



1998: Were it not for historical accounts, the yew seen in these 3 photos might easily be mistaken for a young tree, since its girth is only about 8'. But what we are looking at is a well developed fragment of a once formidable ancient yew. Before gales and storms caused considerable damage it was recorded in 1820 as having a girth of 27'. Its demise is well documented, though accounts vary, so that in *Tewkesbury Yearly Reg.ii 103/4; cf Glos Ch.Notes, 45* it was 'blown down in 1839', while in another account it was 'storm damaged in 1860'. It could of course have been both.

In 1938 Mee's *King's England* described the yew 'by the porch, a veteran blown down a century ago, when its age was thought to be about 1700 years. It is still alive, a shoot from the stump having become a fair sized tree'. Here we see it 60 and 76 years later.



Mee also described that 'an old yew in the churchyard measures 15ft round'. This tree, seen below, grows ENE of the church. In 2014 I recorded a girth of 15' 1½" at 2' - where several nails had been hammered into the trunk - and 16' 1" between 1' and 2'. The male yew had several thick branches from a height of about 6' and its proximity to the church means that many branches have been removed.



It is also reported that in 1840, three yews were planted by Joseph Yorke. We are told that one growing close to the tower was cut down in 1973, but the remaining two have survived.

There are three similarly girthed yews in the churchyard and it is not clear which two are the Yorke plantings.

In 2014 the yew west of the tower had a girth of 8' 8" at 1', the yew SSW had a girth of 6' 9½" at 1' and the yew SE of the church a girth of 8' 2½" at 1'.

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