Report No: 2006R071

Wharncliffe Arms Hotel, Tintagel, Cornwall

The restoration of an 11th century cross





Historic Environment Service (Projects)

Cornwall County Council

Wharncliffe Arms Hotel, Tintagel, Cornwall

The restoration of an 11th century cross

Ann Preston-Jones
November 2006

Report No: 2006R071

Historic Environment Service, Environment and Heritage,
Cornwall County Council

Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY
tel (01872) 323603 fax (01872) 323811 E-mail hes@cornwall.gov.uk
www.cornwall.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

The work of restoring the Wharncliffe Arms Cross was funded by the Scheduled Monument Management Project – a budget to which English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cornwall Heritage Trust and Cornwall County Council contributes.

We are grateful to Lee Sharpe, owner of the monument, as well as the team of builders working for him at the Wharncliffe Arms, for their support and co-operation. Oliver Padel kindly read and commented on an early draft of the report. The work of restoring the monument was carried out by Adrian Thomas and David Cutting of St Just (out of the parish for two days!), with help and recording by Andrew Langdon.

Cover illustration

Restoration completed.

© Cornwall County Council 2006

No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the publisher.

Contents

1	Summary			
2	2 Introduction			
	2.1	The monument	9	
	2.2	The history of the monument	9	
3 Project background				
	3.1	Recent history of the monument	11	
	3.2	Condition of the monument prior to the restoration	11	
	3.3	Project background	12	
	3.4	Aims	12	
4	4 Recording		12	
	4.1	Results of the recording	12	
5	Th	The conservation work		
6	Discussion		14	
7 References		ferences	14	
	7.1	Primary sources	14	
	7.2	Publications	15	
8	Pre	oject archive	15	
9 N	_	pendix: Draft entry on Wharncliffe Arms cross for the Corpus of Pren Stone Sculpture in Cornwall	17	

List of Figures

- Fig 1 Location map
- Fig 2 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, 1880
- Fig 3 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, 1907
- Fig 4 Ordnance Survey digital mapping showing the site and its environs (2003)
- Fig 5 Illustration of the cross by JT Blight (1858)
- Fig 6 Illustration of the cross by William Iago (in Maclean 1870)
- Fig 7 Illustration of the cross by AG Langdon (1896)
- Fig 8 The cross threatened by building work in 2005
- Fig 9 The cross in storage in the hotel's porch in 2005 (left) and then temporarily restored in December 2005(right)
- Fig 10 Lifting the cross for removal to St Just for drilling and pinning
- Fig 11 The cross while at St Just: detail of the original hole for the pin; the former pin, and the new stainless steel rod to be used for the new pin
- Fig 12 The new pin, leaded into place
- Fig 13 Lifting the cross back into position
- Fig 14 Detail of the sloping joint between cross and its base
- Fig 15 Mortaring the joint at the base of the cross
- Fig 16 The restored cross

Abbreviations

CRO	Cornwall County Record Office
EH	English Heritage

HER Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record

HES Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council
HLF Heritage Lottery Fund

NGR National Grid Reference

OS Ordnance Survey

PRN Primary Record Number in Cornwall HER

RIC Royal Institution of Cornwall

1 Summary

A uniquely decorated and inscribed stone cross of probable 11th century date, located in the forecourt of the former Wharncliffe Arms Hotel in Tintagel, was restored in February 2006 through the Historic Environment Service's Scheduled Monument Management programme. The cross, which had been loose on its base for many years, was lifted for safe storage during building works at the former hotel and although it was then temporarily repositioned, this provided the opportunity to have the cross safely and securely re-set. The restoration involved re-pinning the cross to its base in a more secure fashion than previously, in almost the same position as previously.

Restoration also provided the opportunity to review what is known of the original context and dating of the monument.

The cross, located at SX 05750 88417, is a Scheduled Monument, Cornwall number 85 and is number 23095 in Cornwall County Council's Historic Environment Record.

2 Introduction

In the forecourt of the former Wharncliffe Arms Hotel in Tintagel stands a small cross of probable 11th century date, which is unique in Cornwall. For many years it has been at risk of damage, because of its location in a pub garden and because it is loose in its base. This report describes work undertaken in February 2006 to stabilise the cross in its base. The work also provided an opportunity to re-evaluate the original context of the cross.

2.1 The monument

The cross is cut from grey elvan. It is carved with crosses front and back and further enriched with cable mouldings, bosses, inscriptions and four small heads which may represent the Evangelists, whose names are cut on the cross. Despite the fact that it has been severely mutilated for use as a gatepost, the carving remains remarkably clear and its original form very apparent.

On one side of the shaft are inscriptions naming the four Evangelists: *matheus marcvs lucas ioh*, where *ioh* is for *iohannes* or John, while on the other side is an inscription in Latin which translated states that 'Aelnat made this cross for his soul'.

For such an ornate monument, the cross is unusually small, at only 1.3 metres – a height which is likely to be very close to the original. It may date from the 11th century, although whether from before or after the Norman Conquest is uncertain.

A fuller description and discussion of the cross is included in appendix 1.

2.2 The history of the monument

The recorded history of this cross is brief. In summary, it is first recorded by Blight (1858, 33) in use 'as a post to a garden gate at Tevillet'; but Maclean in 1879 (page 190) records that 'about four years ago Mr J.J.E. Venning, the Steward for Lord Wharncliffe's property in Tintagel, caused it to be brought from Trevillet....and had it set up in front of the Wharncliffe Arms Hotel, in the village of Trevena'. Langdon, in *Old Cornish Crosses* (1896, 1), simply repeats Maclean's report, while adding his own observations on the mutilation received by the cross while in use as a gatepost.

Since 1875, the cross has stood in the garden of the Wharncliffe Arms, although probably not always in the same position. The 1880 and 1907 OS maps show the hotel's garden boundary as a much smaller semi-circle to the left of the porch only, rather than the present, larger rectangular layout; and alteration to this layout would almost certainly have involved moving the cross (Figs 2 and 3). This fact is supported by observations made when the cross was lifted for conservation (for which see below in section 5).

The existence of the cross must have been known before Blight's day, for it is difficult to know how he would otherwise have come across it, in what is a rather remote hamlet. Exactly how Blight was notified of the cross is unknown, although it may have been spotted by some visitor to the nearby Trevillet Waterfall at the time when Tintagel's associations with the Arthurian legend were beginning to attract romantics and artists of all sorts to the area (Canner nd, 78). Henderson (East Cornwall Book, 528) noted two fields at Tevillet called 'Mainscaff': a name which he suggested might be derived from *men scrifys*, 'the written or inscribed stone' (Padel 1980, 161-2 and 207) - although Canner (pages 37, 43) notes that this was originally a separate holding from Trevillet, known as Malscaff, not

¹ JJE Venning was a land agent with Goldsmiths at Devonport and acted for the Molesworths, who owned the Wharncliffe property by this date. It is a possibility therefore that correspondence regarding the cross exists in the Molesworth archive at the County Record Office (Andrew Langdon, *pers comm.*).

Mainscaff, which makes this derivation less likely. Alternatively, the cross might have originated at or close to the house at Trevillet or, as is suggested below, somewhere else entirely. Trevillet is on the site of an earlier mansion, once the seat of the Wood family of Lewtrenchard (Canner nd, 37-8), which was taken down in the early 19th century and a farmhouse erected on the site. Some of the stones from the old building, including granite kneelers and a gable finial were also taken to the Wharncliffe Arms and it seems possible that the cross could have turned up at this time, amongst building materials from the old house, to be then re-used as a gate post. Examples of churchyard crosses re-used as building stones are numerous, for example that at Cardinham (Langdon 1896, 354).

So much is known. The real uncertainty concerns the original context of the cross. Why was it carved? When was it carved? Who was *Aelnat*? What was his monument doing at Trevillet?

The answer to the question of why it was carved is easy as this is recorded on the cross itself: 'Aelnat made this cross for his soul'. It was a Christian memorial, set up by someone called *Aelnat*, to promote his chances of eternal salvation. As such, it is most likely to have been set within a church or chapel yard, although none such is recorded at Trevillet. The depictions and names of the Evangelists on the cross also suggest that the cross was intended to be set up in a sacred place. Although crosses set up outside churchyards, by roadsides, are a common feature of the Cornish countryside, these are usually larger and often striking monuments, unlike the Trevillet cross, which is very much more intimate in scale. By way of example, the inscribed and decorated cross standing by the road on Waterpit Down, not far from Trevillet, is three or four times the size of our cross.

One thing we know about *Aelnat* is that he was English - or at least possessed an English name. Another is that he must have been a person of some importance locally, for although the cross is small it is nonetheless a fine and unusual piece of sculpture and without doubt a high-status piece which could only have been afforded by someone with considerable resources at their command. Domesday Book presents an interesting picture of the area in the second half of the 11th century, when the new owners and tenants of the land were all powerful Normans but the previous tenants and owners had all been Englishnamed individuals. Thus *Alfny* was a tenant of St Petroc's at Bossiney, *Edny* was tenant at Treslay and Genver, *Ednin* held Minster and *Alric* Trenuth (Thorn and Thorn 1979). Amongst these, *Aelnat* would hardly have stood out, and it would be not unreasonable to think of him as a well off thegn: the predecessor of the Norman knight and later gentleman farmer. He could have been either English or Cornish, for Cornishmen were adopting English names at this time, wisely adapting to political conditions to retain power (Oliver Padel, *pers comm*).

The cross is a memorial and, as noted above, its scale and the nature of the inscriptions suggest that it would originally have stood over a grave in consecrated ground, within the cemetery of a church or chapel. The question then is where was that graveyard? Was it at Trevillet, where the cross was found, or was it elsewhere – the stone having later been brought into Trevillet, perhaps with a load of building stone salvaged from elsewhere. The first possibility that this hypothetical chapel was at Trevillet makes sense for it rules out the need to establish how the stone actually reached Trevillet; but the problem with this is that there is no record of a chapel or graveyard ever having existed here, and although this does not immediately rule out the possibility, it certainly reduces it. The second possibility for the original location of the cross lies just under a mile from Trevillet, at Bossiney. Bossiney was first recorded in Domesday Book, when it was owned by the Count of Mortain. But it was held before the Norman Conquest by St Petroc's monastery at Bodmin and held by an English-named tenant, Alfay. At Bossiney the Count or a later owner or tenant built a

small castle (Rose 1992, 141) by which the borough was later established. Although no chapel is recorded here, it seems likely that the castle or the preceding manor would have had one, and here at Bossiney is a place where a person of sufficient status to merit our cross may have lived, either before or more probably after the Norman Conquest. The third possibility lies half a mile to the north of Trevillet, across the valley at Trethevy, where there is a chapel and graveyard of St Piran which (probably reasonably) has been equated with the chapel of St Piran recorded in the parish of Tintagel in 1427 and which, because of the presence of the graveyard, it is likely to have been of pre-Norman origin. Part of Trethevy's domain included the Domesday manor of Tregrebi or 'Genver', held before the Conquest by an Englishman Edwy but 'of the possession of St Piran' (Thorn and Thorn 1979 4,10): in other words it appears to have been a remote holding of St Piran's monastery at Perranzabuloe (Canner nd, 29 – 30), with which it lost its association at the Norman Conquest when it was appropriated (as was so much Cornish church land) by the Count of Mortain. The focus of the manor appears to have moved at a fairly early date from Genver to Trethevy, for while Trethevy survives now as a substantial hamlet Genver, close to the parish boundary, is hardly recorded at all (Gover 1948, 82-86 does not mention the settlement at all), is now deserted and is represented on the Tithe Award and 1880 maps as a single farmstead only. Canner (nd, 37) notes that the early history of Trethevy is more elusive than any other part of the parish of Tintagel and that, lying on the edge of the parish of Tintagel it seems to have had a life of its own; and it seems quite possible that this part of the parish, remote from the parish church, originated as a semiparochial chapelry, taken into Tintagel after the Norman Conquest. The chapel and its graveyard went out of use at the Reformation, but the building survived and its use was revived in 1941 (Canner nd, 29-30).

Perhaps the best choice for the original location of the cross is St Piran's chapel at Trethevy, where it might have been set up to commemorate the steward of this remote manor linked to the monastery of St Piran. The stone might have been shifted to Trevillet after the chapel had gone out of use at the Reformation - perhaps with a cartload of building stone. But this is still half a mile from Trevillet, across the deep valley of St Nechtan's Coombe. And in the final analysis, without further more concrete information, any suggestion remains speculative and the truth obscure.

3 Project background

3.1 Recent history of the monument

English Heritage Field Monument Wardens' reports record the fact that since at least 1980, the cross has been loose in its base – a problem that was exacerbated while the place was in use as a pub, the cross surrounded by benches, tables, and people standing around drinking and leaning against the cross. A previous owner also complained that it got in the way of his lawnmower! Various applications of cement around the base seemed to have made little difference to this problem. Proper restoration of the cross had been mooted in the past, but never achieved.

3.2 Condition of the monument prior to the restoration

Since the Wharncliffe Arms came into new ownership in 1999. The instability of the cross and its future had been discussed. One proposal, to remove it to Tintagel Church for safe keeping, was apparently vetoed because of its status as a Scheduled Monument. Recent building works associated with conversion of the hotel/pub to flats threatened the cross to such an extent that it was lifted and placed in the porch of the former hotel until the scaffolding had been dismantled and a safer environment restored. At this point, the cross was temporarily replaced by the builders, to allay local concern that it might have entirely

disappeared. This replacement involved simply cementing the cross onto its base and wedging it upright with pieces of slate (Fig 9). No attempt was made to provide new internal fixings or to pack the dowel hole with mortar.

3.3 Project background

As indicated above, negotiation regarding the need to stabilise the cross was finally precipitated by the conversion of the pub to flats, and the building works associated with that, which placed the cross at considerable risk of accidental damage (although it is to be noted that all the builders concerned had been appraised by Lee Sharpe, the owner, of the significance and status of the monument). With building work nearly completed, an opportunity existed to finally restore the cross, using appropriate materials and methods. This work was organised by the Historic Environment Service at the request of the English Heritage Field Monument Warden.

3.4 Aims

The project aims were therefore

- To restore the cross securely onto a base. Ideally this would be its original (19th century) base, unless through discussion with the conservator it was decided that this could not be re-used: in which case a new granite base of appropriate size would be provided.
- To replace the present ill-fitting iron pin with a better-fitting pin of stainless steel, secured with a vertical polyester resin.
- To restore the cross to a position where it would be safe but fully visible to passers-by in the adjacent street.

4 Recording

As there was to be no material change to the appearance of the cross, recording was limited to taking a full set of photographs and making detailed notes of the processes involved and any problems encountered in restoring the cross. Monochrome photography was used as the main record and archive medium, with digital images used more selectively for 'action' shots.

The archive details of the photos are recorded in section 9 of this report.

4.1 Results of the recording

The following observations were made in the process of carrying out the work.

- 1. Once the old pin was removed it was found to be of mild steel with only a little corrosion. It measured 7½ ins (19cm) long and had a diameter of an inch (2.5 cm). Owing to an incorrect previous restoration, in which the base-stone was wrongly oriented in relation to the cross, thus leaving a gap between the two, it had been bent slightly to fit it into place. When this happened is not certain, but possibly at the restoration prior to this one (ie 2005). The hole in the bottom of the shaft to receive the stone was 4 ins (10cm) deep while the hole in the base-stone was $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins (9 cm) deep.
- 2. This pin is not believed to have been the original one provided in 1870, when the cross was first moved to the Wharncliffe Arms. Iron, rather than mild steel, is likely to have been used at that time. Therefore some interim move must have taken place, perhaps when the

garden was re-designed in the 20th century(above p 9), and perhaps also provoked by the fact that the original pin had rusted.

- 3. Possibly at the same time as the mild steel pin was provided, the dowel hole in the base of the cross appears to have been deepened. The original was a 2 inch deep, tapering and irregular hand-drilled hole of roughly triangular section, but the inner inch of the hole was circular and straight-cut, probably the result of further drilling to allow a slightly longer pin to be used (Fig 11).
- 4. A hairline crack observed in the bottom of the shaft, in a position exactly corresponding to the position of the pin, may relate either to the use of the stone as a gatepost or to the fact that it had been loose in its base, rocking on the pin, for at least twenty-five years.
- 3. The base, which prior to the recent events, was hidden by turf, was found to be a solid block of local greenstone, of rather irregular shape, and surprisingly sloping on top. On restoring the cross, it was realised that this stone had in fact been carefully selected and dressed to provide a perfect match for the bottom of the cross, which is also not horizontal.

5 The conservation work

The conservation work was undertaken at the beginning of February 2006 by Adrian Thomas and David Cutting of St Just in West Cornwall, with help from Andrew Langdon. In summary, it involved replacing the existing, rather short, pin which had held the cross to its base with a new and longer pin of stainless steel, leaded into the shaft of the cross. The cross was briefly removed to St Just for drilling and fitting of the new pin. For the final restoration, the old base was re-used and found, despite its rather ungainly appearance, to be an excellent fit for the cross, once the latter was properly secured. The following steps were involved:

- 1. The cross was lifted on Wednesday 1st February. Once the cement from the temporary restoration had been carefully chipped away and the packing stones removed, the cross was easily lifted off its old pin, which remained firmly set into the base-stone. Once the pin had been removed from the base-stone, by carefully tapping and loosening it, the hole in the base was deepened to 12.5 cm (5½ ins). (Fig 10)
- 2. Back at the workshop in St Just, the hole for the central pin in the bottom of the cross-shaft was drilled to 2.5 cm (6 ins) deep, and a new 20mm diameter, stainless steel pin leaded in, the lead taking up all the slack of the old rather irregular hole. Lead was used on this occasion, rather than the more usual polyester resin, because it is a softer material with a certain amount of give in it. This very small post-like cross is always likely to be leant against, even though the garden now belongs to a private flat rather than a pub: and it is hoped that the lead may give it a bit more resilience in this situation, as well as being easier to remove if there is a need in the future.

While in the workshop it was observed that the reason the cross had been wedged upright by the builders when it was temporarily replaced was because the bottom of the cross is not horizontal. As this was thought to be the original bottom of the cross, not the result of more recent tampering or damage, it could not be cut or levelled in any way. So to rest securely on its base, the cross had either to be wedged at the bottom, or to sit on a base which was not completely horizontal.

3. In the event, the final restoration of the cross went very smoothly, because it was found that the uneven surface of the old base stone, originally thought to be an ugly but suitably large bit of stone, had in fact been carefully selected and dressed to fit the bottom of the

cross. A scaffold was erected around the cross base, and a block and tackle hung from this, so that the cross could be carefully lowered onto the base-stone. An important consideration was that the cross should be replaced with exactly the same orientation as originally and when the cross was first lowered onto the base, it was found that it was unevenly seated, with a gap between the base-stone and the bottom of the cross. This could have been wedged with stones, as previously, but it was clear that the cross would be very much more stable if it were resting fully on the base-stone. The base was therefore swivelled around by 180 degrees and when the cross was lowered down onto it again, it was found to be an excellent fit: the slightly sloping surface of the base stone matching the non-horizontal bottom of the cross almost perfectly (Fig 14). The cross was therefore lifted, the dowel hole filled with stone resin, and the cross lowered back down for the final time. As a finishing touch, the joint between the base and the cross was filled with a narrow fillet of lime mortar, to help keep the joint water-tight and light from degrading the resin (Fig 15).

6 Discussion

The cross now sits in what will become a small private garden, and this much will itself provide a better measure of protection than in the past. In addition, the new fixings, described above, should provide long-term security. Despite the new, private, setting, the cross remains fully visible from the main street in Tintagel and in that sense is viewable for anyone at any time.

The fact that the cross was not only loose and poorly set on its base, but also had a hairline crack at the bottom in line with the position of the pin, indicates that this work was very much needed. Without this conservation work the crack, which was located at a point where the name *luc* can be clearly seen, could have worsened and eventually fractured entirely.

The only foreseeable need for the long-term will be to check and if necessary replace the lime mortar as this weathers.

One further benefit of this project has been to provoke a re-consideration of the original context of the cross. Although it will never be proved one way or the other, it has been suggested above that the original site may have been the chapel at Trethevy, a mile and a half to the north-east of the monument's present location. In hindsight, therefore, it is perhaps a good thing that the cross never went to Tintagel Church, and it is suggested that if there is ever a need to move the cross again in the future, the chapel yard at Trethevy might be a suitable home – where it would join the ancient chapel, the holy well and close by, a Roman milestone, in a delightful rural setting.

7 References

7.1 Primary sources

Ordnance Survey, c1880. 25 Inch Map First Edition (licenced digital copy at HES)

Ordnance Survey, £1907. 25 Inch Map Second Edition (licenced digital copy at HES)

Ordnance Survey, 2003. LandLine Digital Mapping at 1:2500

7.2 Publications

Blight, JT, 1858. Ancient Crosses and Other Antiquities in the East of Cornwall, London, Dublin and Penzance.

Canner, AC, nd. The Parish of Tintagel: Some Historical Notes, Camelford.

Gover, JEB, 1948. *Place-names of Cornwall*, typescript at the Courtney library of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro.

Henderson, CG, 1925. Ecclesiastical Antiquities of East Cornwall ('the East Cornwall Book'), unpublished manuscript at the Courtney Library of the Royal Institution of Cornwall.

Langdon, AG, 1896. Old Cornish Crosses, Truro.

Maclean, J, 1879. The Parochial and Family History of the Deanery of Trigg Minor in the County of Cornwall, III, London, Bodmin.

Padel, OJ, 1980. Cornish Place-Name Elements. English Place-Name Society, vol LVI/LVII

Rose, PG, 1992. 'Bossiney Castle', Cornish Archaeology 31, 138-42.

Thorn, C and Thorn, F, 1979. Domesday Book 10: Cornwall, Chichester.

8 Project archive

The HES project number is 2005048

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of the Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

- 1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
- 2. An information file containing copies of documentary and cartographic source material, notes, correspondence and colour photographic prints.
- 3. Digital photographs stored in the directory ... \text{Images\Sites W\Wharncliffe Arms}
- 4. This report held in digital form as: G:\CAU\HE PROJECTS\SITES\SITES W\WHARNCLIFFE ARMS PR504816\WHARNCLIFFE ARMS CROSS RESTORATION REPORT MARK 2.DOC

9 Appendix: Draft entry on Wharncliffe Arms cross for the Corpus of Pre Norman Stone Sculpture in Cornwall

TINTAGEL

SX 058 884

Cross-shaft and -head

PRESENT LOCATION Garden of Wharncliffe Arms Hotel

EVIDENCE FOR DISCOVERY Probably first recorded 1858, used as gate-post at Trevillet (Blight 1858, 33), although height is different and no text is mentioned. Moved c.1875 to present location (Maclean 1879, 180)

```
H. 117 cm (46.2 in)
W. 34 cm (13.6 in) (head); 41 cm (16.4 in) (shaft, max.); 34 cm (13.6 in) (shaft, min.)
D. 18 cm (7.2 in) (max.); 9 cm (3.6 in) (min.)
STONE TYPE Elvan
```

PRESENT CONDITION Following recent (2006) conservation work, the monument is stable. Monument damaged and ornament worn; text badly worn.

DESCRIPTION Wheel-headed cross of rectangular section, set on a modern (19^{th} century) base. The sides of the head have been trimmed to make the stone roughly rectangular, presumably for re-use as a gate-post and holes in the top of the head and in the face of the head on side C relate to this re-use. All the carving is incised or in very low relief.

A (broad): On the head is an expanded-arm cross, type E6, formed by slightly sinking the area between the arms. The arms flare widely from a small central boss; they are bordered by a double incised line, with a cable moulding along the outer edge of the bottom arm. A small section of a flat, plain ring, joins the outer edge of the bottom arm. Centrally placed within the spaces between the cross-arms are four small bosses.

Down the mutilated sides of the shaft, framing an inscribed text, are traces of a single incised line, possibly terminated near the bottom by a very worn cross. The entire shaft is filled with the text. It is incised in six horizontal lines inside the remains of a panel and is incomplete at the end. The letters, measuring 6 to 7 cm in height, are in a predominantly capital script but are rather deteriorated. The text reads:

```
[E.N]
[.]T
[.]ECIT
[.]
[.]
[.]
```

B (narrow): No decoration visible as the cross has been damaged here.

C (broad): The cross on this face is the same as that on face A. At the centre, the cross is overlain by a small, low-relief boss, within which is a small sunken cross. Remains of the ring can be seen more clearly on this face. Filling the spaces between the ring and cross-

arms are four small oval bosses, crudely carved to represent bearded heads. Small hollows represent the eyes and mouths.

Down the sides of the shaft are two incised lines, the outer forming an edge-moulding and extending to the base of the shaft, the inner terminated on each side near the bottom with a small incised cross with slightly expanded terminals. The entire shaft is filled with an inscribed text. It is incised in several lines inside the remains of a panel and is now incomplete. Traces of five lines can be made out, the first two reading horizontally, followed by one reading downwards with the letters facing left, one reading horizontally and upside down, and one reading upwards with the letters facing right. The letters, measuring 6 to 8 cm in height, are in a predominantly capital script but are highly deteriorated. The text reads:

[M.T]
[..<u>S</u>]
[M-]
LUC[.]
SIO[.]

D (narrow): No decoration visible as the cross has been damaged here.

DISCUSSION

This cross is unique in Cornwall. Almost all of its attributes are without parallel amongst the pre-Norman crosses of Cornwall: its very small size, the shaft enriched with inscriptions only, the decoration of the head, the naming and depiction of the Evangelists, the crosses at the bottom of the edge-moulding, the central boss elaborated with a cross, and even the type of stone, are all different from the norm of Cornish pre-Norman sculpture. The cross lacks the usual features of interlace decoration and holes between the cross arms and ring which distinguish the Cornish pre-Norman crosses from the later and much simpler disc- or wheel-headed wayside crosses. Indeed, without the inscription, which commemorates a person with a probable Anglo-Saxon name, it might be difficult to substantiate a pre-Norman date. In fact, with its disc- or wheel-head and simple outline, it could be said to have more in common with the later wheel-headed wayside crosses, although it is far more ornate than any of these.

On the other hand, the concept of a cross with inscriptions filling the whole of the shaft, the wide-splayed arms, and use of incised decoration on disc-headed crosses is found amongst the 'disc-headed slab crosses' and 'panelled cartwheel crosses' of south Wales which Nash Williams dates broadly to the 10th and 11th centuries (Nash-Williams 1950, 33 and 38). The disc-head is a common cross-form in south Wales throughout the tenth and 11th centuries and it is probable that this is the source of the form, although it is found in Cornwall on one early cross, at Sancreed. The names of the evangelists also appear on two crosses from South Wales (Nash Williams 1950, 383 and no 61).

Interestingly, the closest parallel in Cornwall is with the two stones at Lanteglos by Camelford, described separately in this volume but probably parts of one original monument. The latter is overall far simpler but the general form of the cross-head, with its arms flaring widely from a very small central boss, the bosses within the spaces between the arms and the use of inscriptions on two faces of the shaft, is comparable. The names on this stone are also, like Tintagel's, of English origin, even though the text is Middle English and dated to the late 11th or early 12th century.

Cable mouldings are used in Cornish sculpture on one other cross only, at Gulval in west Cornwall, but also feature quite regularly in the county's Romanesque work. The disembodied little heads are quite unparalleled in Cornwall, unless they can be compared to Norman beak heads or, perhaps more appropriately, to the use of heads on the corners of Norman fonts of the influential Bodmin series, the nearest of these being the curious debased example in Tintagel's early Norman Church (dated by Sedding (1929, 382-8) to 1130-1150).

In conclusion, the fact that this cross is not really like anything else in Cornwall of either pre- or post-Norman makes it difficult to date. The comparisons with Lanteglos, however, and the fact that the small heads/bosses on the cross-head can perhaps be related to Norman sculpture, suggest that we should be dating it to the latter half of the 11th century, or even the early 12th. The widely flaring form of the cross-arms also points to a late date. On the other hand, the Welsh parallels are persuasive of a slightly earlier date.

The text on face A reads: [E.N.]T [F]ECIT -, '[-]t made -'. Earlier readings, made when the text was less deteriorated, suggest that the name might have been Ælnat, and that the text continued hac crucem p anima sua,'this cross for his soul' (see Okasha 1993, 293-4). [ADD superscript lines]. The name may have been of English origin. This does not necessarily imply that the cross is pre-Norman, as the post Norman Conquest inscription at Lanteglos by Camelford, referred to above, shows.

The text on face C reads: [M.T..S] [M-] LUC[.]S IO[.]. Earlier drawings, for example by Langdon (Langdon 1896, 366, 368), show a less deteriorated text set around the stone and reading matheus marcus lucas ioh, where ioh is for iohannes. [ADD superscript lines]. This reading is supported by other drawings, as well as the traces remaining today, and is likely to be substantially correct.

DATE 11th century

REFERENCES Blight 1858, 33 and fig.; Polsue 1872, 236; Iago 1878-81, 399, 401; Iago 1881-83, 237-8; Maclean 1879, 190 and pl. LVI, figs; Langdon, Arthur G. and Allen, J. R.1888, 312-3, 320, 323-4 and figs; Allen, J. R.1889, 128-9, 213, 221; Langdon, Arthur G. 1889a, 319, 321-3, 344, 347; Langdon, Arthur G. 1889c, 239; Langdon, Arthur G. 1890-91, 35, 54, 58, 62, 68, 74, 80-1, 91; Langdon, Arthur G. 1892, 35; Borlase, W. C. 1893, 184-5; Langdon, Arthur G. 1894, 315; Langdon, Arthur G. and Allen, J. R.1895, 52, 58, 60 and figs; Langdon, Arthur G. 1896, 366-8, passim and figs; (-) 1896, 145, 153-5 and figs; Reed 1899, 193, 198 and figs; Rhys 1905, 81; Daniell 1906, 244, 342; Langdon, Arthur G. 1906, 411-12, 423, 438 and figs; Henderson, C. G. et al. 1925, 206, 244-5; Macalister 1929, 192; Hencken 1932, 271, 283, 309; Dexter, T. F. G. and Dexter, H. 1938, 26-7 and figs; Macalister 1949, no. 1059, p 187 and figs; Ellis, G. E. 1956-58c, 133; Ellis, G. E. 1962-64e, 275-6 and figs; Pevsner 1970, 220; Pearce 1978, 181; Canner 1982, 8, 16, 106-7 and fig. on p. 23; Higgitt 1986, 141; Langdon, Andrew G. 1992a, no. 97, p 62 and figs; Okasha 1993, no. 64, pp 291-5, passim and figs; Pierce 2004, 315.

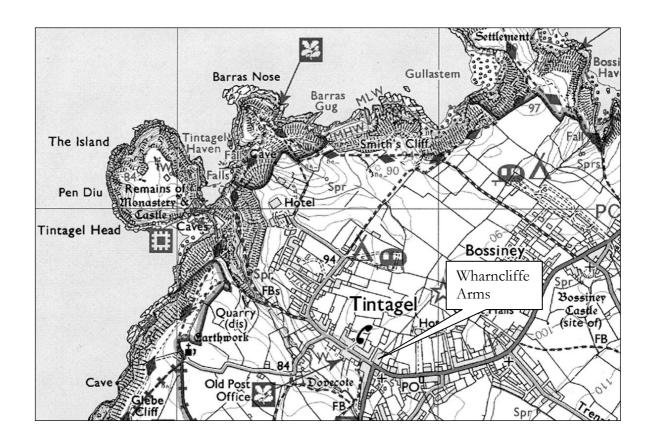


Fig 1 Location map

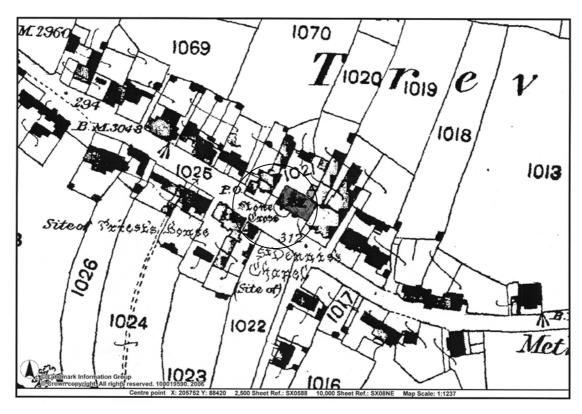


Fig 2 First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, 1880

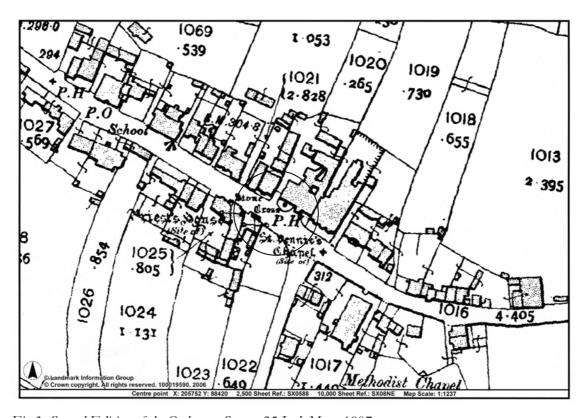


Fig 3 Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Map, 1907

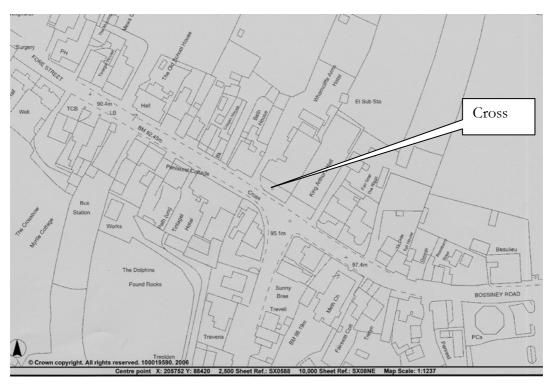


Fig 4 Ordnance Survey digital mapping showing the site and its environs (2003)

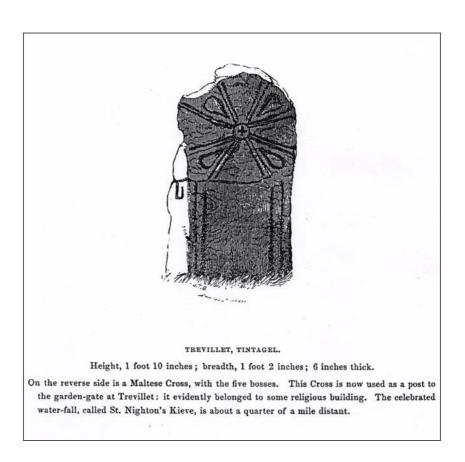


Fig 5 Illustration of the cross by JT Blight (1858)

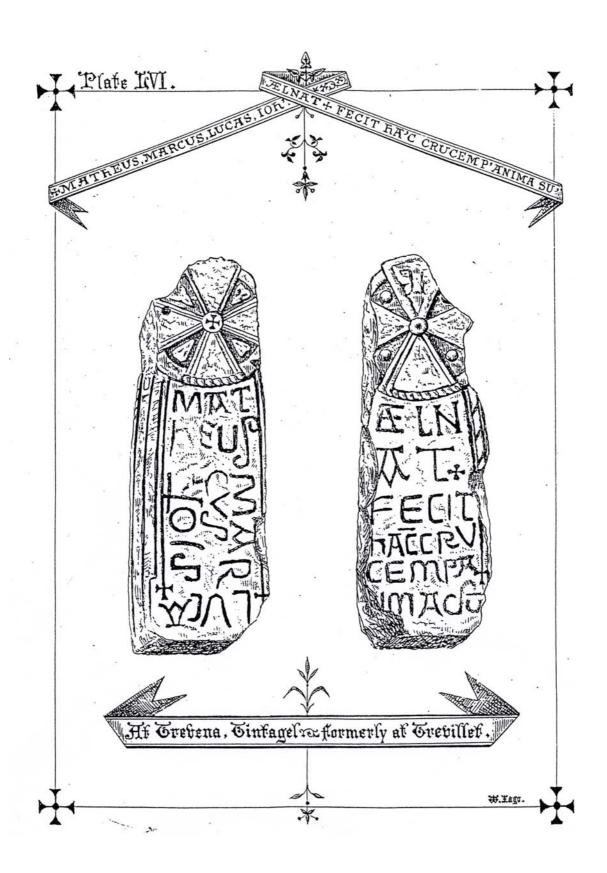


Fig 6 Illustration of the cross by William Iago (in Maclean 1870)



Fig 7 Illustration of the cross by AG Langdon (1896)



Fig 8 The cross threatened by building work in 2005





Fig 9 The cross in storage in the hotel's porch in 2005 (left) and then temporarily restored in December 2005(right)





Fig 10 Lifting the cross for removal to St Just for drilling and pinning



Fig 11 The cross while at St Just: detail of the original hole for the pin; the former pin, and the new stainless steel rod to be used for the new pin



Fig 12 The new pin, leaded into place



Fig 13 Lifting the cross back into position



Fig 14 Detail of the sloping joint between cross and its base



Fig 15 Mortaring the joint at the base of the cross



Fig 16 The restored cross