

Project: Proposed Internal Repairs and Refurbishment to
"The King's Head",
Church Street, Rudgwick, W Sussex RH12 3EB.

Job No: 26001
Date: July 2026

1. Introduction.

The proposed scheme is for Internal Refurbishment, External Decorations and the installation of an enlarged Decking Area.



Figs. 1 & 2. Front & Rear Elevations of "The Kings Head".

2. Rudgwick.

Rudgwick is a village and civil parish in the Horsham District of West Sussex, England. The village is 6 miles (10 km) west from Horsham on the north side of the A281 road. It is located on the fringe of the Weald with the upper reaches of the River Adur in the valley below. The parish's northern boundary forms part of the county boundary between Surrey and West Sussex. It has a population of approximately 2,800 people.

The village can be traced back to 1341 when it is believed it was referred to as "Riggewick" and is again mentioned in 1377 as "Riccherwyk".

3. "The Kings Head".

From "Rudgwick's Past, Present and Future, No 4" (Rudgwick Preservation Society) and "A Little Kings Head History". M Francis. Autumn 2000 Newsletter. RPS.

The King's Head is in Church Street, right by the church. Richard Jenkins, a shopkeeper, acquired the land and a 'Fair Hovel' in 1733 – inscribed bricks with "Jenkins 1826" are on the right. The latter was where the "standings, boards and fair stuff" for the Rudgwick Fair were stored. This fair took place for centuries in the vicinity every year on the Monday after the feast of the Holy Trinity. The first documented reference to a pub however is not until 1799 when the vestry meeting adjourned to "the sign of the King's Head". By 1840 it was in the hands of John Jenkins, a descendent of Richard. The steps up to the door, pictured during the time when Kate May was landlady (below), are still there today.



The site is small, so the pub is unusually long and narrow, and stands between the road and the churchyard (seen through the open door in this photograph). It is believed Jenkins built the house (with its cellar at ground level at one end because of the slope of the land) to replace the hovel and provide storage in the cellar, now the pub kitchen, as he had "the liberty and privilege at the time of the Fair to be holden at Rudgwick in setting up the standings as usual". This has not stopped landlords claiming much greater antiquity for the pub! Yet much of the present building is a later extension southwards. Perhaps its setting in the old part of the village and its ambience inside, including timber partitioning, suggest an older building than the 18th century.

"I remember quite well paintings round the walls or rather painted on the walls. When the new staircase was put in I cut out the lath and plaster of one painting which was dated 1778, the subject was the first peal of bells rung in Rudgwick Church. I remember cutting it out with a pad saw and what a difficult job it was to avoid cracking the plaster; I see in my diary that I cut the painting out 1st May 1924. (The painting was eventually presented to the Sussex Archaeological Society in Lewes.)"

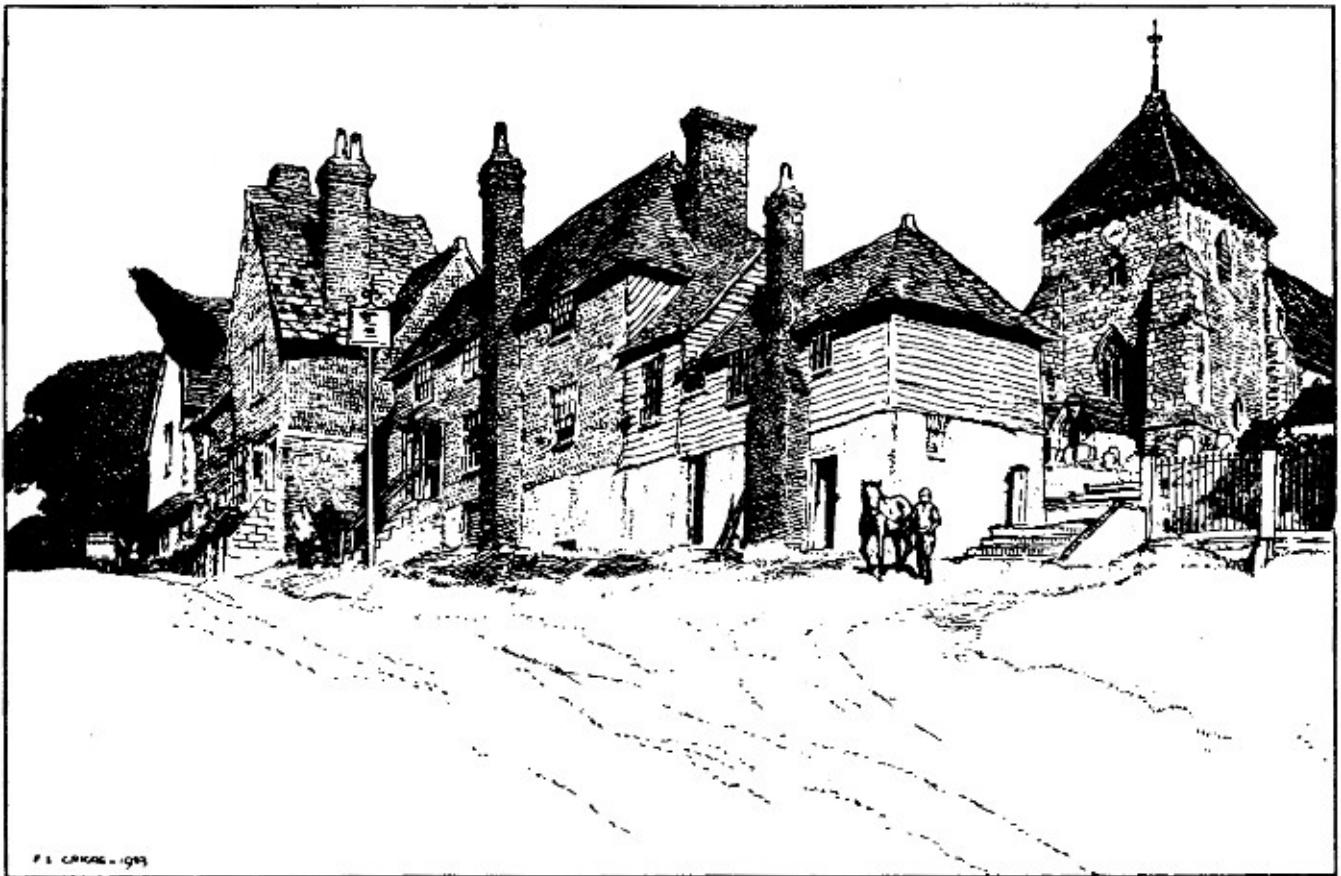


Fig. 3. from "Highways and Byways in Sussex" by EV Lucas, pub. 1903.



Fig. 4. Late 1940s/early 50s.

4. The Design Concept.

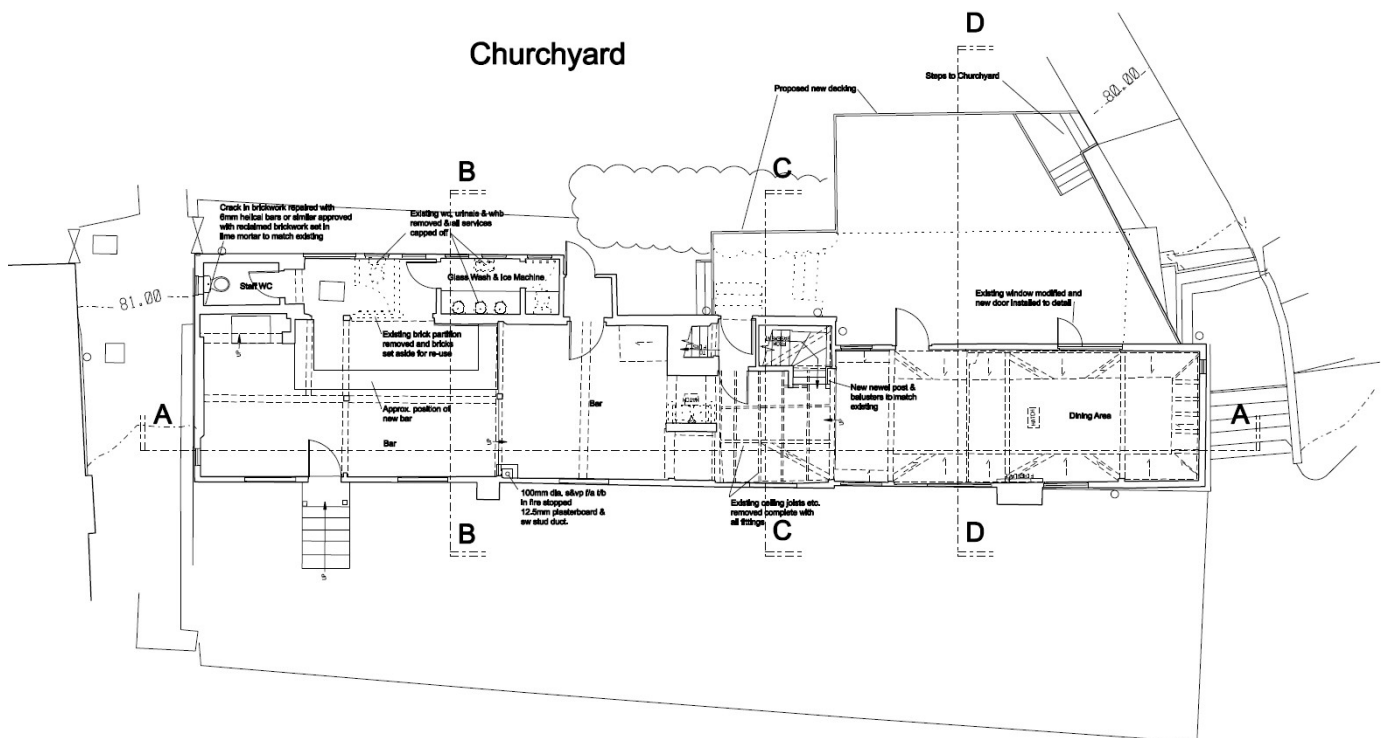


Fig. 5. Ground Floor – As Proposed

Internal refurbishment is limited to repositioning the bar to its' original location and removing a brickwork panel to increase "back of bar" facilities. "Decorative" ceiling joists are to be removed and ceilings repaired as necessary. New male and female wc's are to be constructed in a vacant room on the first

Heritage Statement



floor. The existing external decking to the rear is to be enlarged and a new doorway formed by a modification to an existing window.

There will be no alterations to the external fabric to the building other than repairs with materials to match and re-decoration in existing colours.

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