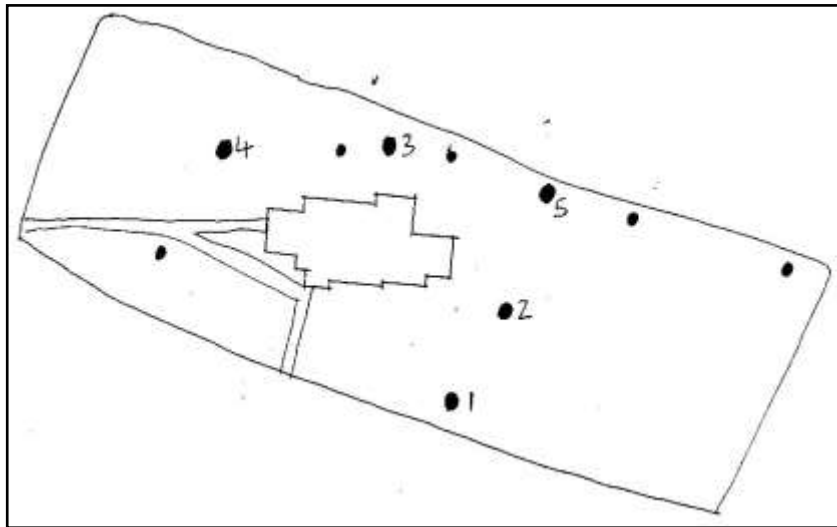


Of the many yews that grow in this churchyard, the 5 numbered trees are recorded here. Information that includes the younger yews is available on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory website.



Harrietsham's ancient yew (tree 1) grows SSE of the church. In 1889 the Rev. J. Durst recorded a girth of 30' at 3'. This vast girth ensured it a place in Lowe's 1896 list of the 30 largest girthed yews in Britain. By 1954 it had become impossible to remeasure. Rev.F.W.Phillips tried but was unsuccessful 'because the trunk was covered with small shoots and branches'. Phillips also observed how it was 'divided into two parts'.

In 1999 the area around and between the two sides of this male yew was a haven for rabbits. Weakness in each of these separated tree fragments suggests further subdivision is likely to take place and create a tree of up to four fragments, as is seen at Payhembury in Devon.



1999



2013



2013



Tree 2 on the plan is a trio of yews that grow on a mound ESE of the church. When I first visited in April 1999 the area around the trees was filled with thick vegetation. At that time I did not rule out a suggestion that these trees had developed following the fragmentation of an ancient yew that formerly grew on this spot. The three trees were identified as male.

When I revisited in May 2013 the ground around the trees had been cleared and it was possible to see that the roots above ground are very intertwined. I also observed that one of the smaller trees was female and continue to regard these as three individual trees. The largest had a girth of 11' 10" at 3'. The two photos below were taken by Helen Leaf.



Tree 3 on the plan, north of the church, has also created uncertainty as to whether we are looking at the remains of a very old tree or several young trees. In 1999 I measured around the trunks, including a large piece of stump. A combined girth of 26' suggested that these might be the peripheral remains of an ancient tree. Revisiting in 2013 and finding that the two upright trunks were male and female leads me to the conclusion that these are relatively young trees planted close to each other.

In 2019 Helen Leaf measured the two trunks. The one with a large low branch attached at the ground had a girth of 2.51m at 80cm, the other a girth of 2.5m at 80cm.



Tree 4 on the plan is female growing NW of the church. In 1999 I recorded a girth of 19' 10" at 1'. Above this height it is slightly vase shaped to a height of 4'. Most of its growth is carried of young branches. As with tree 1 there has been much rabbit activity.

In 2013 I recorded a girth of 18' 9" at the ground.

In 2019 Helen Leaf recorded a girth of 5.97 at the ground.



Tree 5 on the plan is one of two trees growing ENE of the church. They are male and female, either side of a path. In 2013 I noted that the larger of this pair was female with a girth of 13' 4" at the ground. In 2019 Helen Leaf recorded a girth of 4.8m at 50cm, which included a complete covering of ivy.



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