OXFORDSHIRE – some churchyard sites with younger yews

ADDERBURY St Mary Virgin SP471354 17/8/2001 Tim Hills

In *The Churchyard yew and immortality*, Vaughan Cornish noted a tree to which there was a reference in 1656. There were several yews in the churchyard, the largest with a girth of perhaps 12'/14', breaking from a 2' bole into 2 main branches.

ARDINGTON Holy Trinity SU431883 2011 Peter Norton

A female yew south west of the church girthing 10' 6" at 1'. A second female north west – girth not recorded.



CHADLINGTON St Nicholas SP3337422032 2016 Jonathan Emanuel

Photographed in 2016 by Jonathan Emanuel. Girth is probably between 10' and 12'.



COWLEY St James the Apostle SP5398403837 7/9/2026 James Taylor





DEDDINGTON St Peter and St Paul SP467318 25/5/2011 Tim Hills

Many young yews in this churchyard. No sign of an ancient yew I had been told about.

EAST HENDRED St Augustine's of Canterbury SU459886 29/10/2011 Peter Norton

Two young female yews south east of church – girths not recorded.

EAST LOCKINGE All Saints SU428872 29/10/2011 Peter Norton

A mid 12th century church in parkland. Two male yews grow south of the porch. The west yew girthed 9' 3" and the east yew was 10' 1", both measured at about 1' – the height at which nails were hammered into the trees.



FERNHAM St John the Evangelist SU293918 31/1/2011 Peter Norton

The present church was built in 1861. A yew grows on a mound west of the church.



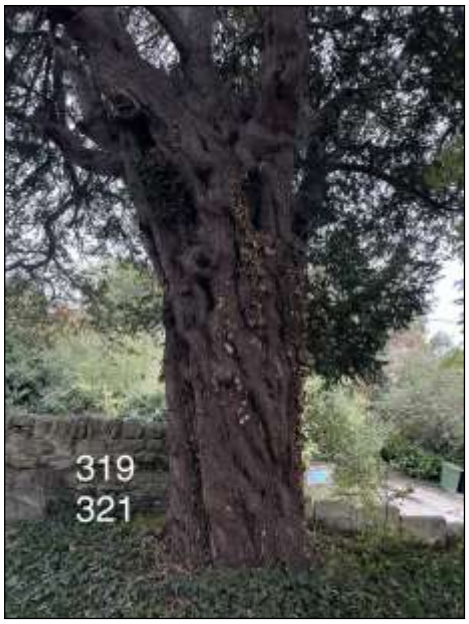
FOREST HILL St Nicholas SP58110747 17/10/2026 James Taylor

Several yews grow in the churchyard, including a line of three on the south side. Girths recorded in centimeters.











FYFIELD St Nicholas SU295463 2011 Peter Norton

The building is probably 12th or 13th century but all early details have been destroyed.

Two yews grow near to the south west gate. The larger of the two is female, girthing 10’ 2” at 2’, while the male tree was much younger and not measured.



HEADINGTON St Andrew SP5446507641 James Taylor 7/9/2026





Younger yews as seen in the photos.

HEADINGTON QUARRY Holy Trinity SP5545706873 James Taylor 25/10/2026






KINGSTONE LISLE St John the Baptist SU326876 29/10/2011 Peter Norton

A 12th century church One young male yew grows west of the church.

LITTLE COXWELL St Mary the Virgin SU2819193533 31/1/2011 Peter Norton

A 12th century church built as a chapel of ease. A female yew grows close to the south east perimeter. A girth of 10' 4" at 1' was recorded, the height of a nail embedded into the trunk.



LITTLEMORE St Mary and St Nicholas SP538028 5/11/2005 Tim Hills

I had been informed of an ancient yew at this site. I visited in darkness and found nothing larger girthed than about 8'.

NEWINGTON St Giles SU609966 4/6/2003 Tim Hills

2 male yews grow here. That to the east had a girth of 9' 11" at 3'. Foliage was thin. That to the SE had a girth of 10' 1" at 1'. Its trunk gradually swells outwards and at a height of 5' branches grow upwards around a small platform.

NORTH HINKSEY St Lawrence SP495055 4/6/2003 Tim Hills

2 contrasting female yews grow south of the church. The largest grows closest to the building and is tall, with much gall, but also new growth. Its girth was 10' 2" at 2'. The smaller growing next to it had many dead leaves. This one is broad with no great height.

PISHILL SU726898 10/4/2014 Peter Norton

Pishill church, of unknown dedication, is at the top of a hill overlooking the village. It is a flint-and-stone building of Norman origin and was largely rebuilt in 1854. The north perimeter is lined with young yew and to the west of the church grow two mature yews with girths around 8'/9'. At the east gate a further two yews grow either side of the path. The north tree is male (below left) and girthed 10' 10" while the south tree (below right) was female and girthed 10'.





SOUTH STOKE St Andrew SU599836 5/11/2005 Tim Hills

I was asked to visit to advise in a Health and Safety dispute. The yew overhanging the school playground was threatened with partial destruction because ‘yew has poisonous berries' which might fall into the playground. The yew was in fact male, as are the other two in the churchyard!

STANTON St JOHN St John Baptist SP57750935 17/10/2026 James Taylor

More than one yew in the churchyard. This one grows above the road at the east end. Girth between 294cm and 297cm.



WOODEATON Holy Rood SP536119 5/11/2011 Tim Hills

Text with a photo from 1890 describes a large yew tree standing in the churchyard. 5 yews grow here, nothing of great merit, though in size the many stemmed trees girth above 10'.



WOOLSTONE All Saints SU294875 29/10/2011 Peter Norton

A 12th century church. One young male yew.



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