



09/01/2026

2025/65/93234/E & 2025/48/93235/E - The Cross, Wyke Lane/Cross Street, Oakenshaw

Removal of the Cross and reinstatement within the grass verge on Cross Street/Wyke Lane (Listed Building)

WYAAS Ref: CWY507

Dear Edward,

Having reviewed the application against the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record we have the following comments.

The application concerns the Oakenshaw Cross (MWY1655), which is designated as a Grade II Listed Building (List Entry 1184674). This monument is of high historical and archaeological significance. It is an important feature of the village centre, erected in 1702 in memory of Mrs. Sarah Richardson of Bierley Hall. Crucially, it stands on the site of a previous, presumed medieval cross. Structural analysis suggests that significant elements of the medieval monument were reused in the 1702 structure. The four-stepped base, formed of large curved rectangular gritstone blocks, is believed to belong to the original medieval cross. The 10ft sandstone shaft, featuring four clustered colonnettes, also appears to be a reused original medieval column.

Recommended Course of Action

As this is a Listed Building, the primary advice regarding the justification for the move and the physical protection of the masonry must come from the Conservation Officer and/or Historic England.

From a below-ground archaeological point of view, the ground immediately beneath the current stepped base has the potential to contain archaeological remains associated with the medieval cross. Furthermore, the highway design



details indicate that elements of the historic structure (stone steps) currently buried within the carriageway are to be removed.

Therefore, WYAAS suggests that should the relocation be permitted, the following mitigation measures are essential:

A Method Statement: A detailed methodology for the dismantling, transport, and reconstruction must be agreed upon. This must explicitly address the "existing stone steps" buried within the carriageway, detailing the specific methods for their careful excavation, lifting, and storage for re-use as highlighted in the highway design notes.

An Archaeological Watching Brief: An archaeological watching brief must be maintained during these works. This must specifically focus on the recovery of buried fabric, monitoring the removal of the carriageway layers to identify and record the buried stone steps. As noted in the planning documents, these must be "removed carefully without any damage due to the heritage value and set aside for re-use." The archaeologist must ensure this process is recorded and that the fabric is safely salvaged. The watching brief must also record any underlying medieval features (such as socket stones or deposits) revealed beneath the current base once the lower stones are lifted and monitor the excavation of foundations at the new location to record any archaeological deposits disturbed.

Recommended Condition

The following condition is suggested:

"No demolition/development shall take place/commence within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title has provided a written scheme of archaeological investigation (WSI) and this has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and



- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works
- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination, and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI”

Detail of Archaeological Work

Details of the necessary archaeological work, in the form of a specification, will be provided to the developer, on written request, by the WY Archaeology Advisory Service in our capacity as Kirklees Council’s advisors on archaeological matters. A WSI to cover these works was produced in 2022 by WYAAS and a revised version should be produced.

The WY Archaeology Advisory Service will also be responsible for monitoring the work of the archaeological contractor commissioned by the developer to undertake this work, on behalf of the Planning Authority.

To aid the developer to meet the requirements of the above condition I would suggest that it might be helpful to add the following as a note to the planning permission:

“For further information please contact: David Williams, West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service: 0113 535 3257.”

We would strongly suggest that the developer is advised that a reasonable period for the execution of the necessary archaeological work must be allowed for within the overall site timetable. Any commencement of work on site prior to the approval and implementation of an archaeological specification, and/or any failure to schedule work properly that results in inadequate archaeological recording, should be deemed by the Planning Department to be a breach of the planning condition.



Kind regards

Dave

Sincerely,

David Williams

WYAAS Team Manager