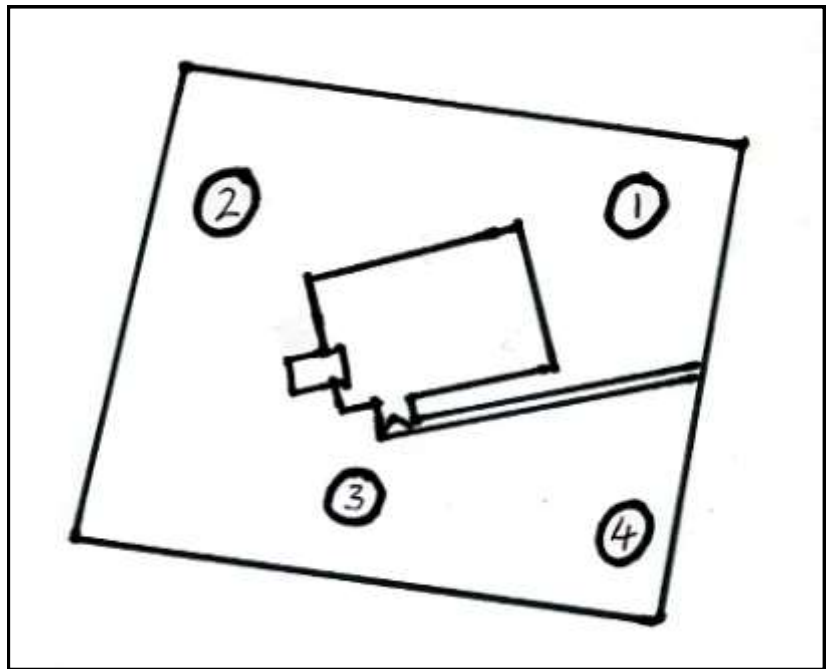


March 1999: It seems that Elmsted was too remote to attract travellers and botanists in the 19th century, for here is a previously unrecorded yew site which boasts no fewer than four exceptional old trees. The two on the north side are female, the two on the south side are male.

Tree 1, NE of the church, has a monumental straight bole with exceptionally red bark. In 1999 its circumference was 16' 4" at 1', 16' 2" at 3' and 16' 6" at 5'.

In 2013 girth had increased to 16' 7" at 1' and 16' 8" at 5'. On the side facing the church the tree is hollowing and internal stems could be seen. Both ivy and elder had germinated inside the tree, and ivy filled much of its canopy.





Tree 2 grows NW. It is hollow, with many internal structures visible. A large section of the bole is dead sapwood, which will eventually decay and alter the shape of the tree. Its large limb, seen below, carries considerable weight which may eventually cause the tree to split and become a tree of two or more fragments. Girth in 1999 was 22' 8" at 1' and 21' at 3'. In 2013 girths of 21' 5" at about 3' and 21' 9", measured just below the limb, were recorded.



Tree 3 grows SSW. It has become 3 fragments, with much of the original tree long gone. The leaning fragment was supported on props. In 1999 I recorded a girth of 21' 5" at 1'. In 2013 I measured between 1' and 3' to obtain the tree's minimum girth and recorded 21' 8".





Tree 4, growing SE, is a hollow male split into 2 fragments. Branches dip to a height of 3'/5' above the ground all around this yew. Girth in 1999 was 18' 4" at 1' and 20' 1" at 3'. In 2013 it had increased to 18' 10" at 1' and 20' 2" at 3'. This excluded section A, a loose piece of old dead sapwood. Photos on this page were taken in 2013.



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