



Fursnewth Cross, St Cleer, Cornwall

Conservation and restoration



Historic Environment Projects

Fursnewth Cross, St Cleer, Cornwall

Conservation and restoration

Client	English Heritage, Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project
Report Number	2013R051
Date	July 2014
Status	Final
Report author(s)	Ann Preston-Jones
Checked by	Jacky Nowakowski
Approved by	Andrew Young

Historic Environment, Cornwall Council

Fal Building, New County Hall, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY

tel (01872) 323603 fax (01872) 323811 E-mail hes@cornwall.gov.uk

www.cornwall.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

This report describes work organised by Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council, in partnership with Iain Rowe with the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project, to repair a cross formerly located at Pendean House in Liskeard and restore it to its original location at Fursnewth in St Cleer parish.

We would like to acknowledge the key role of Iain Rowe in this project, which proved more complicated than initially anticipated. Nothing would have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of Andrew Langdon. Debra Atkins, manager of Pendean House, gave great support and encouragement. The enthusiasm and dedication of Angela and John Redman of Great Fursnewth was also a significant factor in achieving the project's aims with such style.

Sue and Lawrence Kelland, stonework conservators, undertook the repairs to the cross with great care despite the difficult circumstances. Ian Piper and team, including Alex Piper and Peter Hooper, undertook the extremely difficult task of moving the cross from Pendean and created a new base for it. Roger Tamblin and Toby Rogers gave practical support in the locating and installation of the cross at Fursnewth.

Duncan Matthews and members of Liskeard Old Cornwall Society helped organise the final celebration.

Conservation work on the cross was carried out by conservators Sue and Lawrence Kelland and the new base was made and installed by Ian Piper of Bearah Tor Quarry, North Hill.

The work was undertaken as part of Cornwall Council's Scheduled Monument Management Project for 2012-13: a project funded jointly by English Heritage, the Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall Council and other partners, in this case notably the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project, who funded the new base-stone for the cross and organised associated community activities.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Historic Environment Projects and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Freedom of Information Act

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.



Historic Environment, Cornwall Council is a Registered Organisation with the
Institute for Archaeologist

Cover illustration

Celebration and rededication of the cross at Fursnewth in June 2013

© Cornwall Council 2013

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	1
2	Introduction	4
2.1	The monument	4
3	History and description of Fursnewth Cross	4
3.1.1	History	4
3.1.2	Description and dimensions	4
4	Condition of the monument	4
4.1	Risk	5
5	Project background	5
5.1	Project background	5
5.2	Aims and objectives of the Fursnewth cross repair and restoration	5
5.2.1	Repair of the cross	5
5.2.2	Provide a new base	6
5.2.3	Restore the cross	6
5.2.4	Designation	6
5.3	Aims and objectives of associated archaeological recording	6
6	Results of the conservation work	6
6.1	Repair and taking down the cross at Pendean House	6
6.2	Removal from Liskeard	7
6.3	New base-stone	7
6.4	Restoration of the cross at Fursnewth, St Cleer	7
7	Results of recording and monitoring	7
8	Final celebration and re-dedication	7
9	Re-designation	8
10	Recommendations	8
11	References	8
11.1	Websites	8
12	Project archive	8

List of Figures

- Fig 1 Location map
- Fig 2 Former location of cross at Pendean, Liskeard
- Fig 3 New location of cross at Fursnewth in St Cleer
- Fig 4 Cross hidden in shrubberies of Pendean, at the outset of the project
- Fig 5 The crack in the shaft associated with corrosion of the iron fixing.
- Fig 6 Lawrence Kelland removing the iron fixing from the cross-shaft
- Fig 7 Measuring the cross for stainless steel dowels to tie the crack together; and drilling the shaft to take the dowels
- Fig 8 Lawrence Kelland chipping away the cement mortar from the base of the cross in order to remove it from its base at Pendean
- Fig 9 The cross being taken down
- Fig 10 Ian Piper and team removing the cross from Pendean
- Fig 11 Sketch of the cross showing the positions of stainless steel dowels
- Fig 12 Checking the base-stone at Bearah Tor Quarry
- Fig 13 Ian Piper installing the base-stone at Fursnewth
- Fig 14 Restoring the cross at Fursnewth
- Fig 15 The rededication at Fursnewth: above, Iain Rowe speaking; below Rev Keith Lanyon Jones with Duncan Matthews, Grand Bard Maureen Fuller and escort.
- Fig 16 The restored cross

Abbreviations

CRO	Cornwall County Record Office
EH	English Heritage
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HE	Historic Environment, Cornwall Council
MCO	Monument number in Cornwall HER
NGR	National Grid Reference
OCS	Old Cornwall Society
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey
RIC	Royal Institution of Cornwall

1 Summary

A medieval granite wayside cross from Fursnewth in the parish of St Cleer was repaired and restored in 2013 by the Scheduled Monument Management project of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council (HE CC) working in close partnership with the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project (CHAHP), staff of Pendean House (the former home of the cross) and the owners of Great Fursnewth.

The project involved two main elements. The first was the repair of the cross, which was cracked across the centre of the shaft and the second, its removal from Pendean in Liskeard back to the site of origin at Fursnewth in St Cleer. The first was organised by HE CC, the second by CHAHP.

The cross was first noted at Fursnewth in the early 20th century, in use as a support for a mowhay at Great Fursnewth, approximately 4 km north-west of Liskeard. It was almost instantly 'snapped up' by local entrepreneur and antiquarian Mr A de C Glubb, who acquired the monument as a feature for his garden at Pendean in Liskeard. As soon as Glubb died in 1947, there was pressure to move the cross back to its place of origin; but it was not until 2013 that this became possible and the cross was finally restored to the verge at Great Fursnewth on 25th March 2013.

At some time in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the cross had been re-used as a gatepost, a re-use which involved the insertion of iron fittings into the shaft of the cross. In 2011, it was discovered that the one surviving iron fitting had corroded and expanded, causing the granite to crack, threatening its integrity. Prior to its removal from Pendean to Fursnewth, therefore, this damage to the cross was repaired by drilling the shaft and inserting three thin stainless steel dowels to stitch the parts together across the crack.

Prior to this project, the cross was considered to be at high risk and had been published on the English Heritage 'Heritage at Risk' register. As a result of this project, the risk has been reduced and the cross removed from the register.

The Fursnewth Cross, formerly located at SX 24876 64610, but now at SX 22529 67444, is a Scheduled Monument, Cornwall 910 (1003046); a Grade 2* Listed Building (1203204) and number 10331 in the Cornwall HER.



Fig 1 Location map

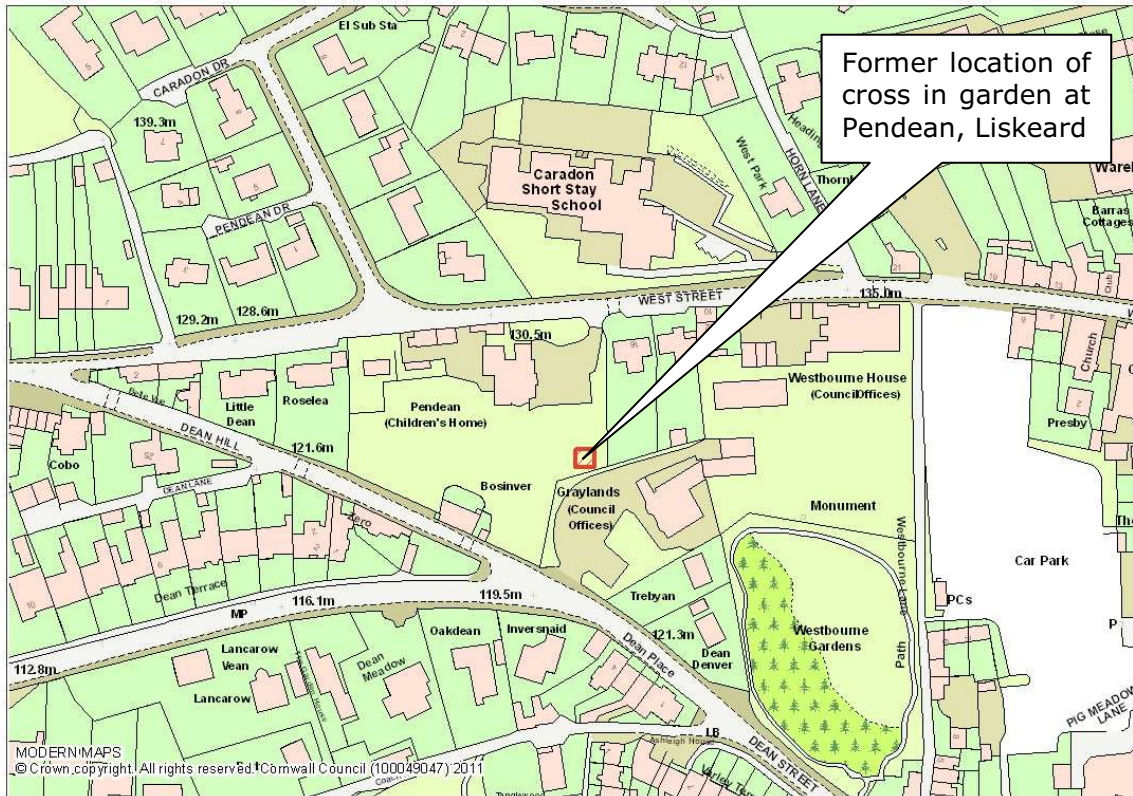


Fig 2 Former location of cross at Pendeon, Liskeard

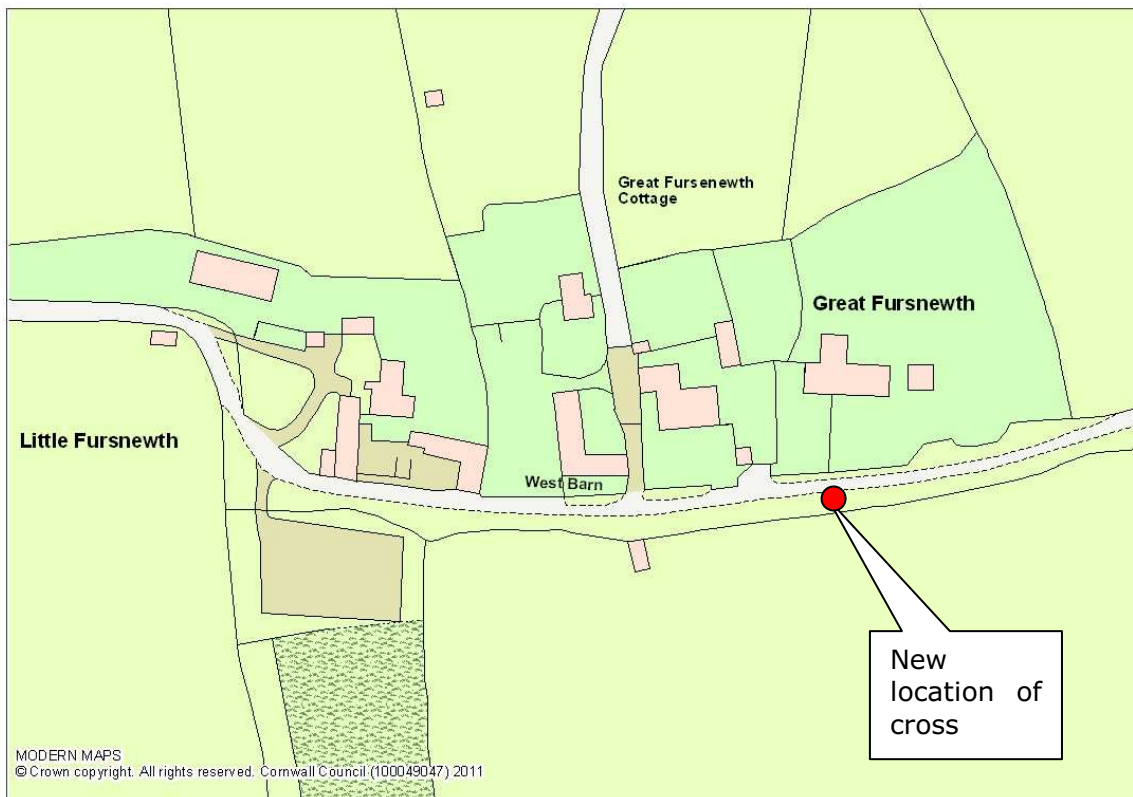


Fig 3 New location of cross at Fursnewth in St Cleer

2 Introduction

This report describes a project to repair and restore a mutilated medieval granite wayside cross.

2.1 The monument

The Fursnewth Cross is a medieval granite wheel-headed wayside cross, 1.67 m high, of probable 12th or 13th century date.

3 History and description of Fursnewth Cross

3.1.1 History

The cross was discovered in use as a support for a mowstead in the 1920s, and is also said to have been used as a bearing for machinery. It has also been used at some time as a gatepost – as the remains of an iron gate-hanging in the shaft of the cross showed. After discovery, the cross was acquired by a Mr A de C Glubb and moved to his home at Pendean House in Liskeard, where it was set up on a rockery in the garden as an ornamental feature (A G Langdon 2005). Here the monument stood until the end of January 2013, when the work described in this report was initiated.

The minute books of Liskeard OCS record that although the cross was shut away in a private garden, it was never forgotten. A letter written by Mr Croft Andrew on 24th July 1947 stated that the executors of Mr Glubb's estate had given permission for the cross to be removed from Pendean. As a result, Liskeard OCS discussed the possibility of re-siting the cross with the County Surveyor in October 1947, but no action was taken. During March and April 1970 the question of re-siting the cross was raised for the Federation's Silver Jubilee Year and again several times in 1974.

Mrs Angela Redman, present owner of Great Fursnewth, became aware of the cross and its origin in the 1990s and on several occasions made efforts to repatriate it to St Cleer. However at the time, the resources to organise this were not available.

3.1.2 Description and dimensions

The cross is complete, except for its base-stone. It was originally a wheel-headed wayside cross, although today it is somewhat battered with a V shaped segment missing from the top of the head. The monument displays the remains of an equal armed cross in very low relief on each face; the cross on the reverse face has been almost worn away, indicating that at some time during its long history, it may have been recumbent and walked over.

Height 1.68M (5ft 6ins), width of head 0.49M (1ft 7 ½ins), width of shaft varies between 0.34M and 0.31M (1ft 1 ¼ins and 1ft ¼ins), thickness 0.21M (8 ¼ins).

4 Condition of the monument

Even though it was originally intended to act as a focal feature within the garden of Pendean House, the cross had become completely overgrown and obscured beneath a large tree and laurel bushes (Fig 4). Pendean House is now a care home owned by Cornwall Council and current policy is to allow the tree and bushes to grow over and hide the cross. This was from concern that in its damaged state the cross might be a liability to children in the home, and also to protect it from any damage that they might cause. The side effect was that over recent years it had become difficult to monitor the condition of the cross so that the threats and damage to it described in this report were only discovered very recently, by Iain Rowe and Andrew Langdon on a site visit in 2011.

The main problem found in 2011 was that the iron fixing in the face of the cross shaft had corroded and expanded, cracking the granite into which it had been inserted, and meaning that in the long term the cross could split in two (Fig 5). A further hole in the base of the shaft presumably represents the site of a lower gate hanging, but fortunately there was no damaging ironwork surviving in this second hole.

The head of the cross has been chipped and a shallow hollow cut in the top of the head, presumably as a result of its use as a mowhay support.

A further, but less significant, problem was that the cross leaned heavily to one side, perhaps as a result of settlement.

4.1 Risk

Because of these problems, the cross was considered to be at high risk of damage and in declining condition. As such, it had been published on English Heritage's *Heritage at Risk* register (English Heritage 2012, 40; <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/heritage-at-risk/har-2012-registers/sw-HAR-register-2012.pdf>)

5 Project background

5.1 Project background

The cross is not in situ, having been removed from Fursnewth in about 1930. However, as noted above, there has been a long-standing desire to move it from its virtually inaccessible setting at Pendean House, back to Fursnewth, where it was originally discovered and where it could be visible and fully accessible (Andrew Langdon, *pers comm*). The possibility that this might be achieved through the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project (CHAHP) had been mooted on a number of occasions over the last few years but not addressed.

Finally, the wish to restore the cross to Fursnewth and the need to repair it, have come together in one project, run jointly by CHAHP and Historic Environment.

A further issue which had arisen recently and which provided an extra incentive for this project was the fact that Pendean House might be sold off by Cornwall Council, as part of the Unitary Authority's rationalisation of its estate. Although this would not necessarily pose a risk to the cross, it would mean that the cross would no longer be on publicly-owned land. On the other hand, moving the cross to Fursnewth would keep it within the public domain and restore a sense of its historic setting.

5.2 Aims and objectives of the Fursnewth cross repair and restoration

The main aim of the project was the repair and stabilisation of the 'at risk' monument; the second aim was to move it from Pendean in Liskeard to Fursnewth in St Cleer where it would be fully accessible and replaced in its original setting.

These goals were satisfactorily met, although not exactly according to the objectives, as stated in the original project design.

The objectives stated in the project design (Preston-Jones 2013) were:

5.2.1 Repair of the cross

'The corroding iron gate-hanging will be removed from the cross before it causes any more damage. It is probable that to do this and to then carry out a repair, the cross will need to be broken in a controlled way. The two parts of the stone will then be drilled, ready for fixing with stainless steel pins. This work will be carried out by skilled stonework conservators.'

5.2.2 Provide a new base

'In its proposed new location at Fursnewth, the cross will be securely mounted on a new base-stone carved specially for it. The cross will therefore be removed from Pendean and taken to Bearah Tor Quarry where the base will be selected and carved to fit the cross.'

5.2.3 Restore the cross

'At Fursnewth, the cross will be securely mounted on a new base and the parts reassembled by fixing with a stainless steel pin set in resin, and mortaring the joint. The scars left by the former gate hangings will be filled with mortar. This work will be carried out by skilled stonework conservators.

At Fursnewth, the wide grassy verge beside a quiet country road opposite the old manor house has the potential to provide a safe yet fully accessible location for the monument. The owner of the adjacent property has undertaken to cut and maintain the grass around the cross.'

5.2.4 Designation

Once moved, the cross will require re-scheduling/listing.

5.3 Aims and objectives of associated archaeological recording

The principal aim of the archaeological recording associated with this project was to liaise with the contractors and all others involved, and record the work with photos and notes. There was to be a watching brief when the cross was taken down, was being fitted with a new base and being restored at Fursnewth. This was to ensure that all work was undertaken according to the details of the proposal, to discuss and agree any changes from the specification, and to record any features of significance revealed in the course of undertaking the work.

The archaeological recording was primarily undertaken by Andrew Langdon, working as a consultant for CHAHP. The work was however guided by the Project Design written by HE CC and approved by English Heritage.

6 Results of the conservation work

6.1 Repair and taking down the cross at Pendean House

On Thursday 31st January 2013, stonework conservators Sue and Lawrence Kelland examined the cracks in the cross-shaft and found that these could be repaired *in-situ* before the cross was taken down. The original plan had been to break the shaft at the crack, and remove the cross in two sections and later glue and pin the two sections back together again. However this revised plan was accepted as a less intrusive and far more sympathetic approach. They therefore drilled diagonal holes into the shaft across the crack, two through the face of the shaft and one across the side of the shaft. 6mm stainless steel bars were then inserted through the cracked areas and glued into position, strengthening and securing the crack.

Once the crack in the shaft had been secured, the weight of the monument was supported by a block and tackle from a scaffold which had been erected around the cross, and the mortar was painstakingly chipped away from the bottom of the shaft where it was fixed into the base-stone. Once loose, the cross was carefully lowered down ready for collection by Monumental Mason, Ian Piper and his team from C F Piper & Son of Bearah Tor Quarry, North Hill.

6.2 Removal from Liskeard

This took place on Monday 4th February, when Ian Piper, Alex Piper and Peter Hooper collected the cross from the garden at Pendean and transported it to Bearah Tor Quarry for storage and fitting of a new base.

6.3 New base-stone

A granite boulder was selected from stone at Bearah Tor Quarry for Mr Piper to fashion into a cross-base. The new base is a roughly square weathered slab of medium-grained granite just over a metre across. The top surface of the granite boulder was ideal but needed the bottom trimmed as its thickness was irregular. Once trimmed, a mortice was cut into its top large enough to support the shaft of the cross.

6.4 Restoration of the cross at Fursnewth, St Cleer

On Monday 25th March, Mr Piper transported the cross, together with its base-stone back to Fursnewth. Here the base-stone was immediately set in place with the help of Toby Roger from neighbouring Trelethick Farm using a mechanical loader. Sue and Lawrence Kelland finally erected the cross on its new base on Wednesday 10th April, again with the assistance of Toby Rogers, and Andrew Langdon. The shaft was secured in the base-stone with a polyester stone resin and the joints filled in with a lime mortar coloured to match the granite. The cross was also microchipped and recorded as a deterrent against theft.

It now stands at SX 22529 67444.

7 Results of recording and monitoring

The recording work associated with this project was undertaken by Andrew Langdon, a private consultant working for CHAHP, according to the project design.

No unexpected features of the cross were revealed during the process.

Dimensions of the restored cross: Base-stone 1.3M (4ft 3ins), by 1.04M (3ft 5ins), thickness varies between 0.2M (8ins) and 0.29M (11 ½ins). The mortice measures 0.37M (1ft 2 ¾ins) by 0.25M (10ins), depth 0.2M (8ins). Height of the cross above the base-stone 1.55M (5ft 1in).

8 Final celebration and re-dedication

The restoration of the cross to great Fursnewth was celebrated on Tuesday 4th June in great style in an event organised by CHAHP, Angela and John Redman of Great Fursnewth, and Liskeard Old Cornwall Society.

A party atmosphere prevailed, with a good crowd turning out to enjoy a Cornish folk band, Cornish pasties and 'Fursnewth cross buns', a marquee housing an exhibition about the cross restoration work, and the area around the cross decked with St Piran's flags and bunting.

A re-dedication ceremony was organised by Duncan Matthews, President of Liskeard Old Cornwall Society and President of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies; guests included Maureen Fuller the Grand Bard of *Gorsedh Kernow*, Sue Pike the Mayor of Liskeard and Derris Watson, Cornwall Councillor for the Liskeard area. The re-dedication was undertaken by the Rev Keith Lanyon Jones of St Cleer.

After the re-dedication, Andrew Langdon gave a talk on the restoration of medieval crosses in Cornwall, in St Cleer parish church.

9 Re-designation

Following the completion of this project, applications were made to English Heritage to review the designation of the cross. As a result, the site at Pendean was de-Scheduled, and the cross re-designated at Fursnewth as a grade 2* Listed Building.

10 Recommendations

There are no specific management requirements arising from the repair and restoration of this monument, other than periodic monitoring.

The repair to the cross was a one-off operation, resulting in consolidation of the crack and stabilisation by removal of all damaging ironwork. It should require no further action for many years, other than occasional monitoring of the condition of the mortar joint.

Occasional cutting of the grass on the verge around the cross will be required to maintain it as a visible feature. The owners of the adjacent property, Angela and John Redman of Great Fursnewth, have undertaken to carry this out.

11 References

English Heritage, 2012. *Heritage at Risk Register 2012: South-West*

Langdon, A G, 2005. *Stone Crosses in East Cornwall*, 47

Preston-Jones, A, 2013. Monument Management Scheme 2012-13: proposal for repair, removal and restoration of the Fursnewth Cross, Liskeard, Cornwall

11.1 Websites

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> English Heritage's online database of Sites and Monuments Records, and Listed Buildings

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/heritage-at-risk/har-2012-registers/sw-HAR-register-2012.pdf>

12 Project archive

The HE project number is **146209**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, New County Hall, 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. Digital photographs stored in the directory [R:\Historic Environment \(Images\)\SITES.E-H\Fursnewth Cross, Pendean, Liskeard](#)
3. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-185361

This report text is held in digital form as: [Fursnewth Cross restoration report 2013.doc](#)



Fig 4 Cross hidden in shrubberies of Pendean, at the outset of the project

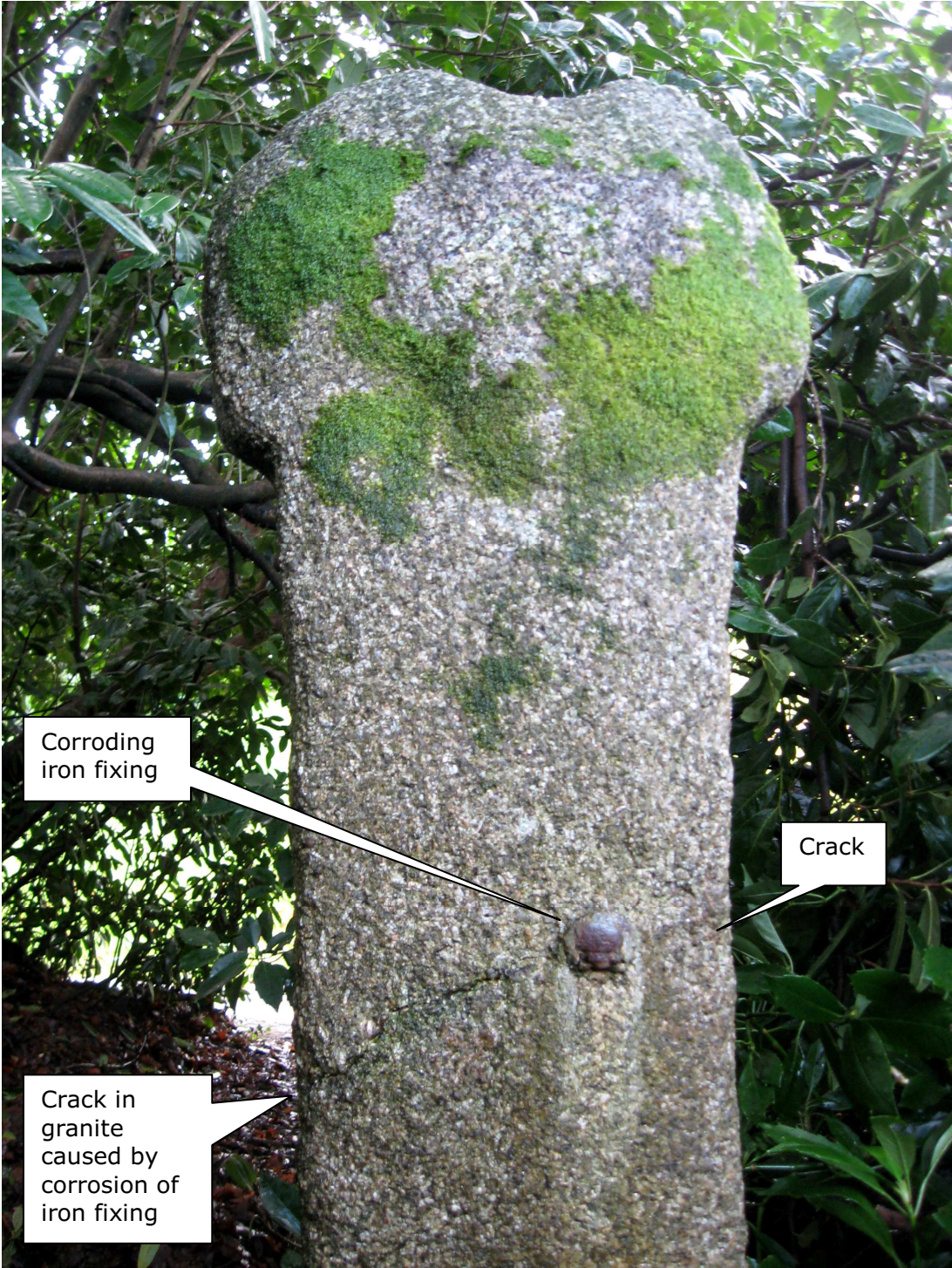


Fig 5 The crack in the shaft associated with corrosion of the iron fixing.



Fig 6 Lawrence Kelland removing the iron fixing from the cross-shaft

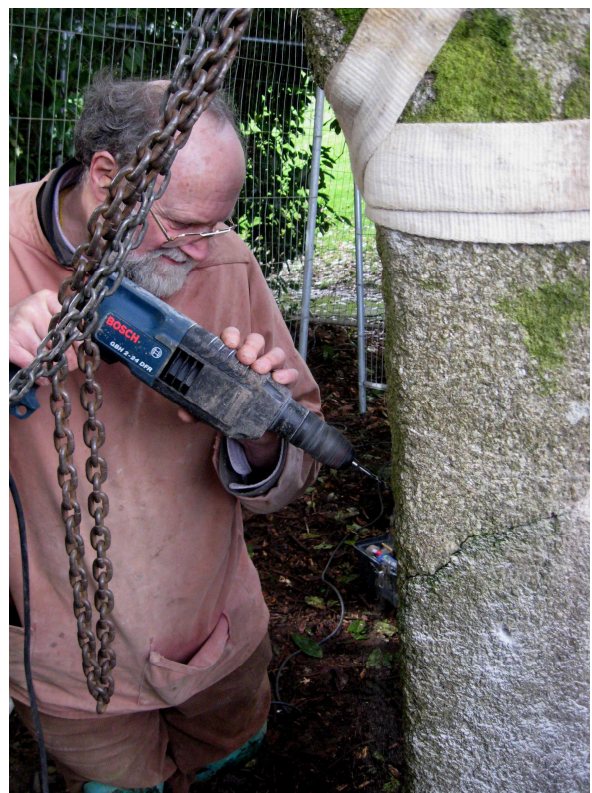


Fig 7 Measuring the cross for stainless steel dowels to tie the crack together; and drilling the shaft to take the dowels



Fig 8 Lawrence Kelland chipping away the cement mortar from the base of the cross in order to remove it from its base at Pendean



Fig 9 The cross being taken down



Fig 10 Ian Piper and team removing the cross from Pendean

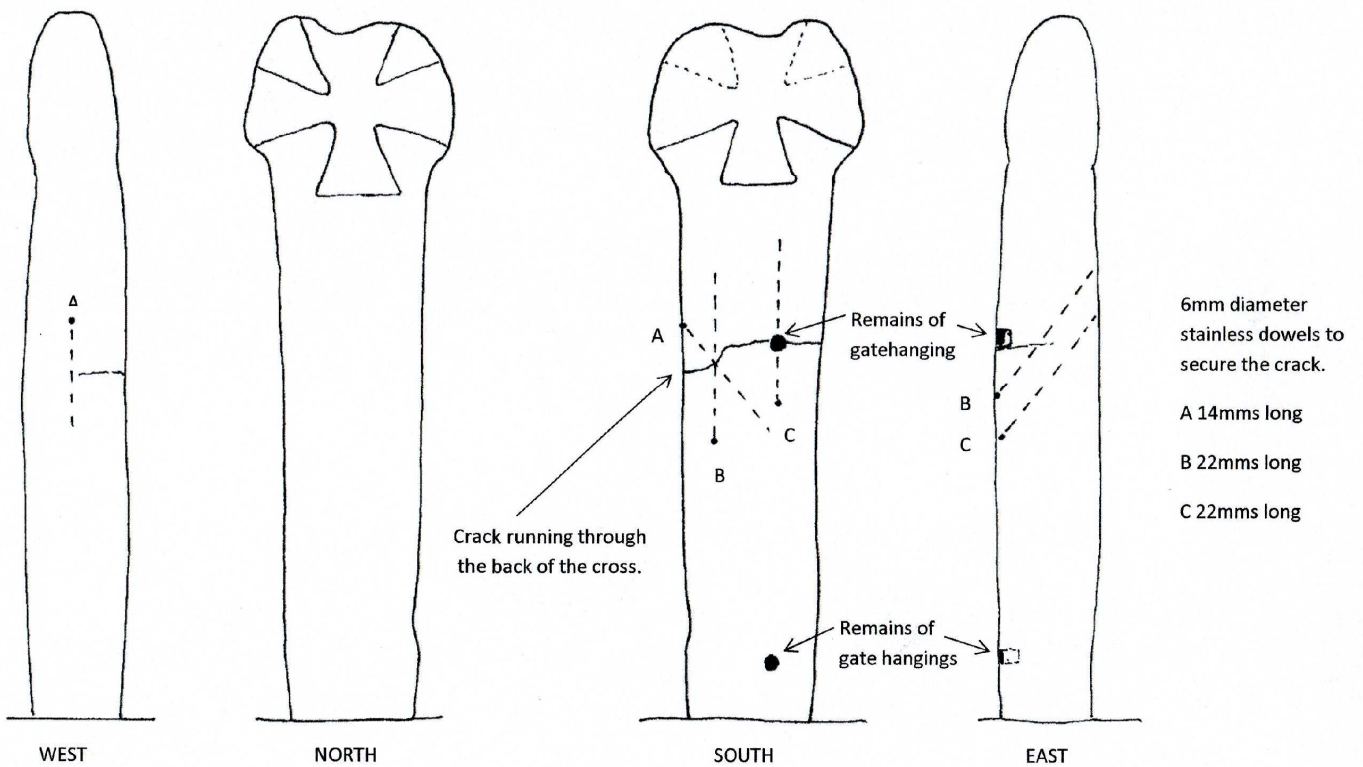


Fig 11 Sketch of the cross showing the positions of stainless steel dowels



Fig 12 Checking the base-stone at Bearah Tor Quarry



Fig 13 Ian Piper installing the base-stone at Fursnewth



Above left: Andrew Langdon and Lawrence Kelland setting the cross in its new base



Above right: Tractor driver Toby Roger and Lawrence Kelland securing the cross in its base



Below left: Sue Kelland fixes the stone in its base with stones and resin, watched by Angela Redman and Toby Roger

Below right: Lawrence Kelland uses lime mortar to fill the joint between the cross and the base



Fig 14 Restoring the cross at Fursnewth



Fig 15 The rededication at Fursnewth: above, Iain Rowe speaking; below Rev Keith Lanyon Jones with Duncan Matthews, Grand Bard Maureen Fuller and escort.



Fig 16 The restored cross