

Until November 2011, Ashford Carbonell was one of only a handful of sites in England able to boast at least five significant yews, two of which were ancient specimens. RCB Gardner reported to Vaughan Cornish for his book *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality* (1946) that Ashford Carbonell had '5 yews with girths of between 20 and 25 feet'. In *Trees of Shropshire* (1986) Andrew Morton described the churchyard as 'one of the best to look at ancient yews', noting that it was 'unusual to find five large yews on one site'.

In November 2011 one of the five yews was felled, an ancient fragment (1) with a girth of over 21'. It was one of only 166 ancient churchyard yews remaining in England. Most worrying about this loss is that all of the safeguards that should have protected the yew failed. The incident highlights the urgent need for greater protection of this unique heritage. A young yew was planted in its place in November 2012.

Tree 1 was the felled yew.

Tree 2 is a bristly yew with many branches rising from a short, squat bole. Estimated girth was about 20'.

Tree 3 has two sections at ground level which combine at 4'/6". The trunk has a fluted appearance and girth was 18' 6" at the ground.

Tree 4 is the surviving ancient tree. A large hollow is seen from the path. Bole height is about 5' with many branches.

Girth: 21' 7" at the ground.

Tree 5 forms part of the churchyard wall. It is hollow and leaning. Girth was 17' 6" at the top of the wall.

(All girths recorded in 1997)

