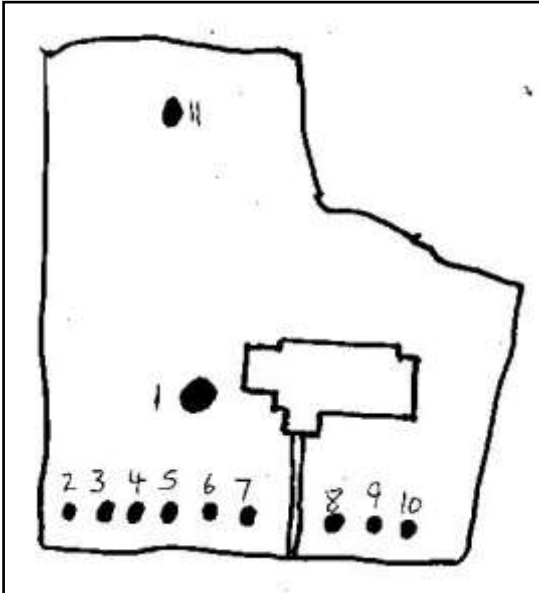


While nine yews grow in a line on the south side of the church, the most substantial yew here is this solid male (1) growing on a mound west of the church, only 5m from the tower. Low lateral branches have all been removed, and today large branches spread upwards in a tight cluster from an 8' high bole. In 2003 girth was 13' 4" at 1' and 13' 7" at 3'. By 2015 it was 13' 11" at 1', 13' 9" at 2' and 14' 1" at 3'.



Girths of the 9 news on the south perimeter by the road, starting with the most westerly are as follows:

- 2 male 9' 9 at 2'
- 3 female twin stemmed, a third removed close to ground. Low twigs so girth only estimated - 8'
- 4 male exactly 6' at 1'
- 5 female 7' 11½" at 2'
- 6 male 7' 6" at 2'
- 7 male knobbly - 9' 6½" close to ground

Churchyard entrance

- 8 male 7' 2" at 2'
- 9 male 11' 2" between ground and 6"
- 10 male 10' 2" at 2'

A small yew (11), about 6' in girth, grows NW of the church.

The yew was first recorded in 2012 and the photos taken in 2016. It grows south of the church and has a bole supporting many branches that spread outwards rather than upwards from 8'. Foliage was thin throughout the tree. One section had become swamped with ivy, exaggerating its girth. 12' 8" at 1' was recorded.

In 2016 it was remeasured at 1' unaffected by ivy, and 12' 5" was recorded. Foliage still looked thin and there were some brown leaves and a dead fallen branch. A line of graves lead neatly to the tree. A large sulphur fungus suggested that it is becoming hollow.





The female yew (left and centre) grows SE of the church. It has a fluted bole 7' high with many large upright branches. There were no signs of hollowing. The healthy looking tree had a girth of 14' 5" at 2' in 2006. In 2016 this was exactly 15' at 2', this time measured over a thin coating of ivy.

A millennium (right) yew also grows here. The plaque says that it was planted in the year 2000 by Frank Sherston aged 102 years.

CHARLCOMBE

St Mary

ST7485067348

4th October 2016

This yew grows close to the church on the SW side of the building. It is seen in paintings by SH Grimm in 1785 and 1790 and by an unnamed artist in 1893. From these we can be sure the tree is at least 275 years old now. Its small girth - 9' 5" close to ground in 2000 - is without doubt a result of its inability to expand close to the ground. There is however considerable swelling above 1', particularly on the side facing the path, which has of necessity been regularly trimmed. In 1791 Collinson's *History of Somerset* it was noted as 'a fine yew'.



A second yew (right) grows at the NE churchyard perimeter. It is female and appeared to be 8'9" in girth.

There was also at least one yew in the church garden to the south where there is a Holy Well.

Most unusually Pevsner mentions the yew here.



The female yew grows towards the west on the north side of the church. Broken stones and plastic sacks had been left under the tree. What looked like a metal ladder rung was embedded in the bark and appears to have been there for decades. Bulging of the bole begins above a height of about 5'. Girth was 13' 8" at 1', which will include some of the bulging root. Additional girths were 12' 6" at 2' 6" – the height of the metal rung - and 12' 5¼" at 4'.



Two clipped *Taxus baccata* L. grow close to the church entrance with another standing alone on the north side.



There are also two impressive avenues of clipped Irish yews – one containing 14 trees, the other 10.



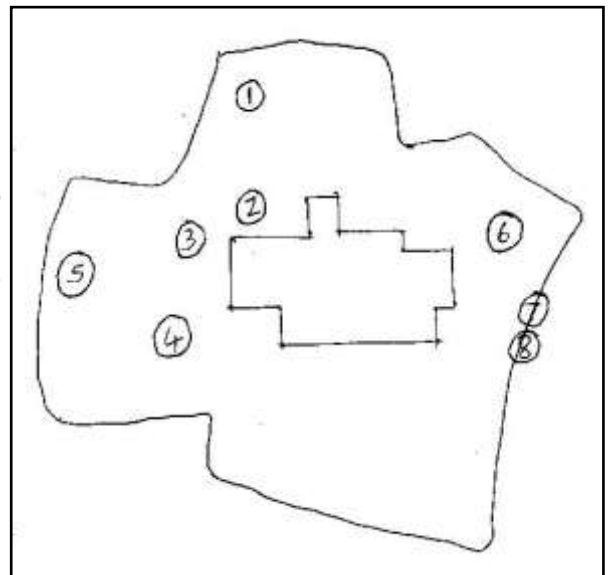
The female yew grows on the south side. While its present girth is at least 14', it has possibly been larger, but ivy prevented closer examination. Many white sapwood structures could be seen in the centre of the tree. It was unfortunate that the space has become the place for churchyard waste to accumulate.



Here are six churchyard yews, with two more (7 and 8) forming part of the east boundary on land whose ownership is uncertain.

Four of the yews have been clipped for decades or perhaps centuries, each to a slightly different shape. Each trunk has also been kept almost clear of low growth.

Yew 1 grows on the left of the path leading to the church on the north side. It is female with a girth of 11' 5" at or close to the ground.



Yew 2 grows close to the tower. It had a girth of 6' 10" at its narrowest point between the ground and 1'.

Yew 3 also close to the tower, has been clipped and had a girth of 8' 9½" at 1'.



Yew 4, SW of the tower, has not been clipped. Girth was 13' 7" at 1'. At a height of about 6' it develops into

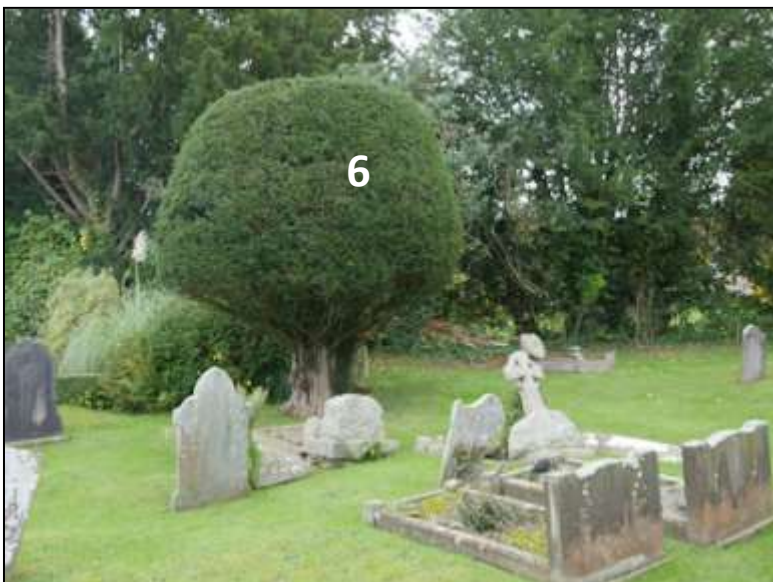


many upright branches. Viewed from the south side the tree divides into two distinct sides at a height of about 2'. The yew was also recorded in 2001 with a girth of 12' 10" at 1'.

Yew 5 is a multiple stemmed tree west of the church at the perimeter. One of its stems has been cut off close to the ground. Girth was 9' 1" at 1'.

Yew 6 is a clipped tree east of the church. Girth was exactly 9' at about 1'.

Yews 7 and 8 grow in a thicket alongside a lane.





This yew was described by Mee's *King's England* more than 50 years ago as 'split'. It appears that this was a twin trunked yew and that one half of it has now been removed. It is female and grows south of the tower and close to the path. The stump of the lost trunk was still visible. Measurement around the surviving trunk at the height of the stump was 11' 5". Combined girth with the stump, measured at same height, was exactly 16'.



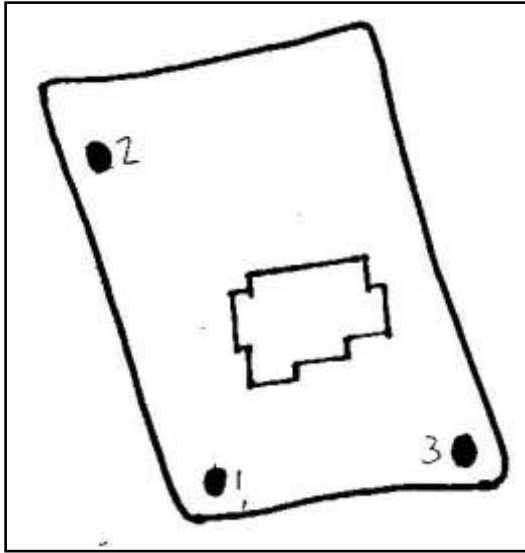
A second yew grows by a perimeter wall due north of the tower. It is a tall upright female with a girth of 9' 5" close to the ground.

There was also some yew hedging on the south perimeter.





Yew 1 grows SW of the church, close to a house at the churchyard entrance. Although it has not yet become hollow its interior is decaying. Attached to its side is a piece of very hard white wood. Girth was 10' 10" at 1'.



Yew 2 grows NW of the church on sloping ground. It has an elongated bole and so appears larger than the 13' 4" recorded at 1' above the higher ground. Large stones and rotting compost filled the space beneath the tree, along with much elder.



Tree 3 grows SE of the church at the top of steeply sloping land and inches from a wall. Its north facing side was open and decaying, so a horse shoe shape will eventually develop. There was no way of recording its girth, but it is probably similar to tree 1 at around 11' 12'.



Three yews grow at the west end of the church. The largest girthed (below) was 14' 11" at 3' in 2006. Remeasured in 2015 its girth at 3' had increased to 15' 6", though this height no longer seemed a good place to provide accurate measurement. The narrowest point close to a height of 3' gave a girth of 15' 4", though this will have been affected by ivy. Measured at the ground, around a spreading root, produces a girth close to 18'. The yew bulges at 5' 6' and there is much upright and lateral twiggy growth. Only at about 10' 12' does it divide into many substantial rising branches. Ivy had gained a hold in at least two of these.



A columnar female (below left) by the path girthed about 8' 6" at 3' in 2006 and 8' 7½" at 3' in 2015.

A male (below right) growing by the perimeter wall girthed 7' 4" at 2' in 2006 and 7' 7½" at 2' in 2015.

