

**Worthing's Pre-19th Century Farms and Cottages  
Property Record Sheet**

**Natural region:** Coastal Plain

**Parish:** Broadwater

**Settlement:** Worthing

Location of

Property

Not Known

**Description of Land Parcel:**

While the location of Joan Swift's croft remains unknown, her probate reveals she was one of Worthing's smallholders, with 3½ acres of crops growing in the open fields and livestock grazing on the teville and/or salt grass common.

**Occupier:** Joan Swift

**Date:** 29th May 1640

**Occupation/Status:** Widow

**Probate Inventory Ref:** EP1/29/029/033

**Total Estate Value [TEV] £ 14.858**

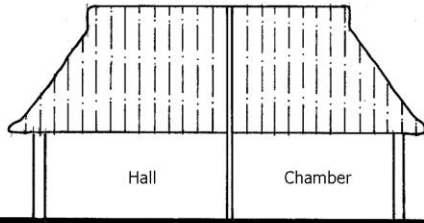
**Appraisers:** Thomas Monke and Thomas Singer, Yeoman

**Analysis of Goods and Chattels**

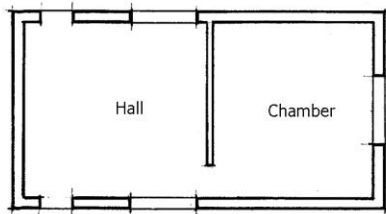
Description	Household Goods	Livestock	Crops	Stored Produce	Husbandry Tackle	Tools of Trade	Fishing Equipment	Clothes & Money	Debts & Bonds	Land	Other/ Misc
<b>In the hall</b>											
1 table, 1 forme, 1 coubert	0.250										
1 brass pann, 2 kettles, 1 brass pot	1.000										
one ione pot	0.075										
6 pieces of pewter	0.333										
5 bowles, 1 charne	0.100										
1 spitt, 1 gridione, 2 pot hangers	0.100										
2 fitches of porke				0.400							
1 lantern, 2 sives	0.050										
<b>In the Chamber</b>											
1 flock bed, 2 feather boulders, 2 blankets, 1 covering	1.333										
2 bedsteds	0.250										
3 payre of sheets	0.500										
4 chests	0.400										
3 keene, 1 bulloke		1.450									
2 hogs		0.400									
1 acre of wheat & 1 acre and a rood of barley, 1 acre and a rood of tares			4.000								
2 bushells, 5 bushells of barley				0.517							
5 bushells of malt				0.300							
3 sheep, 1 lamb		0.800									
3 firkins	0.100										
4 nayle of hemp				0.500							
hir parrill and monie in her purse								1.000			
2 buckets & other lumber					1.000						
<b>Total(s)</b>	4.491	2.650	4.000	1.717	1.000	-	-	1.000	-	-	-
<b>% of TEV</b>	30.23%	17.84%	26.92%	11.56%	6.73%	0.00%	0.00%	6.73%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

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### Description of house and lifestyle



Longitudinal Section



Plan

Joane Swift's probate inventory reveals that prior to her death in 1640 she still occupied a small cramped 2 room medieval open-hall house that comprised just hall and chamber. She only had the bare necessities of life and the overall value of her household goods and chattels was the modest sum of £4.14s.10d (30% of her TEV).

Hanging in the hall were two fitches of bacon, and the two live "hogs" recorded in her probate inventory were probably kept on the croft adjoining her house. She also owned three "keene", one "bollocke", 3 sheep and a lamb. However, growing in the open fields were her most valuable asset: 1 acre of wheat, 1 acre and a rood of barley and 1 acre and a rood of tares, which together with the 5 bushels of stored barley, and 4 nayles of hemp represented 38% of her TEV.

Born Joane Whitgroome, she had married Thomas Swift of Worthing at Broadwater Church on 1st June 1618, following the death of his first wife Ann, 4 months earlier. Their only son, also named Thomas, who was baptised on 28th July 1622, only lived for 7 years and was buried on 12th January 1630. It is, however, clearly evident that following the death of her husband in 1634 she had continued to farm the smallholding with either hired help or assistance from friends and/or relatives.