

CORDITE STORE

SALTERFORTH BOTTOMS, KELBROOK.

CORDITE:
Explosive material used for propelling shells, bullets etc. (Collins English Dictionary)

At the onset of the First World War, a cordite storage dump was constructed on land at Kelbrook called Salterforth Bottoms. It was serviced by an internal narrow gauge railway which connected to the main railway line at Barnoldswick Junction and to the canal at the rear of Bashfield farm where the boxes of cordite could be delivered or dispatched by barge. The site was extensive, reaching as far as Acornlea Hall near Foulridge. Storage huts for the boxes of cordite were built on concrete pillars and sited at safe intervals and connected by the internal railway system.

At the end of the war the cordite, which can become very unstable, was destroyed by igniting it in the fields by the dump. Eventually the store was closed in 1923,

Some of the huts were bought and moved to various locations in the district.

LEEDS AND LIVERPOOL CANAL COMPANY

In your reply refer to
S187173

Inspector's Office, Engineer's Dept..
Skipton, 4th Nov 1915

Telephone: House 16 Skipton
Telephone: Office 160 Skipton
Dear Sir,

I have today met Mr Marriott, and after inspecting various sites in the Thorlby – Bank Newton district, he decided to go on to Salterforth to view the land between the canal & railway, from the boat yard towards Foulridge.

If they decide to take this piece he will want a concrete wall putting in near the gateway which leads from the towing path to the house occupied by Holgate Marsden to enable them to get boats alongside to unload. The wall to be long enough for three boats to be discharging at the same time.

I understand that he will write here at the earliest date. But asked me to report so that an estimate of the cost could be got out.

Yours

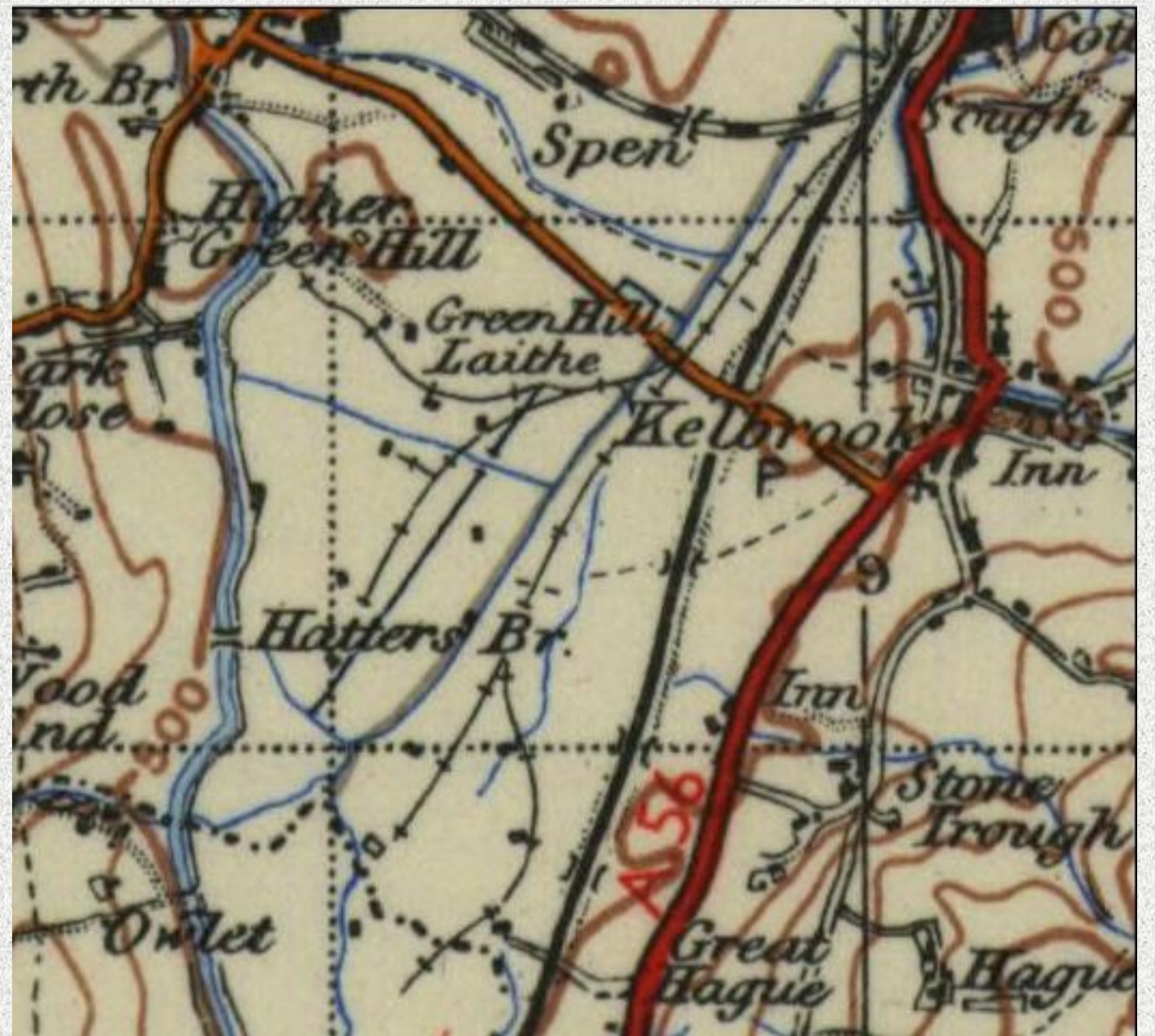
Transcript of letter re Mr Marriott, munitions committee.



Concrete wall as requested in letter



Outline of base for rail track from canal, past Bashfield farm to cordite store



Site of the ammo dump showing the internal railway system +—+—



Garage at Klondyke the mizen huts (right) are said to have been from the cordite store



Empty cordite boxes which were bought by Percy Carradice and used to build a hut in the field across from The Anchor Inn.

The hut made from cordite boxes known as The Tabernacle



White House Farm, Salterforth showing another nizen hut thought to be from the cordite store

