

ALPHA ROAD

There is a small unmade track on the south side of the road, a little to the right of Ingle Close. There are three original bungalows built up there which have now been numbered and named –

‘TRAILS’ – 132

‘TRAILSIDE’ – 130

‘FARINA’

The last one has never been given a number, for some strange reason. ‘Trails’ is at the top of the track and the garden backs onto Crispe Park. In the south-west corner of their back garden there is now an opening through their fence to the remains of a ‘look-out’ tower that once belonged to the owners of Birchington Hall. The earliest mention of it that can be traced at the moment is on a map of 1852, when Birchington Hall came up for sale by John Friend. It may, however, be earlier than this. It would appear that the Hall owners were trying to ‘keep up with the ‘Jones’s’ at Quex Park, who had built their ‘look-out tower’ in c. 1812.

One of the previous owners of ‘Trails’ put a fence round the copse in which the tower stands and it is now claimed to be a part of the ‘Trails’ property.