

# LASSCO

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# A PAIR OF COLOSSAL RUSTIC ENGLISH LIMESTONE STADDLE STONES

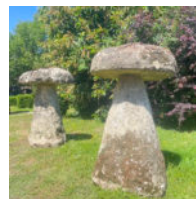
18th or 19th Century - nb. the size of these(!) - scroll through the pictures to see them shot against a chair for scale,

each with a mossy domed top raised on a rectangular-section spreading base

DIMENSIONS: 120cm (47<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" ) High, 80cm (31<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" ) Wide, 80cm (31<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" ) in Diameter

PRICE: £4,250 the pair

STOCK CODE: 46771



## HISTORY

Staddle stones – an explanation.





**Staddle stones** were originally used as the supporting posts for granaries, hayricks, game ladders, etc. The staddles lifted the granaries above the ground thereby protecting the stored grain both from vermin and water ingress from damp foundations. The word “staddle” is derived from the Middle English word “stadle” or “stathel”, meaning a foundation, support or trunk of a tree. Old staddle stones can be mainly spotted in England and Scotland, but versions of them are found in France and Northern Spain.

The staddle stones usually had a separate head and base which gave the whole structure a ‘mushroom’ form. Different areas adopted different designs – so vernacular styles can be identified – square tops, fluted designs and slate tops – the shapes can vary from cylindrical to

tapered, and in plan – rectangular to near triangular. The material used for these heavy stones would obviously be whatever was locally available. The tops are usually flat to support the beams of the granary base.

Iron ones were made but are unusual; The Museum of Scottish Country Life near East Kilbride has two 'Stathels', made in Edinburgh of cast iron and there are similar sets on display at The Chiltern Open Air Museum. The structure is basically a cast iron version of a set of staddle stones with a connecting wooden framework.

Granaries were often constructed with wooden weather-boards but if grain was stored loose then the sides were filled in with brick nogging and light lath-and-plaster at the wall tops. Wooden steps up to the buildings were detachable and stored by hanging them up on the side of the structure. If stone or brick steps were built then the top step was omitted.

Most granaries were used for the storage of two or three separate crops, having a capacity of 500 to 2500 bushels. The arrangement of the stones to support the structure and its weight when in use, required nine, twelve or sixteen staddles. The production of staddles was therefore a fairly significant local industry. Small granaries could make do with five, one being in the middle. The Upper Heyford granary in Oxfordshire uses thirty-six staddles.

Other uses: Bee hives were often set on top of staddle stones to keep out predators and provide dry and airy conditions. Small staddle stones were used to support roofed box-shaped larders which were used on the larger estates for storage of game, such as pheasant, brought back by shooting parties.