

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 552

Lincolns Inn Library MD 102 f 174

The Case of the Petitioners, Phillippa and John Walton, Gun-Powder Makers, Owners and Occupiers of the Gun Powder Mills situated at Waltham Abbey...

These Mills have been used as such, from Time immemorial, and are now the Inheritance of the Petitioners, & in the several Deeds of Conveyance to them & their Predecessors, are thus described (amongst other Premises) viz. "All those three Powder-Mills wrought by three Wheels used for the Working Corning & Drying of Gunpowder and the Banks on each side of the River, together with the Water of River to the said Powder-Mills and Premises belonging or appertaining, commonly called the Fulling Mill River etc. Together with the Lock of Water-Passage and the Fishery and Tythes, together with all Ways, Currents, Waters, Water-Courses, Mill-Ponds, Banks, Flood-Gates, Hatches to the said Mills and Premises Belonging, and the Ground and Soil thereof and all other Advantages and appurtenances to the said Mills belongs, and are situate on a River now called the Powder Mill River which issues out of and falls into the River Lee, and the Petitioners have (as they are advised) an undoubted right to the veing of the Water in the Working their mills and for navigating their Barges to and from London;

The Petitioners have expended several thousand pounds in and about these Mills and the Nature of their Trade is such that it cannot so conveniently be carried on at any mill situated in or near a Town by Reason of the Danger of the Mills or any part of the Waks or Storehouse taking fire; whereas these are situated in a Marsh at a proper Distance from any Buildings so that though the Mills have been several times blown up no damage has accrued to any Persons except to the Petitioners other than by breaking some glass Windows by the Explosion in the Air and by the Situation of the Mills the Powder is conveyed from the Mill Soil down the river Lee to H M Magazine and their own Warehouses. near the River Thames in Barking Creek without passing through any Towns and consequently no so dangerous or cahrgable as if sent by land Carriage.

Probably c.1738 (petition in connection with the Bill for the River Lea Act of 1730). Certainly after 1733.