



Mr Edward Cheseldine  
Kirklees Council

Direct Dial: 01904 601957

Our ref: L01602235  
24 December 2025

Dear Mr Cheseldine

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2021  
& T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015  
& Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**THE CROSS, WYKE LANE/CROSS STREET, OAKENSHAW  
Application Nos 2025/65/93234/E & 2025/48/93235/E**

Thank you for your letters of 10 December 2025 regarding the above applications for listed building consent and planning permission. On the basis of the information available to date, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the applications.

**Historic England Advice**

Significance

The Oakenshaw Cross was constructed in the early to mid-18th century and is built from local stone and is described as a slender column with four engaged colonnettes, on a four-stepped base. It is topped by an elaborate finial with sun dials.

The appearance and prominent location of the Cross have contributed to it being noted as an important village monument, with the key to this significance being the views of it from Wyke Lane and Cross Street. It appears that the surrounding buildings have been built in a way which are chamfered where they face onto the site of the Cross which demonstrates the historic importance of the monument in the development of the village.

Archival evidence shows Richard Richardson of Bierley Hall in a conveyance document describing a cottage 'near to the cross in Oakenshaw' in 1749. It is considered that Richardson built the Cross for his late wife. This puts the date of Cross in the early to mid-18th century.

Overall, the Cross is significant due to its landmark character in the context of Wyke Lane and Cross Street and its association with Richard Richardson of Bierley Hall.



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The significance of the Cross was substantially altered when it had to be removed due to being hit in by a vehicle several years ago - it has since been in storage.

### Impact

The proposal seeks to reinstate the Cross which has been in storage since being hit by a vehicle which will positively impact its significance by reinstating it whilst minimising the possibility of further such incidents.

The proposal would cause some harm to the significance of the listed building due moving it from its original position which in turn would result in a change of the views of the monument from Wyke Lane and Cross Street. Similarly, there would be a small amount of harm by not reinstating the Cross in its original position given certain aspects of the village design have developed with the Cross as a focal point.

### Policy

Paragraph 212 of the NPPF states that, irrespective of the level of harm caused to the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be awarded to its conservation.

As per paragraph 213 of the NPPF where any amount of harm would be caused to the significance of a designated heritage asset this requires clear and convincing justification for the harm caused.

Paragraph 215 states that where a proposal would cause less than substantial harm this harm should be weighed against the perceived public benefits of the scheme and were possible securing its optimum viable use.

### Position

Overall, Historic England does not object to the proposals.

The proposal does not involve reinstatement to its original position and the loss of its original context would therefore result in some harm to the significance of the listed building.

However, the proposal includes some mitigation including the story point style demarcation of the original position of the cross in addition to interpretation boards. These interpretation boards should look to maximise public benefits as much as possible by being accessible and including digital resources. Innovative approaches to interpretation should be explored as part of the reinstatement project. Other benefits including the a landscaping scheme would encourage people to interact with the



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Cross which has the potential to tell the story of the Oakenshaw Cross to a wider audience and celebrate its significance as a listed building.

Historic England considers that whilst there would be some harm to the significance of the listed building due to it being moved from its original position, the potential heritage benefits put forward should be weighed against the identified harm by the local planning authority.

### **Recommendation**

Historic England has no objection to the applications on heritage grounds.

We consider that the issues and safeguards outlined in our advice need to be addressed in order for the applications to meet the requirements of paragraphs 212, 213 and 215 of the NPPF.

In determining these applications you should bear in mind the statutory duty of sections 16(2) and 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to have special regard to the desirability of preserving listed buildings or their setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which they possess.

Your authority should take these representations into account in determining the applications. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us. Please advise us of the decisions in due course.

Yours sincerely

### **Alexander Harrison**

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

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