

# On Her Majesty's Service

WASC1060



From  
K.N. Bascombe  
ext 307/322

To  
M. McLaren esq.

Here is a text which is going for approval to publish in Post-Medieval Archaeology Volume 9. (N.B. Volume 8 is not out yet.)

I am also putting it in as a synopsis for a talk to the Waltham Abbey Historical Society on 5 March. For this purpose I am altering the title to "Smeaton's Mill, Waltham Abbey". Perhaps you would like to come to this meeting?

Ken B.

~~Mr Jones~~

Do you have a copy of this for the approval file? If not please use this: 'if you do please return this copy to me. 128/1'

27.1.75

→ Mr McLaren

Ret'd r.y. Clearance action has been taken  
on file

Rt 9 312/15

K N Bascombe and W A W Smith continued investigations at the now filled-in mill stream which provided power for the Powder Mills (cf. Post-Med. Archaeol., 8 (1974), forthcoming). The walls of a mill referred to as Smeaton's in a plan of 1783 consisted of at least 4 courses of red brickwork founded on clay laid directly on the bank created c.1700. Subsequently the ground around the mill was raised 0.2m; a brick wall to the leat was built in front of the earlier post-and-plank revetment of the bank. The machinery was carried on elm posts, typically 0.18m by 0.14m cross-section, and extending 2m below the brickwork, which was built around them. The floor of the mill was of stone slabs, and the superstructure no doubt of light weatherboarded construction. In the mid-19th century the building was taken down to the extant brickwork and the posts cut off to the same level; the new superstructure, with some yellow brickwork superimposed on the earlier work, had a clay floor and slate roof. Later alterations included the insertion of a wooden floor, and the rebuilding of the upper part of the leat wall. The building was demolished c.1950.

Drawings for a powder mill at Waltham Abbey, signed "J. Smeaton", dated 1771, and preserved in the library of the Royal Society (and indexed in Newcomen Soc. Extra Publ. No 5, (1950)) do not apparently refer <sup>to</sup> this mill as built.