

Two ancient yews grow here. The female yew was first noted in *The Gentleman's* magazine of 1804. It was measured by Revd. Nigel Freer in 1890 with a girth of 28' 4" at 3'.

In 1936 the following was written in *Mee's King's England*: 'From the hill on which its spire looks out for miles two yews have looked down on Kent for centuries; one is 27' round and the other 26'. They are a marvellous pair, older than the tower of Canterbury cathedral; they may have seen the life of this secluded hilltop come and go for about 1,000 years. These Darby and Joan of trees are all that Cudham has save its old church, which has kept them company since they were young'.

1999: The female yew is hollow with a gap of 1' 6" in its shell that has in the past been blocked by a metal barrier. This is now incorporated into the tree as new wood grows over the metal. There are substantial areas of growth springing from all around this shell, replacing large limbs that have been removed. Between 1890 and the present day girth has not altered dramatically and I recorded 29' 9" at 1'.

The photos below were taken by Peter Norton in 2013. He noted that two of the larger branches were banded together by a wire hawser and recorded girths of 30' 5" at the root crown, 29' 7" at 2' and 29' at 3'. Nails had been hammered into the trunk at both 2' and 3'.





Revd. Nigel Freer gave the male yew a girth of 28' at 3' in 1890. In 1999 I recorded 22' 11" at the ground and 25' 7" at 3'. In 2013, when Peter Norton took the remaining photos, he recorded a girth of 23' 4" close to the ground, where nails had been hammered into the tree. .





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