

The Homestead Farm

The farm stood along the Canterbury Road and was originally the farm for Birchington Hall. It was being worked to capacity during the Second World War. At one time Mrs Hart, Derek Hart's mother, was working on it as part of her war-service. Her children used to come across from Park Lane School at the end of the school day and into Park Road. They met up with her and waited until she had finished work for the day, before all walking back down to their home in Minnis Bay.

In the 1948 edition of Kelly's Directory, we find Homestead Farm Cottage (occupied by Henry Wilson) and Homestead Farm, being worked by the farmer Ernest Philpott. Both properties stood on the Canterbury Road between Miss Samuels' Boarding Kennels and Spurgeon's Children's Homes (Seaside Branch).

In 1951 John D. Wilson is listed as the farmer of Homestead Farm, with no mention of Homestead Cottage. By 1957 there is no longer any mention of the farm and the entrance to Spurgeon's Homes has now been moved round into Park Road. The Homes had been completely rebuilt between 1951 and 1954 to house all the children from Stockwell in Birchington on a permanent basis. In doing this, the Directors of the Trust incorporated most of the farm into playing fields for the children or else let the remainder of the land out to nearby farmers.