

This 'fine yew tree' was first recorded by Collinson in his 1791 *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*.

*The Church Builder* of 1863, p44 describes 'the churchyard - where stands a noble yew-tree -probably coeval with the church.'

In 2000 the tree was not as 'fine' as Collinson had recorded. It was surrounded by elder, had large quantities of ivy winding through its branches and thick twiggy growth obliterating most of its lower bole. In spite of a girth of about 21', which usually suggests a formidable tree, I was unable to take a single photograph that showed its character. Time however can be a great healer and when I returned in January 2015 - when these photos were taken - the tree was transformed and its features could be appreciated and recorded.



It has a low bole of between 2' and 4' with a small platform in the heart of the tree. From here develop three main growth areas, each supporting thick foliage.

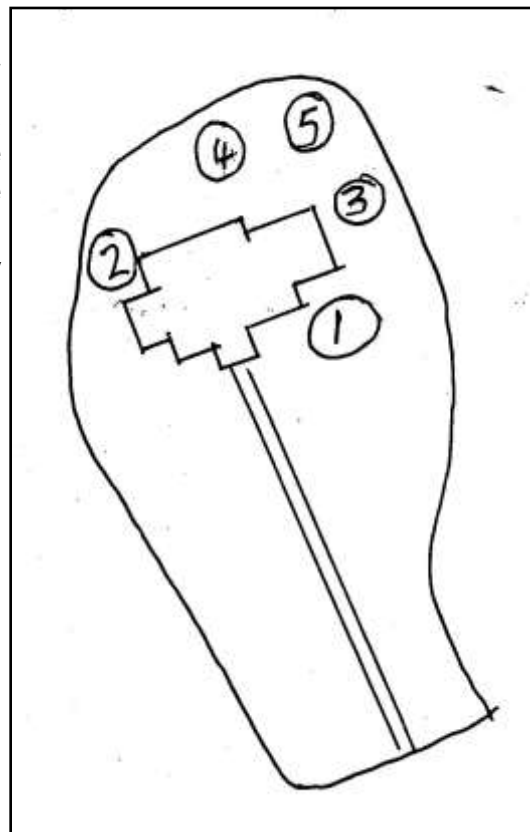




In addition to the veteran yew, number 1 on the plan, several smaller yews grow here and were recorded in 2015 as follows:



Tree 2, male, grows NW of the church. It had a girth of 8' 4" above the roots but close to the ground. There was much twiggy growth and ivy was starting to take hold.



The female yew, left, is number 3 on the plan and grows ENE of the church. It had a girth of 6' 8" just above the ground. Close to it, number 5 on the plan is a young small girthed male with much low growth. No photo.

Tree 4 on the plan, growing north of the church and seen here, appears to be an Irish yew. In large areas on its north side (left in the photo) the leaves are that of the common yew, *Taxus baccata* L.

