



In *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality* 1946, Vaughan Cornish recorded 'a very fine ancient yew'.

These images show the yew as it must have looked at that time. This is a watercolour of The Lee Old Church and yew tree by William Callow, 1865, from the collections of Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust. Part of a second notable yew tree can also be seen on the left side of the painting.

This watercolour of The Lee Old Church and yew tree was painted by Harriet Callow some time between 1855 and 1870. It is also from the collections of Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust. These paintings provide the only evidence of how the yew looked before it was blown down.



On p350 of Kelly's 1883 *Directory Berkshire, Bucks and Oxon* we are informed of "a very large and ancient yew tree standing in the churchyard."



In 2001 I recorded the large fallen yew, on ground where the undergrowth was almost impenetrable, even in February. Many young yews had germinated beneath its branches.

I recorded a girth of about 14' at a point which would have been between 4' and 6' on the bole. The paintings suggest a tree of greater girth and it would seem likely that the tree had separated into more than one fragment, of which only this one remains today.