

The 13th century disused church features an embattled tower with an outside stairway. It is cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust, but it is not clear who is responsible for the churchyard management.

In 1940 the yew was recorded in *The King's England* as a 'great spreading yew swallowing up tombstones. Two or three are already half buried in its bushy base'. It was also reported to have a girth of 54' round at the ground. Was this a misprint, or did it include roots that are now hidden beneath the piled up soil around the bole? We may never know.

In 1997 I recorded 29' at its narrowest point. In 2016 it not only looked unchanged but was also possible to remeasure at its narrowest point and record a girth of 29' 4" – an increase of 4" in 18 years.

The yew has an neat and almost symmetrical appearance, with a crown of dense green foliage. Two main areas of growth further subdivide to form at least 7 major branches.

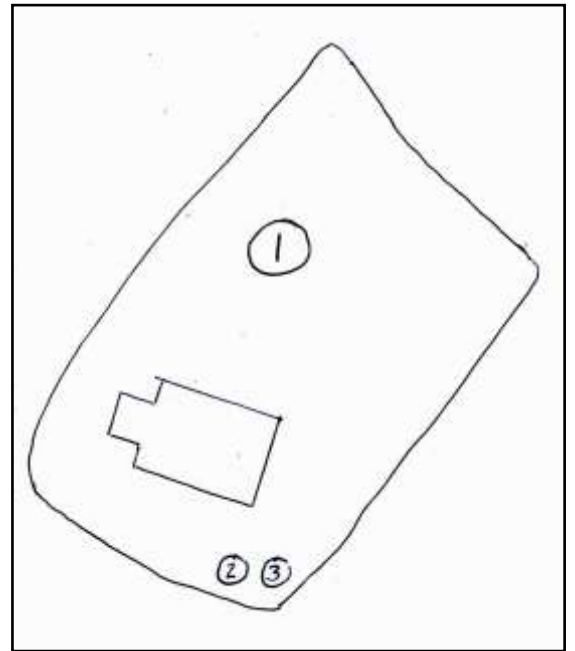


1997



2016

In 2016 two further yews were recorded, number 2 and 3 on the plan. These were inaccessible on previous visits, hidden away in what was a wild and overgrown churchyard. Extensive clearance work has uncovered the two yews growing on a steep bank at the southern perimeter of the churchyard. Each had a girth between 7' and 8', the most westerly being slightly larger. Both trees divide into parallel rising branches above a height of 6'/8'. On the other side of the bank is a sunken lane that leads to Tilsey.



Also visible from the churchyard, in an adjacent farm east of the church, is this particularly tall yew.

