

A significant yew at Kingstone was first noted in Vaughan Cornish's 1946 *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality*. The description of 'a yew of great age' was supplied to him by Rev. R.C.Pearse. I visited on several occasions between 1997 and 2016.

The ancient male yew (1) grows ESE of the church. The photos from 1997 show the land around the yew covered in dense undergrowth, while the bole was largely hidden behind twiggy growth. In 1999 it was at least possible to get close enough to measure the tree. By 2006 the area around the tree had been cleared and the twiggy growth trimmed, revealing a fine bole. This consists of living wood for almost its entire circumference. At about 4' above the ground is a platform, in the centre of the tree and above a large hollow space. From here 3 significant areas of growth develop, each supporting large branches with much subdividing and carrying thick, green foliage.

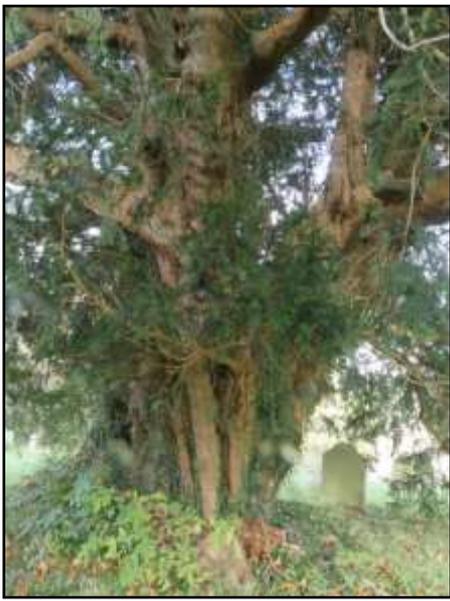


Girth has been recorded as follows:

1999: 24' 3" at the ground - Tim Hills

2014: 24' 4" minimum girth close to the ground - Peter Norton

2016: 24' 8" minimum girth close to the ground affected by ivy - Tim Hills



Tree 1 in 2016



The smaller yew, number 2 on the plan, is seen below in 2016. In 1999 it appeared to be dying, but by 2006 was making a good recovery. Unfortunately at that time the space beneath the tree was being used as the churchyard rubbish dump and no photographs were taken. By 2016 however the recovery was not only complete, but the female tree was sagging under the weight of thousands of arils.

It consists of many thick branches from a height of 4' and above. In 2014 Peter Norton recorded the tree's lowest girth as 11' 8". In 2016 I recorded 11' 11" at 1'.

