

SEED MILL

The build date of the seed mill is unknown, but **1757**, an account speaks of a fire "consuming much clover and Trefoin seed, damage £300" at the Seed Mill in Birchington.

In **1796** another report says it was used "to separate clover and hop medic seeds from the husks and prepare them for sale". It was considered an unusual curiosity at the time.

The seed mill was owned by Isabella Brydges in **1840** and in **1847**, Edward Neame is listed as "Seedsman and Maltster in Birchington". In the **1861** census, the road it stood in was called "Seed Mill Road". A carter, a shepherd and an agricultural labourer lived in the road.

Sometime in the latter end of the 19th century, the seed mill was owned by Richard Read. He married Mary Ann and had seven children by her, who were all baptised at All Saints Church. Although Richard Read was older than Charles Hudson of Hudson's Mill in Mill Row, they were both running their enterprises at the same time for a short while.

The seed mill was eventually owned by Anthony May who was later declared bankrupt and the mill ceased working.

When the railway bridge was constructed, the spoil from the cutting was spread out to form the slope and some of it was laid over the mill site. This recently caused problems for the foundations of Rossetti Court, which was built on the Seed Mill ground in the late 1960s or early 1970s.