



The earliest reference to the Odcombe yew is found in an 1821 poem called *Mileshill* in a book by Thomas Shoel entitled *Poems on various subjects*: 'Behold where Odcombe's Tower exalts its head, Contiguous to its yew tree's ample shade...'

It is seen on this old postcard growing WSW of the church with a central tower.



These two photos show the tree in 2007. The female yew was recorded with a girth of 18' 6" above the large bulgy section at the base. This has possibly developed because of the tombstones leaning against the trunk that can be seen on the old postcard. The large girth is retained for a considerable height, creating a tree with a powerful presence. There is one gap which might suggest some hollowing is taking place. Foliage was thick and richly green.



In 2014 Peter Norton recorded a girth of 18' 6" at approx. 2' 6".

The photos below were taken in 2016. I repeated the 2007 measurement, just above the bulge, and recorded 18' 8", an addition of 2" in 9 years.



Younger yews are also found in the churchyard. On the left is a trio of straight-stemmed yews that were presumably all planted at the same time south of the church. The most easterly leans considerably and girthed approximately 5' 6". The middle of the trio girthed 5' 9" at 2'. The most westerly has a larger girth of approximately 7', probably caused by rapid growth following the cutting back of many branches.



On the right is a yew probably planted at the millennium. It grows west of the church and is single stemmed for about 6" before development of numerous branches.