Dorset Churchyard Yews

An Inventory

Part 4 - Southeast Dorset

In this report the national grid numbers (NGR) have been grouped in 10k squares and designated as 7F through to 9I as shown in the quadrant below.

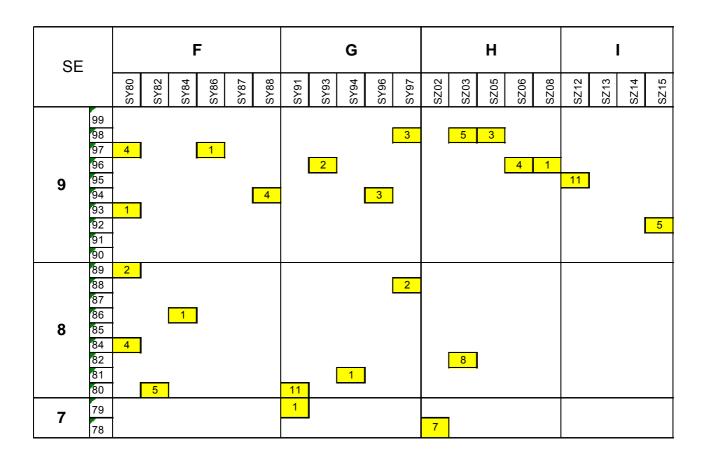
Towns, villages and hamlets in this quadrant:

Towns and villages with churches: 102 Number of churches visited: 62

Number of churchyards with yews: 24 Number of yews recorded: 89

Bournemouth and the surrounding area as we know today did not exist before 1837, being mostly heathland and the first church, since demolished, was built in 1845. Of the 32 churches that can now be found only two are included in this survey and are in the historic villages of Kinson and Holdenhurst.

Poole has a similar history as it followed the rapid expansion of Bournemouth; therefore of the 11 churches in this area only two are recorded.



The following church is found in grid 7G

Kimmeridge - St Nicholas - SY9179

A 12th century church mostly rebuilt in 1872 and until recently without dedication.

One female yew grows close to the south porch and on the boundary with an adjoining property. Estimated girth around 10'.

The following church is found in grid 7H

Swanage - St Mary - SZ0278



This medieval structure was rebuilt in 1860 but its 14th century tower was retained.

One young male grows close to the porch, while in the nearby graveyard six yews grow along the south and east perimeters. The largest, shown here, is a female girthing 10' 9" at 1' 6". It grows northeast and overhangs the rectory hall. The next largest, with a girth of 8' 5" at 1' from the top of the slope, grows midway on the west perimeter.

The following churches are found in grid 8F

Winfrith Newburgh - St Christopher - SY8084

The church dates from the 12th century and was enlarged and refurbished in 1854.

Of the four yews that grow here the largest is male with a girth of 9' 7" at 1'. It is found just east of the church next to a large tomb. The remaining three younger trees grow southwest of the tower.

Moretown - St Nicholas and St Mungus - SY8089

The medieval church was replaced by the present building in 1776.

Two male trees grow to the south. The southeast tree girthed 8' 9", the other 7' 11". Both were measured at 1'.

West Lulworth - Holy Trinity - SY8280

The church was built in 1869 to replace the medieval church. Three young yews grow along the northeast perimeter.

West Lulworth - Unknown dedication - SY8280

The church, built in 1869, replaced a building described at the time as one of the smallest Norman churches in Dorset.

Two yews are found in the old graveyard. The largest close to the gate is male girthing 10' 8" at about 1' 6". The female close by measured 9' at 2'.



Wool - Holy Rood - SY8486

The church, with parts dating back to the 14th century, was practically rebuilt in 1866. One female grows near the north porch and girthed 10' 1" at 1' and 10' 3" at 2'.

The following churches are found in grid 8G

Steeple - St Michael - SY9180

A 12th century church with rebuilding in 1852 and 1861.



Of the eleven yews here, ten grow in a semi-circle at the perimeter south of the church. The largest of these, south east of the church, is male with a girth of 10' 2" at 1'. Either side of the south gate are males, each girthing about 9'. The remainder of this group are much smaller. The eleventh yew, shown here, grows just southwest of the porch. It is female with a girth of 11' 7" close to the top of the mound nearest the porch.

Church Knowle - St Peter - SY9481

First mentioned in Domesday, this church was subjected to much Victorian restoration. An old photograph shows a yew that once grew here has been replaced by this young tree.





Arne - St Nicholas - SY9788

A tiny church of 13th century origin that escaped Victorian restoration. Two male yews grow here, the larger to the north of the church, girthing just 8'

The following churches are found in grid 8H

Studland - St Nicholas - SZ0382

A 12th century Norman church with major restoration in 1880.

This sparsely foliated female, growing northwest of the church, has a girth of 13' 8" at 1' from the top of the slope and 14' at 2'. Break of crown around 6' from where a basal cavity opens down to the ground. No evidence of internal growth. Soil disturbance at the base of the tree at the top of the slope suggests that the tree may have been subject to further wind damage.





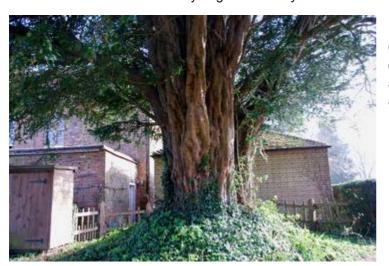
On the south perimeter are three younger female yews, the middle one measuring 10' 2" at 3' and the others less than 8'

Just east of the church three juvenile male yews grow close to the path.

The following churches are found in grid 9F

Affpuddle - St Lawrence - SY8093

The church is of 13th century origin with many alterations over the years including Victorian restoration.



One female grows south of the church and is comprised of three large stems emerging from a mound of approximately three feet. A girth of 15' 2" was recorded at the top of the mound.

Milborne St Andrew - St Andrew - SY8097

The present building dates from around 1150 and was restored in 1878.



Of the four yews that grow here, this female is the largest, girthing 13' at the top of the mound and 13' 4" at 2'. It grows just southeast of the church.

The remaining three are male and grow west of the church. The most southerly was 11' 5" at the ground, the next 9' 1" at 2', and the last much smaller.

Winterborne Kingston - St Nicholas - SY8697

The church is thought to be 14th century, with major restoration carried out in 1872.

One male yew grows northeast of the church. It measured 12' 2" at 1' and 13' 6" at 3'.



Bloxworth - St Andrew - SY8894

A church of 12th century origins, modernised in 1870 but retaining its 14th century tower.



Four yews grow on the east perimeter. The first at the south east is female girthing 9' 10" at 1'. The second is male and girthed 11' 7" at 1'. The remaining two males are much younger.

The following churches are found in grid 9G

Lytchett Matravers - St Mary - SY9396

The earliest features of the present church are 13th century.

In this ancient male yew are six sections that merge at a height of about 7'. It grows northwest of the church and girthed 21' 6" at approx 1' using the four nails that somebody has hammered into the trunk. At 2' the girth increases to 22' 6". There is also a younger yew with a girth of 11' 10" at 1'





Lytchett Minster - St Dunstan - SY9694

The church retains its medieval tower dating from about 1250. Its nave was rebuilt in 1833 after a fire.

Three female yews are found in the grounds. A multi-stemmed tree with sparse foliage grows west of the church. Its girth was 19' 6" close to the top of the mound on which it grows.

The other two grow near the south porch. The most easterly of these is shown here. It gives the appearance of being a very old fragmented yew with much of the outer shell missing. It is difficult to obtain a meaningful measurement, but about 24ft excluding the limbs was obtained. The other yew was much less in girth.





Corfe Mullen - St Hubert - SY9798

The church dates from the 13th century and retains its 14th century tower. Alterations were carried out in the 15th and 16th centuries, followed by restoration in 1841.



Three yews are found in the churchyard. To the west of the porch are these fragmented remains of a male yew, with a recorded girth of about 11' around the fragment, but closer to 16' if the stump is included. Near to the northwest gate is an unmeasured female and a male girthing 9' 10" at 1'.

The following churches are found in grid 9H

Canford Magna (Poole) - Dedication unknown - SZ0398

This ancient church was once known as The Royal and Ancient Chapel of Canford Magna. The chancel dates back to 1050 and a tower was added around 1180. Major restoration was carried out in 1846. Two female and three male yews form an avenue leading to the church.

Hampreston - All Saints - SZ0598

The church is thought to have its roots in the Saxon period but many parts date from the 14th century. A full restoration was completed in 1896.

Three male trees grow alongside Irish Yews south of the church. The largest, close to the southwest perimeter, has six main branches emerging from a 2' high bole. Girth recorded was 11' 2" at 1'.



Kinson (Bournemouth) - St Andrews - SZ0696

This was originally a 12th century church, restored in 1894 but retaining its old tower. It is Bournemouth's oldest church.

Four young male yews grow in the churchyard; two near to the east gate were unmeasurable due to twiggy growth and thick ivy, while low growth and brambles prevented measurement of the tree south of the porch. The fourth yew grows southeast, on a small mound, and measured 8' 8" at 1' 6". The others appeared to be of similar girth.

West Parley - All Saints - SZ0896

The 12th century church replaced an earlier Saxon building and retains its 12th century nave and 15th century porch. Some restoration and enlargement work was carried out in 1896 and the wooden nave roof was replaced in 1933. One young male yew grows northeast of the church, its girth 8' 8" at 1'.

The following churches are found in grid 9I

Holdenhurst (Bournemouth) - St John the Evangelist - SZ1295

The original church is thought to have been of Saxon origin and was the parish church of Bournemouth. In 1834 the old church was demolished after a new church had been built close by.

There are eleven living yews in the churchyard, seven female and four male, as well as three stumps. A young female measuring 6' 9" at 1' grows midway along the south perimeter and a further three females are found near to the east wall of the church. Along the northeast perimeter grows a very young female next to a stump followed by two further stumps and the remaining trees. The largest recorded was male girthing 9' at 1', growing second to last at the far north east.

Christchurch - Priory Church of the Holy Trinity - SZ1592

The Normans began the building of this magnificent Priory Church in 1094.

Five yews grow in the grounds of this historic site. The first, at the west end of the church, is male measuring 9' at 1' and 9' 5" at 3'. Moving northwest is a female (not measured) and a male, 9' 6" at 1', straddling the diagonal path to the northwest porch. The fourth yew is at the northwest churchyard entrance. It is female and could not be measured due to ivy which had reached far into the canopy. The final yew, a young male, grows along the north to east perimeter.

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Appendix 1: Churches Visited Churches Conservation Trust (CCT)

								Largest Recorded		
Tow ns & Villages	Grid ref	Square	Count	Church	ССТ	Yews	Previously Recorded in	Feet	Inch	Mtrs
St Aldhelm's Head	SY960775	7G	1	St Aldelm Chapel		0		0	!	0.00
Worth Matravers	SY973775	7G	1	St Nicholas		0		0		0.00
Langton Matravers	SY998789	7G	1	St George		0		0		0.00
Kimmeridge	SY917799	7G	1	St Nicholas		1		10		3.05
Kingston	SY955796	7G	1	St James		0		0		0.00
Herston	SZ017789	7H	1	St Mark		0		0		0.00
Sw anage	SZ017789	7H	3	St Mark		0		0	0	0.00
Sw anage	SZ027787	7H	2	St Mary		7 4		10	9	3.28
Winfrith New burgh Moreton	SY805843 SY806893	8F 8F	1 1	St Christopher St Nicholas and St Mungus		2		9 8	7 9	2.92 2.67
Tyneham	SY882803	8F	1	St Mary		0		0	9	0.00
East Lulw orth	SY853820	8F	1	St Andrew		0		0		0.00
West Lulw orth	SY823807	8F	1	Holy Trinity		3		0		0.00
Coombe Keynes	SY843841	8F	1	Holy Rood (Redundant)		0		0		0.00
East Holme	SY899859	8F	1	St John the Evangelist		0		0		0.00
East Burton	SY832864	8F	1	Chapel (Redundant)		0		0		0.00
West Lulw orth	SY826807	8F	2	Not know n (demolished)		2		10	8	3.25
Bindon Abbey	SY855868	8F	1	Bindon Abbey (Private ruin)		0		0		0.00
East Stoke	SY867868	8F	2	St Mary's old church (ruins)		0		0		0.00
East Stoke (Stokeford)	SY873870	8F	1	St Mary (Private)		0		0		0.00
Wool	SY847865	8F	1	Holy Rood		1		10	1	3.07
Steeple	SY912809	8G	1	St Michael		11		11	7	3.53
Church Know le Creech	SY941819 SY911824	8G 8G	1 1	St Peter		1 0		0 0		0.00
Corfe Castle	SY961821	8G	1	St John (Redundant) St Edw ard, King and Martyr		0		0		0.00
Rempstone	SY989829	8G	1	Redundant (private)		0		0		0.00
Wareham	SY923871	8G	2	Holy Trinity (Tourist Info Centre)		0		0		0.00
Wareham	SY923877	8G	1	St Martin		0		0		0.00
Wareham	SY925872	8G	3	Priory Church - Lady St Mary		0		0		0.00
Arne	SY973882	8G	1	St Nicholas		2		8		2.44
Sandford	SY928898	8G	1	St Martin		0		0		0.00
Sw anage	SZ029800	8H	1	All Saints		0		0		0.00
Studland	SZ037826	8H	1	St Nicholas		8		13	8	4.17
Brow nsea	SZ027877	8H	1	St Mary		0		0		0.00
Canford Cliffs	SZ057895	8H	1	The Transfiguration		0		0	_	0.00
Affpuddle	SY805936	9F	1	St Laurence		1		15	2	4.62
Turners Puddle	SY830935	9F	1	Holy Trinity (Closed for worship) St John the Baptist		0		0 0		0.00
Bere Regis Milborne St Andrew	SY847948 SY802974	9F 9F	1 1	St Andrew		4		13		3.96
Winterborne Kingston	SY863976	9F	1	St Nicholas		1	Stour	12	2	3.71
Bloxw orth	SY881947	9F	1	St Andrew		4	Otoui	11	7	3.53
Winterborne Anderson	SY881976	9F	1	St Michael (Redundant)		0	Stour	0	•	0.00
Winterborne Tomson	SY885975	9F	1	St Andrew	CCT	0	Stour	0		0.00
Winterborne Zelston	SY899977	9F	1	St Mary		0	Stour	0		0.00
Lytchett Matravers	SY936962	9G	1	St Mary		2		21	6	6.55
Lytchett Heath	SY969945	9G	1	St Aldhelm		0		0		0.00
Morden	SY916955	9G	1	St Mary		0		0		0.00
Lytchett Minster	SY968945	9G	1	St Dunstan		3		24		7.32
Almer	SY914989	9G	1	St Mary		0	Stour	0		0.00
Corfe Mullen	SY976984	9G	1	St Hubert		3	Stour	16		4.88
Poole (Old Town)	SZ008903	9H	2	St James		0	Ctour	0		0.00
Canford Magna (Poole) Hampreston	SZ032988 SZ055987	9H 9H	1 1	Dedication unknow n All Saints		5 3	Stour Stour	0 11	2	0.00 3.40
Kinson (Bournemouth)	SZ055967 SZ067969	9H	1	St Andrew		3 4	Stour	8	8	2.64
West Parley	SZ086968	9H	1	All Saints		1	Stour	8	8	2.64
Wimborne Minster	SZ009999	9H	1	Minster Church of St Cuthburga		0	Stour	0	•	0.00
Wimborne Minster	SZ016998	9H	2	St John		0		0		0.00
Ferndow n	SZ070997	9H	1	St Mary		0		0		0.00
Holdenhurst (Bournemouth)	SZ128952	91	1	St John the Evangelist		11	Stour	9	1	2.77
Christchurch	SZ159925	91	1	Priory Church of the Holy Trinity		5		9	6	2.90
Mudeford	SZ181921	91	1	All Saints		0		0		0.00
Highcliffe	SZ213935	9J	1	St Marks		0		0		0.00