

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - churchyard sites visited with younger yews

April 2018

ABSON St James ST705749 7/11/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described '3 noble yews'. The trees described grow in a line on the east side of the church.

NE is female - corrugated iron propped against it. Girth 9' 10" at 2'.

E is male, a bulge resulting from systematic cutting at height of about 6'. Otherwise a fine clean trunk to this height. Girth 10' 4" at 3'.

SE is female, epicormic bulging from 5' upwards, continuing to the top of the tree. Also much upright twiggy growth. Girth 11' 9" at 1' and 11' 3" at 3'.

SW is a twin trunked female with one more female SSW, girth of 10' at 2'.

ACTON TURVILLE St Mary ST808480860 2015 Peter Norton

One young female SE of the porch, girth 10' 2".

ALDSWORTH St Bartholomew SP15390997 2/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'a path under dark old yews'. Several yews grow here but nothing very old.

ALVINGTON St Andrew ST60400070 24/3/2012 Lin Carter

The church is of 12th century origin but was restored 1857-8. The churchyard stands above much of the surrounding land, and has raised boundary banks of great age. The yew stands alone on the north bank, near the north west entrance to the churchyard. It has considerable competition from overshadowing from a nearby Cedar. Younger yews line the west bank. Girth of yew 13' 1".

AMPNEY St PETER St Peter SP081015 Peter Norton

Three young yews grow here with one male south of the church having a shaped crown.

BADGEWORTH Holy Trinity SO901193 2/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'a splendid yew hedge with five openings like windows'.

The building here is now a care home for the elderly, the hedge in the courtyard has been allowed to grow so that the openings are no longer visible. There was also a clipped Irish yew on the lawn. In the churchyard a single yew stands alone while on one side of its perimeter was a line of about 18 Irish yews, and on the west side 20 younger yews planted close to each other- up to 3' apart.

BEVERSTON St Mary the Virgin ST86179401 2015 Peter Norton

The church is close to Beverston Castle. 2 young yews grow close to the west tower. The larger of the two was male (most westerly) girthing 9' 5".

BODDINGTON St Mary Magdalene SO894252 20/5/2005 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described the churchyard as 'dignified with yews'. All grow on the S side.

- 1) 11' 2" at 1'. Triple stemmed almost from the ground. SSE and nearest of two in this direction from the church. Male
- 2) 9' 5" at 1'. SE and furthest from the church. 2 main growth areas from a bole of 2'/3'. Male
- 3) 9' 8" close to the ground. SSW of the church. Low growth obscuring bole. Main riser with additional rising alongside from 4' upwards. Female

BRIMPSFIELD St Michael and All Angels SO942128 10/2/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'three green arches of old yews brings us to the church'.

I saw 3 arches of clipped yew on W side of church from a nearby field.

CHARLTON KINGS St Mary SO965205 2/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described '... a graceful old yew'.

In a much trimmed churchyard are many young yews. The largest is NW, a fluted male in the 10'/12' range.

CHURCHAM St Andrew SO76851820 8/9/2006 C.R.Brice

Two yews measured by C.R.Brice, the largest girthing 96" at 1 metre and the smaller 72" at 1 metre.

CHURCHDOWN St Andrew SO883192 20/5/2005 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* noted 'a yew'.

A pre-Christian site on the summit of a hill. The female yew swells from 11' 2" at 1' to its largest at about 4' where branches have been removed. Many branched from 6' upwards. A shapely tree.

COLD ASHTON Holy Trinity ST751728 2000 Tim Hills

There were 25 yews in this churchyard, including a row making a scrappy hedge. The largest yew here had a girth of about 10'.

COLN St ALDWYNS St John the Baptist SP143052 2/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described that the 'venerable yew seems to be weighed down with the care of all the centuries'.

Close to the porch WSW of the church is an unusual yew which divides at a height of 10'. Girth was only 8' 10" at 4'. This could be the yew recorded by Mee.

There was a stump of a larger tree SE of church but I could not identify it as yew.

COWLEY St Mary SO965147 10/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described a simple 13th century church 'sheltered by a tall yew hedge and is a charming picture with a venerable yew shading its 15th century porch'.

A unique site, with access to the church across land owned by an hotel. Yew hedging encloses seven eighths of the churchyard, the remainder is overlooked by part of the hotel building.

One large yew grows S of the church. At 7' it bulges outwards with numerous small truncated branches, desperately trying to compensate for the entire top of the tree having been removed at 8'. Around its lower bole is poor looking foliage, but at the top is new young growth of possible recovery. It is hoped that the tree might be allowed some time to recover from its undignified appearance.

DUMBLETON St Peter SP018358 10/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described that 'noble elms and stately yews adorn the churchyard'.

A single relatively young male grows SW of the church and is used as the storage space for drying grasses. There is a line of young yews by the side of the road approaching the church, but nothing resembling Mee's description. Are they in the adjacent parkland? Worth a visit to see the stone Green Man outside of the church.

GREAT BARRINGTON St Mary SP205135 2/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'a yew climbing higher than the 15th century tower'.

There was nothing of note here.

GUITING POWER St Michael and All Angels SP09562453 Tim Hills

2 young yews near the tower.

HAILES CHAPEL SP04883013 1/7/2015 Peter Norton

All that remains of the village was the chapel - the villagers were moved to Didbrook when Hailes Abbey was built. 3 yews grow close to the gate, the largest was estimated around 9' in girth.

HAWKSBURY St Mary the Virgin 1/7/2015 ST76828693 Peter Norton

The churchyard is roughly an oval plot and is planted with Irish yew, forming a continuous castelated band around boundary. One yew grows southeast, girth around 9'.

KEMPLEY St Mary SO670312 1/10/2004 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'a yew avenue'.

Nothing of note in this mixed avenue which includes young yew trees.

KEMPSFORD St Mary the Virgin SU161965 1/11/2011 Peter Norton

Two yews grow here, the first close to the path as you approach the porch. It consists of two main stems leaning away from each other (both male) and to prevent them from collapsing they have been wired together by screwing large ringed coach bolts into the trunks (two on each trunk) and then threading cable through the ring and crimping. A third trunk that gave the appearance of having collapsed has been sawn off. Measurement was difficult and as the tape included part of the sawn section, the girth as near to the ground and slightly undulating recorded an exaggerated 17'. The girth of the trunk nearest the church (south) was 9' just above the join, while the north trunk was 8' 2".

To the west of the church a younger female has been badly damaged by fire. There is still some life in the tree as arils are visible. I recorded the girth as 10' 3" at about 1'.

LEIGHTERTON St Andrew ST82379107 1/7/2015 Peter Norton

2 yews grow southwest of the porch, 2 northwest of the church, and a male girthing 8' 10" to the east. The tree close to the shed is the largest here.

LITTLE BADMINTON St Michael and All Angels ST80188425 1/7/2015 Peter Norton

One yew of bushy growth grows south of the church, 4 twin trunked yews on the east perimeter, 3 on the north perimeter of which 1 is 3 trunked. Girths of all approx. 8'.

LITTLE RISSINGTON St Peter SP189200 2/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described that 'an old yew shelters the base of a cross'.

There are yews here but nothing of great age.

LOWER ODDINGTON St Nicholas SP23492555 17/8//2001 Tim Hills

7 younger yews at this site.

NAUNTON St Andrew SP112234 10/3//2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'a yew making a delightful picture against the lofty tower'.

Male and female yews grow either side of the path just inside churchyard entrance. Male to the right measured approximately 13' at 1' over thick ivy. The female is smaller. At other end of the churchyard, SW of the church, is a male whose branches dip to the ground all around the tree. Girth 11' 4" at 3'. Also a young female opposite S porch.

NYMPSFIELD St Bartholomew S0801003 5/11/2002 Tim Hills

The '5 old yews' in this churchyard described in the 1938 *King's England* are not especially old. We recorded 4 females and a 1 male.

OLDBURY-on-SEVERN St Arilda ST609919 29/6/2003 Tim Hills

A particularly red specimen, girth of about 10'. It grows on the north side of the church which is situated on the very top of a prominent hill.

OLVESTON St Mary ST601873 Tim Hills

A fine tree 11' in girth just outside the porch.

POULTON St Michael and all Angels SP098007 1/11/2011 Peter Norton

Originally a 14th century church. It was demolished in 1873 when the current church was built. One male yew grows north west of the church, its girth 10' at 1'.

RODMARTON St Peter ST94279806 1/7/2015 Peter Norton

1 yew west, 1 east at the south approach, 1 near the south east corner of the church and 5 in a line at the north east perimeter, screening the church from the adjacent farm. All young.

RUARDEAN St John the Baptist SO62111769 11/1/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described that 'four yews make an evergreen bower from the lychgate to the lofty porch'. They have all been removed. I do not imagine they were large or old trees.

SAUL St James SO749094 10/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'a fine old yew'.

Female, S of church, girth of 10' 4" at 3'. Bole of about 10' then many stout branches. No sign of hollowing. Bole clean to 8' then twiggy branches before main growth at 10'.

SHORNCOTE All Saints SU02539672 2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'a yew with a trunk 10' round'.

In 2003 the male yew, ESE of church, measured 13' 4" at 3'. The tree is solid with spreading roots.

SHURDINGTON St Paul SO921189 2/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described that 'two noble cedars and an avenue of yews leading from the lychgate, are among the churchyard trees'.

This is an unusual avenue of 12 clipped trees, a mix of *Taxus baccata* L., Irish Yews and a cypress.

SOUTH CERNEY All Hallows SU050974 2/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'an avenue of yews'.

Several yews grow here on north and south sides, including variegated yew. The largest, 10' 4" at 3', grows NE of church.

St. BRIAVELS St Mary the Virgin SO558047 30/8/2009 Tim Hills

A letter to the Conservation Foundation noted a yew with a girth of 17' at 3" on the east side. There are two yews on the east side, the largest girthing about 11' at 3', the other, closer to the church is many stemmed around a low platform. Clearly this was measured previously at a height of 5' around outward spreading branches.

THE LEIGH St Catherine SO86582575 25/5/2005 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'a fine old yew'. NNW of the church, it has many branches from 6/8' upwards, but no leading branch. A further 2 small yews grow at the eastern end.

WAPLEY St Peter ST714797 1/6/2003 Tim Hills

Two males S and SW of church. No feeling of great age.

WHITMINSTER St Andrew SO761091 10/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'eight wonderful old yews are in a row' between the church and Whitminster house.

There are 11 in line, 7 on the near side of the path and 4 on the far side. The 6 largest are male, 3 of the smaller are female. The largest is 2nd from the end of the row NW of the church and growing on the land of Whitminster house, not in the churchyard. Girth is 11' 7" at 3' (upper slope). Two major branches had been truncated. The tree adjacent to the path WSW of the church has had branches propped so that the path to church from Whitminster House can be used. There were a further 12 yews in the churchyard, in addition to a number of Irish yews.

WITHINGTON St Michael and All Angels SP031157 2/3/2003 Tim Hills

The 1938 *King's England* described 'a belt of tall old yews'. Many yews grow in this churchyard, 10 in a line on the south perimeter, including one planted in the last 20/30 years, 15 in a line on the west side as well as 6 and a stump on the north side.

WOODCHESTER St Mary SO839032 17/3/2002 Tim Hills

'There used to be an avenue of yews in Woodchester old churchyard'. This information was given to Vaughan Cornish c1946 by Miss AG Daniels.

It is an avenue of 10 Irish yews that leads to the church. The only *Taxus baccata* L. was young. More yews could be seen in adjoining gardens and fields.