

Case Name: Langham Village Cross

Case Number: 472081

Background

English Heritage has been asked to assess the village cross in Langham for listing.

Asset(s) under Assessment

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	List Entry Number	Name	Heritage Category	EH Recommendation
1	1409794	Base and broken shaft of village cross	Listing	Add to List

Visits

Date	Visit Type
18 May 2012	Full inspection

Context

The village cross is located in the churchyard of the Grade I listed Church of St. Peter and St. Paul and falls within Langham Conservation Area.

Assessment

CONSULTATION

The consultation report was sent to the applicant, owner, Local Planning Authority and Historic Environment Record, all of whom acknowledged receipt of it. The Conservation Officer expressed support for the listing application. No other comments were received.

DISCUSSION

The Listing Selection Guide for Commemorative Structures (English Heritage, April 2011) states that churchyard crosses are of particular significance as very early outdoor objects. They had diverse uses and their original function is not always clear. There are 913 village crosses on the National Heritage List for England classed as Early Medieval. The cross in Langham compares favourably with these listed examples, some of which now consist only of the base. The cross in Langham has a partially surviving shaft and carved arcading on the base which has provided the evidence for it being dated (by an academic authority on this period) to probably no later than the C11, and is of intrinsic artistic interest. Although there are a significant number of similar crosses on the List, items of this date are very rare and are of great significance in adding to the nation's ancient story. The Langham village cross is an eloquent relic of a past community for whom it would have had a diverse functional importance. It has Group Value with the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, listed at Grade I. The cross has strong claims to special interest and should be added to the List at Grade II.

CONCLUSION

After examining all the records and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for listing are fulfilled. The base and broken shaft of Langham village cross is therefore recommended for listing at Grade II.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION

The base and broken shaft of Langham village cross, probably dating to no later than the C11, is recommended for designation at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

*Architectural Interest: it is an early medieval structure that has been dated to no later than the C11 on the evidence of the arcading on the base;

*Historic interest: it is an eloquent relic of a past community for whom it would have had a diverse functional importance;

*Artistic Interest: the simple, carved arcading attests to the early medieval date of the cross and the craftsmanship in its execution;

*Group Value: the cross has group value with the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, listed at Grade I.

Countersigning comments:

Agreed, yes list. An example of early medieval sculpture which merits listing at Grade II. Sarah Gibson 22nd June 2012.

Second Countersigning comments:

Agreed, yes List.

The cross has not survived intact but it is rare, ancient stonework with Group Value, and merits designation at Grade II. Tony Calladine. 26 June 2012.

Annex 1**List Entry****List Entry Summary**

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: Base and broken shaft of village cross

List Entry Number: 1409794

Location

Base and broken shaft of village cross, c 11m west of Church Street in north-east corner of churchyard of the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Langham, Rutland,

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
	Rutland	Unitary Authority	Langham

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed:

Date of most recent amendment:

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy Number: Not applicable to this List entry.

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description**Summary of Building**

Base and broken shaft of village cross, probably dating to no later than the C11.

Reasons for Designation

The base and broken shaft of Langham village cross is designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- Architectural Interest: it is an early medieval structure that has been dated to no later than the C11 on the evidence of the arcading on the base.
- Historic interest: it is an eloquent relic of a past community for whom it would have had a diverse functional importance.

- Artistic Interest: the simple, carved arcading attests to the early medieval date of the cross and the craftsmanship in its execution;
- Group Value: the cross has group value with the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, listed at Grade I.

History

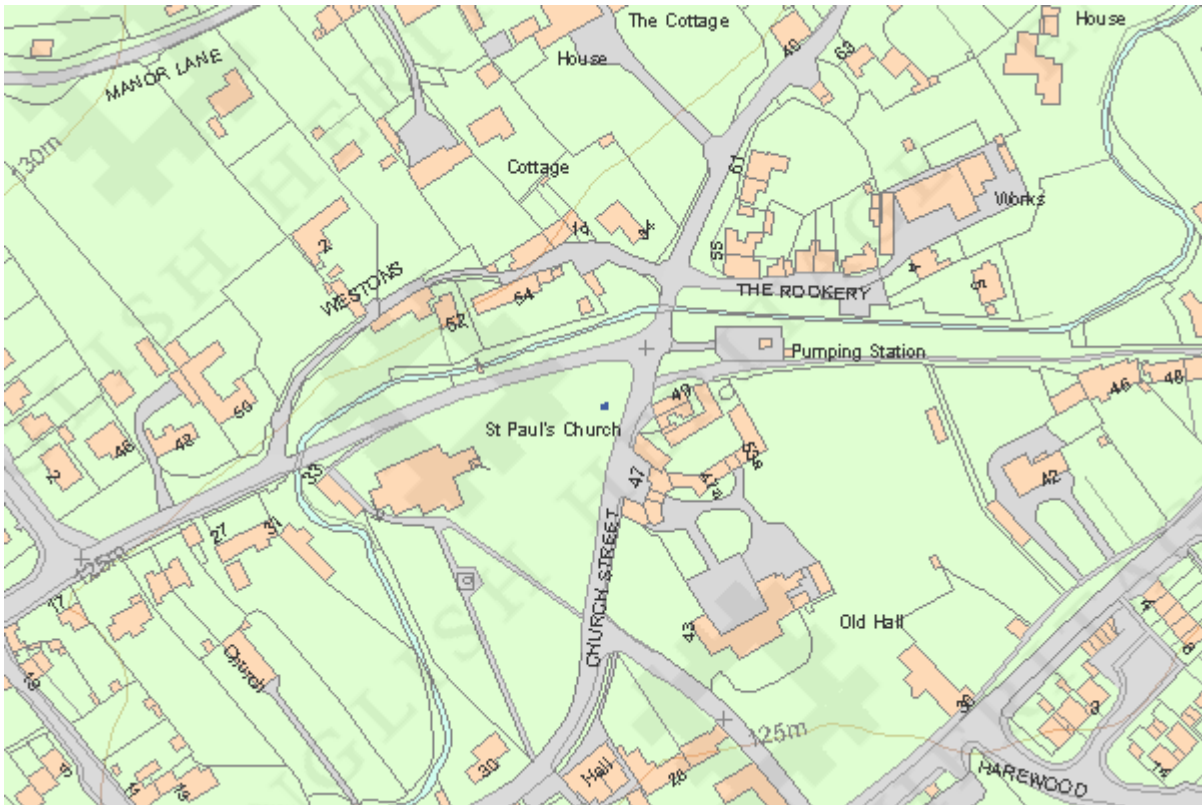
In the medieval period, standing crosses were set up in various places from cross-roads and market places to villages and churchyards. They were used in numerous ways, such as memorials and marks to guide travellers, and were also a focus for public proclamations and preaching. The cross in Langham is located in the north-east corner of the churchyard of the Church of St Peter and St Paul (Grade I listed). It is understood to have been moved in the mid-C17 from its original location to the north of the Church shown on a 1624 map of the village. The cross has been dated to no later than the C11 on the evidence of the arcading on the base.

Details

The cross is of oolitic limestone. It has a square base measuring approximately 0.7m by 0.7m. The south side is the only side that is left partially exposed from the ground, and shows the top part of an arcade consisting of three cusped pointed arches with a wider arch in the centre. The base has a socket for the shaft, now broken, which measures approximately 1.2m. It is square on plan and has two prominent convex mouldings on each side.

Selected Sources

None.

Map**National Grid Reference: SK8442811229**

© Crown Copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088.

The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - 1409794_1.pdf