

Lanhadron Inscribed Cross Base

Pentewan Old Cornwall Society Reveals Ancient Important Stone

Recently four members of Pentewan Old Cornwall Society, armed with suitable tools located the almost hidden Lanhadron cross base on the brow of Nunnery Hill in the parish of St.Ewe. The cross base had become almost buried in the brambles and bracken vegetation and the bank of earth built up at the base of the hedge alongside the public road. Two decades had elapsed since the cross base had been last tended by the Pentewan Old Cornwall Society. The cross base is protected by iron railings which were erected to protect it from being damaged by passing vehicles. Dead brambles were cut away from the banks on either side of the monument, dead bracken-stalks were removed and blackthorn and hazel saplings which were intertwining the railings were also cleared. It was then possible to remove a section on the road edge railings thus making access to clearance much easier. These railings were later re-instated.



(Photo Rob Evans)

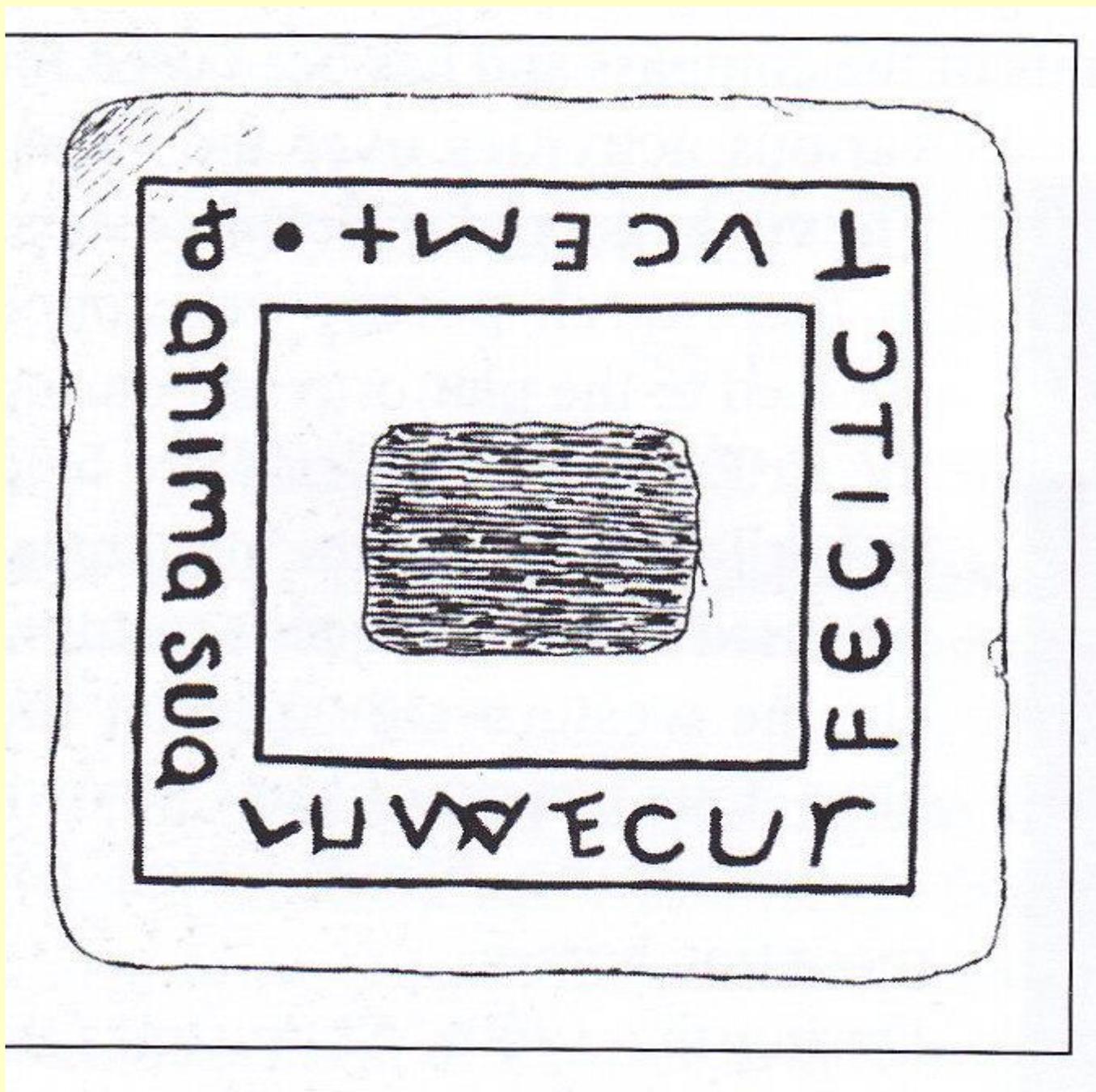
The Lanhadron base is made of a huge piece of squared, worked granite with a deeply cut mortice in the middle. It measures about 4 feet square with the mortice 1ft. 6" long, 1ft. wide and 10 inches deep. Double lines are incised on the top of the base, almost parallel with its edges. Between these lines are carved the letters of the inscription. Three sides are very worn and the letters are difficult to decipher. However on the side nearest the field hedge the letters "Crucem" are fairly legible. An early account in 1879 by the Rev. W. Iago of Bodmin reported that the Latin letters 3 inches in height were probably of the 8th – 10th century and he read the full inscription then as:-"Alsue curavit H crucem p'anima sua" which translates:- "Alsue made this cross for the benefit of his soul".



(Photo Rob Evans)

In the vicinity are farms named Bosue, and Levalsa. Conjecture may suggest those names may have been derived from "Alsue" especially Levalsa. With "lan" in front of the name meaning "the sacred enclosure" (of Alsue) possibly the founder of this ancient cross? The

shaft and head of the cross have been missing for many, many years. Judging by the size of the base it must have been of a considerable height, being visible for many miles in all directions on the brow of Nunnery Hill.



(The drawing is copyright Andrew Langdon)