

H2 Why build a gunpowder works at Oare?

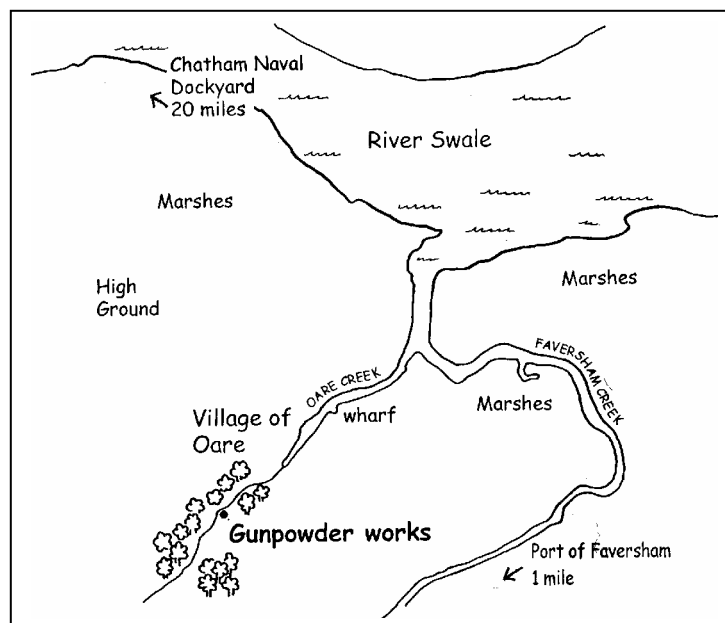
Read the following information about the siting of gunpowder works.

...because of the risk of explosion, most sites were in remote locations and used water to drive the equipment. As charcoal was a main ingredient, many of the sites were wooded to provide raw materials. Buildings were well spaced out, often in a long line, and many were surrounded with blast banks.

Another source states these features are necessary for a successful manufacturing works.

- Water from a stream to drive machinery
- Trees to make charcoal and absorb blast from accidental explosions
- Plenty of people to work (from a nearby village)
- A sheltered creek where raw materials could be brought in and gunpowder shipped out
- A use for the gunpowder. Gunships used to sail from The Naval Dockyard at Chatham

Label the map to show why Oare was a good place to make gunpowder.



- Which do you think are the most important reasons for building the gunpowder works at Oare?
- On the reverse of this sheet write down the three reasons YOU think are the most important.
- Write a sentence explaining why you have chosen each one.