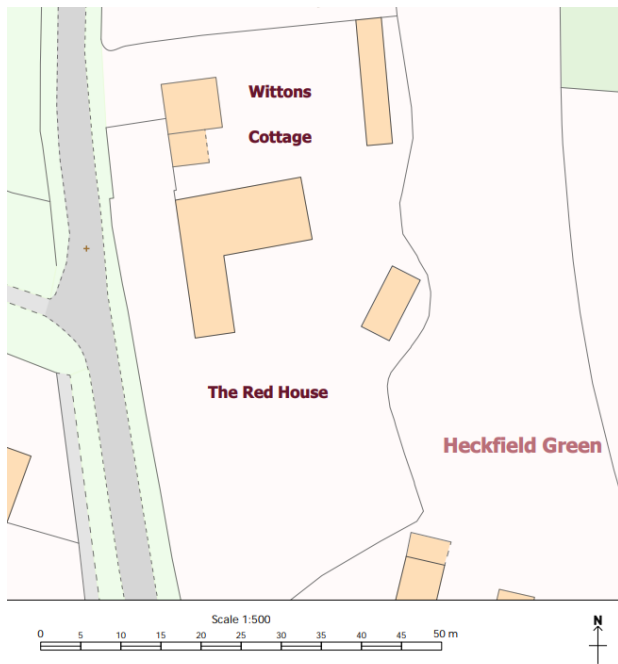


The Red House, Whitton's Lane, Heckfield Green 22.3.22



HOXNE HECKFIELD GREEN, TM 17 NE WITTONS LANE 8/100 The Red House II Former farmhouse. C16, in 2 phases; late C19 and mid C20 alterations. Timber framed, the front and right gable end cased in red brick in 1880's, dated in a panel in the front gable with the initials 'AW'. Brick casing to rear added in 1940's. Thatched roof. 2 storeys. A main range with cross-wing to left, extending to rear. Set forward of cross-wing, almost corner-to-corner with it, a C19 single storey outhouse. 3 windows, C19 3-light casements; whitewashed wedge lintols. Mid C20 boarded and battened door in cross-entry position, with a gabled hood. A second doorway into the cross-wing has a matching door and hood. Internal stack between hall and cross-wing; external stack against right gable end. Hall has closely-spaced chamfered joists, only one bay exposed. Small remains of plank and muntin screen, in situ against cross-passage. Straight stair of C19 or C20 date in cross-passage. Some good first floor studding with reverse-curved braces. In the front wall, 2 blocked windows with chamfered mullions. The cross-wing is later than the

remainder and seems to have been latterly used as kitchen and service rooms. Intact studding; remains of at least 2 windows with square mullions. Over this wing a clasped-purlin roof with cranked wind braces.

Downstairs

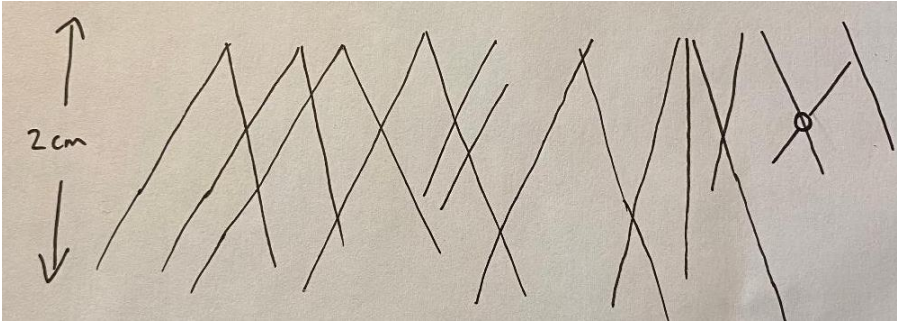
Your bressummer was inserted about 1550. Compared to other similar beams in Hoxne it has a fairly simple patina of marks, namely:

- 2 burn marks
- 3-4 X marks (saltire or St Andrew's cross), sometimes crossing out other marks which are faint.
- Along the bevelled edge there are many saw-shaped fine marks, probably M, W and A which would have been put in before the bressummer was built into the chimney stack. M = Maria/Mary, W = Virgo Virginum (Virgin of Virgins) A = Ave (hail). In places they have been later crossed through or erased.

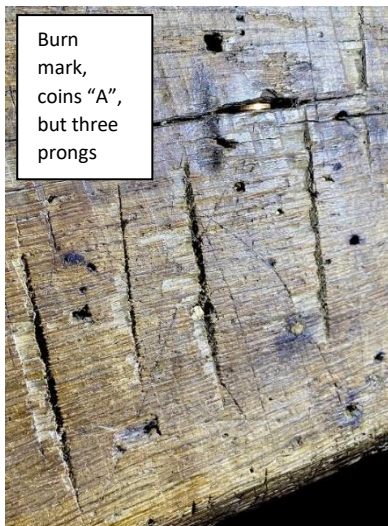
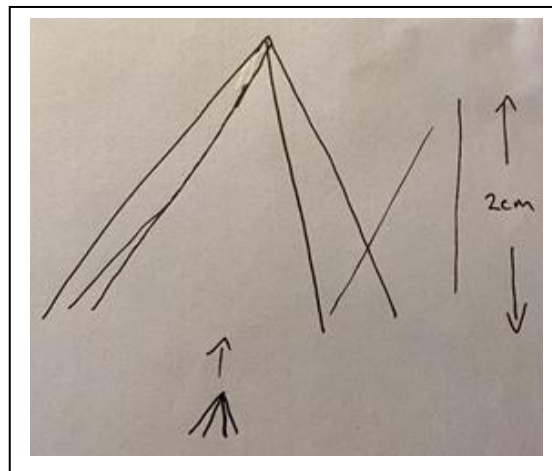
On the west side of the chimney there are a number of floorboards in the ceiling which are contemporary with the age of the chimney insertion. On them is a clear hexafoil (about 10cm in diameter) and in A or M mark. M for the protection of the Virgin Mary.

There are a further 2 burn marks on the door frame leading to the stairs.

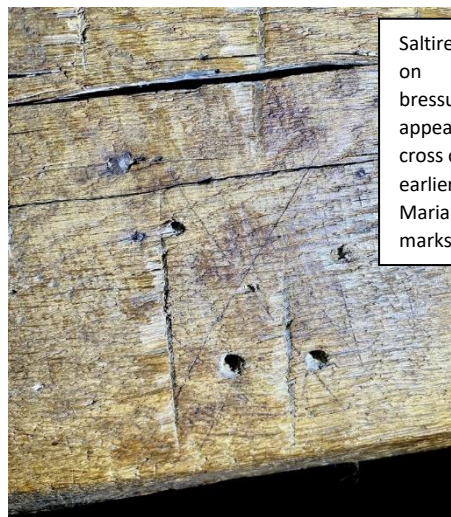




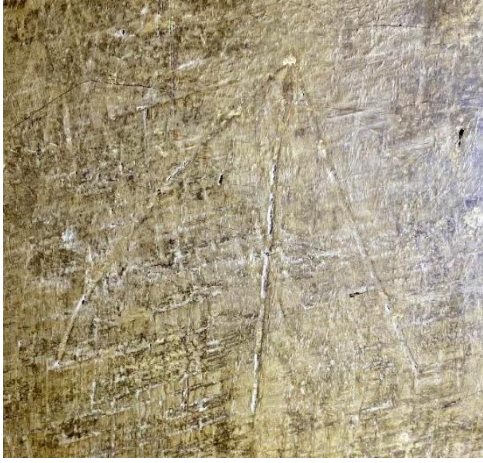
Lots of M shapes, but also the pattern can make the letter W and A. M= Mary/Maria, W = Virgo Virginum, A = Ave. Found on the bevelled edge, 2cm wide along your bressummer. Highlights of the marks below.



Burn mark, coins "A", but three prongs



Saltire cross on bressummer appear to cross out earlier Marian marks.



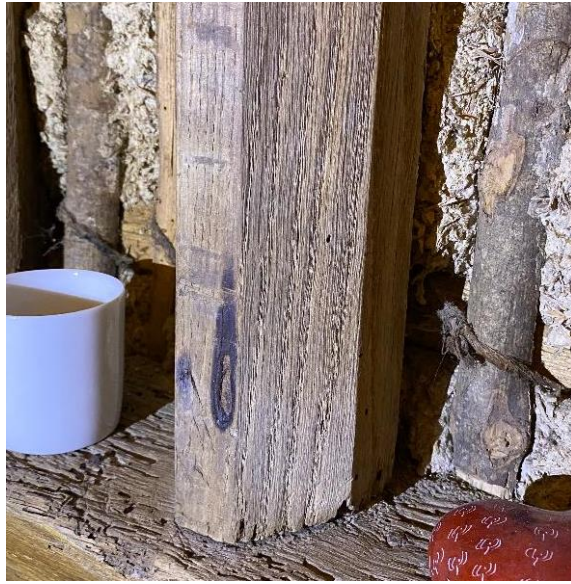
West of chimney, ceiling underside of floor boards above. On them is a clear hexafoil (about 10cm in diameter) and in A or M mark. M for the protection of the Virgin Mary.



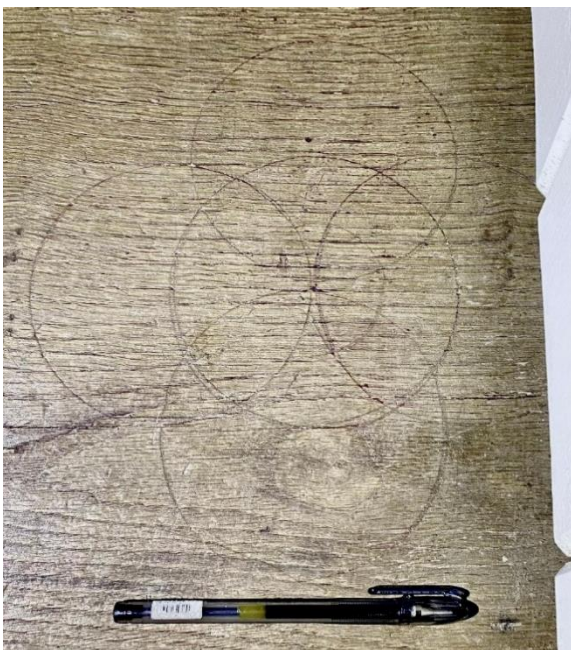
Upstairs



There is a burn mark, but again few compared to other houses of the same age within Hoxne. The carpenter's marks clearly show Roman numerals; however, the V has possibly deliberately been made into an M. On a beam next to the chimney stack are 3 overlapping circles (scribed several times) indicating the Trinity. Next to the chimney the floor boards which previously were seen below containing a A/M and a hexafoil now contain a consecration cross made of 6 overlapping circles one small one in the centre of the cross. Clearly this space and the boards were an important place spiritually in the house. They may be above a sealed-up lobby door or, as suggested by the owners, this is a coffin hatch.



Roman numerals made by carpenters. However, the left side of the X has another limb and is made into an M.



Next to the chimney the floor boards which previously were seen below containing a A/M and a hexafoil now contain a consecration cross made of 6 overlapping circles one small one in the centre of the cross. The 3 overlapping circles are just to the left near the ceiling on a beam.

At present, in all the houses in Hoxne you have one of only 2 consecration crosses.