# TOWER IN THE GROUNDS OF BIRCHINGTON HALL MEADOW

The tower once stood in the north corner of the meadow across the road from Birchington Hall.  It was shown on the 1852 map that was drawn for the sale of the Hall and its 40 acres of farmland.  At that point it was being sold by a member of the Friend family and was eventually bought by Thomas and Susan Gray, a wealthy family from London.

The meadow was sold again along with the rest of the property to Spurgeon's Orphanages in 1919 and continued in their hands until the homes were finally closed in 1978.  When it was sold this time, a development company bought the main site, but did not want the small piece on the north side of the road, so Thanet Council decided to buy it.  The piece had been let to local farmers and was used to grow brassicca crops or potatoes.  Thanet Council later allowed it to be landscaped for a park for Birchington.  The tower base is still standing in the top corner of the plot, but it has now been enclosed into the garden of 'Trails', (132 Alpha Road).  This property stands at the top of a little track leading off the road between 118 on the left and 116 on the right of the track in Alpha Road.

The drawings of the tower are by **Tanya Carr**, who lived at Trails as a child.  These are the first sight most people have had of what it looked like and were lent to Nick Dermott by **Kelly Marshall**, the present owner of 'Trails'.

The tower was probably the 19th century owner's attempt to keep up with Quex Park owners, who already had a Look-out Tower in its northern meadow, built in about 1812. The tower in Quex is also known as a Look-out Tower, but has the additional title of the 'Gun Tower', because it used to have some cannon displayed around its foot.  The view from the top of the tower gives a clear siting of the Thames Estuary and the shipping travelling up and down its length.  This is exactly what Birchington Hall's tower did in its heyday, with the added advantage of being about three quarters of a mile nearer to the sea.



Gun Tower at Quex