

1840 *The Gentleman's Magazine part 1 p577/584* described 'a large and very picturesque yew-tree, the girth of which is full twenty feet'.

1929 'There are five yew trees in the churchyard, four of them planted in 1836, but the fifth is a very ancient specimen and with a girth of 25 feet.' (Source of this information not known)

The yew was described in *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality* 1944 as 'very ancient, of great girth, with hollow trunk'.

A letter from Revd CG Woodhead dated 18/03/1983 contained the following: 'Yes, there is a very old yew tree in the churchyard at Hoo, but in recent years the base has suffered from fire by vandals several times, and now one part is dead. Fortunately a considerable part is still alive. It is not possible to give one exact measurement of girth, because the main trunk is split into three, but the present living trunks measure 10 and a half and 6 and a half feet and the whole girth if complete measures 21 feet. The tree has been examined by experts and is undoubtedly over 700 years old, and some even think up to 1000 years old. There are other newer yew trees in the churchyard, I believe about 150 years old.'

1999: I recorded five young yews growing in this extensive churchyard, along with this fragment of the largest and oldest. A piece of stump with some decaying red heart wood gives an idea of the yew's former girth, but this will soon rot leaving only the leaning fragment. This stretches 8m outwards from the base of the trunk and will probably require propping in the future.

