

Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey 1st edn 25" map (1869)

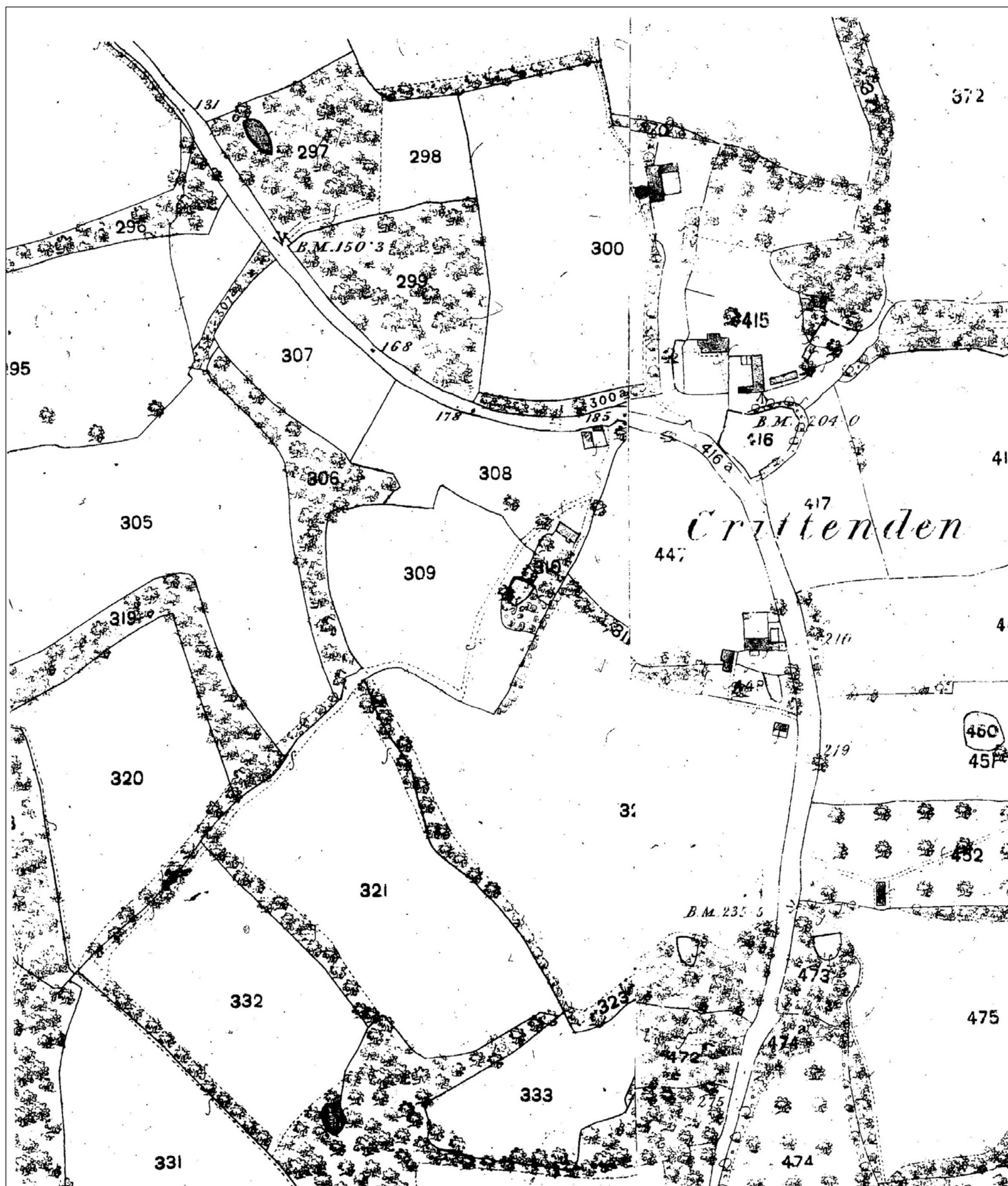
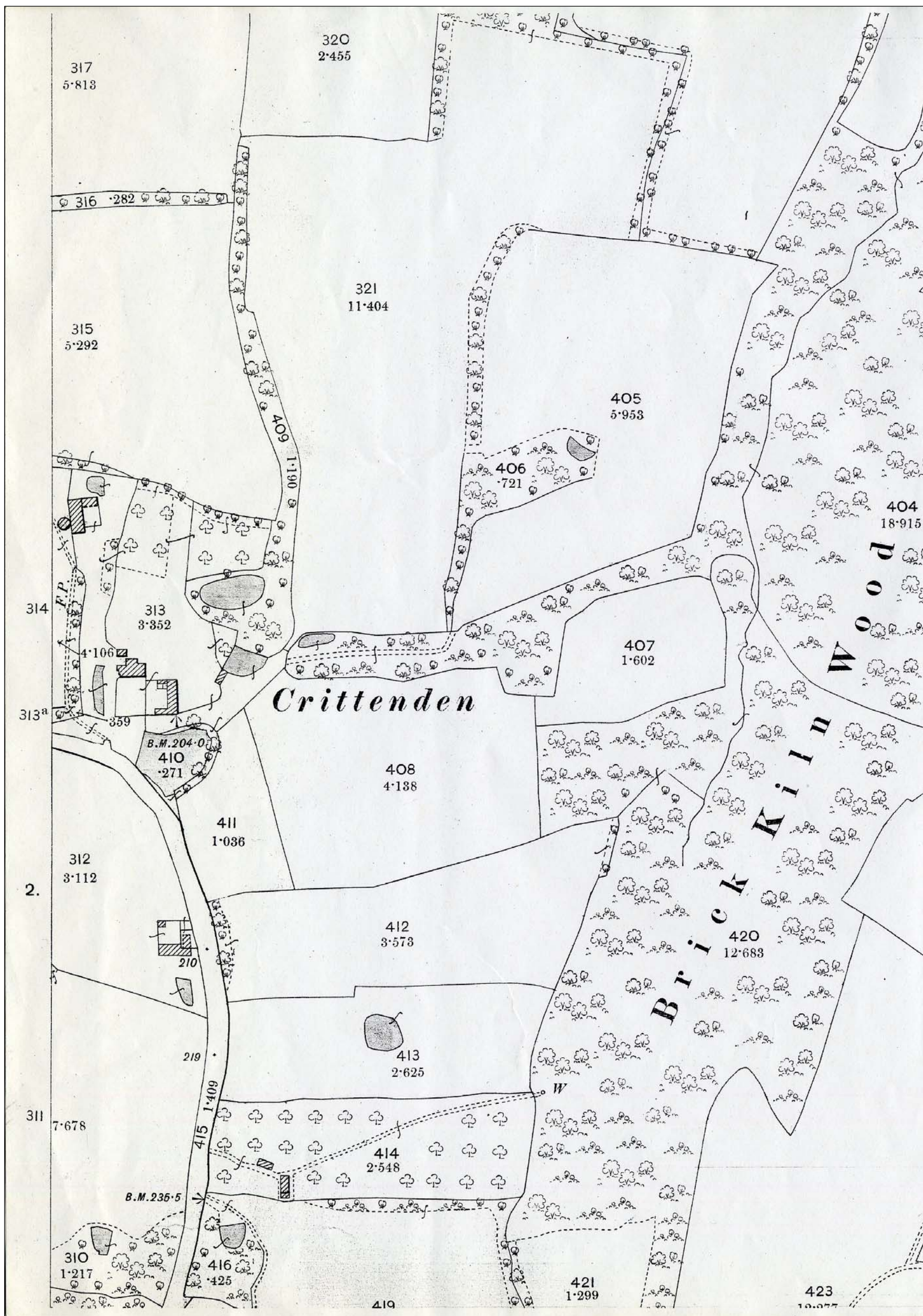


Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 2nd edn 25" map (1897)



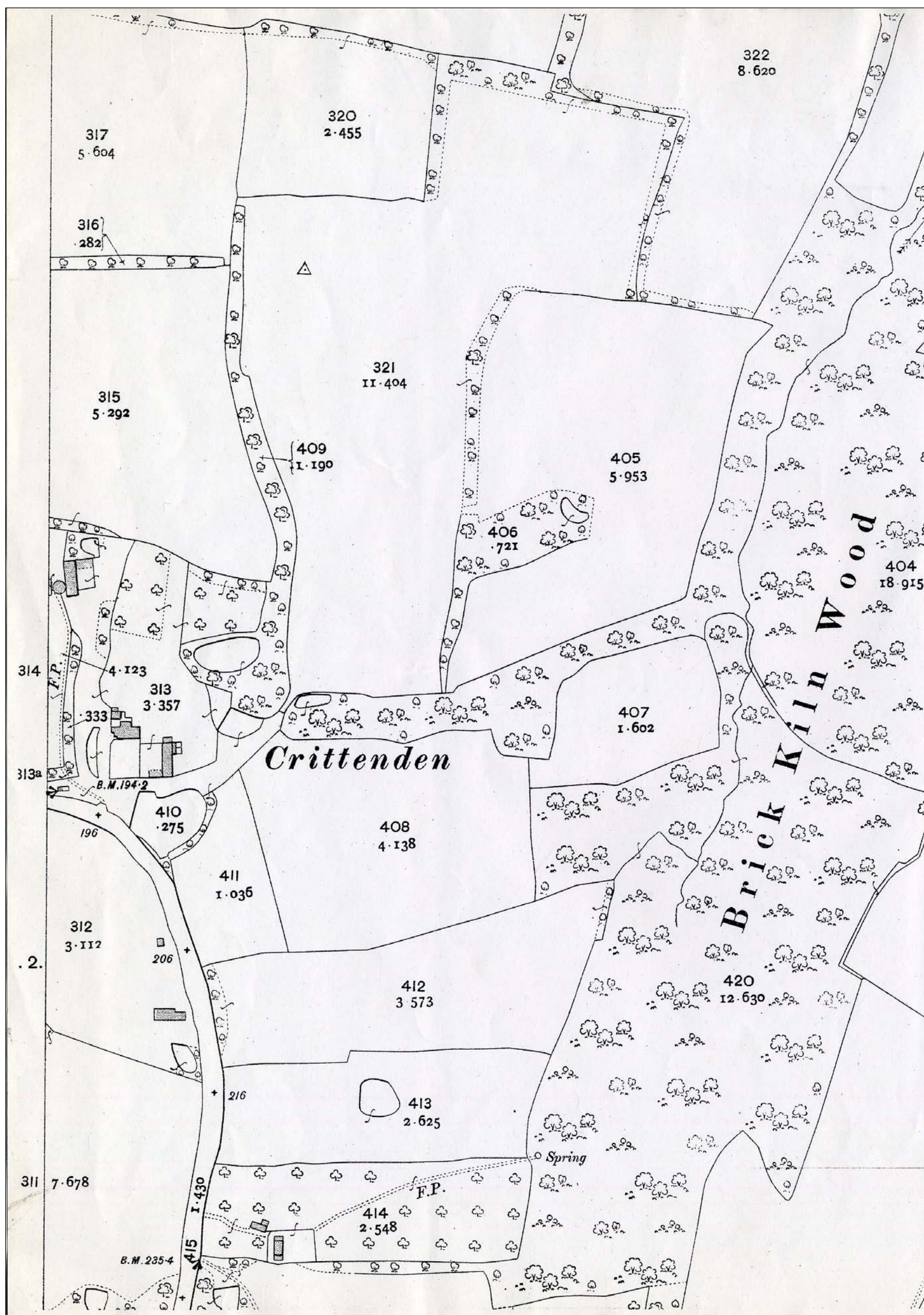
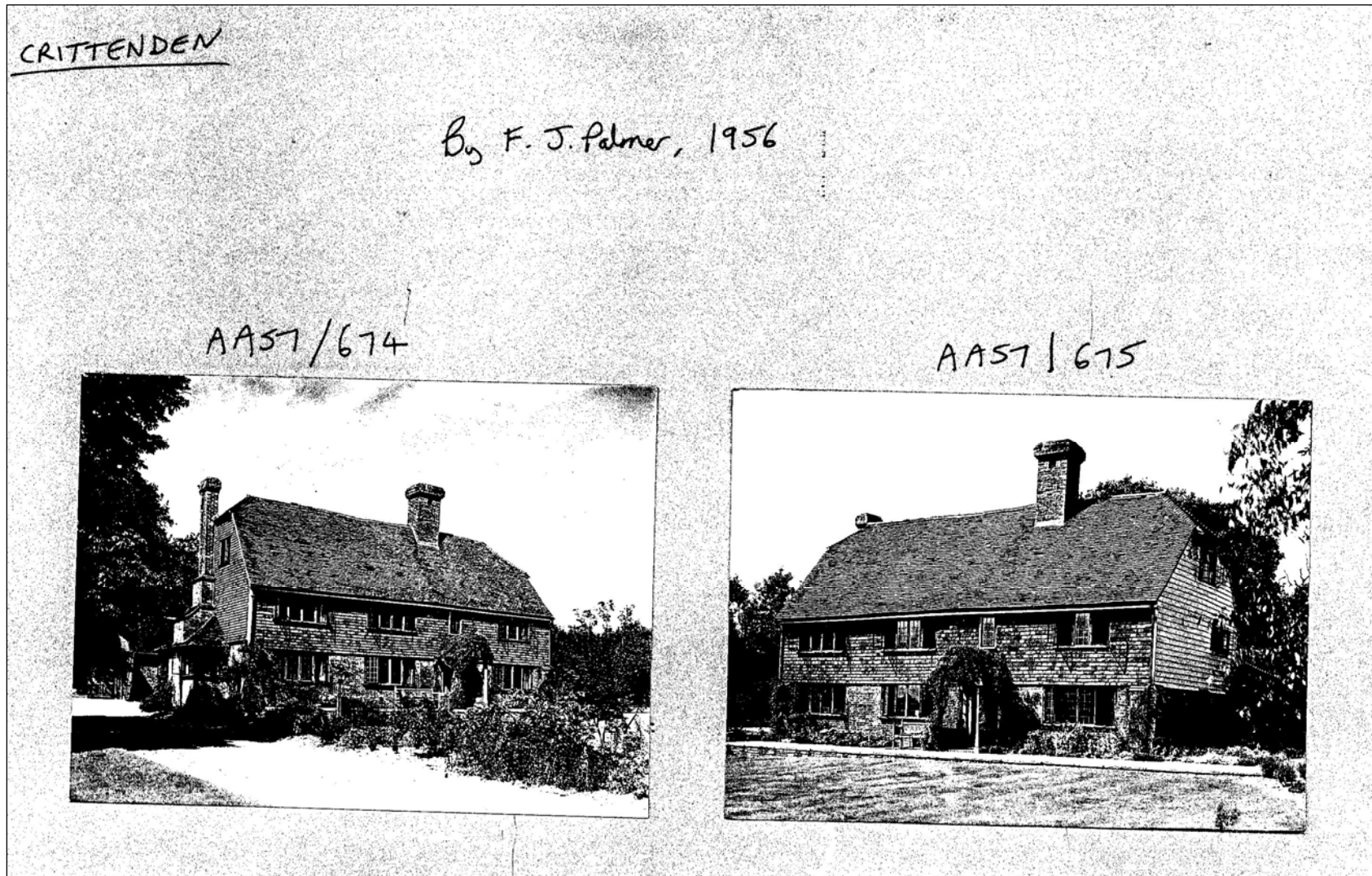


Fig. 8 2 black-and-white photographs of house 1956. NMR (Red Box Collection) Ref AA57/674-5



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Fig. 9 4 b/w images from Ben P. Thomsett, 'The Making of a new garden: Crittenden House, Matfield, Kent', *RHS Journal* Vol. LXXXV (February 1960), pp. 77-91



FIG. 22—Crittenden House from across the main pond

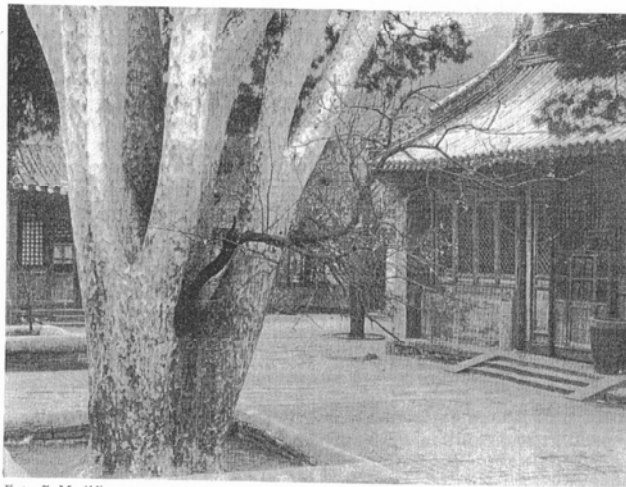


Photos, J. E. Downward



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FIG. 24—Seat and small figures at the top of the Rose Garden with the mixed border of shrubs and herbaceous plants behind



Photo, J. M. Aldix

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Fig. 10: b/w photograph from Leslie Elgar Pike, *Brenchley and Matfield, Kent. The Official Guide* (1966).



Fig. 11 Entry from *Fisons Guide to Gardens* (1970), pp. 40-41

in America; and on the lawn is the huge evergreen oak planted on the day the castle was begun. The mulberries grow in a walled garden, the top half of which could have been the old parterre. Leaning over a high wall are vast old yews, and growing against it is the oldest wistaria in England, perhaps not Tradescant's (although in his 1656 garden list he indicates some sort of pea-flowered plant of this nature), for the introduction date of the wistaria is never given as earlier than 1724. It was 'Capability' Brown who made the lake in the woodland and who redesigned much of the garden. His three terraces descend from the castle, with sweeping views of the Kent countryside and with herbaceous borders on the two lower levels. At the sides brick steps lead down in wide curves to the lawn.

Crittenden House

Zone Centre: Tunbridge Wells, Route 3

Owner: B P Tompsett, Esq

When a man who owns a garden has planted it himself, and when that man is a plant hunter of the Himalaya who knows a good thing when he sees it -- expect to find something out of the ordinary. And here it is, a four-acre garden full of interesting things. Well laid out, too. Mr Tompsett planned it on labour saving lines, eliminating hedges except where they were needed for shelter, with no digging of beds (they

are mostly peated down), no annuals and few biennials. Shrubs are therefore a feature, and these he chooses for contrast in foliage and form; but there is a rose garden, and he has introduced roses into the shrub beds to give colour throughout the year. Not that Mr Tompsett likes great splashes of colour everywhere: he prefers it on a slow time scale, by which he means natural planting and mixed borders where the sequence of bulbs, rhododendrons, lilies and so on follow each other through the seasons till autumn brings out the berries and bright leaves. He started the garden in 1956, inheriting three large ponds choked with weeds and a tangle of overgrowth that almost hid the house. The soil was impossible. Because of iron mining operations there was no topsoil in some places and wet clay in the rest. He had to import thousands of tons of fresh soil. When planting he followed the contours of the land and ponds, and he was careful to leave the best of the native flora -- the primroses and bluebells, foxgloves and spotted orchids, the honeysuckle that grew up the trees, and the wild roses. The result, created by this connoisseur of good plants who feels for each one almost as if it were a human being, is a garden completely satisfying, and perhaps your visit may coincide with one of the evenings when it is floodlit -- an added enchantment.

Fig. 12 2 colour photographs 1981/82 (a) rose garden (b) house from pond

CRITTENDEN HOUSE.



ROSE GARDEN.

1981/2.



VIEW OF HOUSE FROM POND.

1981/2.

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Fig. 13 Photographs of Crittenden February 2009



Above Left: Farm building across the pond

Above Right: Gate and drive

Left: West Front