Diocese of Rochester

The churchyard at Cooling is thought by some to be the setting for the opening of Great Expectations. The now redundant church is beside the long distance walk known as the Saxon Shore Way.

The B/W photo of Petrie's painting (1807) suggests that this was one of Kent's largest yews.

Mee (King's England-1936) describes the glorious view across the Thames when 'standing by the old yew'.

A visit by Owen Johnson in 2008 was to discover an 'ancient and much decayed tree'. What remained of its hollowing trunk had a girth of 3.39 at 30cm.







While the tree can be seen in both of these images, there is no recent photograph of the yew.

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