



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Chief Planning Officer
Bassetlaw District Council
Queens Buildings
Potter Street
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Nottinghamshire
S80 2AH

Ref. : MPP22/ AA 22623/1

Date : 16th August 1999

MONUMENT NAME : Market cross 70m west of the Church of St Peter and St Paul
DISTRICT : BASSETLAW
COUNTY : NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
MONUMENT NUMBER : 29950

Dear Sir/Madam

ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979, AS AMENDED

I am writing to inform you that the above-named monument, the site of which is shown on the enclosed map extract, has been included in the Schedule compiled and maintained by the Secretary of State under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended.

Please amend your records accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Philip Seels

Scheduling Section
English Heritage

Encs: map extract, Schedule entry (where required)



NA

SCHEDULE ENTRY COPY

ENTRY IN THE SCHEDULE OF MONUMENTS COMPILED AND MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 AS AMENDED.

MONUMENT: Market cross 70m west of the Church of St Peter and St Paul

PARISH: GRINGLEY ON THE HILL

DISTRICT: BASSETLAW

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 29950

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): SK73549069

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument includes the remains of a market cross located on a small green, 70m west of the Church of St Peter and St Paul. The cross, which is Listed Grade II, is of stepped form and is medieval in date. It includes four steps, a socket stone and the remains of a shaft. The four steps are square in plan with the bottom step measuring approximately 2.5m by 2.5m. The square socket stone sits on the top of the steps and set into this is an octagonal shaft which survives to a height of 2.3m. The shaft tapers very slightly to the top and has a niche carved out on the eastern side. The top of the shaft has been broken. The surviving height of the steps and shaft is approximately 3.8m. The surface of the footpath to the south of the cross where it falls within the monument's protective margin is excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath is included.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

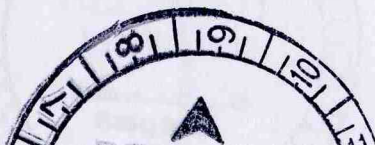
A standing cross is a free standing upright structure, usually of stone, mostly erected during the medieval period (mid 10th to mid 16th centuries AD). Standing crosses served a variety of functions. In churchyards they served as stations for outdoor processions, particularly in the observance of Palm Sunday. Elsewhere, standing crosses were used within settlements as places for preaching, public proclamation and penance, as well as defining rights of sanctuary. Standing crosses were also employed to mark boundaries between parishes, property, or settlements. A few crosses were erected to commemorate battles. Some crosses were linked to particular saints, whose support and protection their presence would have helped to invoke. Crosses in market places may have helped to validate transactions. After the Reformation, some crosses continued in use as foci for municipal or borough ceremonies, for example as places for official proclamations and announcements; some were the scenes of games or recreational activity.

Standing crosses were distributed throughout England and are thought to have numbered in excess of 12,000. However, their survival since the Reformation

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AUTHORISED BY: Iain Newton

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under batch no: 10670



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NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 29950

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE (Continued)

has been variable, being much affected by local conditions, attitudes and religious sentiment. In particular, many cross-heads were destroyed by iconoclasts during the 16th and 17th centuries. Less than 2,000 medieval standing crosses, with or without cross-heads, are now thought to exist. The oldest and most basic form of standing cross is the monolith, a stone shaft often set directly in the ground without a base. The most common form is the stepped cross, in which the shaft is set in a socket stone and raised upon a flight of steps; this type of cross remained current from the 11th to 12th centuries until after the Reformation. Where the cross-head survives it may take a variety of forms, from a lantern-like structure to a crucifix; the more elaborate examples date from the 15th century. Much less common than stepped crosses are spire-shaped crosses, often composed of three or four receding stages with elaborate architectural decoration and/or sculptured figures; the most famous of these include the Eleanor crosses, erected by Edward I at the stopping places of the funeral cortege of his wife, who died in 1290. Also uncommon are the preaching crosses which were built in public places from the 13th century, typically in the cemeteries of religious communities and cathedrals, market places and wide thoroughfares; they include a stepped base, buttresses supporting a vaulted canopy, in turn carrying either a shaft and head or a pinnacled spire. Standing crosses contribute significantly to our understanding of medieval customs, both secular and religious, and to our knowledge of medieval parishes and settlement patterns. All crosses which survive as standing monuments, especially those which stand in or near their original location, are considered worthy of protection.

The market cross 70m west of the Church of St Peter and St Paul is a good example of a medieval cross with square steps and an octagonal shaft. The niche carved on the east side of the shaft is particularly unusual. Situated on a small green close to the church, it is believed to stand in or near its original position, and limited activity immediately surrounding the cross indicates that archaeological deposits relating to the monument's construction and use are likely to survive intact. The importance of the cross is enhanced by its continued use as a public monument and amenity from the medieval period through to the present day.

MAP EXTRACT

The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract. It includes a 1 metre boundary around the archaeological features, considered to be essential for the monument's support and preservation.

MONUMENT INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE ON 07th July 1999

AUTHORISED BY: Iain Newton

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under batch no: 10670

