
View looking over the Groves of Yew Trees in Kingly Bottom near Chichester

William Turner Of Oxford



Description

William Turner of Oxford (1789-1862)

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Signed lower right: W. Turner/Oxford and signed and inscribed on old backing: View looking over the Groves of Yew trees in Kingley Bottom near Chichester./No.8/W. Turner/16. St. John's St Oxford.

Watercolour over pencil heightened with touches of bodycolour and gum arabic

36.9 by 54.3 cm., 14 ½ by 21 ¼ in.

Provenance:

Thomas Toller, 6 Grays Inn Square, 1848

Exhibited:

London, Society of Painters in Water-colours, 1848, no.256, bt. Toller for 8 gns.

Kingley Bottom is now part of the Kingley Vale nature reserve which is famous for its ancient yew trees. An 1870s Gazetteer describes it as follows: 'Kingley-Bottom, a narrow vale in West Stoke parish, Sussex; under Bow Hill, 4 miles NW of Chichester. It is picturesquely wooded; and it is said to have got its name from a slaughter of kings or leaders of invading Danes, in a battle with them by the men of Chichester, about the year 900. Four large barrows in its N hill-flank are thought to mark the graves of the slain kings' (John Marius Wilson, Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales, 1870-2). The spire of Chichester Cathedral and the English Channel are visible in the distance.

Turner of Oxford drew a number of similar panoramic views on the South Downs. Another view of Kingley Bottom by Turner of Oxford is in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum.