

churchyard.

Site Description

The compact building of St John the Baptist is in the north of the churchyard, with the all trees in the survey to the west, east or south. A path bisects the site from East to West, and the boundaries are mainly stone walls.

The distribution of the trees is far from regular, with the False Acacia to the west, but the rest either form a group around the Yew, or as part of the line of conifers on the east boundary, running alongside a wall. The effect of this is a churchyard that is both sheltered and attractively light. At the time of surveying the open section has been left uncut and had a very pretty diversity of grass species and wild flowers. (It is important to regard the site as a whole in terms of the nature conservation value, and there is no doubt that the combination of open and wooded space provides a rich habitat for many plants and animals.)

Individual trees

Please refer to the tables at the end of this report for a summary of the tree descriptions. The survey found that the tree population has a limited age range, that is to say, there were no very young newly planted trees. Some species will be slow to grow, for example holly, however, the cypresses on the East boundary are probably younger, but of a similar height and dimension.

The yew tree was by far the giant in terms of girth. It is most certainly the oldest, but also the most 'managed' - its fatness is partly the result of having been pollarded in the past (limbs cut back and allowed to regrow, usually about shoulder height). It shows signs of burry growth, where many side shoots have sprung from the main stem.

The false acacia, no. one is also a large tree, but a fast growing species, and is forked at the very base.

Some trees look as if they are self sown. The clumps of Holly and the hawthorn, nos. two to seven, are rather close together, and the holly especially have the appearance of being overgrown root suckers. They are intermingled with the gravestones.

Trees nos. eight to eleven are a Lawson Cypress cultivars, and these have been planted. They form a thick screen along the wall, and provide shelter.

Wildlife value of the churchyard trees

Individual trees have been given a general 'score' for their wildlife value, a tree that produces a quantity of flowers and fruit will score highly. Usually native trees are more important in supporting the local flora and fauna than non native. On this site although the range is not wide the trees are mostly native and many have the added advantage of producing seed, such as the