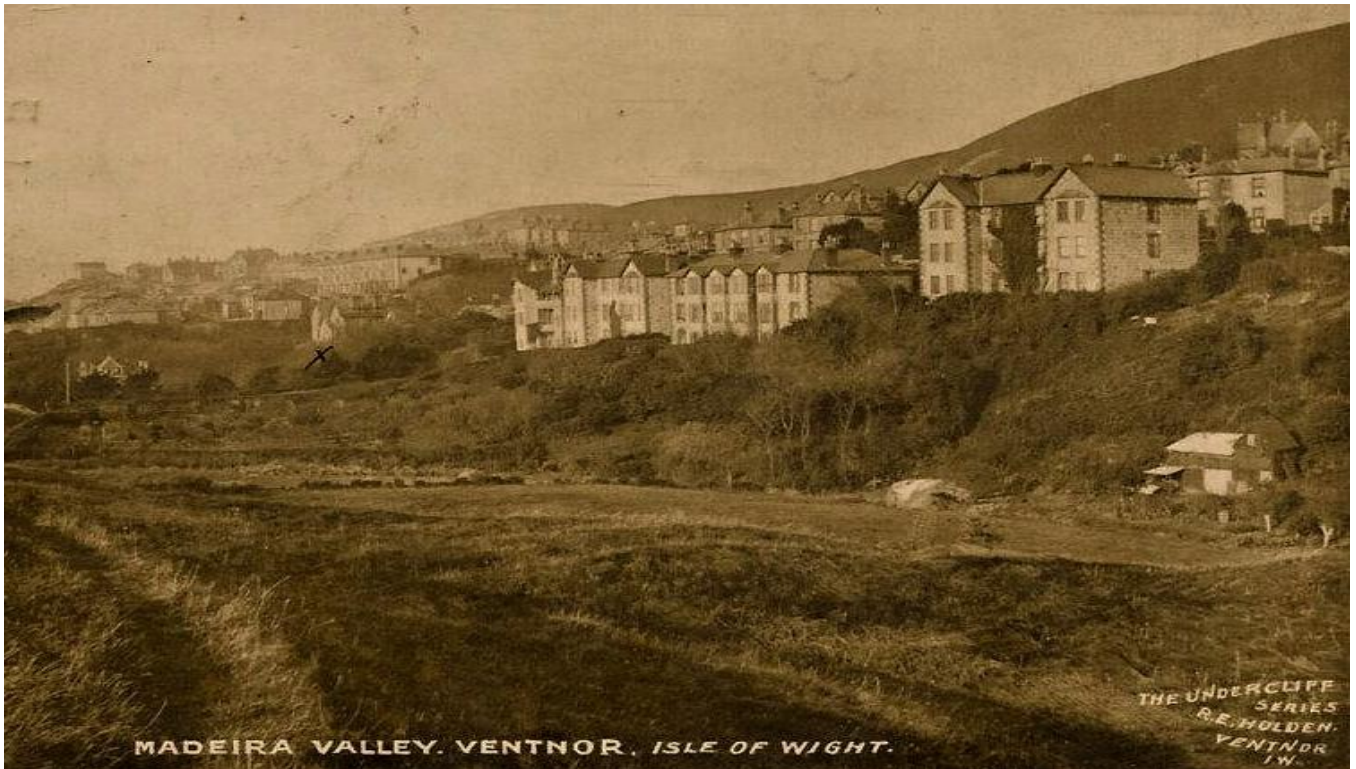




VENTNOR & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Sea Cote, Madeira Road



The post-card reproduced above belongs to one of the Society's members and forms a fairly rare survival from R.E. Holden's 'Undercliff series'. It probably dates from around 1890 and the line of buildings visible form the south side of the lower portion of Madeira Road. The trackway in the immediate foreground leads round to Longdown, while the camera position is not far from the edge of the sea cliff in an area once commonly known as Highport. Some of the rough pasture visible here can still to be found today if you walk down Kings Bay Road and turn east at the bottom.

The large three-storey building on the right was called Sea Cote and formed a pair of semi-detached villas, known as 1 and 2 Sea Cote. They were erected around the 1880s, probably as a speculation, each containing separate sets of apartments for letting to the resort's many visitors or its longer-term residents. However, the building appears to have had a rather indifferent record on this count. In the 1901 Census, it was listed as unoccupied. In 1903, the Ventnor Red Book lists it as vacant. By 1908, though, the same guide records a Mrs Upton as letting apartments there and she remained in that position in 1915, with one of the tenants listed as a Madame de Ternant. Wartime would have dented the demand for such accommodation and by October 1924, the entire contents of No 2 Seacote were being auctioned by Albert Bull & Porter, including some quite choice pieces. No 1 Seacote appears to have fared rather better, for according to Kelly's Directory of 1935-6, all three of its apartments were taken: Mrs Adamson a nurse; Edward Wheeler; and Martin Millmore, carrier.

Today, you will no longer find Seacote there, for the structure was demolished in the 1970s and permission granted for the construction of flats. But they were never built and the site remains empty.

Michael Freeman, from files in Ventnor heritage Centre, including the late Fay Brown's Index. Robert Trowbridge mentioned that Jill Wearing was born at Seacote. Jill confirms that this was the case and was able to show me a picture of herself being bathed by the nurse when a baby, all conventional decencies naturally observed.

Ventnor & District Local History Society. Postcard reproduced by permission of Robert Trowbridge.



Ventnor & District Local History Society is a registered charity, working to preserve and record the history of our area and make it available to the public in the Ventnor Heritage Centre.

The Society and Heritage Centre are run and managed by volunteers.

www.ventnorheritage.org.uk / telephone 855407

[Ventnor & District Heritage Facebook Group](#)

