

Deborah Griffiths

The proving mortar.

And of course you needed to ensure that the gunpowder was the right strength before you sent it off to the local mines and quarries so they would test it by actually firing a cannon ball out of a small cannon, which is called a proving mortar, and the distance that the ball would travel would indicate the strength of the gunpowder and the proving mortar at Powdermills is quite rare, its one of the few that actually survive on site.