

There are considered to be traces of a Saxon church on this site.

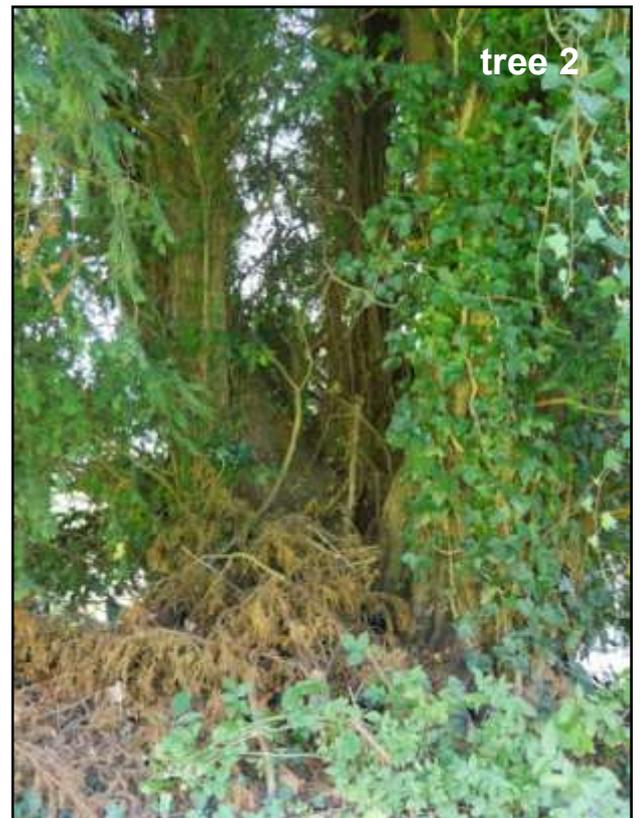
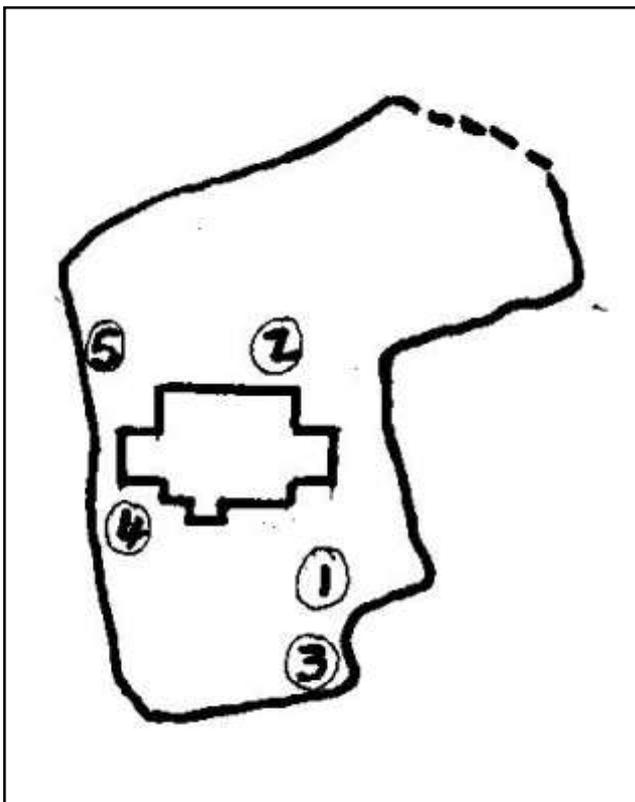
In 1791 Collinson's *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset* recorded 'two very large trees, one measuring 24' in circumference within a foot of the ground, and dividing itself into several more branches, spreading to a great extent'. This information was repeated in the 1857 *Journal of the British Archaeological Association, Volume 13*.

Collinson's 24' yew was almost certainly this large sprawling female tree, number 1 on the plan, seen here in 1997. Little has changed and the tree, in three distinct sections, still spreads itself outwards. One section, seen in the photo, leans over the stocks, a second leans slightly in the opposite direction while the third lays almost on the ground and appeared to be dead. The standing sections are full of vigorous and healthy growth, though a large amount of ivy filled the branches. The impenetrable undergrowth of nettles probably helps protect this yew.



In 1997 I succeeded in passing the tape around both the main trunk and the section leaning over the stocks and recorded a girth of about 21'. If it had been possible to tape around the whole tree the result would have been closer to 24'.

The second yew noted in 1791 is probably the female growing NE of the church (2 on plan). In 1997, after struggling through elder, I was able to record a girth of about 17' at the ground. What I was able to see suggested that this might have once been a larger tree. In 2016, when the photo was taken, the tree had become filled with ivy and the area around it had become the churchyard dumping ground. This is hopefully only a temporary measure.



Trees 3, 4 and 5 were recorded in 2016. Tree 3 grows opposite the ancient yew, just above steep steps that lead downwards and out of the churchyard. It is female and its branches had become intermingled with a False Acacia growing in an adjacent garden. The yew appeared to have twin upright stems and its girth was probably between 8' and 9'.

Tree 4 is a young male growing close to the west tower by the churchyard entrance gate. Its girth was between 2' and 2' 6".

Tree 5 grows only a few metres from the church tower. While the land seemed to be part of the churchyard, the yew is also very close to a house and had the appearance of a managed garden specimen. Girth was probably 10'/11'.

