

1631: This is one of the earliest references I have come across in which a specific yew is mentioned. The extract comes from *Notes and Queries* p268: ‘This tree is mentioned in a chancery suit dated June 30, 1631. Staverton Parish v. Horsham. John Horsham was the vicar of Staverton at that time, and the following extract may be of interest: And to paie yearely the tenth Lambe in kinde to be brought or sent unto the said Vicar yearely on St. Mark’s Day or on som Sunday or holiday next, or soone after the said St. Mark’s Day and to be left bound or tyed in the Churchyard of the sais Parish Church neere the place wherein a Ewe [*sic*] Tree there now groweth right over against the Church porch there’.

1857: In *Chronicles of the Tombs* by Thomas Joseph Pettigrew p265 the tree is described before the loss of a large part of its bole: ‘At Staverton churchyard, there is one, according to Mr. Polwhele, of many hundred years' standing, it being supposed coeval with the church. The trunk of the tree is now so excavated by age that several people may walk into it together, and there stand erect.

1882: In the March edition of the *Western Antiquary* p186 the yew is referred to ‘as an old and hollow yew-tree standing near unto and opposite the S.W. porch of the ancient fane. It is of great age. Mr. Ewan Christian, the well known architect to the Eccles. Commissioners at Whitehall, a gentleman who has made yew trees his study, affirms in his opinion that it ceased to grow fully 900 years ago’. Information supplied by Rev. E.D. Drake-Brockman, vicar at Staverton © 1931.

1999: Half of the tree has gone and we now see a female yew of two fragments. Physical evidence of the once much larger tree could still be seen in pieces of stump sticking out of the ground, but these will gradually disappear. The larger fragment divides into two, (A1) is a large branch that leans outwards and supported prolific growth, (A2) consists of two fluted branches. The less substantial fragment (B) supports one main branch, with thin but healthy foliage. Girth was 23' 1" at 1' and 22' 9" at between 2' and 3' (just beneath the bulge). Incorporating the decaying section girth was about 25'.

