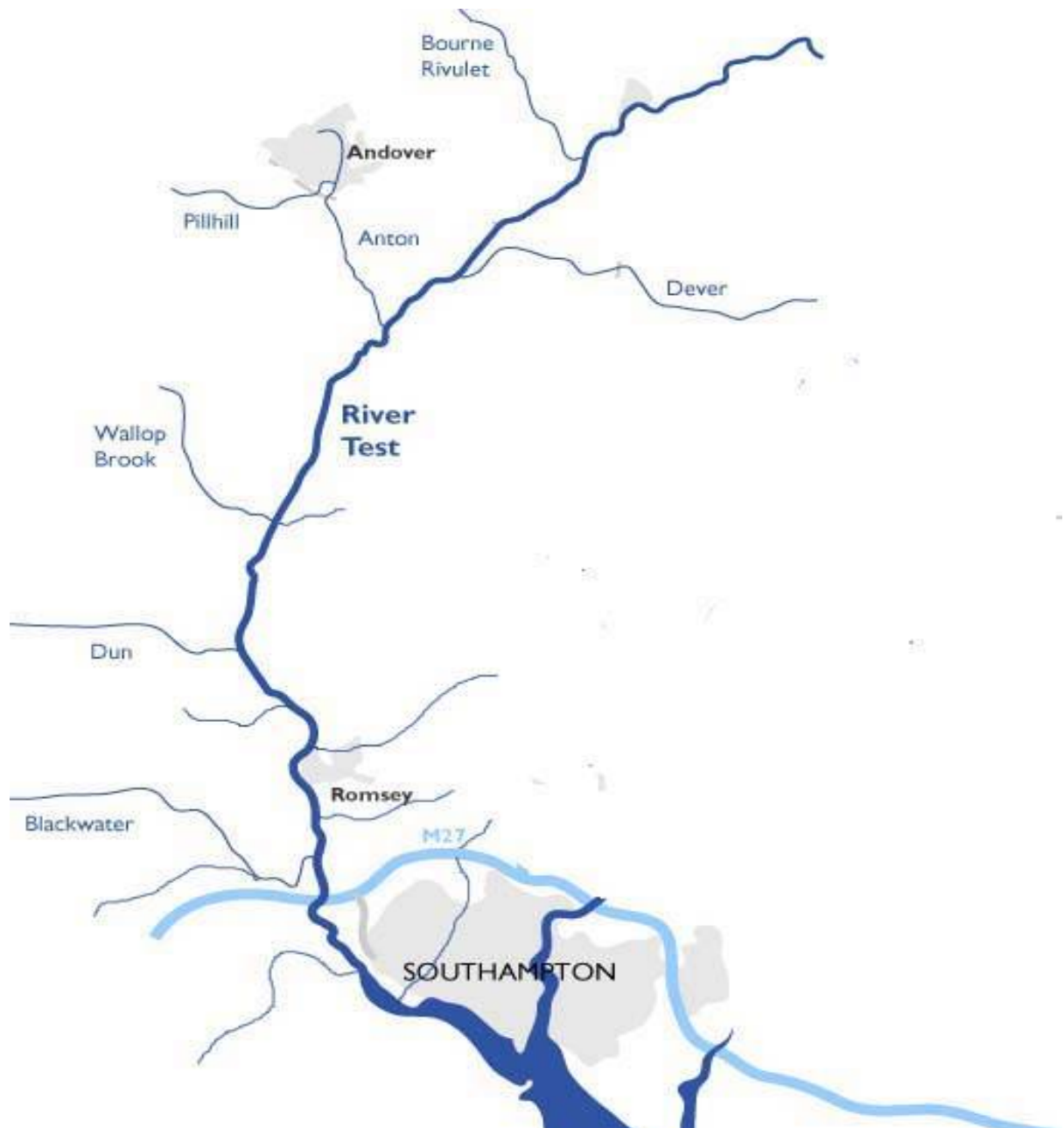


Hampshire Yews

An Inventory of Churchyard Yews along the Hampshire Test and its tributaries

Part 2 – The Middle Test

By Peter Norton



Introduction:

The Test rises at Ashe, just to the west of Basingstoke and on its way through Hampshire is fed from many streams and brooks emanating from the west and just one main stream from the east.

After flowing through Stockbridge and Romsey, it converges in Southampton with the Itchen some 40 miles from its source. At this point it becomes Southampton Water which flows into the Solent before reaching the open sea.

The West tributaries include: the Bourne Rivulet, Anton, Wallop Brook, Dun, Blackwater and Bartley Water.

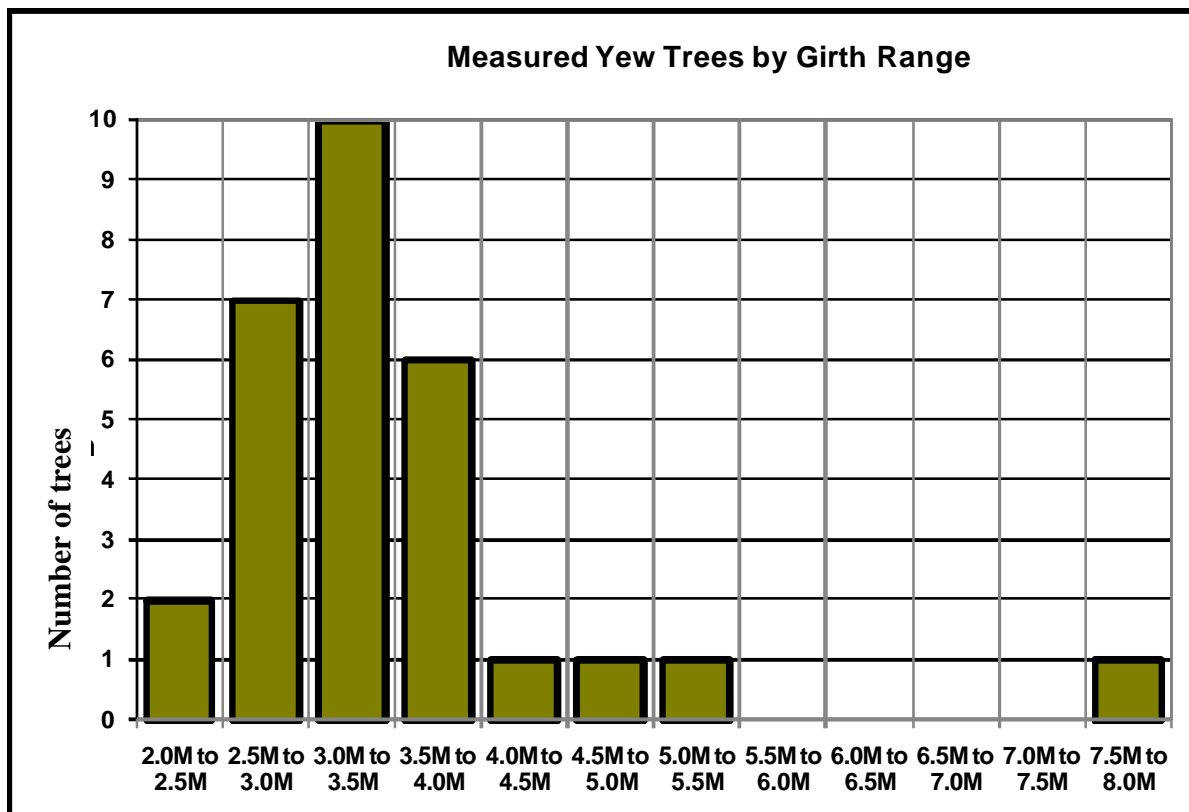
The east tributaries include: the Dever, Tadburn and Tanners Brook.

The Middle Test

This is the second of three reports that split the River Test into three sections; Upper, Middle and Lower. The Middle Test is described as from just south of Wherwell at Fullerton to just north of Romsey, covering a distance of about 12 miles by road. Along this section it is joined by the Anton, Wallop Brook, Dun and some small unnamed streams.

All of the towns and villages along this part of the Test and its tributaries were included, with 38 churches visited, of which 33 contained yews. All churches are in Hampshire unless otherwise stated.

Of the 82 yews noted at these sites, 29 had measurements recorded. The graph below groups the measured yews according to their girth, presented here in metric form. It does not include yews whose girth was estimated*. Where a tree has been measured at different heights, the measurement taken closest to the root/ground is used for this graph.



- *The Pillhill Brook rises near to Kimpton and flows south east to Andover. Here it converges with the Anton just north of Upper Clatford. The Anton then flows south to converge with the Test at Fullerton, a distance of about ten miles from the source of the Pillhill.*

Kimpton – St Peter and St Paul – SU281466

The present church was built around 1220, with alterations and additions over the centuries and a tower added in 1837.

Two ivy clad male yews grow near the south west corner of the building.

Fyfield – St Nicholas – SU295463



The building is probably of 12th or 13th century but all early details have been destroyed. The chancel was rebuilt in the 16th or 17th century. The vestry and porch are both recent.

Two yews grow near to the south west gate. The larger, shown here, is female with a girth of 10' 2" at 2'. The male is much younger.

Thrupton – St Peter and St Paul – SU288456

A Saxon church site, built upon by the Normans, with 13th century indicators in the walls of the chancel and nave. It was added to in both 15th and 16th centuries with further additions between 1850 - 1877.

This male yew grows south of the church. Its four main leaders emerge near to the ground. Girth was 10' 7" at 1'. To the east of the church is a younger male with a girth of 7' 11" at 1'.



Amport – St Mary's – SU299442

Modernisation in 1866 removed most of the evidence of the church's 14th century origins.

One young, unmeasured, female yew grows at the north west corner of the churchyard.

Abbotts Ann – St Mary the Virgin – SU330435

There are references to a Saxon church but it is not known whether it was on this site. The church we see today was completely rebuilt in 1716.



Four yews grow in the church grounds. The largest, shown here, is one of two males at the north east gate. Its girth was 10' 6" at the root crown.

Male and female grow at the north west gate. Of these, the male continues to flourish, in spite of having been cut right back.

Appleshaw – St Peter in the wood – SU303490

The church was rebuilt on the old site in 1836.

A single female yew with a neatly trimmed crown grows at the west gate. There is a thick metal band around the tree as well as a metal rod cemented into the wall. It appeared to be serving no useful purpose and layers of new wood are coalescing with the metal band. Girth was 9' at 1' and 8' 10" at 2'.



Weyhill – St Michael and All Angels – SU317466



An early 12th century church with rebuilding and modernisation throughout the 19th century.

Three yews are found here. The photo shows a male and female at the south gate, while a second female grows at the west gate. Due to lower branch growth and thick ivy no measurements were taken.

Penton Mewsey – Holy Trinity – SU329474

The church dates from around 1340. It was restored in 1888.

Two yews grow in the churchyard. The larger, shown here, is outside of the south porch. A memorial bench surrounds the female tree, whose girth was recorded as 11' 4" at 1' and 11' 1" at 2'. On the south side of the tree a nail has been hammered in at 2'.

To the north of the church a younger male is found.



Knights Enham – St Michael and All Angels – SU362480



This 11th century church is believed to have replaced an earlier Saxon church. During the 17th century it was largely rebuilt, though some of the 13th century fabric can still be traced. The church was enlarged in 1838.

One male yew is found to the north of the church. It has a fine crown and branches that sweep down almost to ground level. Girth was recorded as 11' 10" at 1' and 11' 7" at 2'.

Upper Clatford – All Saints – SU356435

There is evidence of 12th century construction in the church fabric, but it is thought there might have been an even older building on this site. The church was much altered in the 17th century, and during the period between 1890 and 1903.

Seven of the eight yews growing south of the church are quite young.

The largest is this female growing south east of the church. The tree has been drastically reduced to a height of about 8', but four new leaders have emerged from its roots. In 2003 a girth of exactly 11' was recorded at 2'. Since then this memorial bench has been constructed.



Goodworth Clatford – St Peter – SU366425



An early 12th century church rebuilt during the 14th and 15th centuries, with much restoration in the 19th century.

Two yews grow in the churchyard. This is the larger, a male at the south west corner, with a girth of 9' 9" at 1'. The younger female grows midway along the south perimeter.

- *The test continues south where it flows through the following villages*

Leckford – St Nicholas – SU374376

The 13th century church was partially rebuilt in the 16th century, added to in the 17th, and restored during the late 19th century.

Two yews are found here. The photo shows the larger of the two south of the church. It is male with a girth of 11' 2" at 1' and 10' at 2'. A young unmeasured female grows north west of the church.



Longstock – St Mary – SU358371

The present church was built 1876-80 in the 13th century style. It replaced an ancient chalk walled building.

A single yew grows here, on top of a mound at the south west corner of the churchyard. Its girth was 10' 2" at the top of the mound and 12' at 2'.



Stockbridge – St Peter – SU355351

This is a recent church dating from 1866. One male yew grows at the south east corner of the small churchyard. Its lower growth had been clipped to form part of a sculptured perimeter and was it was not possible to measure.

Stockbridge – Old St Peter – SU359350

All that remains is the old 13th chancel, the rest was demolished in 1866. One young yew grows here.

Houghton – All Saints – SU341326



The present church probably dates from around 1200 with evidence that there was once an even older church. It was extended in the 13th century, partially rebuilt in the 14th and repaired in 1822.

Four yews are found in the churchyard. The pair of females shown here grow side by side south east of the church. Their girths were 11' 1" at 2' and 9' 10" at 2'.

North west of the church are smaller girthed male and female yews.

- *The Test is now joined by the Wallop Brook which has its source in Over Wallop. This is near the ancient Saxon village of Bossington, some seven miles from its source.*

Broughton – St Mary the Virgin – SU309329

This 12th century church was extended in 1220, added to in the 15th century and partially rebuilt after a major fire in 1635. It was restored by the Victorians.

Two female yews are found in the churchyard. The tree seen below left grows near to the south west gate. Some of its outer shell has been lost revealing fine internal growth. Measured close to the ground it girthed 11' 3". The tree below right grows north east of the church and girthed 8' 10" at 1'.



Bossington – St James – SU336309

This small church stands in the middle of a field, next to the ancient Saxon village of Bossington. It was rebuilt in 1839.

Five yews grow here. The tree shown here is the largest of a pair of female yews growing on the west side of the church. This one, to the north west, measured 9' 2" at 1'.

To the south east grows a smaller male and two saplings.



- *The Test is now joined by a small un-named stream at Horsebridge. The stream rises just west of Little Somborne.*

Little Somborne – All Saints – SU382326

This simple church, declared redundant in 1975, is recognised as having Saxon origins. A modest refurbishment was carried out during 1870 with major repairs in 1975.

The only yew here is this female, growing south east of the church and girthing 9' 4" at the root crown.



Kings Somborne – St Peter and St Paul – SU360309



The present church is of 12th century origin with additions and alterations during the 13th and 14th centuries. Extensive restoration was carried out in 1886.

Three yews grow in the churchyard. The largest, shown here, grows south west of the church on the perimeter. It is female with a girth of 11' 2" at 1' from the top of the mound. A second female girthed 9' at 1', and a smaller male was not measured.

- *The Test flows on through Mottisfont*

Mottisfont – St Andrew – SU325267

The church is largely 12th century with alterations in the 15th century and partial restoration in the 19th century.

One twin trunked male growing south west of the church was not measured due to thick ivy coverage.

- *At Kimbridge the Test is joined by the Dun, which rises to the south east of Salisbury near West Grimstead. It is fed by many small unnamed streams along its nine mile journey.*

West Grimstead – St John – Wiltshire – SU211266



A 12th century church with features from both the 13th and 14th centuries.

One male yew grows at the north east corner of the churchyard. It has a hollow shell from which two large internal stems can be seen. Much of the outer surface of the tree is dead sapwood, but the tree continues to flourish. Girth was 15' 4" at 1'.

Farley - All Saints – Wiltshire – SU224296

There was once a medieval chapel at Farley, about 300 yards west of the present church. By 1680 the old chapel had fallen into disrepair and by 1690 the new church had been built. This was repaired in 1790, with further work carried out in 1874.

Of the twelve yews that grow around the perimeter of the church, nine are young. Only the following three were measured.

Shown here is a female yew growing on the east side of the south gate. 13' 1" at 1', 12' 9" at 2' and 12' 8" at 3' were recorded. South east of the church is a male with a girth of 11' 8" at 1' and at the south west perimeter corner a female measuring 12' 6" at 1'.



East Grimstead – Holy Trinity – Wiltshire – SU224272

The present church was built in 1856 on the foundations of an early medieval building.

Two young yews grow at this site, a female to the north and a male to the south of the church. Neither was measured

West Dean – De Borbach Chantry – Wiltshire – SU255274



Tucked away down a country lane is the Borbach Chantry, founded by Robert de Borbach in 1333. It once formed the south aisle of the old parish church of St Mary, demolished in 1868. It was subsequently retained as a mortuary chapel incorporating many of the architectural features from the old church.

One male tree grows east of the chapel, measuring 8' 2" at 2' excluding the side limb.

East Dean – St Winfred – SU273267

The original church was a chapel of ease to Mottisfont, and parts of the Norman work have been preserved in the Victorian building.

Two young yews grow here, a female south of the church and a male, clad in ivy, to the north east.

West Tytherley – Unknown Dedication (Old Church) – SU274297

The Old Church stood below the road in the churchyard, where the site can still be seen. Evidence indicates that the old church originated from the Early English period, 1190-1260. Due to its dilapidated state, it was pulled down in 1831.

Five yews continue to thrive and there is also a 2' high stump. Three male yews grow along the north and east perimeter, the middle yew (below left) girthed 11' 1" at 2'. In approximately the centre of the churchyard is a stump measuring 11' 5" at the root crown. Along the south perimeter one male and one female are found. The female girthed 11' 10" at 1'.



West Tytherley – St Peter – SU274297

The new church was built by 1833 on land donated by the Baring family. It overlooks the old site and was dedicated in 1933. A number of treasures from the Old Church have been preserved in this building, whose construction also used flints from the Old Church.

Three male yews grow in the churchyard. A twin trunked yew covered in thick ivy grows at the north east perimeter, another ivy covered specimen is found at the east gate and yew comprising many stems grows south west of the church. None were measured.

East Tytherley – St Peter – SU292289

The original church, a Saxon styled building, fell into disrepair and by 1863 was demolished. The present church was built on the same site.

Two female yews grow west of the church. The larger, seen here, girthed exactly 17' at the root crown. The main trunk is hollow and contains at least one aerial root. To the south of this tree is a smaller girthed yew measuring 12' 5" at 1'. The tape was threaded behind thick stems of ivy.



Lockerley – St John – SU298266

Site of a Saxon church, the dedication to St John was first recorded in Norman times. The church was demolished in 1891, and two years later a new church was built to replace it. The earlier Norman building is marked by a few stones to the north of the burial ground.

Two yews grow here. The large male (below left) is north of the church, its girth 25' 8" at the root crown. The female (below right) grows close to the north west perimeter. It is much hollowed with a large basal cavity. A girth of 13' 5" at 1' was recorded.



- *The Test now flows from Kimbridge to Timsbury where it is joined by two small unnamed streams that flow from both the east and west.*

Michelmersh – St Mary – SU345266

The church is described as 12th century with many rebuilds and changes over the years.

Three young male yews grow close to the west perimeter, while a 2' 6" high stump is found at the north east corner of the church.

Timsbury – St Andrew – SU345245

A 12th century church built on the site of an earlier Saxon building. Most of the church escaped Victorian restoration and today it is much as when first built.



One twin trunked male yew grows west of the church. Measured at 2' the trunks girthed 9' and 11' 3". Incorporating both as one tree the girth was 16' 1" at 1'.

Braishfield – All Saints – SU375254

A new church built in 1855 with young male and female yews south of the building.

Historical references have been obtained but not directly copied from:

University of London and History of Parliament Trust <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

The Churches of Hampshire <http://southernlife.org.uk/churchin.htm>

Hampshire churches <http://www.baxian.org.uk/churches/hants.htm>

The following sites were also visited. None had any yews.

Over Wallop – St Peter – SU284382

Nether Wallop – St Andrew – SU304363

Upper Eldon – St John the Baptist – SU364277

West Dean – St Mary the Virgin – Wiltshire – SU256272

Awbridge – All Saints – SU324234