# THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY

# WALTHAM ABBEY

# **South Site**

ROYAL COMMISSION MHISTORICAL MONUMENTS °ENGLAND

**RCHME COPYRIGHT** 

THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY			
NUMBER G418	OLD SERIES 427	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION Pulping and mould Polymerisation Pla		START DATE 1888	END DATE 14-Nov-1990
		ILFORD FP4 PLUS	
CARTOGRAPHIC DEP	PICTION	DOCUMENTARY REF 1) 1908 RGPF Ledger Po 1888	ERENCES ulping and moulding room, date
CARTOGRAPHIC DEP PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC	PICTION	1) 1908 RGPF Ledger Pu	
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC	PICTION H OTHER MONUMENTS	1) 1908 RGPF Ledger Po 1888 PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	

Description

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THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY		
NUMBER         OLD SERIES           G431         429a-c, 430, 431	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION Gun Cotton Factory Central Stores and Stores Office	START DATE 1888-9	end date 27-Ap <b>r</b> -1990
	LIFORD HP5	PLUS
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION	DOCUMENTARY REFEREN 1) 1908 RGPF Ledger 429 Nitrating house, pump room, drying room, fan room 430 Teasing room and mac 431 Paint store, date 1888	and fan house, weighing , date 1888
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC	PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME 1) 206/G/4 From SE 2) 206/M/35 from S 3) 206/M/35 from SW	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH:		
CONDITION Good		
DESCRIPTION 1) CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL Brick		
2) ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE Slate		
3) POWER SOURCE Electricity and steam heating		
4) DIMENSIONS i) L ii) W iii) HT	iv)DIA	
5) A stone plaque on the east wall is inscribed 'Gun(	Cotton Factory 1888-9'.	

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THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY		
NUMBER OLD SERIES 476	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION Nitrating house/charge house	START DATE 1891	END DATE
NO PHOTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE		
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION	DOCUMENTARY REFEREN 1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC /charge house, date 1891	
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC	PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH: 483		
CONDITION ?Buried		
DESCRIPTION The structure has been demolished, its site may b	e traced on the ground north o	f 483 as an earthwork.

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THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY		
NUMBER OLD SERIES 483	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION Washing house	START DATE 1894	END DATE
ILFORD FP4 PLUS		
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION	DOCUMENTARY REFEREN 1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC	
	1894	leee Haening Heade, date
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC	PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME 1) 206/G/8 Interior from W 206/G/9 Interior from S 206/G/10 Roof exterior fro	m N
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH: 476, 484, 485, 486		

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DESCRI 1)	PTION CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL Timber
2)	ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE Timber covered by galvanised metal sheet.
3)	POWER SOURCE Electric lighting and steam heating.
4)	DIMENSIONS i) L ii) W iii) HT iv)DIA
5)	The roundhouse is protected by an earthen bank revetted on the interior by a circular brick wall. The building is entered from the south west along a curving brick vaulted passage protected by a wooden slatted door at the entrance. The floor of the passage is asphalt covered. The passage is lit by electric lights, the wires encased in small diameter ferrous metal pipes.
	The roundhouse is entered through double doors hung on brass butterfly hinges. The building is of timber frame construction with a weather boarded exterior and its interior walls are lined by vertical wooden boards. At the northern side of the building is a raised wooden platform, the horizontal supports of which pass through the roundhouse wall and are set into the brickwork revetment. Beneath this platform although not necessarily insitu is a stave built barrel bound by iron hoops fixed by copper nails. The height of this barrel is 1.22m within an internal diameter of 0.98m. The barrel has two drain holes one at the base and one 15cm up from the bottom. Around the lip of the barrel are a series of small pegs that may have been used to secure a cover. Another barrel within the building is identical excepting an internal diameter of 96cm.
	The roof consists of rafters resting directly on the wall plate joining in a crown at the apex of the roof. The rafters are braced against any lateral movement by short spacing timbers. The roof is timber boarded covered externally by galvanised metal sheeting.
	The building is lit by small windows around the top of the wall and two five light roof windows. Artificial lighting is provided by electric lights set into the roof protected by glass globes within chicken wire. The wires are set externally for these lights, protected by small bore ferrous pipes connecting to a cast iron switch box formerly mounted on a wooden pole on the top of the mound to the north. This was connected to the overhead power supply by Cordeaux type insulators by Bullers Ltd London with a single groove on the side and top.
	The building is served by a brick service tunnel beneath the earthen mound from the north formerly leading frm 476. This is joined by another tunnel from the northeast to form a Y junction before entering the roundhouse. For part of its length the tunnel retains a wooden shelf that formerly supported a lead gutter along which the nitroglycerine into the settling? house. After processing the nitroglycerine passed out along along a similar gutter now removed set in a brick service tunnel to the south to the mixing house 486? and the waste water to a wash water filtration house 485?
	A notice found in the building reads:
	N G House
	Temp of Washing Time of Settling
	Temperature 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th Obscured 1 2 3 4
	(five columns beneath)

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THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY		
NUMBER OLD SERIES 484	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION Junction house/covered way	START DATE 1894	END DATE
	OGRAPHY ABLE	
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION	DOCUMENTARY REFEREN 1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC house/covered way, date 189	1509 - Junction
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC	PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH:		
CONDITION Good		
DESCRIPTION 1) CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL Brick		
2) ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE -		
3) POWER SOURCE -		
4) DIMENSIONS iv)DIA		
5) Circular brick tank to the south of the settling hour	se? 483.	

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NUMBER	OLD SERIES	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION	485		
Mixing house/p	orch	START DATE 1894	END DATE
NO PHOTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE			
CARTOGRAPHIC D	DEPICTION	DOCUMENTARY REFER	RENCES
		1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WAS	SC 1509 - Mixing house/porch
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC		PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	
RELATIONSHIPS W	TTH OTHER MONUMENTS	I	
ASSOCIATED WITH	I: 483, 484		
CONDITION ?	Buried		
DESCRIPTION			

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THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY	- WALTHAM ABBEY	7		
NUMBER OLD SERIES 486	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.		
NAME/FUNCTION Mixing house/traverses Explosives Store	START DATE 1894	END DATE		
Nitrojlywin Store 1891				
NO PHOTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE				
	N.b. FL 139 N . xplass	s and		
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION	DOCUMENTARY REFEREN	NCES		
	1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC house/traverse, date 1894	1509 - Mixing		
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC	PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME			
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS				
ASSOCIATED WITH: 483, 484				
CONDITION FAIR:				
DESCRIPTION 1) CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL Timber				
2) ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE Galvanised sheet metal				
3) POWER SOURCE Electric lighting				
4) DIMENSIONS i) L ii) W iii) HT	iv)DIA			
5) The timber roundhouse is set within the centre of an earthen mound. The exterior walls of the roundhouse are protected by weatherboarding and braced by horizontal joists set into the brick wall. The roundhouse is approached from the south through a curving passage with an asphalt covered floor. The roundhouse is entered through double doors hung on brass butterfly hinges, the other door furniture is also of brass. The interior of the roundhouse is lined by galvanised sheet metal which has obscured any constructional details. The building is lit by small lights around the top of the wall, some of retain wartime blackout paint. Artificial lighting is provided by 'Maxlume' lights mounted on the outside of the windows with the attendant wiring encased in thin metal pipes.				
A raised service tunnel formerly entered the round joining it to the roundhouse survives, although the	house from the north, from build passage is now sealed by the g	ding 483. The porch galvanised metal lining.		

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THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY		
NUMBER OLD SERIES 494	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION Guncotton stove Explosives Store	START DATE 1892	END DATE
NO PHOTO AVAIL		-
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES 1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC 1509 - Guncotton stove, date 1892		
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC	PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH:		
CONDITION POOR		

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DESCR	IPTION
1)	CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL Timber
2)	ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE Galvanised sheet metal, rafters supported by a crown on top of a central post.
3)	POWER SOURCE
4)	DIMENSIONS i) L ii) W iii) HT iv)DIA
5)	The roudhouse is surrounded by a high earthen traverse revetted by brick in the centre. The roudhouse is entered from the south through a brick vaulted passage formerly closed by double doors at the entrance. The passage is lined with a parquet flooring and a shoe box is provided at the inner end of the passage. The roundhouse rests on a raised platform separated from the revetting wall by a gully 0.8m in width. The roundhouse is of timber construction consisting of sill beams attached to the platform with an internal frame capped by a wall plate, the members of which were individually numbered during construction. The wall plate is braced by a number of horizontal joists set into the surrounding wall. The roundhouse is clad in weather board. The interior is lined with soft board probably a replacement of the original material. The floor is parquet lined. The interior is lit by a series of small windows around the top of the wall.
2	The roof is supported by a central post to the top of which is atttached a bronze? crown to which supports the rafters. The roof is a composite feature consisting of an internal galvanised metal lining fixed to the roof boards that are protected on the exterior by roofing felt. The roof like the internal walls has been relined using softboard. The roof is drained by sheet metal guttering attached to the exterior of the roundhouse.

A red notice by the entrance to the roundhouse reads 'TNT store bldg 494 Limit 15 000 lbs for RDX section' notice screwed to it reads ZZ 2.500.

### THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY CONTINUATION SHEET NUMBER ILFORD FP4 PLUS LFORD FP4 PLUS DILL \* 4 90 14 LFORD FP4 PLUS - 20 A 4 PLUS 12 ILFORD FP4 PLUS ILFORD FF 4 PLUS ¥ 91 -IHANN ILFORD I ILFORD FP4 PLUS ILFORD FP4 PLUS 1112 19 ► 18 A 19 A **ILFORD FP4 PLUS ILFORD FP4 PLUS** ILFORD E



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