

# DOG ACRE

Notes for a talk – AT Walker  
1960s

Where is it and why 'Dog Acre'?

Where it is – Alpha Road and corner of Station Road

Originally belonged to the church until 1921, when sold for £390, and the money invested in War Stock. Interest from investment is now used for the upkeep of the churchyard.

Why?

This land was kept for the Dog Whipper, for his use in return for his services.

The Dog Whipper's job was not only to control the dogs, but boys too!

In Birchington we first hear of a Dog Whipper in 1622 - "Old Hayward".  
He was also paid 8/- per year.

1811 - Dog Whipper, James Knott, walked round the church twice and around the churchyard every Sunday during service to keep dogs and boys in good order.

1832 - James Knott Senior was Beadle – paid 7s per week – to attend on Sundays to clear the church wall of people – as parishioners were going to church – other days from 9 to 4 to clear streets of tramps, vagrants and strangers.

1839 - Wanstall was **Constable**. From this date on, we do not hear of the Dog Whipper anymore.

