

**THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY**

**WALTHAM ABBEY**

**Quinton Hill - South Site**







## THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY

NUMBER G405	OLD SERIES	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION Boiler House		START DATE 1966?	END DATE 21.05.1990
NO PHOTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE			
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION		DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES 1993 RO Building List G405 New Boiler House Closure date 21.05.1990	
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC  PSA prints, RCHME Negs G/2119/1-4 15 Jan 1967		PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS  ASSOCIATED WITH:			
CONDITION      Good			
DESCRIPTION 1)      CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL Brick and Corrugated Iron  2)      ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE Corrugated Asbestos  3)      POWER SOURCE Steam Heat  4)      DIMENSIONS i) L      ii) W      iii) HT  5)			

## THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY

NUMBER G418	OLD SERIES 427	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R. TQ 38080 99785
NAME/FUNCTION Pulping and moulding room Polymerisation Plant		START DATE 1888	END DATE 14-Nov-1990
			
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION		DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES	
		<p>1) 1908 RGPF Ledger Pulping and moulding room, date 1888  WASC 901/322 26 June 1888 guncotton Factory Chimney  WASC 901/325 16 July 1893 Proposed arrangement of boiler of 10.000 gallon tank space under tank to be walled in for use as a forge</p>	
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC  BB92/16731 origin 27.7.1966 BB92/16732 Guncotton Factory 1896 PRO BB92/16739 Guncotton displacement apparatus May 1909 PRO BB92/16740 Cotton waste drying oven c1909 PRO		PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME  1) 206/G/1 From South 2) BB92/26251 View from South West	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS  ASSOCIATED WITH:			
CONDITION      Good			
Description			

## THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY

NUMBER G431	OLD SERIES 429a-c, 430, 431	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R. TQ 38200 99810
NAME/FUNCTION Gun Cotton Factory Central Stores and Stores Office		START DATE 1888-9	END DATE 27-Apr-1990
			
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION		DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES	
		<p>1) 1908 RGPf Ledger          429 Nitrating house, pump and fan house, weighing room, drying room, fan room, date 1888          430 Teasing room and machinery store, date 1888          431 Paint store, date 1888</p> <p>2) WASC 901/320 not dated Screen &amp; Fume shafts dipping tanks          WASC 901/321 26.June 1888 Guncotton Factory chimney          WASC 901/324 11.June 1929 proposed re-roofing with "Robertson Asbestos protected metal sheets No 20 BG"          WASC 901/324/A 30.Jan 1929 proposed re-roofing with "Robertson Asbestos Protected metal corrugated sheeting"          WASC 901/325 16 July 1893 proposed arrangement of boiler 10.000 gallon tank, space under tank to be walled in for use as a forge</p>	
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC		PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	
		<p>1) 206/G/4 From South East          206/M/35 from South          206/M/35 from South West          2)BB92/26249 Guncotton Factory 1888-9 view from south west          BB92/26250 Guncotton Factory 1888-9 view from East</p>	
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 'GunCotton Factory 1888-9'.

**THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY**

NUMBER P748	OLD SERIES	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
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NAME/FUNCTION Surgery	START DATE 1954	END DATE 24.07.1990
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NO PHOTOGRAPHY  
AVAILABLE

CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION  A.-B. 36 1954 Surgery	DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES  1993 R.O.Building List P748 South Site Surgery (RARDE) Closure date 24.07.1990
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PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC  PSA print, RCHME neg G5493/3-12 16-Dec-1954	PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME
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RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS  
  
ASSOCIATED WITH:

CONDITION      Good

DESCRIPTION


- 1)      CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL  
        Brick
- 2)      ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE  
        Flat concrete slab
- 3)      POWER SOURCE  
        Electriciy
- 4)      DIMENSIONS i) L      ii) W      iii) HT
- 5)

**THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY**

NUMBER	OLD SERIES 476	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R. TQ 38300 99620
NAME/FUNCTION Nitrating house/Charge house		START DATE 1891	END DATE
NO PHOTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE			
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION		DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES 1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC 1509 476 Nitrating house /charge house, date 1891	
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC		PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH: 483			
CONDITION Demolished    ?Buried			
DESCRIPTION  The structure has been demolished, its site may be traced on the ground north of 483 as an earthwork.			



## THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY

NUMBER N544	OLD SERIES 483	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION Washing house		START DATE 1894	END DATE
			
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION		DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES	
		<p>1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC 1509 Washing house, date 1894</p> <p>2) WASC 901/330 30 Nov 1894 Nitroglycerine Factory washing House</p> <p>WASC 901/330A 5 May 1894 Nitroglycerine Factory Washing House</p>	
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC		PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	
		<p>1) 206/G/8 Interior from West</p> <p>206/G/9 Interior from South</p> <p>206/G/10 Roof exterior from North</p> <p>2) BB92/26257 Interior Nitroglycerine washing barrel</p> <p>BB92/26258 Washing house interior service tunnel to South</p> <p>BB92/26258 washing house roof Danger building lights</p> <p>BB92/26260 Washing House detail service tunnel from North</p> <p>BB92/26261 Washing house entrance from West</p> <p>BB92/26262 Washing house detail of Nitroglycerine Gully support</p> <p>BB92/26263 Washing House roof of round house</p>	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS			
ASSOCIATED WITH: 476, 484, 485, 486			
CONDITION		Fair	

## DESCRIPTION

- 1) 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 was 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 from the Nitrating House 476, that originally contained two nitrators. The Washing House was served by a Y shaped tunnel through the mound from the Nitrator. Each arm of the tunnel served from one of the Nitrators. The western arm of the tunnel retains a wooden shelf that formerly supported a lead gutter along which the nitroglycerine was channelled into the Washing House. This would correspond to the reduction of the Nitrating House to a single building on the western side around the turn of the century. After washing the nitroglycerine passed out along a similar gutter now removed set in a brick service tunnel to the south to the Junction House 485, which survives as a circular brick lined pit and then on to the Mixing Houses 485 and 486.

Artefacts - The Whole Structure, otherwise brass hinges and other door fittings, interior sign, washing barrels, danger building roof lighting including lighting pole and fuse box on top of the mound.





**THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY**

NUMBER	OLD SERIES 484	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R. TQ 38307 99570
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NAME/FUNCTION Junction house/covered way	START DATE 1894	END DATE
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NO PHOTOGRAPHY  
AVAILABLE

CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION	DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES  WASC 901/331 27 Sept 1891 N.G Factory covered passage between Washing House and Mixing House  1908 RGPf Ledger WASC 1509 - Junction house/covered way, date 1894
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PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC	PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME
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RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS  
  
ASSOCIATED WITH: 483

CONDITION      Good

DESCRIPTION

- 1)      CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL  
        Brick
- 2)      ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE  
        -
- 3)      POWER SOURCE  
        -
- 4)      DIMENSIONS    iv)DIA
- 5)      Circular brick pit to the south of the Washing House 483.

**THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY**

NUMBER N548	OLD SERIES 485	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R. TQ 38240 99562
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NAME/FUNCTION Mixing House	START DATE 1894	END DATE
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NO PHOTOGRAPHY  
AVAILABLE

CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC 1509 - Mixing house/porch

PHOTOGRAPHY  
HISTORIC

PHOTOGRAPHY  
RCHME

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS

ASSOCIATED WITH: 483, 484

CONDITION      ?Buried

DESCRIPTION

**THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY**

NUMBER N549	OLD SERIES 486	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R. TQ 38320 99522
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NAME/FUNCTION Mixing House/traverses Explosives Store	START DATE 1894	END DATE
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NO PHOTOGRAPHY  
AVAILABLE

CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

- 1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC 1509 - Mixing house/traverse, date 1894
- 2) WASC 901/329 30 Nov(?) 1894 Nitroglycerine Factory stores

PHOTOGRAPHY  
HISTORIC

PHOTOGRAPHY  
RCHME

- 2)BB92/26255 Interior of Mixing House
- BB92/26256 Roof exterior of Mixing House

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 was lit by small lights around the top of the wall, some of retain wartime blackout paint. Artificial lighting was 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 roundhouse from the north, from building 483. The porch joining it to the roundhouse survives, although the passage is now sealed by the galvanised metal lining.

Artefacts - The Whole Building otherwise all fittings

**THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY**

NUMBER M351	OLD SERIES 494	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R. TQ 37870 99495
NAME/FUNCTION Guncotton stove Explosives Store		START DATE 1892	END DATE
NO PHOTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE			
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION		DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES 1) 1908 RGPF Ledger WASC 1509 - Guncotton stove, date 1892	
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC		PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME 2)BB92 26252 Guncotton view from East BB92/26253 Interior view from West BB92/26254 Guncotton stove detail of Crown Post	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH: Overlies M351			
CONDITION	POOR		

DESCRIPTION

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 roundhouse is surrounded by a high earthen traverse revetted by brick in the centre. The roundhouse 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.

The roof is supported by a central post to the top of which is attached a bronze? crown 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.

Artefacts - The Whole Building, otherwise all fittings including bronze roof crown, signs and galvanised metal gutters.

**THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY**

NUMBER	OLD SERIES	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
NAME/FUNCTION New Steam Boiler House		START DATE 1967	END DATE 1991
NO PHOTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE			
CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION		DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES	
PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC  G 12119/1 Steam Boiler House interior 15.01.1967 G 12119/2 Steam Boiler House interior 15.01.1967 G 12119/3 Steam Boiler House exterior 15.01.1967 G 12119/4 Steam Boiler House exterior 15.01.1967		PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME	
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS  ASSOCIATED WITH:			
CONDITION			
DESCRIPTION 1) CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL Brick and metal sheets  2) ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE Steel girders asbestos sheets over  3) POWER SOURCE  4) DIMENSIONS i) L      ii) W      iii) HT  5)			



**THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY**

NUMBER	OLD SERIES	RCHME NUMBER	N.G.R.
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NAME/FUNCTION Surgery	START DATE 1954	END DATE 1991
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NO PHOTOGRAPHY  
AVAILABLE

CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION	DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES
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<p>PHOTOGRAPHY HISTORIC</p> <p>G 5493/4 Surgery exterior 16.12.1954          G 5493/5 Surgery exterior 16.12.1954          G 5493/6 Surgery exterior 16.12.1954          G 5493/7 Surgery exterior 16.12.1954          G 5493/8 Surgery exterior 16.12.1954          G 5493/9 Surgery exterior 16.12.1954          G 5493/10 Surgery interior 16.12.1954          G 5493/11 Surgery interior 16.12.1954          G 5493/12 Surgery interior 16.12.1954</p>	<p>PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME</p>
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RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS

ASSOCIATED WITH:

CONDITION

DESCRIPTION

- 1) CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL  
Brick
- 2) ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE  
Flat concrete slab
- 3) POWER SOURCE  
Electricity
- 4) DIMENSIONS i) L    ii) W    iii) HT
- 5)





ROYAL  
COMMISSION  
ON THE HISTORICAL  
MONUMENTS  
OF ENGLAND