

OXFORDSHIRE - churchyard sites with younger yews

ADDERBURY St Mary Virgin SP471354 17/8/2001 Tim Hills

Vaughan Cornish noted a tree to which there was a reference in 1656. There were several yews in the churchyard, the largest with a girth of perhaps 12'/14', breaking from a 2' bole into 2 main branches.

ARDINGTON Holy Trinity SU431883 2011 Peter Norton

A female yew south west of the church girthing 10' 6" at 1'. A second female north west – girth not recorded.

CHADLINGTON

Photographs taken in 2016 by Jonathan Emanuel show a fine looking yew. Girth is probably between 10' and 12'.

DEDDINGTON St Peter and St Paul SP467318 25/5/2011 Tim Hills

Many young yews in this churchyard. No sign of the ancient yew I had been told about.

EAST HENDRED St Augustine's of Canterbury SU459886 29/10/2011 Peter Norton

Two young female yews south east of church – girth not recorded

EAST LOCKINGE All Saints SU428872 29/10/2011 Peter Norton

A mid 12th century church in parkland. Two male yews grow south of the porch. The west yew girthed 9' 3" and the east yew was 10' 1", both measured at about 1' – the height at which somebody had hammered nails into the trees.

FERNHAM St John the Evangelist SU293918 31/1/2011 Peter Norton

The present church was built in 1861. A yew grows on a mound west of the church.

GREAT MILTON St Mary the Virgin SP628025 4/6/2003 Tim Hills

SSW a male with an ivy covered bole and a girth of 11' 11" at 3'. This is the largest of many in the churchyard. To the north was a female yew with many yellow leaves and thin foliage. Its appearance was of a circle of young stems.

KINGSTONE LISLE St John the Baptist SU326876 29/10/2011 Peter Norton

A 12th century church One young male yew grows west of the church.

LETCOMBE REGIS St Andrew SU38008640 2011 Peter Norton

A 12th century church restored in 1863. Four yews grow here, two young trees west of the church and two larger male yews south of the porch. The yew west of the porch had a girth of 11' 2" at 2' 6", that to the east was 10' 8" at 3'. Somebody had hammered nails into the yews at this height. Both trees appear to be in the early stages of eventually becoming horse shoe shape, and on the east side of both trees are traces of dead wood.

LITTLE COXWELL St Mary the Virgin 31/1/2011 Peter Norton

A 12th century church built as a chapel of ease. A female yew grows close to the south east perimeter. A girth of 10' 4" at 1' was recorded, the height of a nail embedded into the trunk.

LITTLEMORE St Mary and St Nicholas SP538028 5/11/2005 Tim Hills

I had been informed of an ancient yew at this site. I visited in total darkness and found nothing larger girthed than about 8'.

NEWINGTON St Giles SU609966 4/6/2003 Tim Hills

2 male yews grow here. That to the east had a girth of 9' 11" at 3'. Foliage was thin. That to the SE had a girth of 10' 1" at 1'. Its trunk gradually swell outwards and at a height of 5' branches grow upwards around a small platform.

NORTH HINKSEY St Lawrence SP495055 4/6/2003 Tim Hills

2 contrasting female yews grow south of the church. The largest grows closest to the building and is tall, with much gall, but also new growth. Its girth was 10' 2" at 2'. The smaller growing next to it had many dead leaves. This one is broad with no great height.

PISHILL SU726898 10/4/2014 Peter Norton

Pishill church, of unknown dedication, is at the top of a hill overlooking the village. It is a flint-and-stone building of Norman origin and was largely rebuilt in 1854. The north perimeter is lined with young yew and to the west of the church grow two mature yews with girths around 8'9". At the east gate a further two yews grow either side of the path. The north tree is male and girthed 10' 10" while the south tree was female and girthed 10'.

SOUTH STOKE St Andrew SU599836 5/11/2005 Tim Hills

I was asked to visit to help in a Health and Safety dispute. The yew overhanging the school playground was threatened with partial destruction because 'yew has poisonous berries' which might fall into the playground. The yew was in fact male, as are the other two in the churchyard.

UFFINGTON St Mary SU302894 29/10/2011 Peter Norton

Originally a 12th century church. Five yews growing in the churchyard and another in the school playground which is merging with the perimeter wall. At the south west gate are two young males and where the path forks is a female girthing 10' 1" at 1'. Close to the path leading west and just south of the porch is a male yew which has lost a main branch and some of the bole. I recorded 8' 8" at 2'. West of the church is one female girthing 10' at 1'.

WOODEATON Holy Rood SP536119 5/11/2011 Tim Hills

Text with a photo from 1890 describes a large yew tree standing in the churchyard. 5 yews grow here, nothing of great merit, though in size the many stemmed ones are above 10'.

WOOLSTONE All Saints SU294875 29/10/2011 Peter Norton

A 12th century church. One young male yew.

