

In 1958 Swanton wrote in *The Yew Trees of England* that he was indebted to the Rev.J.L.Marshall, Rector of Staple Fitzpaine, for the following interesting notes - sent in October, 1954 - on a hitherto unrecorded yew in Bickenhall Old Churchyard.

“Its girth at ground level is 27ft 6 ins.; at 3ft. it is 13ft. It seems to be hollow from the roots, but whether it is so in fact is very difficult to say with any accuracy. At 3ft. from the ground it has a waist, so ) (, and the trunk, before any branches or side shoots appear, is quite 7ft in height. Its umbrage is 50ft. in diameter. None of the branches is propped. There are no visible remains of the church which once stood there.”



The site is now managed by the Woodland Trust and there is a parking space opposite the old graveyard.

When first visited in 2006 it was evident that the measurement of 27' 6" came from an attempt to take the tape around its spreading roots. A girth of 14' 9" at 3' was more realistic. One hole at the ground showed the yew to be completely hollow, though it has the appearance of a solid tree. Its large girth is retained for a considerable height.

In 2015 (below) it was measured at its narrowest waist – about 2' above the spreading roots, where girth was 14' 4".

On this occasion the space around the tree was filled with vegetation.

