

## Donhead St Andrew Cemetery War Memorial

A beautiful Douling/Ketton stone ? memorial 1920 -25  
Perhaps Harry Hames Works, Exeter.

A report on our activities on 8th November 2017:

Concern had been raised as there was movement of the shaft and cross emanating from the joint above lower sockle. This joint showed a hair line break.

We established there are ferrous dowels pinning the top section of the cross and bottom shaft to sockle .

We were asked to remove ferrous dowels and replace them with stainless steel equivalent threaded rod.

We started by removing the joints of cement mortar. This is always a problem as the hard mortar is difficult to remove and it is very easy to cut into the much softer stone.

We quickly established that the grouting around this ferrous dowel was neat cement and being careful not to damage the joints or rupture the surrounding stone, we tried to hit it at its centre so we could break the joint to reveal the pin. We ground down a chisel for this purpose to avoid spalling the joint. Unfortunately, try as we may, even hoisting the cross top to put upward pressure on the joint, it would not give way. After consideration, we decided that pursuing this would cause too much damage to the cross. I did not want to be responsible for a massive diagonal spall where the dowel terminated. There is no sign of any rusting and subsequent exfoliation of the iron dowel. We decided at length not to force it.



While lifting, all three stones came up as one. We again carefully tried to separate the sockle stone, but met very stiff resistance. We decided not to force the stones as this would have resulted in serious damage. We opened the lower joint as with the top .



There is no lower dowel in the sockle base. We refixed the base on a hydraulic lime mortar and raked out and repointed the shaft base and the joint below the cross.

The ferrous dowels for now are safe from water ingress and will not present a problem for at least ten years. They will need to be monitored.

