

COLEMAN'S STAIRS ROAD and GAP

In the earliest 19th century maps which name of the roads in Birchington, the whole of the road between the Square and Coleman's Stairs Gap was all called Coleman's Stairs Road.

By 1872, the south western end of it had been renamed Albion Road, leaving only the part north of the railway line as Coleman's Stairs Road. The Coleman family had owned land in Birchington between 1600 and the 1800s, particularly in this area. It is almost certain that it was one of this family who cut through the cliffs at the end of the road. They would have used this as an easy route up from the shore, where seaweed and lime were extracted. Seaweed was used as a fertilizer on the land, while lime was used in the making of mortar in buildings.

The Coleman family was highly respected in the community and at different times a member held the post of Overseer to the Poor – a very responsible job, elected by the Annual Vestry – and as a Churchwarden.