

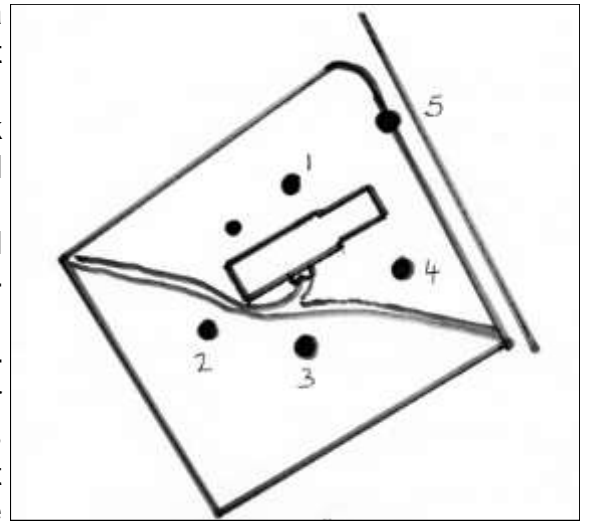
Until November 2011, Ashford Carbonell was one of only a handful of sites in England able to boast at least five significant yews, two of which were ancient specimens.

1946: RCB Gardner reported to Vaughan Cornish for his book *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality* that Ashford Carbonell had '5 yews with girths of between 20 and 25 feet'.

1986: In *Trees of Shropshire* (1986) Andrew Morton described the churchyard as 'one of the best to look at ancient yews', noting that it was 'unusual to find five large yews on one site'.

In November 2011 one of the five yews was felled, a substantial ancient fragment (tree 1 on the plan) with a girth of over 21'. Most worrying about this loss is that all of the safeguards that should have protected the yew failed to do so. The incident highlights the urgent need for greater protection of this unique heritage.

We have a photographic record of this lost yew. Apart from the 1st photo they were taken in 2007.





This yew has been planted to replace the irreplaceable.



Tree 2 is a bristly yew with many branches rising from a short, squat bole. Estimated girth was about 20'.

2007



2012



Tree 3 has two sections at ground level which combine by a height of 4'6". The trunk has a fluted appearance and girth was 18' 6" at the ground in 1997.

1997



2007



2007



The photos below were taken in 2012.



In the photo below right, male and female parts are seen on the same tree.



Tree 4 is the surviving ancient tree. A large hollow is seen from the path. Bole height is about 5' with many branches. Girth: 21' 7" at the ground in 1997.

1997



2007



2012



Tree 5 forms part of the churchyard wall. It is hollow and leaning. Girth was 17' 6" at the top of the wall in 1997.

1997



2007



2007



2012

