

Recovery of the New Walk Ordnance Railway

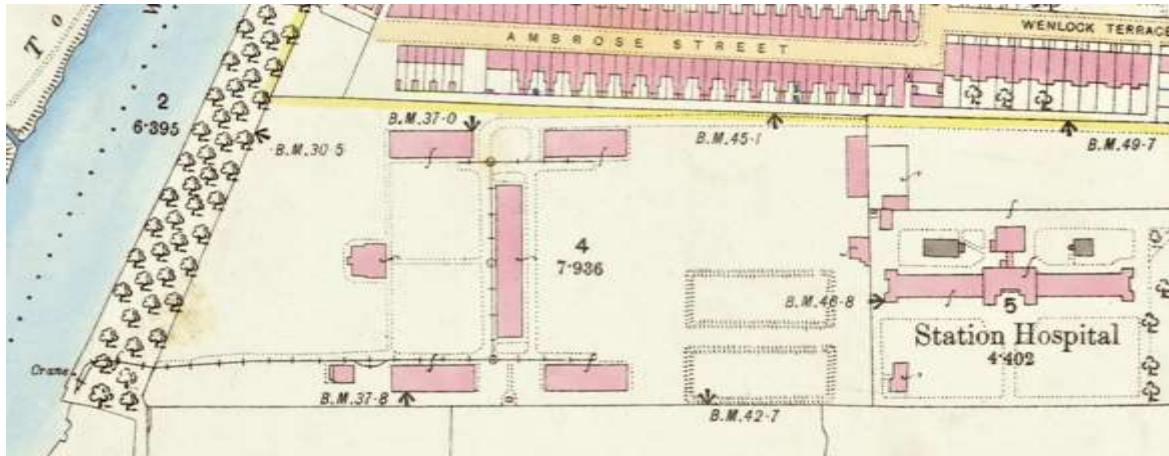


The newly exposed tracks at the Ordnance Depot wharf

Image: Chris Rainger

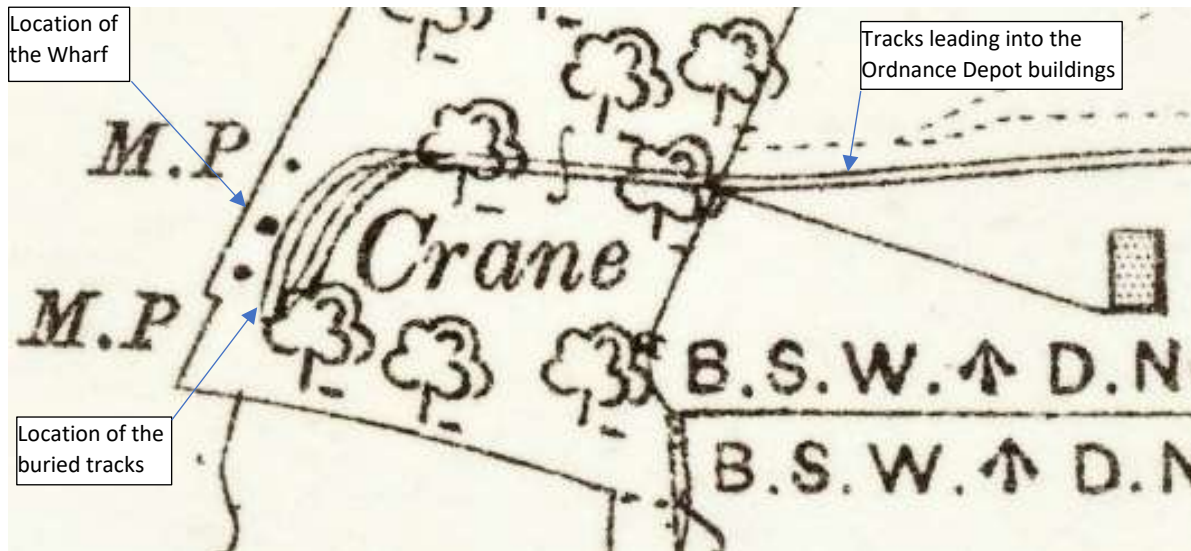
Volunteers from Goodgym have joined forces with the Friends of New Walk, to uncover the Ordnance Depot narrow gauge railway tracks on New Walk. The tracks were last fully exposed during the Millennium Project, when the new bridge was built, but have gradually been covered with silt from the river Ouse.

The tracks were installed in the 19th century to transport munitions into the depot from the riverside wharf. The Ordnance Depot had an extensive network of tracks, with turntables to enable the heavy munitions trucks to be turned onto another set of tracks. Some of the tracks ran through the buildings and small sections can still be seen today.



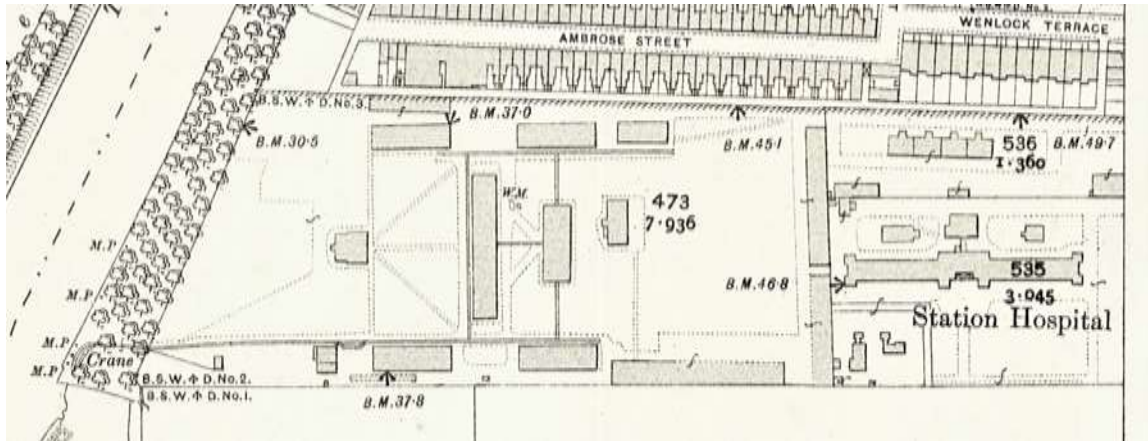
Layout of the Tracks as shown on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map

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Map of the Ordnance Depot Wharf in 1909

© National Library of Scotland



Layout of the Tracks as shown on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map

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The Cavalry Barracks on Fulford Road was built in the late 1790s and in 1854 a military hospital was built on the west side of Fulford Road on what became known as 'Hospital Fields'.

In the 1880s the Infantry Barracks (now, Imphal Barracks) were built and the West York Light Infantry (previously situated in Lowther Street) moved in.

In 1890, a depot for the Royal Ordnance Corps was constructed between the military hospital and the river Ouse.

The munitions were brought up the river in a sloop named Princess from Woolwich Arsenal and were used for training in the use of field guns and rifle target practice.



Field Gun Training on Hospital Fields during the Great War

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Goodgym volunteers digging out the tracks at the Ordnance Depot wharf

Picture Chris Rainger



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