How gunpowder was made:

1720-1730 All paper mills closed.
1765 Coarse paper introduced to Middle and Upper Works.
1780 Saltpetre production stopped.
1785 New nearby workshops opened.
1820 Final working of the old Tillingbourne mills ceased.
1825 Works ceased.
1830/40 boundary wall built.
1860 An attempt is made to use the site for industry.
1870 Old industrial buildings are demolished.
1920 Works not re-opened.
1922-1963 Industrial buildings cleared.
1965/70 Works cleared.
1970-1975 Chilworth Gunpowder Mills Trust is established.
1975 Land purchase completed.
1982 Reopened to the public.
1988 Hollingdon Limekiln Group buy the site.
1992 Heritage Lottery Fund application.
1995 Trust registered as a charitable body.
2000-2002 Works are made safe.
2002-2005 Works open to the public.

Incorporating Mill

East India Company establish gunpowder mills

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First Dutch war; Middle Works built on New Cut.

1642-52
1700s
1809
1865
1870s

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Charcoal

Saltpetre

In 1909 there were 300 male and 6 female workers. At their peak in 1914 there were 2,000

800 were employed at the mill.

A spark. They would hang their smoking pipes in a nearby tree for collection near the fire!

If you see smoke coming from the site please report it to the Site Manager.

HIDDEN IN THE UNDERGROWTH

The wet woodland is fantastic for small beasts that need to spend at least part of their lives in water. The most obvious are the stunning dragonflies and damselflies.

At first glance these two groups can appear similar, but take a closer look.

On a warm summers evening remember to look up and see Pipistrelle, Natterers or Brown Long-Eared bats feeding on midges up above your head.

Land purchase completed.

Chilworth Gunpowder Mills

Explore more than 2km of paths around the site.

GET INVOLVED

Guildford Borough Council Countryside Team lead volunteer work parties at the mills. Take a look at the notice board or for the latest dates and tasks, visit:

www.guildford.gov.uk/parksplaygroundsandgreenspaces

Volunteers helping at a work party

www.tillingbournetales.co.uk

facebook.com/tillingbournetales

Shere Museum

Gomshall Lane, Shere, GU5 9HE

Web

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Delve into the rich industrial heritage of this stretch of the Tillingbourne.

5. PACKING & TRANSPORTING

In 1882 Smokeless (nitrate) explosives factory built.

1885 Admiralty cordite factory built at the Upper Works.

1920-1963 Paper mills at Upper Works.

1922-1963 Industrial buildings cleared.

HIDING IN THE UNDERGROWTH

The more secluded parts of the woodland are home to protected species such as dormice and bats.

Why not make Chilworth a picnic stop on a longer walk?

Finding out more...

A Guide to the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills.

G. Crocker, 4th edition 2005

Dangerous Inventions. G & A Crocker, 2000

www.historicengland.org.uk or www.pastscape.org.uk