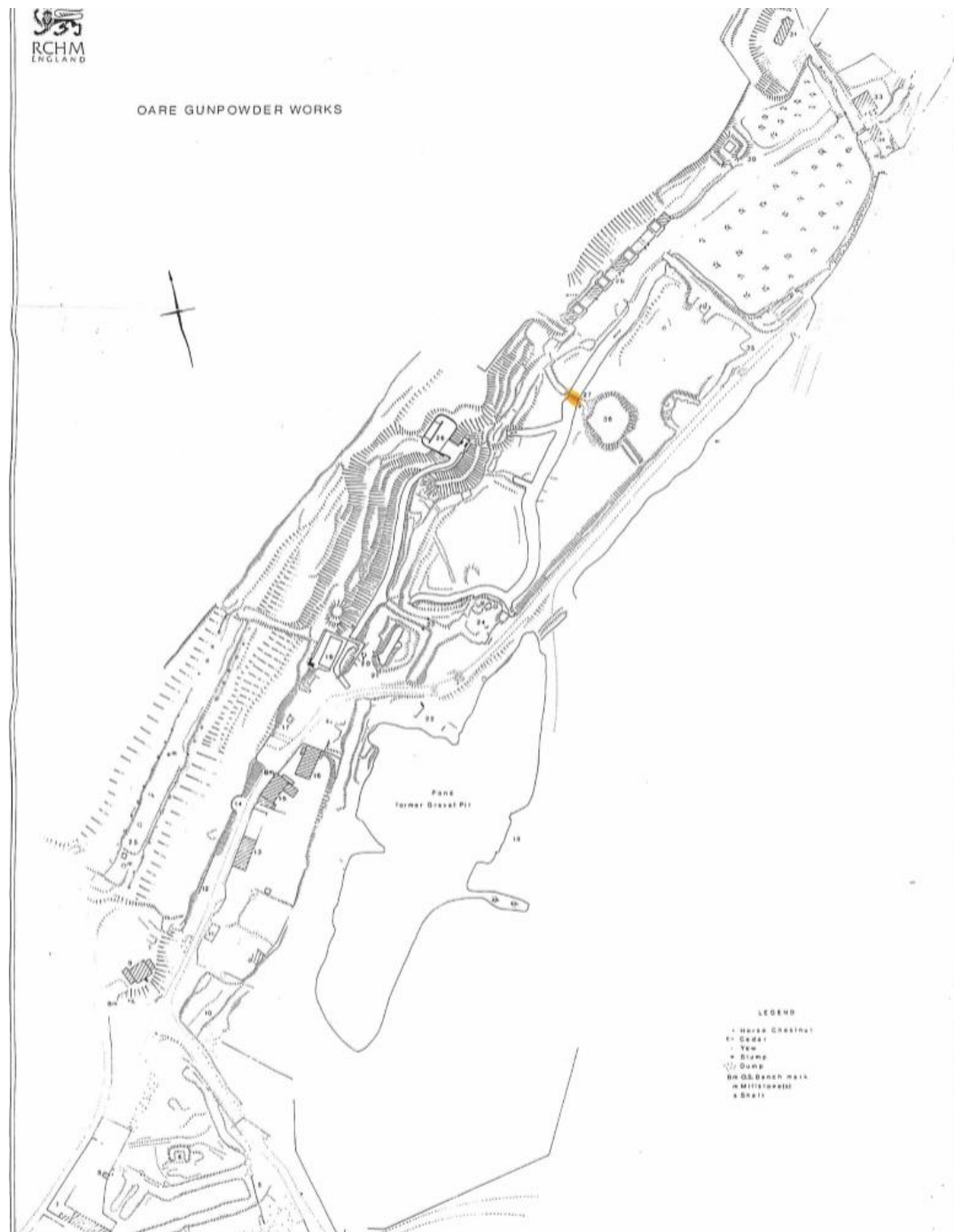


Figure 13: RCHME Survey 1991. Key (Based on last known use): 1 – Packing Room; 2 - General Stores and Boiler House; 3 -General Stores and Boiler House; 4 – Engineers Shop; 5 – Saw mill, smithy, carpenters lodge; 6 – Expense Magazine; 7 – Tin Shop, Japan and Labels shop; 8 – Charcoal Store; 9 – Foreman’s House; 10 – Barrel Store; 11 – Hoop Store; 12 – Packing Rooms, Workshop, Office, Boiler House; 13 – Cooperage; 14 – Oil Store; 15 – Store and timber shed; 16 – Timber Store and Lodge; 17 – Incorporating Mills; 18 – Dusting House; 19 – Glazing House; 20 – Pump and Engine House; 21 – unknown; 22 – Expense Magazine and Hand Press House; 23 – Footbridge; 24 – Press House; 25 – Test Range; 26 – Corning House; 27 – Tramway Causeway and Bridge; 28 – Incorporating Mills; 29 – Expense Magazine(?); 30 – Expense Magazine; 31 – Nos. 1-2 Grove Cottages; 32 – Grove Bungalow; 33 – The White House; 34 – Incorporating Mill; 35 – Stables; 36 – Late Victorian Dump.

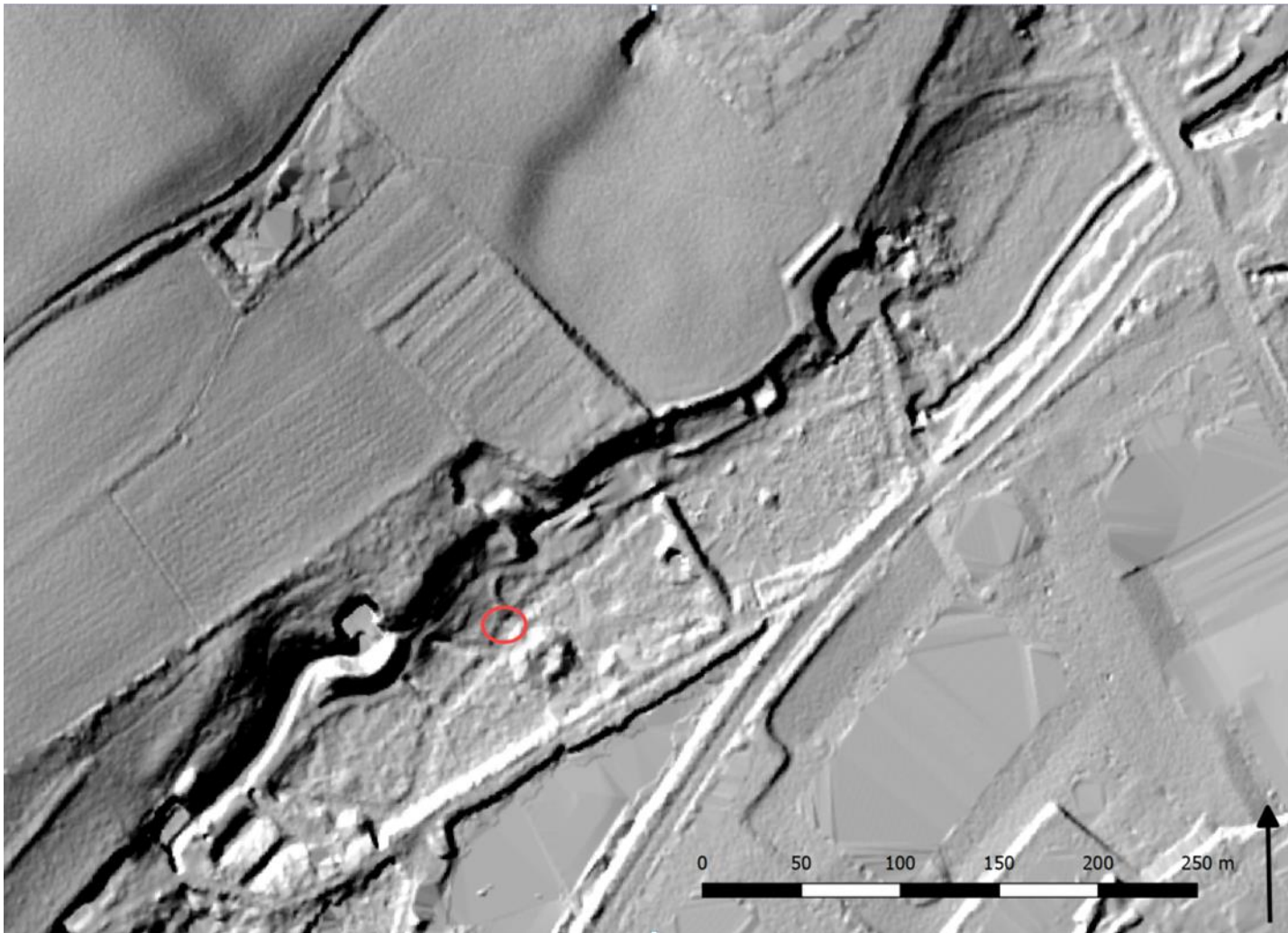


Figure 14: LIDAR 1m DTM 2014 (Environment Agency)



Plate 1: 1940s. All at an altitude of 977m (Google Earth).



Plate 2: 2017 (Google Earth)



Plate 3: View across the leat towards the north path, Scale 1m (facing NNW)



Plate 4: View across the leat with the Victorian dump in the background (facing SSE).



Plate 5: Side view of one of the surviving concrete floors with the metal beam remains underneath (facing E).



Plate 6: View towards the 1926 incorporating mills at the point the tramway would have curved round towards the leat (facing NE)



Plate 7: Showing evidence of the metal studs in the concrete floor, Scale 10cm intervals (facing NNW).



Plate 8: Possible tramway remains seen on the eastern path (facing NNW)



Plate 9: View along surviving piece of tramway track. Scale 1cm and 10cm intervals.



Plate 10: The 1926 incorporating mills. (facing NNE)



Plate 11: Tramway approach the 1926 incorporating mills c. 1930 (RCHME / Faversham Papers)

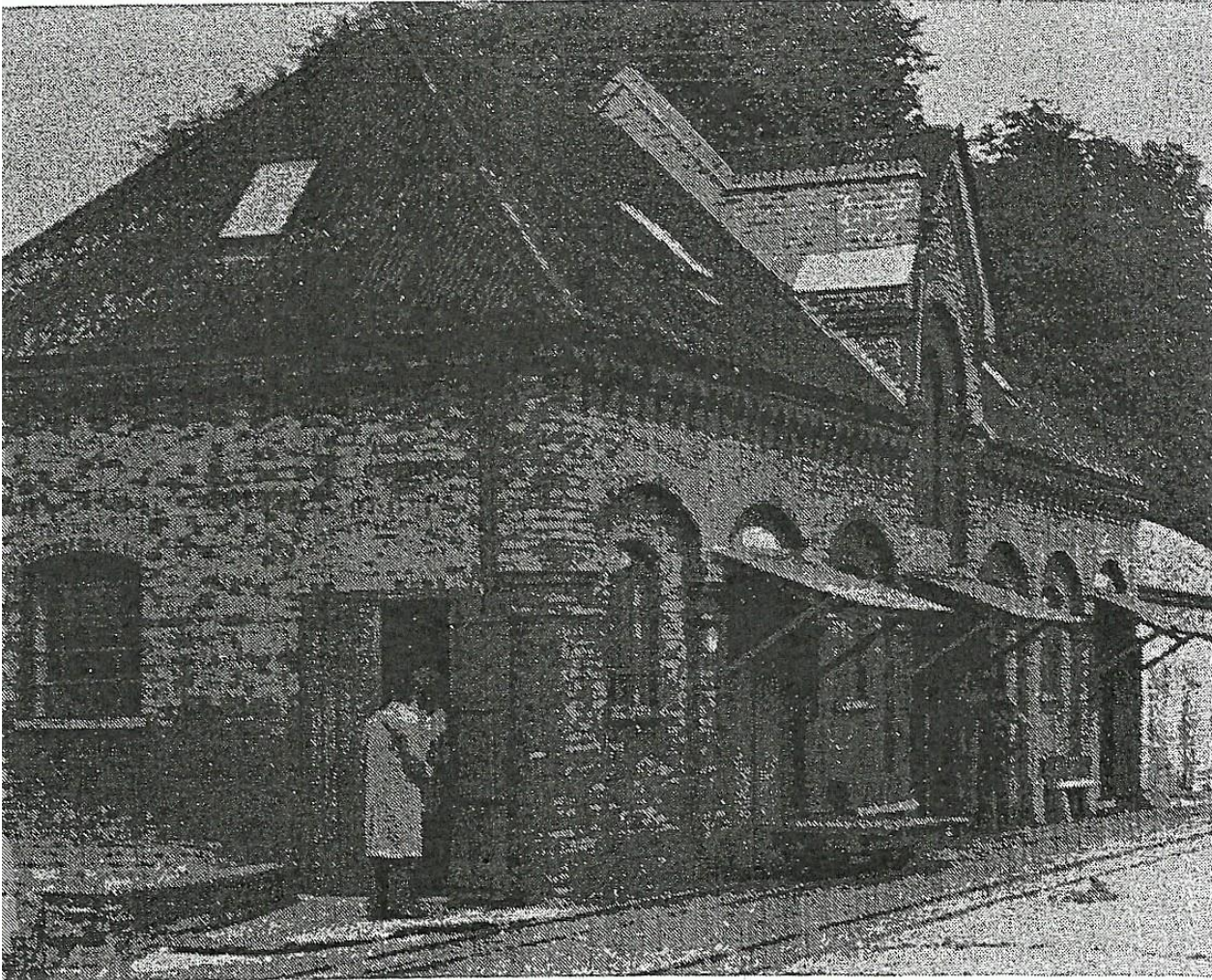


Plate 12: Double tramway tracks outside of the stables, c. 1930 (RCHME/Faversham Papers)