

## = Dunster Butter Cross =

The Butter Cross in Dunster within the English county of Somerset is a Grade II \* listed building and ancient monument . The cross was originally erected in the late 14th or early 15th century in the main street and moved to its current site in the late 18th or early 19th century . Although the head of the cross is missing the shaft and socket stone are original . The cross is in the care of English Heritage for the state and managed by the National Trust .

## = = History = =

The name Buttercross originates from their location in market places , where people from neighbouring villages would gather around the market cross to buy locally produced products . The fresh produce was laid out and displayed on the stepped bases of the cross . The market in Dunster attracted people from surrounding villages and towns as far away as Taunton and Bodmin . The Dunster Butter Cross was erected in the late 14th or early 15th century and originally stood in the High Street , possibly at the southern end of the high street , near the Yarn Market . A cross , which was later known as the high cross , was recorded in 1461 ; by 1689 it was known as the Butter Cross .

It was moved to its current location on the edge of the village by Alcombe Road , although the date when this was done is unclear . The site where the cross now stands was leveled in 1776 by workman , paid by Henry Fownes Luttrell , and it may have been on this occasion that the cross was moved . An alternative local tradition is that it was moved in 1825 , although a drawing by J. M. W. Turner made in 1811 suggests it was in its present position by then .

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## = = Architecture = =

The cross comprises a shaft with a plinth and socket stone forming the base . The cross 's octagonal base and polygonal shaft have survived , however the head of the cross has been lost . It stands on a small area of raised ground on a plinth . The socket stone is 0 @. @ 85 metres ( 2 ft 9 in ) wide and 0 @. @ 5 metres ( 1 ft 8 in ) high . The surviving shaft is 1 @. @ 1 metres ( 3 ft 7 in ) high and changes from square to octagonal as it rises . There is an inscription on the northern face which says " WC , 1871 , WS " recording a restoration .