

The modern church was built in 1865 on the site of a C12 church. In 1883 its yews were described as 'remarkable specimens' in *The Flora of Hampshire*. The churchyard contains three significant yews that display a wide variety of characteristics.

Tree 1: In his *Yew Trees of England* (1952) Swanton described the tree on the right as 'three parts of what was probably long ago one complete trunk. One part is 7' in girth, the second 6' 7" and the third (propped) 7' 8". The second and third are separated by a gap of about 4'.'

I visited in 1998 and would agree that these are likely to be fragments of a very old tree. The fallen trunk (A) grows parallel to the ground and is supported on a prop. Several new branches rise vertically from it, some 20' long and thick enough to provide evidence that it fell a considerable time ago. A highly polished section of this trunk shows that it has been used as a seat for decades. The standing section, also hollowed out, leans towards the church, with some of its roots showing. There was evidence of fire or smoke damage.

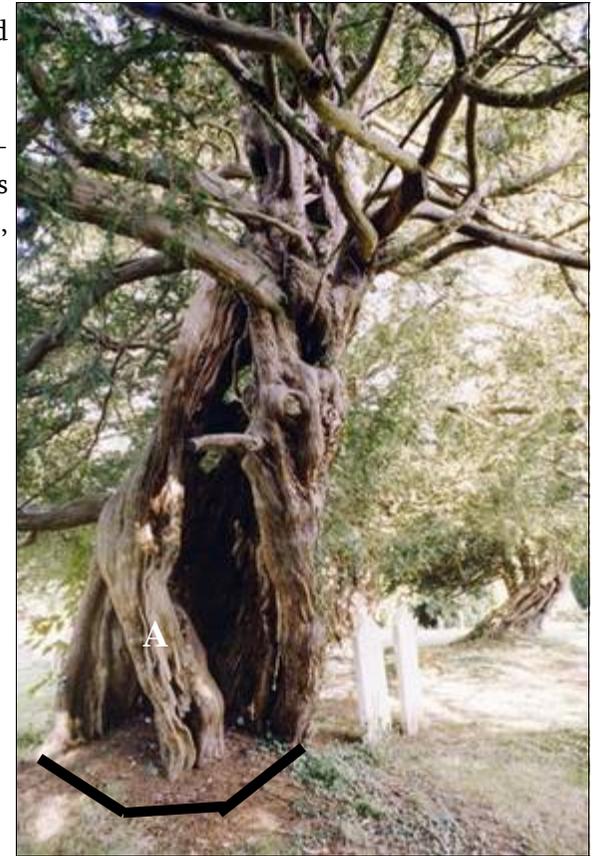


Tree 2: In 1952 Swanton recorded this yew (left) as '22' 10" at 3' with trunk about 6' high crowned with 3 large branches'.

In 1998 I recorded a girth of a girth of 22' 9" at 1'; 24' 6" at 3' and 24' at 5', with a bole height of 6/8'. From it rises a leading branch with a substantial limb pulling from it and two further large branches. My impression was of a yew that might eventually split into two fragment trees (A and B).

Tree 3: In 1952 Swanton recorded 16' 7" at 3', describing its 'central interior growth 2' 7" in girth, crown intact and branches hollow'.

1998: Here we see evidence that this yew has been considerably larger. At (A) is the 'central interior growth' described by Swanton, now usually referred to as an internal root or internal stem. It would have grown downwards from a branch through the decaying centre of the tree. With the loss of the side of the tree marked by the black line, the internal stem now appears on the outside. Girth at 5' was 17'.



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