

# HOXNE HERITAGE WALK

## 8. St Edmund's Cross.

The stone cross memorial to St Edmund stands in the field in front of you marking the site of an ancient oak which fell down in 1848. The tree was found to contain a metal fragment thought to be an arrowhead. This is the second stone memorial to stand here as an earlier cross given by the Kerrison family was destroyed by frost.

The cross stands near to a pond [spring] which is also mentioned in the legend of the martyrdom of King Edmund. A crude wooden chapel was erected near to the site of Edmund's death and contained his body for around 33 years until his remains were taken to Bury St Edmunds [Beodericsworth] Abbey.

Down Bridge Farm was the former home of the Baxter family and stands near to Down Bridge which crosses Chickering Beck. The footpath here comes from Oak Hill and crosses Sandpit Meadow to Low Street.

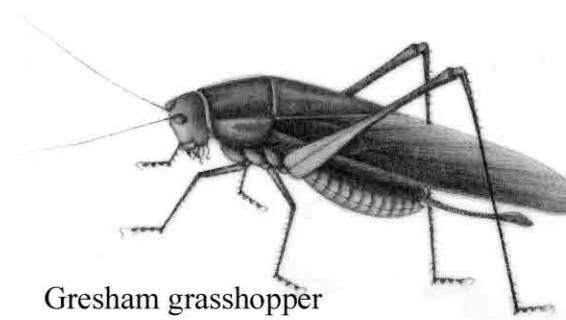


**Cross Street** was named after an ancient stone cross which used to stand near to St Edmund's Priory Cell. Today Abbey Farm, a redbrick and timber framed building, occupies the site of a chapel erected to house the martyred body of King Edmund of East Anglia [841-869]. King Edmund was captured by the Danes, tied to an oak tree, shot with arrows and then beheaded. The Gresham, Southwell and Thurston families successively owned and



Oak and Acorns

resided at Abbey Farm after the Priory Cell was abandoned and sold.

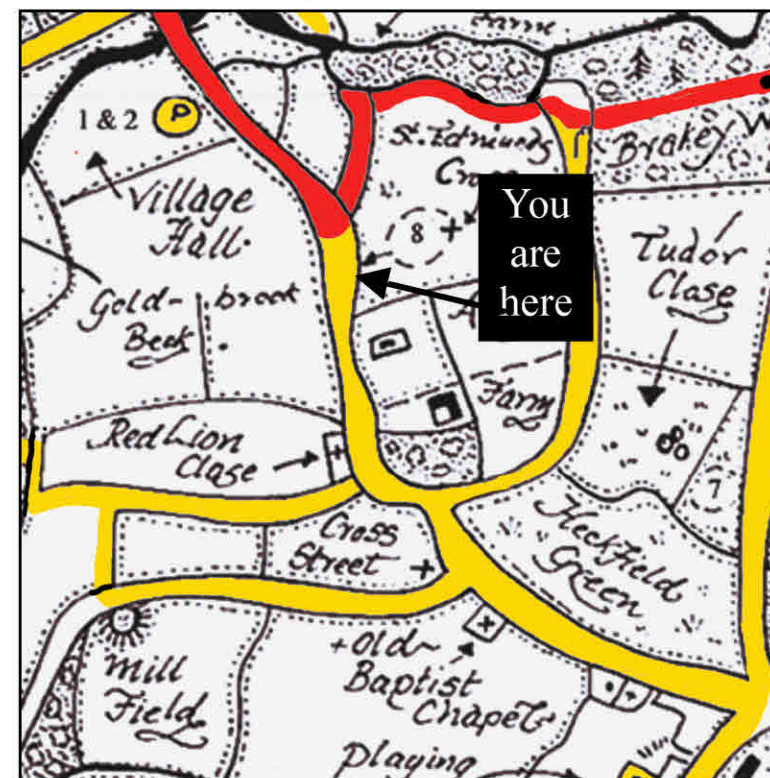


Gresham grasshopper

**Goldbrook** is the area around the Village Hall [St Edmund's Hall] and brook. It takes its name from the legend of St Edmund who was reputedly discovered hiding from Danish soldiers by a wedding party who were crossing the bridge. Edmund was revealed to them by the glint of his

golden spurs in the water. This legend is immortalised in the story book *Wulfric the Weapon Thane*, written by Charles Whistler [1856-1913], published in 1897.

Goldbrook Bridge crosses a ford from Cross Street to Low Street. The Goldbrook flows from Rayes Bridge which is near to the site of the second chapel [Newark Chapel] dedicated to St Edmund. This chapel was built on the site of the discovery of King Edmund's head which had been cut from his body and discarded by the Danes.



A chapel in the wood near to South Green was used as a free chapel for the villagers until the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This building within a field called Chapel Field is recorded on an early plan of the Hoxne Hall Estate and the site was identified by Ben Nunn, a farm worker of Hoxne. The Suffolk Archaeological Service excavated this site several years ago.

Key : Heritage Walk  Footpaths

