

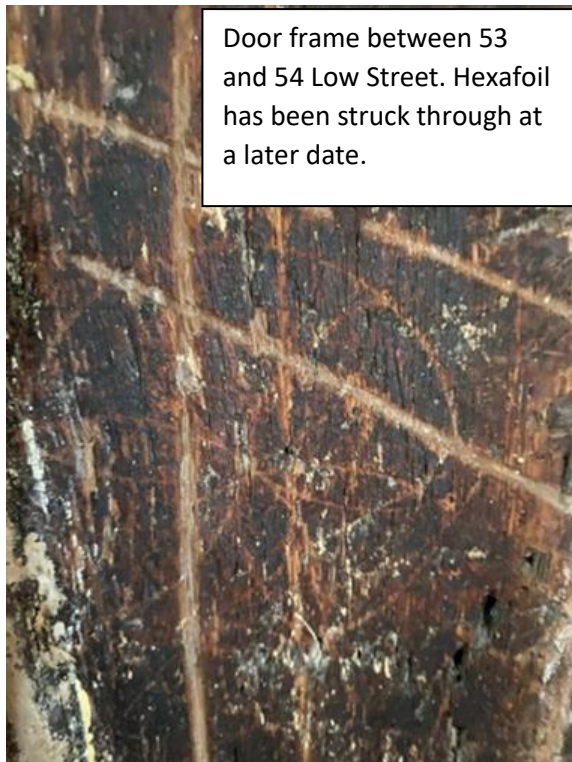
c. Compass drawn circles

i. Hexafoils and Quatrefoils (Daisy Wheels and Consecration crosses)

Daisy wheels occur throughout Hoxne and the area of study and has dates in this area from the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Yew Tree Cottage) to 1819 (Thelnethan windmill). They are found in the usual suspect places – chimney Bressemer (Locks Phghtle, Thorpe Abbott), Door frames (54 Low Street & Yew Tree Cottage, Church Hill), Above and below windows (6, Cross Street & Locks Phghtle, Thorpe Abbott) and on cross passage panels (Gissing Farm, South Green) and on a beam in the corner of a first-floor bedroom (Yew Tree House, Church Hill). Matt Champion suggests that in Churches (where they are common) they are a representation of the cross. The use of the symbol in our secular buildings maybe just that or a more complex meaning. Whatever the meaning they are all located traditionally where it was perceived evil in its different forms could enter the house and do no good. It repelled harm.



6 Cross street above a window

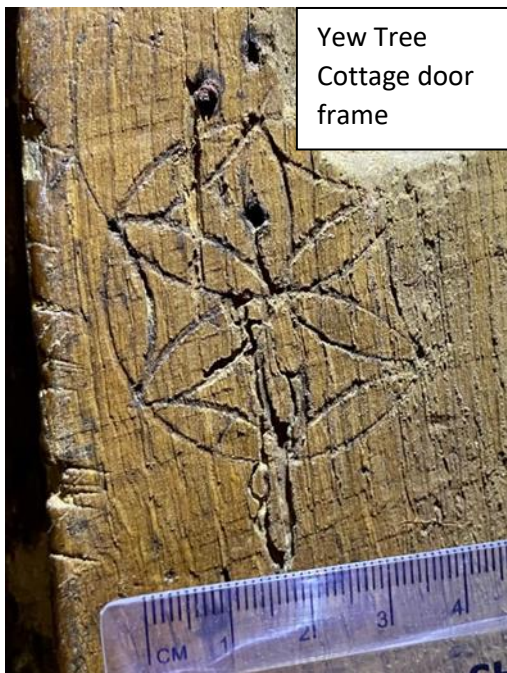


Door frame between 53 and 54 Low Street. Hexafoil has been struck through at a later date.



Locks Pyghtle Two small hexafoils on the Bressemer





Yew Tree Cottage door frame



Yew Tree cottage. & Circles with a Hexafoil in the centre. Timber shrinkage cracks offset the inscription suggesting it was scribed when the oak was green and the house was being constructed.

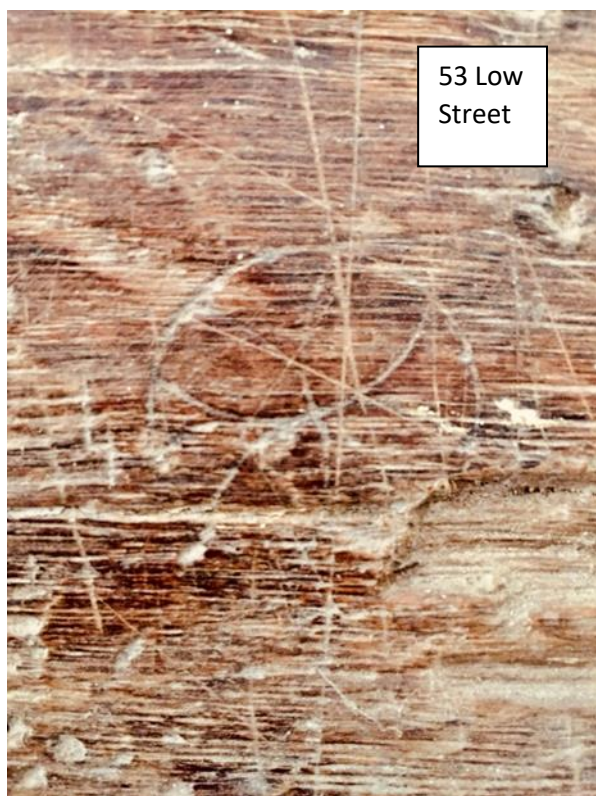


Thelnethan Windmill, several inscribed hexafoils and simple circles on the post near the entrance. Note small circular stamps within the hexafoil.

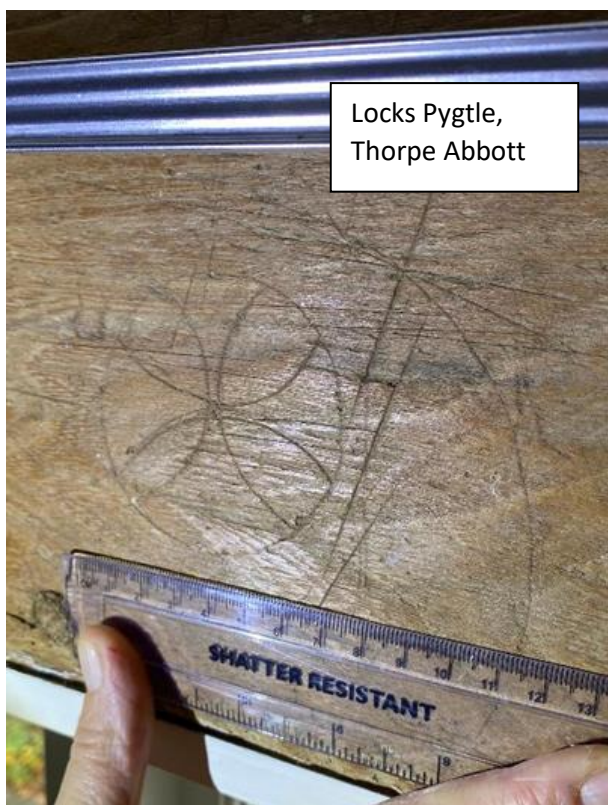
A less common (at least in the area of study) occurrence is the quatrefoil or consecration cross. We have one in the medieval wall paintings at the Church of St Peter and Paul with St Edmund in Hoxne (Right). In Medieval times, when a Church was consecrated or blessed by the Bishop, He would anoint the walls of the church with holy oil 12 times inside and 12 times outside. In Hoxne, these crosses were then painted into the wall paintings, one of which survives above the font. Outside the Church, only two are found so far. One in Hoxne (54 Low Street) and a most impressive one on floorboards associated with a coffin hatch in a mid 16<sup>th</sup> century house (The Red House) Whittons lane, Heckfield Green. There are a few impressive ones around the window upstairs at Locks Phghtle, Thorpe Abbott. Timothy Easton has suggested that they may be drawn to consecrate or re-dedicate a house after a major concerning event. At 53 Low Street there is evidence of a fire so the consecration cross may relate to this. At the Red House they



are associated with the removal of a corpse through the coffin hatch and something major must have happened at Locks Phghtle, Thorpe Abbott in the 17<sup>th</sup> century!



53 Low Street



Locks Pyghtle, Thorpe Abbott



Locks Pyghtle, second Cross 16 cm diameter

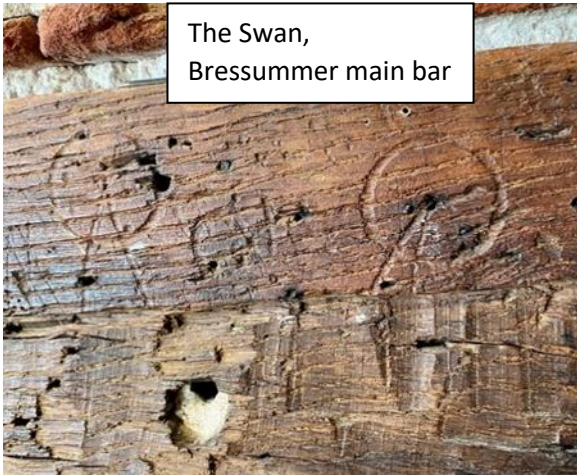


The Red House, floor boards associated with the coffin hatch.

ii. Circles

Compass drawn circles are found commonly all over Hoxne. Scale ranges from a few millimetres in diameter to almost 30cm. They are found singly (Many locations), in pairs (spectacle marks, Swan, Hoxne), strings (Abbey View, Cross Street) and clusters and circles within circles (Gissing Farm, South Green, Abbey Farm, Cross Street). One, seen earlier, is 6 circles overlapping to form a seventh hexafoil (Yew Tree House). They are often inscribed onto the timber of bresssummers, door frames, beams and panels. Two have been seen in Hoxne in the mud cob of walls (Pitt Barn and 54-53 Low Street out houses) and at Gissing Farm they are inscribed onto the ceiling plaster of a cross passage and are likely to be 17<sup>th</sup> century in origin. At 4 locations the circles are made by tiny carpenter's punches (Abbey Farm, Locks Phghtle, Thorpe Abbott, Aldersyde Cottage, Low Street, Thelnethan Windmill associated with Hexafoils. Some of these circles are associated with events or parts of the building which suggest a need for protection from malign forces. Others could, quite simply, be surveyors or carpenters' marks. The circular punch marks have been

suggested by some as bored workmen bashing the beams. On a closer inspection, these tiny marks overlap in strings (Aldersyde Cottage, Locks Phghtle, Thorpe Abbott). For such tiny marks it would have taken a lot of effort to ensure they overlap. They were deliberate.



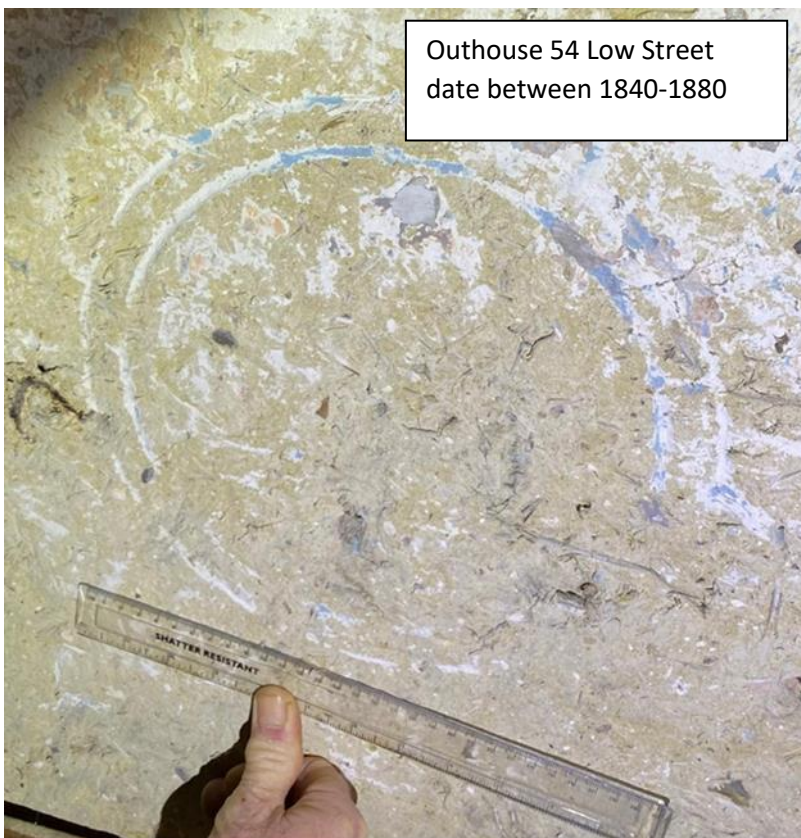
The Swan,  
Bressummer main bar



16 Cross Street. Circular mark on door  
frame on a 16<sup>th</sup> century inserted chimney



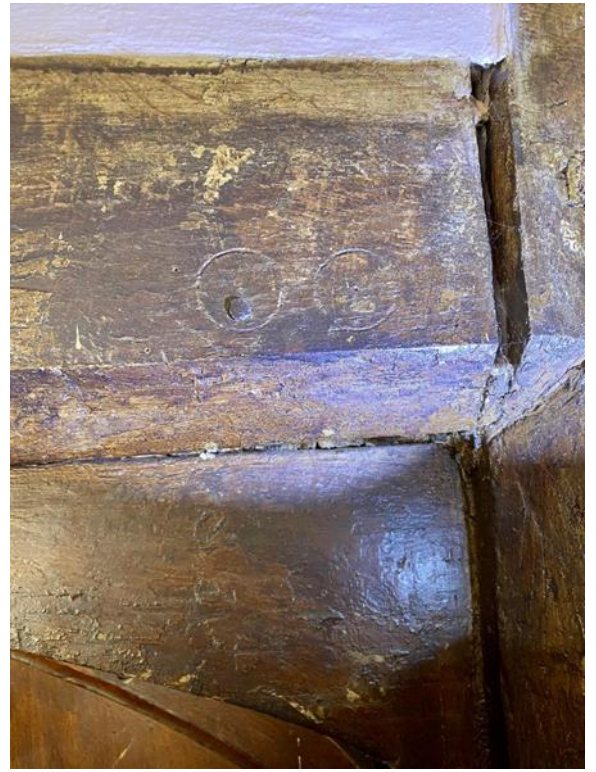
Abbey View, 4 interlocking circles on  
bevelled edge of Bressummer



Outhouse 54 Low Street  
date between 1840-1880



Pit Barn



The Swan, upstairs bedroom. Spectacle marks above a door to ward off the Evil Eye. It is reputed there is a priest hole in the closet under the carpet. This is associated with evidence for a private Catholic Chapel just to the right.



Locks Pygtle,  
Thorpe Abbott



Abbey farm roof area

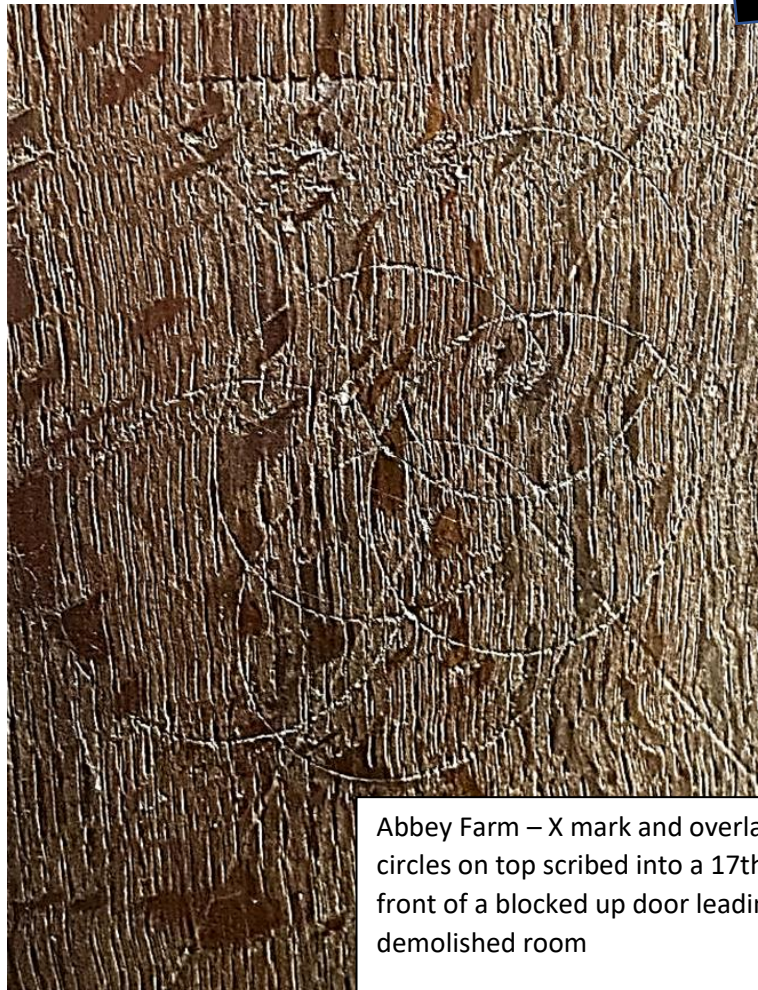
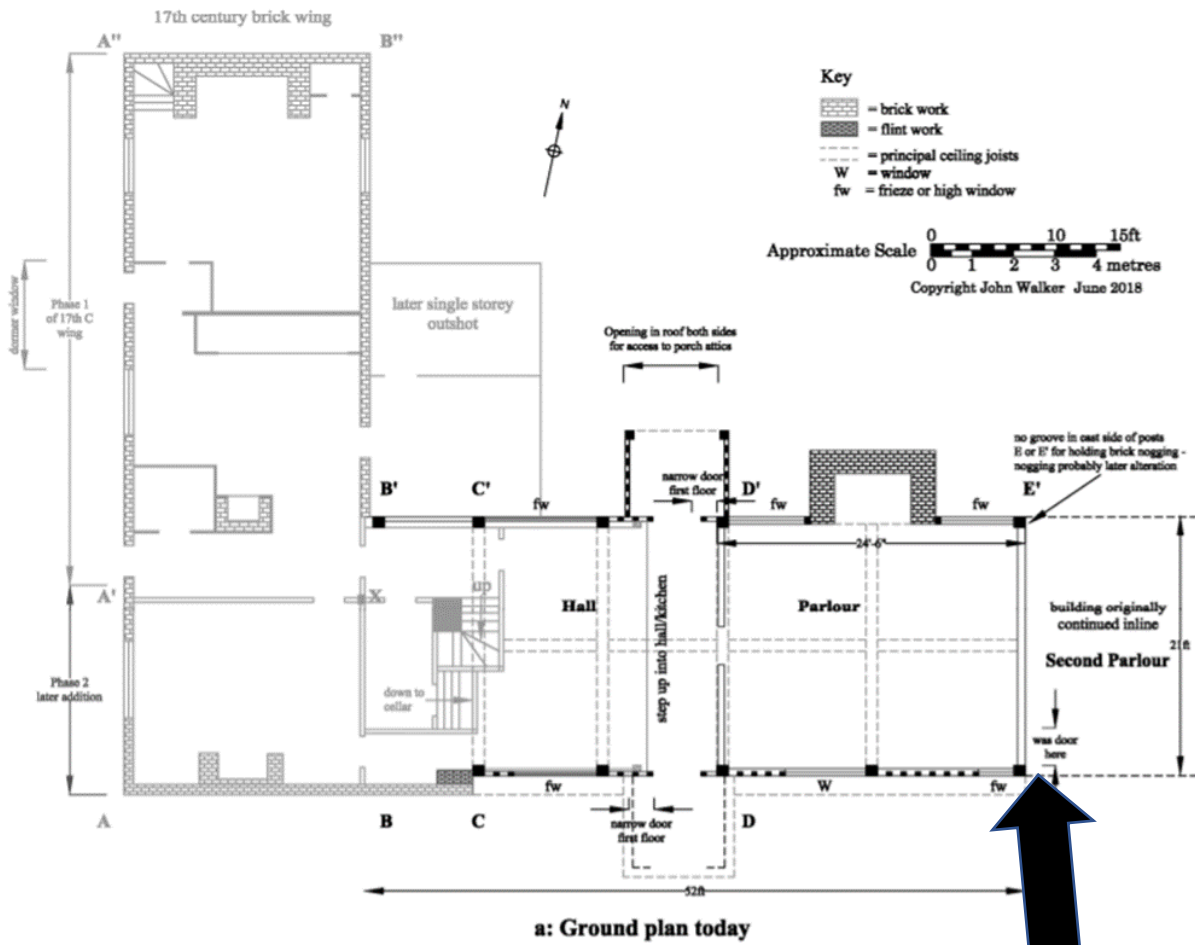


Aldersyde cottage, Low Street.  
Interconnecting stamp marks on an 18<sup>th</sup>  
century bressummer



The Red House, Heckfield Green. Mid-16<sup>th</sup>  
century. Three overlapping circles on a  
beam close to the coffin hatch and its  
associated marks. They were inscribed  
when the oak was green (when the house  
was built) as the circles are displaced by  
shrinkage cracks when the oak hardened.

Abbey Farm



Abbey Farm – X mark and overlapping circles on top scribed into a 17th panel in front of a blocked up door leading to a demolished room

Abbey Farm 12 concentric circles with another interconnecting circle below. On a door above a cat flap leading into the attic in the servants' quarters





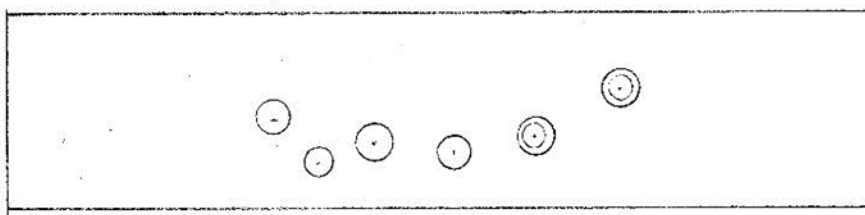
Gissing Farm, South Green

At least 6 compass drawn circles scribed into the plaster ceiling of the cross passage. Concentric scribed circle on the plank and muntin screen of the 1 remaining side of the cross passage. Reconstruction by David and Pauline Rimmer.



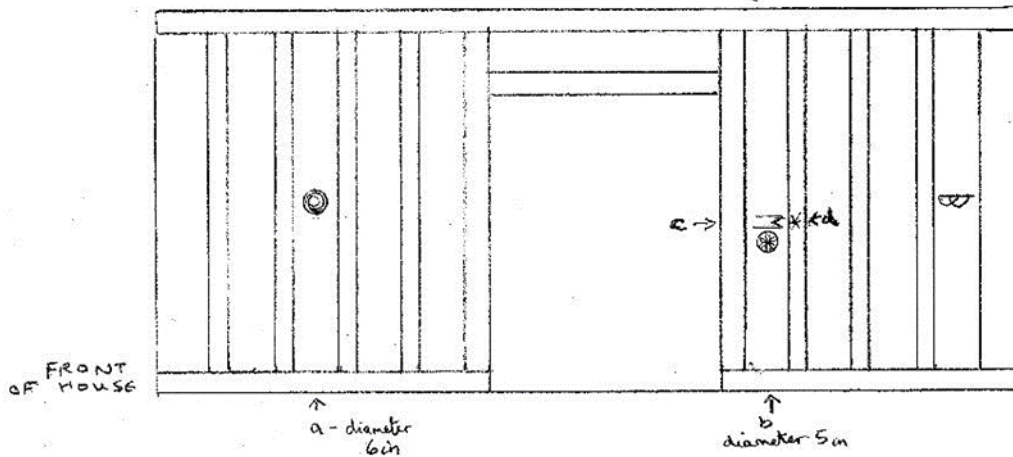
GISSING FARMHOUSE, SOUTH GREEN, HOXNE SUFFOLK

Cross Passage Ceiling



Circle diameters:  
between 7 and 9 inches

Planks and Muntin Screen facing Kitchen (Hall side of cross passage)  
(Hall side of screen plastered over)



Screen 16ft Long  
(192 inches)

Measured in inches  
Scale 1mm to 1 inch