

WASC 752

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POSSIBLE LINK WITH THE MOST FAMOUS PLOT OF ALL

THE Explosives Research and Development Establishment in Waltham Abbey have been given permission by the council's highways committee to take the Powdermill Lane street sign into their museum.

The sign, a reminder of Waltham's connection with gunpowder and explosives going back to the 15th century, will disappear when a round-

about linking Highbridge Street with the new northern relief road is completed.

The name came from the days when the Royal Gunpowder Factory, the oldest explosives factory in Britain, was based in the town.

It supplied gunpowder to beat the Spanish Armada in the 16th century and there is a theory that Guy Fawkes got his explosives from Waltham Abbey.

He and his conspirators plotted their treason at nearby Enfield and would have had no difficulty in shipping the gunpowder down the River Lea to the Houses of Parliament.

C & W Weekly Telegraph 19/2/71