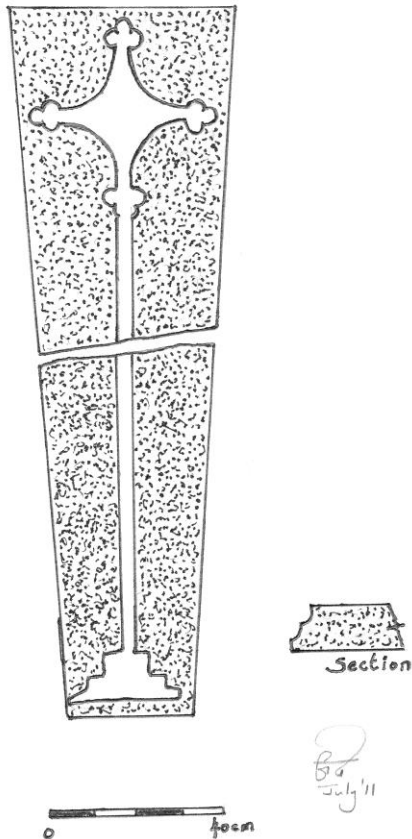


Purbeck Marble Grave Slab

This is situated outside the porch on the ground adjacent to the west wall of the porch.



This is a grave slab of c1300, carved in relief on a hard fossiliferous limestone, almost certainly from Purbeck in Dorset. The design is very typical of the Purbeck workshop. The slab bears a cross botonée with round-leaf trefoil terminals, carved in relief and rising from a stepped calvary; the r. and lh. edges and top of the slab bear a double hollow chamfer, but the bottom edge is simply cut square, perhaps indicating that it was intended to stand against a wall.

When one thinks of the transport costs in medieval England, then a slab brought from so far afield- even though its journey would largely be by water- is clearly a high-status monument, even though its design is relatively simple.

Only a handful of Purbeck slabs are known this far north – in the East Riding there is one at Aughton and a near identical one to the Aughton slab at Londesbrough and another at Sherburn in the Vale of Pickering at the edge of the Wolds.

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