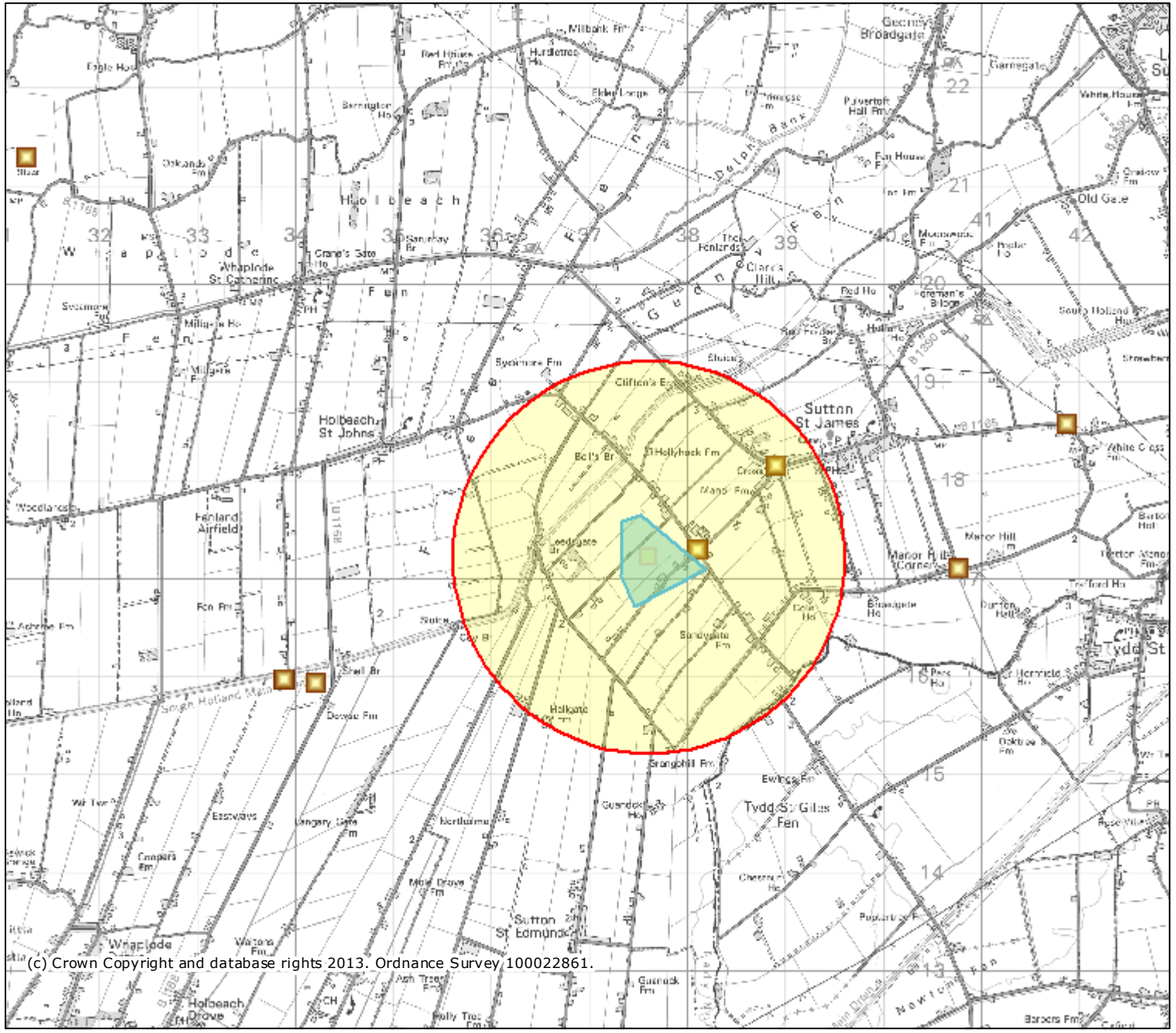
Scheduled Mounments



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Legend

- Scheduled Monuments (England) - points

Projection = OSGB36
xmin = 526300
ymin = 312800
xmax = 547600
ymax = 322500
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EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: Boundary cross, Old Fen Dike

PARISH: SUTTON ST JAMES

DISTRICT: SOUTH HOLLAND

COUNTY: LINCOLNSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 22685

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): TF38101729

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument includes a standing stone cross located on the eastern edge of the Old Fen Dike to the south west of the village of Sutton St James. The cross stands on a grass verge on the north west side of a crossroads. The cross is medieval in date and is constructed of limestone. The monument includes the base, comprising a socket stone, and part of the shaft.

The socket stone is constructed from a single limestone slab of square section. On the west side, where the ground slopes steeply towards the Old Fen Dike, it stands to a height of 0.35m above the ground surface, and is supported on a bed of modern concrete; on the south east side it is partially buried, the top of the stone lying approximately level with the ground surface of the roadside verge. The upper edge of the stone is chamfered. Set into the socket stone with lead is a shaft fragment, rectangular in section with crocketed angles and standing to a height of 0.9m. The cross is Listed Grade II.

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 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 remains of the medieval boundary cross at Old Fen Dike represent a good example of a standing cross with a quadrangular base. It stands near its original position on a former boundary of the parish of Sutton St James, being one of a rare group of medieval boundary markers in which only two other crosses survive. The cross has been little altered in modern times and has continued in use as a landmark from medieval times to the present day.

MONUMENT INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE ON 06th January 1995

EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: St Ives Cross

PARISH: SUTTON ST JAMES

DISTRICT: SOUTH HOLLAND

COUNTY: LINCOLNSHIRE

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 22684

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): TF38901814

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument includes St Ives Cross, a standing stone cross located on a small green at the road junction on the western edge of the village of Sutton St James. The cross, also known as the Butter Cross, is of stepped form and is principally medieval in date. The monument includes the base, comprising four steps and a socket stone, a fragment of the shaft and three supporting buttresses.

The base of the cross includes four steps, all octagonal in plan, constructed of large slabs of worn limestone. The lowest step is surrounded by a layer of flagstones, also octagonal in plan, visible on the east, south and west sides to a depth of nearly 0.5m. On the north side the top of the lowest step is nearly level with the present ground surface. Set onto the top step with mortar is the socket stone, a single limestone block of square section. The upper edge of the stone is chamfered. Rising from the centre of the socket stone is the shaft fragment, of octagonal section with chamfered corners and reaching a maximum height of 0.51m above the socket stone. Resting against the chamfers on three sides of the shaft are three crocketed stone brackets in the form of small flying buttresses. Those on the north east and south east are broken off below the top of the shaft fragment, while that on the north west stands to its original height of 0.64m. In the upper surface of the socket stone on the south west side of the shaft is a small hole into which a fourth bracket was formerly fixed. The full height of the cross is nearly 2m. St Ives Cross is Listed Grade II.

The modern surface of the road and adjacent kerb on the north side of the cross are excluded from the scheduling although the ground beneath these features 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 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.

St Ives Cross is a good example of a medieval standing cross with a stepped base. It is rare in having angle brackets, an unusual feature of standing crosses. Situated at a road junction on the west side of the village of Sutton St James, it is believed to stand in or near its original position, which the local name `Butter Cross' may indicate was the site of a market. It is documented from the 16th century onwards and the limited activity in the area immediately surrounding the cross indicates that archaeological deposits relating to the monument's construction and use are likely to survive intact. The cross has continued in use as a public monument and amenity from medieval times to the present day.

SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 5th October 1954 as:
COUNTY/NUMBER: Lincolnshire 127
NAME: Butter Cross or St Ives Cross

The reference of this monument is now:
NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 22684
NAME: St Ives Cross

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 12th January 1995