

# Design and Access Statement

## Proposed removal and reinstatement of the Oakenshaw Cross

634\_OAKENSHAW CROSS\_DAS V1.1

21/11/2025



# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Purpose of Statement.....	1
1.2	Scheme Context and Ambitions .....	1
1.3	Application for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent.....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Application site.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Site description and surroundings.....	3
2.2	Flood Risk.....	3
2.3	Local Road Network .....	4
2.4	Historical Context .....	4
2.5	Historical Images of the cross .....	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Site Photographs (existing).....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Site Analysis.....</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1	Introduction .....	8
4.2	Key Physical and Technical Constraints.....	8
4.3	Key Physical and Technical Opportunities .....	8
<b>5</b>	<b>Design Approach.....</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1	Introduction .....	9
5.2	Use 9	
5.3	Layout 9	
5.4	Access 9	
5.5	Appearance .....	9
<b>6</b>	<b>Proposals – plans and visuals.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>16</b>

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of Statement

1.1.1 The purpose of this Design and Access Statement (DAS) is to set out the design rationale for the submitted scheme. The statement identifies the site constraints and other technical requirements that have informed the submitted scheme.

1.1.2 This DAS has been prepared to support an application for planning permission and listed building consent for *the proposed removal and reinstatement of the Grade II listed Oakenshaw Cross*.

## 1.2 Scheme Context and Ambitions

1.2.1 This application seeks retrospective consent for removal of the Cross, together with planning permission and listed building consent for the proposed reinstatement of the Oakenshaw Cross in a new location, which has been identified as the most appropriate following an optioneering exercise undertaken by Kirklees Council in conjunction with key stakeholders. A decision was taken by the council to remove the Cross from its original location following vehicular collisions, in the interests of safeguarding the health and safety of residents and motorists, as well as protecting the historic fabric and integrity of the Oakenshaw Cross. The removal was undertaken following detailed surveys by specialist conservation engineers in 2022, with the removal works undertaken by conservation specialists. In addition to the surveys undertaken by conservation specialists Blakett-Ord and West Yorkshire Archaeological Services (WYAS) to support removal of the Cross, the proposed reinstatement of the Cross has been informed by a detailed Heritage Assessment conducted by the Archaeology and Heritage Associate Director for consultancy Ecology Solutions, and has been followed by pre-application engagement with Historic England.

1.2.2 The scheme presented within this DAS aims to reinstate the Cross within the centre of the village, taking account of relevant planning and heritage legislation and policy.

1.2.3 The scheme will offer a public realm that will connect the reinstated cross to the surrounding village and landscape, and enhance pedestrian access to the monument.

## 1.3 Application for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent

1.3.1 This statement has been authored to assist Kirklees Council as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in the determination of the proposed development.

1.3.2 This DAS has been submitted in support of an application which seeks planning permission and listed building consent for:

*(1) the removal of the Grade II listed cross structure and its temporary storage (retrospective);*

*(2) removal of the remaining stones from the highway, making good of the area and a marker to show the original location of the cross;*

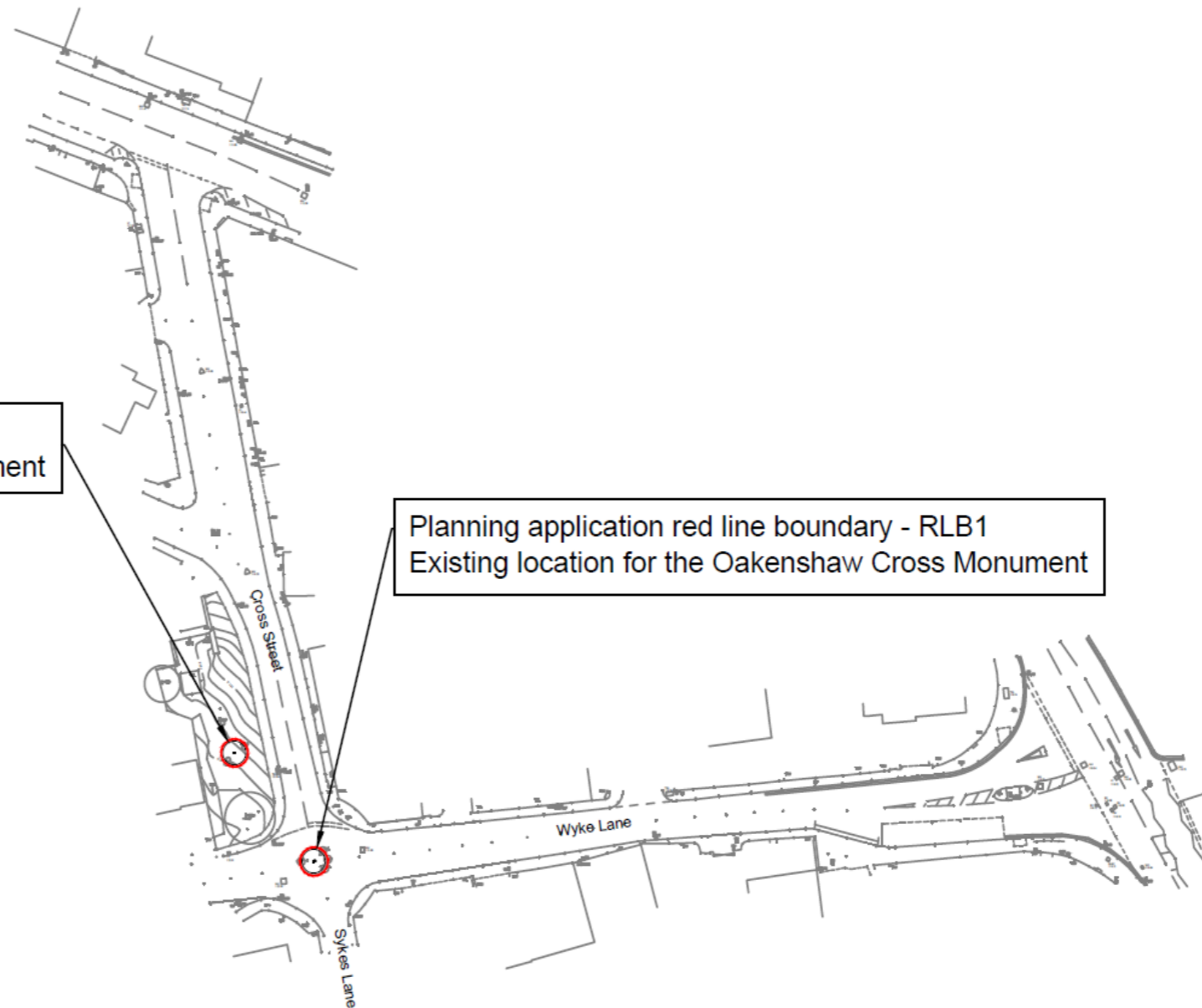
*(4) enabling works and reinstatement of the Cross on the grass verge on Cross Street.*

1.3.3 Pre-application discussions with local planning authority officers and Historic England have shaped the submitted proposals and the supporting information.

1.3.4 The site location plan is included overleaf for ease of reference.

Planning application red line boundary - RLB2  
New location for the Oakenshaw Cross Monument

Planning application red line boundary - RLB1  
Existing location for the Oakenshaw Cross Monument



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Figure 1 Site location plan extract showing the existing and proposed location of the cross

## 2 Application site

### 2.1 Site description and surroundings

- 2.1.1 The site is located on the junction of Wyke Lane, Cross Street and Sykes Lane, approximately 180m west of the M606. The original location of the Cross is within the highway at this crossroads; the proposed recipient site is on the grass verge on Cross Street, approximately 20m north-northwest of the original location.
- 2.1.2 The highway itself is a modern tarmac constructed road built to adopted highway standards, bordered with pedestrian pavements. Wyke Lane – Cross Street – Sykes Lane form a crossroads which run approximately west-east and north-south through the village. Sykes Lane is a narrow track albeit paved which is a no-through-road. Three concrete bollards are present on the pavement abutting the curved diagonal wall fronting the corner of Cross Street – Wyke Lane.
- 2.1.3 The grassy verge on Cross Street is a roughly rectangular shape with a narrower protruding strip at the northern end. It slopes downwards towards Bradford Road with the highest point at the southern end. A single mature tree sits within this southern end of this verge. An interpretation board has been erected in adjacent to this tree. An electricity sub-station clad in stone to the sides and featuring green doors to the front is present at the northern end of the verge. The eastern side of the verge is unfenced, with grass meeting pavement directly. The western side is flanked by a property boundary marked by hedge, stone wall, pebble-dash garage and wooden fence. Small vegetative trees/shrubs are present along this boundary.
- 2.1.4 There is a variety of built form surrounding the crossroads, with post-industrial terraces, twentieth century terraces, detached and semi-detached houses in the surrounding streets, with local stone being the predominant (but not exclusive) construction material. There is some sporadic green infrastructure surrounding the site through trees, lawns and planting in gardens and the grass verge on Cross Street, but this is discontinuous.
- 2.1.5 The area surrounding the site falls from a point of higher elevation along Wyke Lane in the west to lower elevation at the junction with Bradford Road; and similarly the topography falls away from the site along Cross Street towards its junction with Bradford Road.

### 2.2 Flood Risk

- 2.2.1 The site lies within flood zone 1 as demonstrated on the flood risk map. The site is therefore not at risk of flooding.

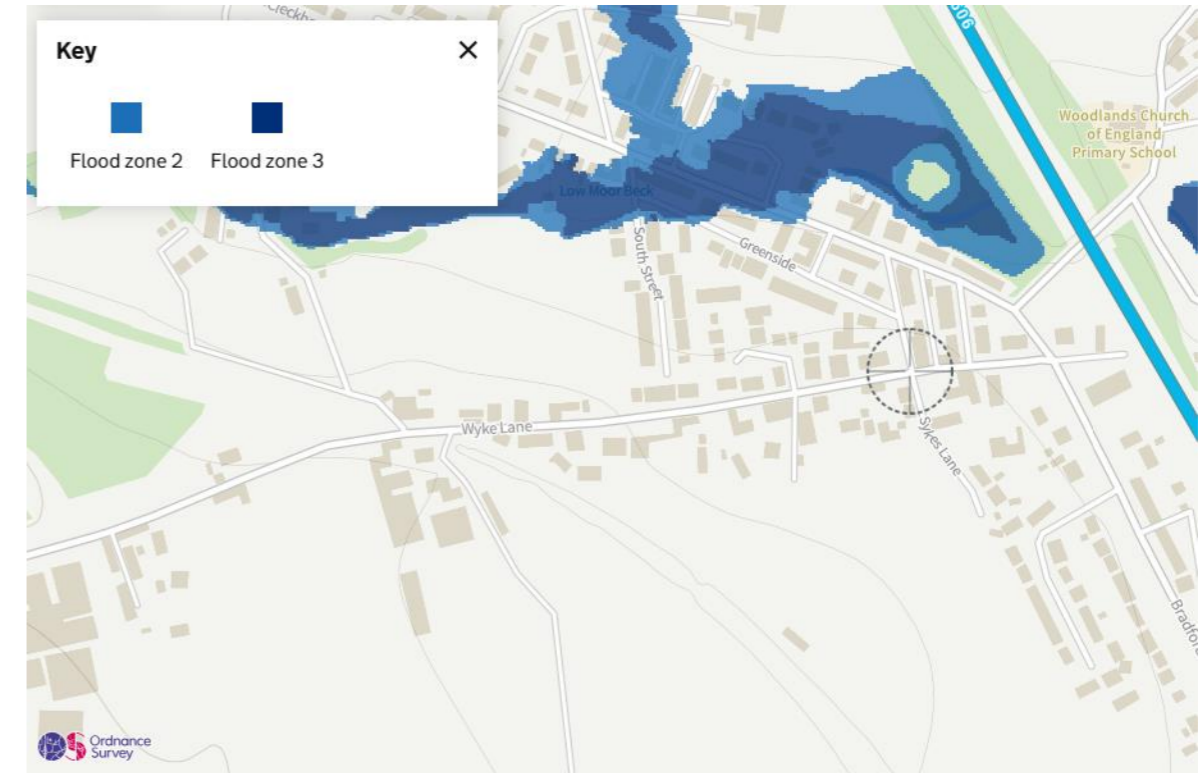


Figure 2 Site in Flood Zone 1 (taken from flood risk map for planning)

## 2.3 Local Road Network

2.3.1 The Local Road network is shown below. The site is at the crossroads of Wyke Lane, Sykes Lane and Cross Street. The M606 lies approximately 180m east of the site, with Bradford Road approximately 100m to the east and north of the site.

2.3.2 Further information on the consideration given to the reinstatement of the cross and its impact on the local road network are included within the transport statement.

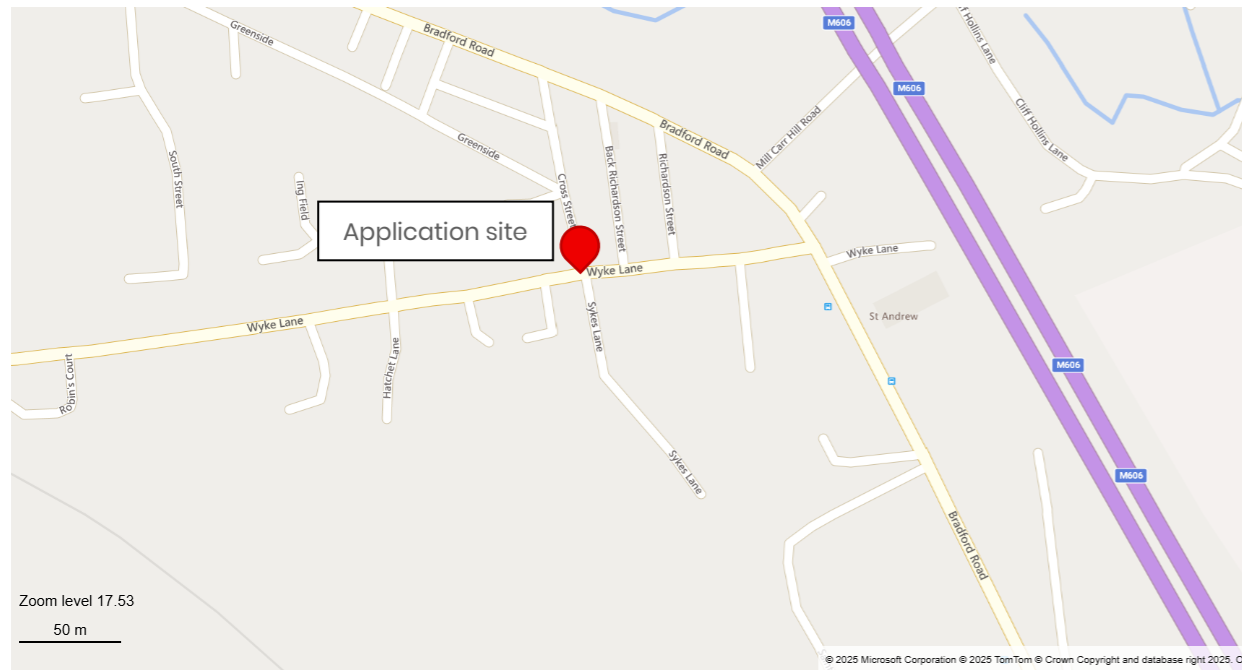


Figure 3 Local Road Network (taken from KOMPASS online mapping facility)

## 2.4 Historical Context

2.4.1 The site is comprised of the original and proposed location for the Oakenshaw Cross, a Grade II listed structure.

2.4.1 The Historic England [official list entry](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1184674?section=official-list-entry)<sup>1</sup> has been identified below:

Heritage Category:	Listing
Grade:	II
List Entry Number:	1184674
Date first listed:	13 <sup>th</sup> January 1984
List Entry Name:	The Cross
Statutory Address:	The Cross, Wyke Lane

### Details

SE 12 NE SPENBOROUGH MB WYKE LANE OAKENSHAW

1/183 The Cross

II

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.

Listing NGR: SE1735127786

2.4.2 The site does not lie within a conservation area.

2.4.3 A separate Heritage Statement which details the history of the Cross and its relationship to its setting is submitted as part of this application and should be read alongside this statement.

<sup>1</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1184674?section=official-list-entry>

2.5 Historical Images of the cross

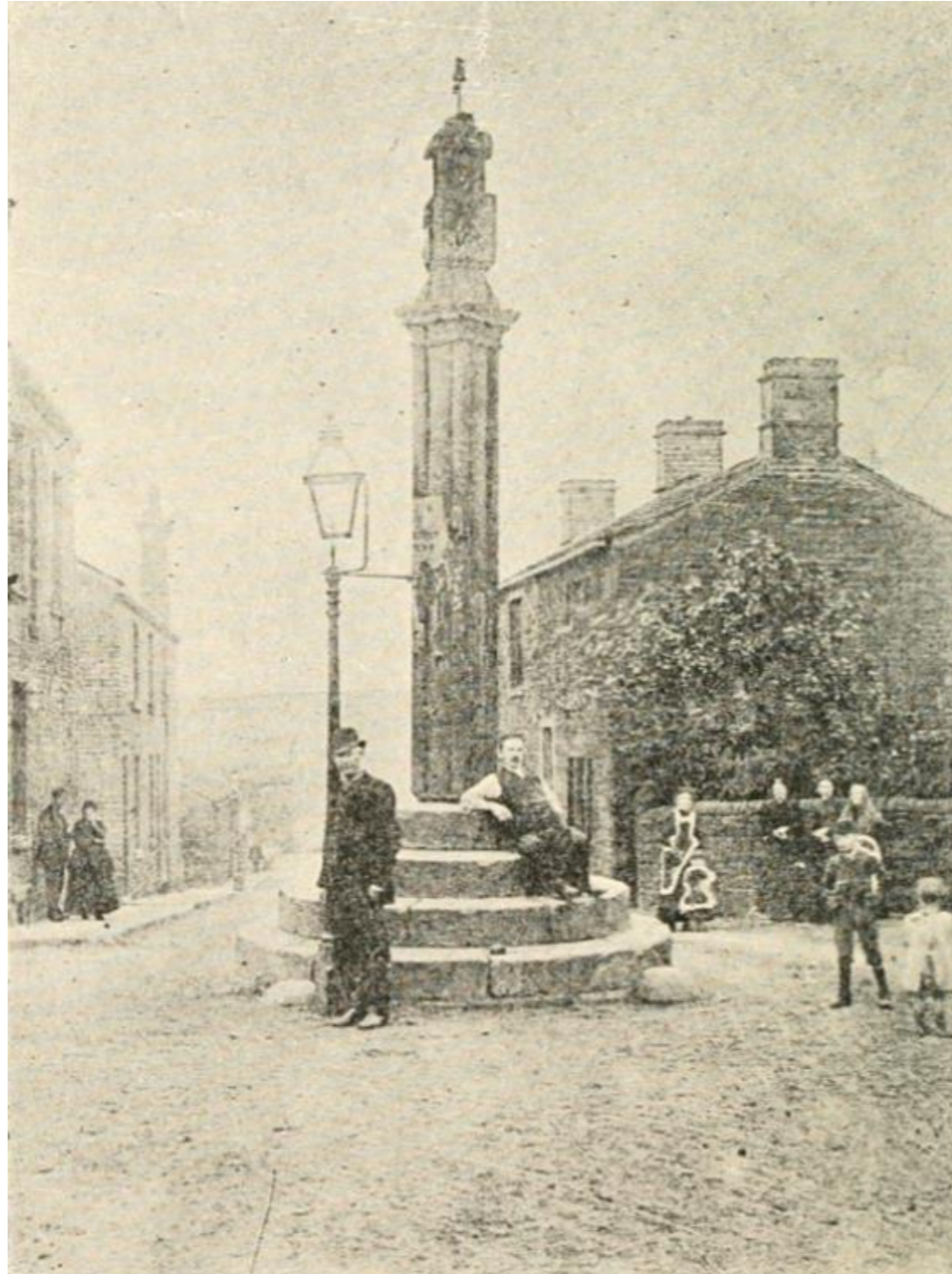


Figure 4 Historical images of the cross demonstrating human interaction and changes to the setting. Left: View of the Oakenshaw Cross of an unknown date (probably late 19<sup>th</sup>) (after Erskine Stuart 1892). Middle: 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch of the Oakenshaw Cross (source unknown). Right: A view of Oakenshaw Cross looking east (c.1930s) (source unknown).

3 Site Photographs (existing)



Figure 5 Site photographs showing the site of the Cross (left to right: view down Wyke lane, looking east; view across to corner of Wyke Lane and Cross Street; View down Cross Street from Sykes Lane; view up Cross Street towards junction)



Figure 6 Site photographs showing the location of the cross (clockwise from top left: looking towards the Cross and grass verge on Cross Street from Wyke Lane; the southern end of the Cross Street grass verge including the cherry tree; looking towards the cross and Sykes Lane from Cross Street; looking towards the Cross and junction from further north on Cross Street).

## 4 Site Analysis

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 As part of design development, site specific opportunities and constraints were identified for the chosen site which have then been used to shape the development proposals, culminating in the submitted scheme.

4.1.2 The identified opportunities and constraints are presented below:

### 4.2 Key Physical and Technical Constraints

- Changes to the site over time have led to the cross being isolated in the highway and becoming a de facto roundabout – never its intended purpose
- Relatively little land available in the vicinity to host the reinstated cross
- Grass verge available is on a slope
- Grass verge contains mature cherry tree so available land is set back from the original junction location
- Need to preserve the road as operational highway
- Need to balance the requirement to conserve and enhance designated heritage assets with the need for operational highway safety

### 4.3 Key Physical and Technical Opportunities

- Although small, land is available proximate to the original location
- Improve safety, accessibility and placemaking around the cross.
- Opportunity to provide interpretation board and storytelling disc to explain the history of the cross to visitors.
- Opportunity to provide facilities for sitting and socialising.
- Reinstatement of the relationship between cross and pedestrians through bringing back the opportunity to touch the cross and interact with it 'up close'.

## 5 Design Approach

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section of the Design and Access Statement explains the principles that have shaped the proposed scheme, the subject of this application for planning permission and listed building consent. It provides the necessary information to help evaluate the proposal in terms of design evolution approach. The key design drivers, proposed use, site context, constraints, and opportunities generate the form of the proposals.

### 5.2 Use

5.2.1 The area is designed as pedestrianised public realm, with the Cross forming the central focal point.

5.2.2 The grass verge will be retained as an area of amenity public space, with the addition of seating and planting. An interpretation board will be included within the scheme with information on the history of the cross and the village, which will allow passers-by an opportunity to understand the story of the cross in its context.

5.2.3 The proposed hard landscaping around the cross will allow people to go up to the cross and interact with it by sitting and standing around the base, viewing the details on the stonework, and using it as a meeting point. This interaction will be akin to how the cross used previously when it was originally erected, prior to the crossroads becoming part of the modern highway network.

5.2.4 The proposals retain the orientation of the cross to preserve its function as a sundial.

### 5.3 Layout

5.3.1 The proposed development will place the cross in the middle of the grass verge on Cross Street, approximately 20m north-northwest of its original location, and in the same orientation as originally erected.

5.3.2 The existing tree will be retained at the southern end of the verge.

5.3.3 A path will lead from the pavement on Wyke Lane running north approximately 10 metres to the site of the reinstated cross. Along the western side of this path, a waist-height historical interpretation board will be erected.

5.3.4 The cross will be reinstated on additional steps on the north-eastern side to provide a stable and level foundation. Due to the level change, no additional steps will be present/visible on the south-western side of the cross, which instead will abut the new path directly.

5.3.5 An arc of spring bulb planting will surround the eastern side of the cross and the new steps.

5.3.6 To the western side of the cross, a new bench will be installed to allow pedestrians a moment of rest and reflection, or to use the site as a 'pocket park' with longer periods of recreation.

### 5.4 Access

5.4.1 The reinstated cross will allow for better access to the Grade II listed structure through removing the hazards associated with its previous position in the middle of a highway junction.

5.4.2 The public realm design has been conceived to allow pedestrian access past the site when travelling along Cross Street and Wyke Lane, and to allow people to go up to the cross and stand or sit at its base.

5.4.3 A storytelling disc will be inserted into the new path on the grass verge from Wyke Lane to indicate the original location of the cross and link it to the new location and interpretation board.

5.4.4 Whilst the cross will be visually set back from the centre of the junction, it will still remain visible to passing road users as a way marker.

### 5.5 Appearance

5.5.1 The scheme aims to provide a 'light touch' approach to appearance, to avoid conflict with the listed structure.

5.5.2 The proposals reinstate the cross in a similar village location, approximately 12 metres north-northwest of its original location. Due to the topography of the verge, additional steps are required to make the cross structurally sound and enable the base to be placed within the slope.

5.5.3 The additional steps will appear to emerge from the slope. These extra steps will be York Stone to allow the junction between old and new fabric to be clearly read.

5.5.4 The path leading up to the cross from Wyke Lane will be a resin bound surface to provide a suitably stable and low-maintenance surface. The edges will be bound by stone cobble setts to provide a neat boundary to the path, and complementing the materiality of the listed structure.

5.5.5 The proposed storytelling disc within the path will be flush with the path level to avoid becoming a trip hazard. It will be in a bronze, black and stone colourway to provide sufficient visual distinction from the path to be noticed, without detracting from the cross.

5.5.6 A general arrangement plan and visualisation is included overleaf.

6 Proposals – plans and visuals

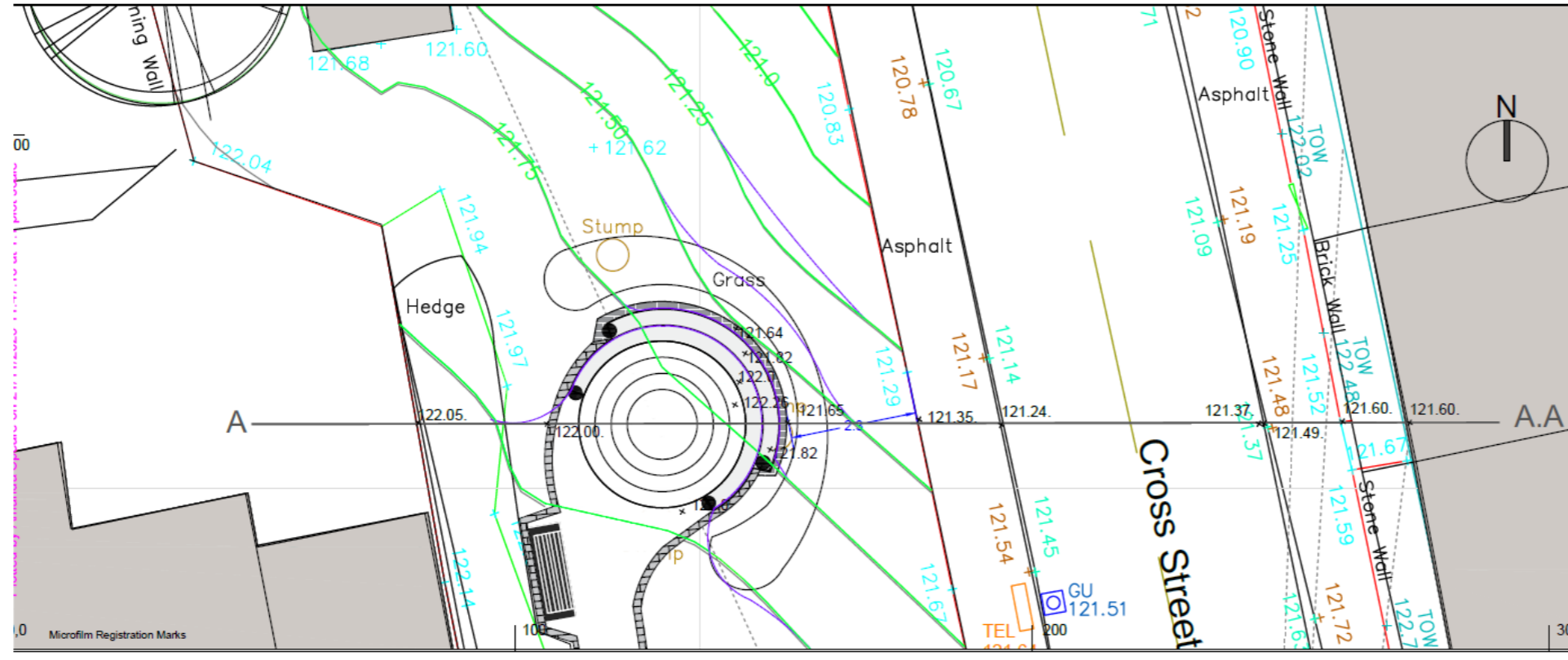
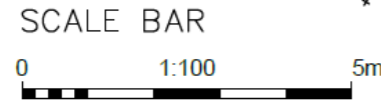
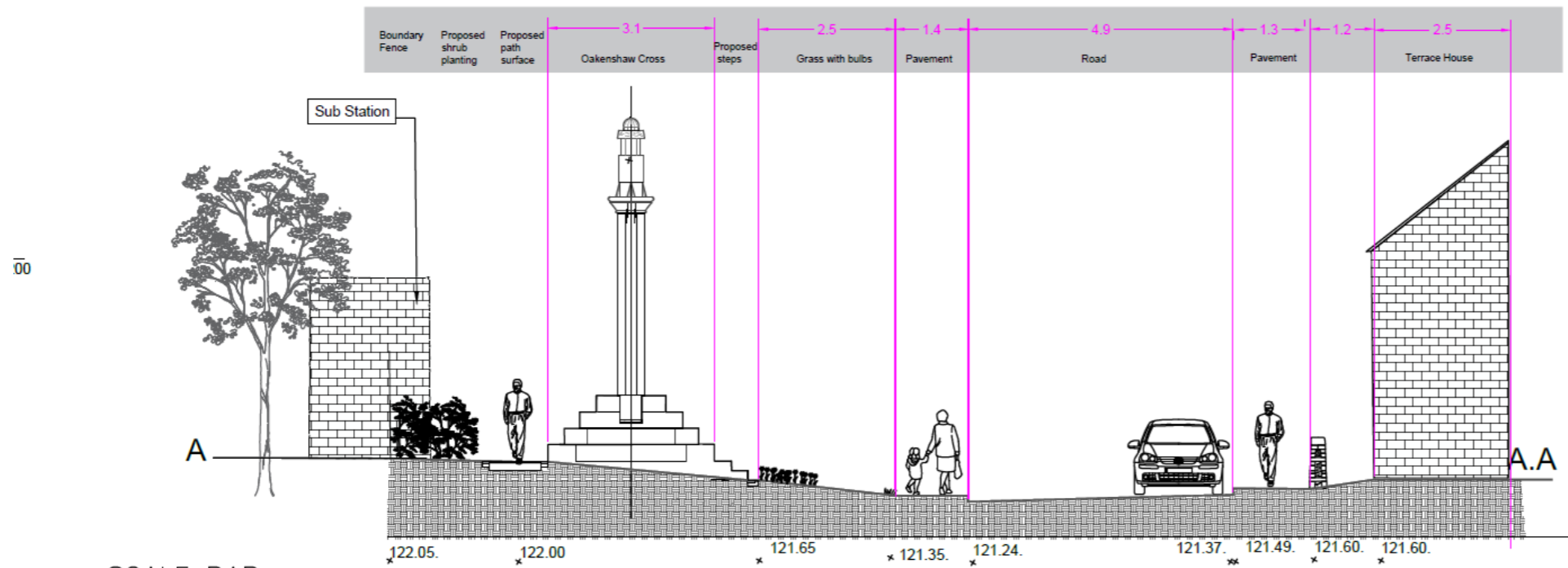


Figure 7 Artists' impression of the proposals (view towards the grass verge from the Wyke Lane – Cross Street – Sykes Lane junction)



# S Cross and Banking Section

1:100 @ A1



# LAD699 OAKENSHAW CROSS

## Historical Disc



The story point will feature engraved geo-coordinates and a cross on a metal disc set into the pavement, symbolically linking the old and the new. This design creates a physical and visual connection between historic pilgrimage routes and contemporary urban life, ensuring that the site remains both accessible and meaningful. By embedding the marker in the Path, the narrative becomes part of the everyday landscape, inviting passersby to pause and reflect on the enduring significance of place and memory.

Figure 10 Historical story point disc

### Indicative Concept

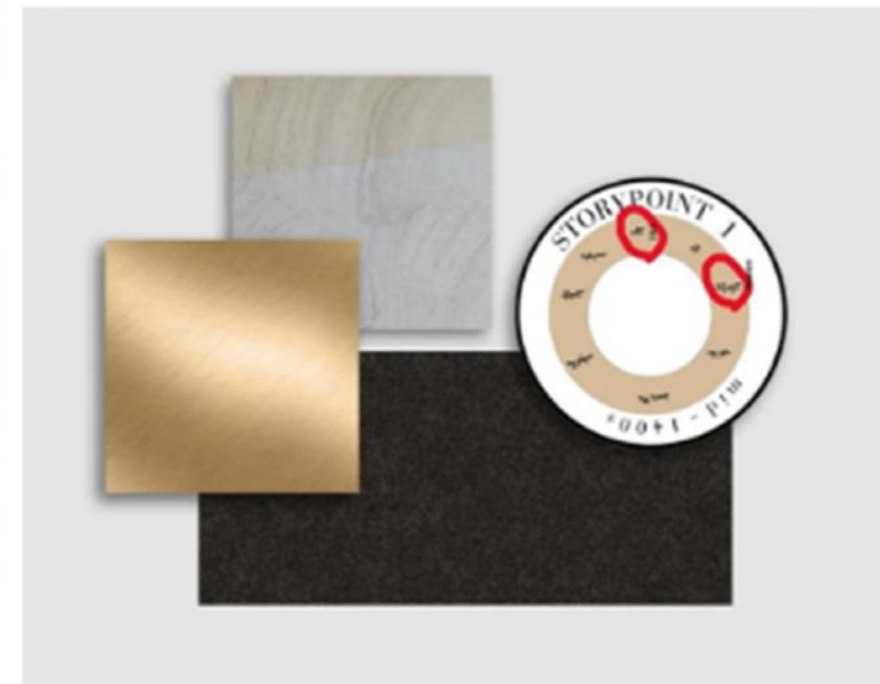


We will look to source a similar disc to the one shown, from a local artisan company for a bespoke design and finish with suits the look of the project.

**INSPIRE**  
STONE

Contact us  
Tel: 01422 203040  
Email: [inspire@ccs@bestone.com](mailto:inspire@ccs@bestone.com)

Story Point - This could have co-ordinates and arrows showing original location



# LAD699 OAKENSHAW CROSS

## Material specification

### Resin Bound Pathway

Resin bound surfacing combines natural aggregates with a clear resin to create a durable, smooth, and permeable finish. It supports sustainable drainage, reduces maintenance, and can use stone blends that complement historic settings, offering a practical and visually sympathetic alternative to loose gravel.



Chinese Buff Bauxite

### Cobble edge sets

Cobble edge sets provide a robust and visually traditional edging detail for paths and paved areas. Using reclaimed or locally sourced stone cobbles ensures durability and a heritage-appropriate finish, helping to define boundaries while complementing historic character.

### Local Sourced Yorkstone additional steps

The steps will be constructed using locally sourced natural stone, specifically Millstone Grit and Yorkstone, to reflect the heritage character of the Oakenshaw area.

These materials are chosen for their durability, slip resistance, and aesthetic qualities, ensuring the design complements the surrounding landscape and historic features. All stone will be carefully selected and finished to maintain consistency in tone and texture, providing a robust and visually sympathetic solution for this public realm improvement.



Example of cut to fit York Millstone



Concept Visulisation

### Proposed Cross Section

NTS

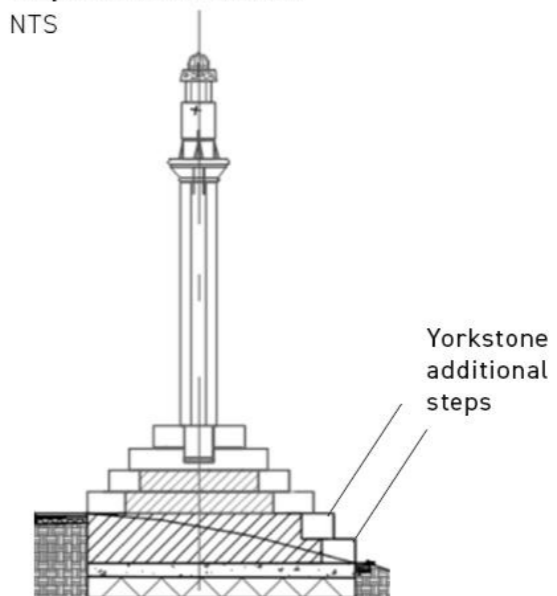


Figure 11 Materials

# LAD699 OAKENSHAW CROSS

## Visuals



Story Point - This could have coordinates and arrows showing original location

Figure 12 Visuals - Artists' Impression

## 7 Conclusion

- 7.1.1 The proposed development is a welcoming area that will provide a new location for the cross in keeping with its long-term preservation. The verge will function as a pocket park that allows for close interaction with the cross, as was the case when it was originally constructed.
- 7.1.2 The proposed site location has been considered, with the cross' original location given first preference. Following studies that demonstrate this would pose a risk to the long-term conservation of the cross and would cause unacceptable highways safety risks, the scheme proposes the reinstatement of the cross on the nearby verge bounded by Cross Street and Wyke Lane; and in doing so, to create a space that conserves and enhances the heritage asset.
- 7.1.3 The proposed development has taken a considered view on the constraints and opportunities of the site, whilst seeking to provide a suitable long-term location for reinstatement of a designated heritage asset. A sensitively-designed scheme has been created to address the need to reinstate the cross and to conserve and enhance it, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework.