

DERBYSHIRE - churchyard sites with younger yews

BASLOW St Anne SK252723 16/9/2005 Tim Hills

Several clipped yew of similar age grow in this churchyard. Girths are 4'5', though one of particular interest grows close to the path east of the Old Vicarage. Its trunk is only 2' from the path and though only 4' 2" in girth it is hollowed out with internal stems visible.

There is also a yew on the Tree Register's data base recorded here with a height of 14m. and a diameter of 200cm – ie 20ft girth. If this tree once existed it is now lost.

SANDIACRE St Giles SK47973727 7/1/2012 Ancient Tree Hunt

A multi stemmed yew measured at a height of 1.5m and thus recording a huge girth of 9m 70cm. The tree seems to be locally known as the witches tree.

SOMERSAL HERBERT St Peter SK1360335162 8/8/1999 Tim Hills

A church of Norman origin. The Reverend Rex Jenkins responded to a request for yew information c1946, describing 'Ancient Yews with iron girdles and wooden supports'. Today many young yews grow at the east perimeter, but there was nothing that might be described as ancient.

WESTON-on-TRENT St Mary the Virgin SK398276 17/9/2005 Tim Hills

The site was visited in search of yews at Weston-on-Trent, referred to in both 1817 and 1904. There are no yews in this churchyard. It seems likely that since there is also a Weston in Nottinghamshire (on the river Trent) and a Weston in Staffordshire (also on the river Trent) that one of these will contain the yews.

WINSTER St John SK239606 3/5/2010 Hugh Milner

The yew in this churchyard has a girth at 5' of 300cm. It had been badly managed with many limbs removed. Whether they were dead or it was done to expose the grave stones/bole beneath is not clear. It now looks like a mutilated pollard. A local guide talked of it being reputed to be 2000 years old, but was obviously being mixed up with the yew at Darley Dale.

WORMHILL St Margaret SK124742 15/9/2005 Tim Hills

The churchyard, planted with trees and shrubs and fenced round with yew tree and holly, contains the remains of an old cross, consisting of two sets of square steps, a large base stone and about 3 feet of the shaft supporting a dial, the gift of Robert Meverill gent. In 1670 it was reported that 'two fine yew trees stand on each side of the entrance and form a covered gateway'. I visited in torrential rain and do not recall yews at the entrance. There were many smaller yews in the churchyard and a line of about 12, regularly spaced, just outside of the perimeter wall south of the church. They appeared to be about 5'6' in girth.