

Consultation Response from KC, Conservation & Design
2025/93234 The Cross, Wyke Lane/Cross Street, Oakenshaw
Listed Building Consent for removal of the Cross and reinstatement within the grass verge on Cross Street/Wyke Lane
Date Responded: 8/1/26 Responding Officer: SC Responding Ref:

These comments relate to both the Listed Building Consent and Planning applications ref. 2025/93234 & 2025/93235.

The Cross is a Grade II listed structure located within the village, but not within a Conservation Area. The list description is below.

[The Cross, Non Civil Parish - 1184674 | Historic England](#)

Market cross, probably late C.18. Slender stone column, with 4 engaged colonnettes, on 4-step circular podium. The column is surmounted by an elaborate finial, the square base of which has a sundial to each face. Important village centre site.

A highly respected conservation engineering company has undertaken an archaeological recording. The cross was erected in 1702 by local dignitary Dr Richard Richardson as a memorial to his wife Sarah and their child who both died in childbirth. The Cross had four sundials (stating 'Redeem the Time' and a weathervane at the top of the column, not all of which survive.

A comprehensive package of information and research has been submitted in support of the proposals. Pre-application engagement was undertaken to consider the options available to preserve and reinstate the cross within the village.

The Cross was located in this location prior to intensification of vehicular use, at a crossroad location. There have been 3 major incidents of collision with the Cross during 2021-22. Thorough research was undertaken to consider whether the Cross could be reinstated in the original position without posing a risk to the structure but it was concluded that the Cross would be very likely to be damaged more seriously in future.

Three potential sites were considered for reinstatement of the Cross.

1. The original location was dismissed due to the risk of further damage.
2. The Garden of Rest opposite St Andrew's church was considered but not close enough to the original location.
3. The grass verge was selected as being located on Cross Street, and close enough for interpretation to be clearly understood about the original location and setting.

The grass verge site will be enhanced by some high quality landscaping and use of appropriate materials including natural stone, bound gravel (stone colour), a new bench, interpretation, shrub and bulb planting and retention of an existing mature cherry tree.

It is considered that re-siting this important heritage monument close to the original site, but at a safe distance from potential traffic collision would result in less than substantial harm, but this is outweighed by the overall heritage benefit of retention and protection of the Cross within a focal point of the village close by.

This accords with Paragraph 215 of the National Planning Policy Framework that where a proposal would cause less than substantial harm this harm should be weighed against the perceived public benefits of the scheme and where possible securing its optimum viable use. The Cross will be preserved and reinstated very close to the original location, will allow close inspection of the features and interpretation will allow better understanding of the history of the monument.

The proposals also accord with Policy LP35 of the Local Plan, "Development proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) should preserve or enhance the significance of the asset".