

QUEX FARM COTTAGE:

This cottage lies behind Quex Farmhouse and was originally half its present size. In 1980, the house was enlarged to accommodate the family of one of the estate employees. When the alterations were done, there was an old woodcutter's cottage to the left of Quex Farm Cottage. This had a single room on each floor and was built mainly of flint and stone. It was by joining this building with the cottage that the enlargement was achieved. To the right hand side of the front door of the original cottage is a stone engraved with the date '1611'. Judging by certain features in the house, particularly down in the cellar, this would appear to be the date when some new work was done on the house, rather than the date when the house was first erected. The pre-1980 house was single storey with two attic bedrooms lit by small dormer windows. The roof is large and steep, which indicates it was probably thatched when first built.

The outside walls have some sections built of flint and others of brick, with no particular systematic plan about the structure. The front door is very low, with the opening of about 5 ft. 4ins. high, again suggesting a fairly early date. The windows are a later addition and may belong to the 1611 date. The inside has been altered drastically in the 1980 remodelling, so there is very little to see of the original structure. The cellar, however, has only been slightly altered since about 1960. Here, we can still see some very old beams supporting the framework of the house. It is these beams that give a possible build date for the house of about 1500. The walls of the cellar are lined with the creamy coloured clunch chalk blocks, so frequently found in other old cellars in the village.

The house stands on the corner of the complex that forms the Quex Farm itself. The present farmhouse is built of flint and has a plaque dated 1837. This may be the date when the house was built, though the building could be slightly older, judging by its structure. This one has not yet been studied internally. It may have replaced an earlier building, but it is also possible that Quex Farm Cottage was the old farmhouse. The farm stands on the western edge of the Park, very near to the present road from Birchington to Acol and Quex Farm Cottage once had the main road from Birchington to Woodchurch running right past the side of the house. This was only diverted to the southern end of the Park in 1815.