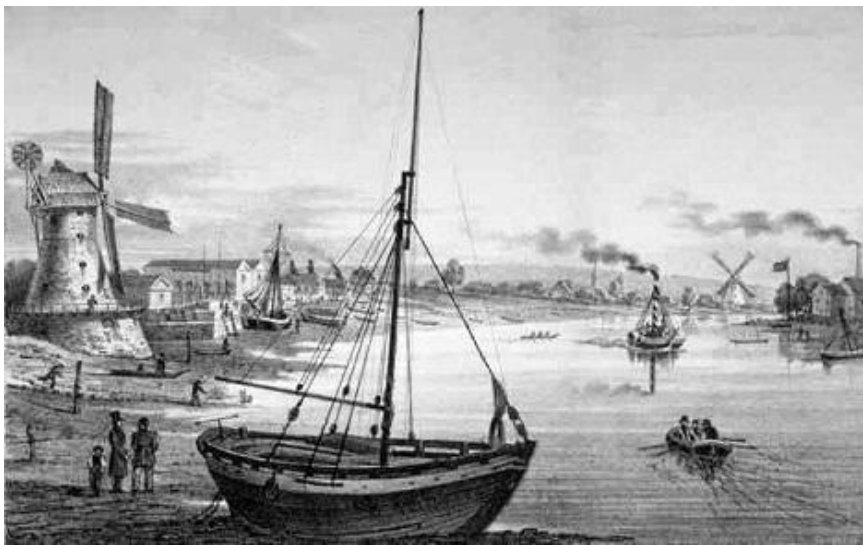


Windmills in Lambeth

There were three windmills in the vicinity of Lambeth Walk, and they were much used by the market gardens which helped to swell the food supplies for the ever-growing population north of the Thames in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Some of this food was grown in a market garden held by one Simon Harding who had a cottage and smallholding of three acres in Walnut Tree Walk. Looking at it today, it stretches the imagination to see it as a lane leading into Three Coney Walk and thence into the fields. Ducarel tells us that by 1185 Three Coney Walk was by then generally called Lambeth Walk, a name lately given by the builders of several new houses there.



The most northerly windmill was in a field to the west of the Walk and north of Paradise Row. It was approached by means of a lane which later became known as Mill Street (now Juxon Street, after an Archbishop of Canterbury in the 1660s).

The first evidence of the mill's existence is a drawing by Bernard Lens in 1135 entitled "a

view of the Palace of Lambeth" which shows the mill standing before the palace as seen from the river. Apparently it was a tower mill with four sails. In 1809, we know that John Fleet became the miller; unfortunately the London Gazette of 3 August 1811 referred to him as being in bankruptcy. After that the mill was taken over by Mr B Holden who occupied it until 1820.

A watercolour by H Pyall of 1820 shows the mill as a seven-storey tower, being circular and stone built, with an upper ten-sided portion of wood. There were four common sails with furled canvas and a semispherical cap. By this date, the mill appears hemmed in by small houses on all sides, although only eight years previously, in 1812, a map by WES Driver showed the area to the south of Mill Street as open ground.

The railway line extension opened on 11 July 1848 from Nine Elms to York Road, Waterloo, passing close to the west of the mill site undoubtedly led to the mill's demolition. No further maps or documents mention the mill.

