

## H2 Why build a gunpowder works at Oare?

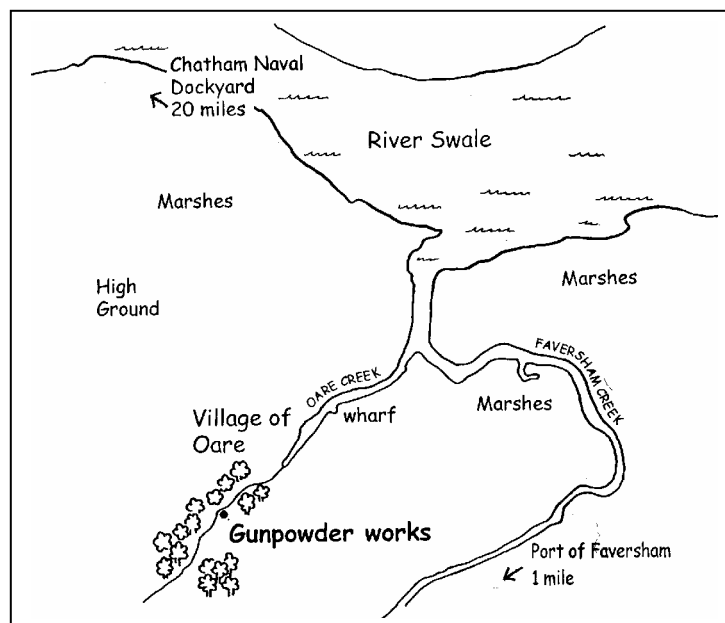
Read the following information about the siting of gunpowder works.

*...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.