

## **Deborah Griffiths**

### **The various buildings on the site.**

There are 18 buildings here, well spread out either side of the river running down the centre of the site, and the buildings were involved in the different processes of getting gunpowder made and the three buildings that are dominant in this area are the three incorporating mills which are well away from the rest of the rest of the buildings, high up on the hill there and also separated quite well from each other, and they were the buildings in which those three ingredients were first combined together to make the gun powder, and they [were] combined together really by a millstone running round in a trough which would be driven by a water wheel; and that was the first most volatile moment in the process and when you look at these buildings you can see that there's a lot of black tar running down the sides of the walls and in fact that was because the buildings had tarpaulin roofs which were covered in tar, so that if there was an explosion the explosion would go up through and take out the tarpaulin roof and not actually damage the building itself. At some point in the process, after the gunpowder's been manufactured it gets compressed, but then it has to be broken up again and the method of doing that was basically to hit it with a hammer, now you can imagine if you were to have a granite table and you put the gunpowder on that and a metal hammer you'd create a spark and there'd be a pretty big explosion; so there's a limestone table in this building which probably would have come from somewhere like Ashburton and limestone is very smooth and unlikely to contribute to making a spark and the gunpowder would have been hit with wooden mallets, so you can imagine that's probably not the most popular job in the area.