

## SUSSEX

Close Walks, Midhurst	In 1905 Elwes and Henry in <i>Trees of Great Britain and Ireland</i> found it strange that earlier writers had not noted these yews, of such extraordinary height that they were believed to be “the most remarkable yew grove in Britain or elsewhere.” “The close walks are situated close to the town on the other side of the river, and consist of four avenues of yew trees forming a square of about 150 yards, together with a grove of yews at the upper end which average, as nearly as I could measure them, about 75 feet in height, but some probably exceed 80. These trees are for the most part sound and healthy, though little care has been taken of them, and some have fallen. They are remarkable not only for their great height, which exceeds that of any other yews on record in Europe, but on account of their freedom from large branches, many having clean boles of 20 - 30 feet with a girth of 8-9 feet. They stand so thick together that on an area of about half an acre or less—I made 213 paces in going round it—I counted about 100 trees and saw the stumps of 10 or 12 more, which would probably average over 30 cubic feet to each tree without reckoning the branches.” Is there any of this left?
Crawley	“A splendid churchyard yew.”
Ditchling	“The 13 <sup>th</sup> century church stands by a great yew.” Mee’s <i>King’s England</i> series
Lindfield	Brooke House – in 1896 Lowe described 3 yews, girthing 15', 10' and 10' 4". All were measured at a height of 3'.
Nuthurst	“Its churchyard has some fine yews.” Mee’s <i>King’s England</i> series
Telham	In Mee’s <i>King’s England</i> series is the following: “A little way from the Abbey is Telham, the place to which William came from Hastings to meet Harold, and there is still growing there an ancient yew tree on the site of the Conquerer’s G.H.Q.” Can anyone establish the precise location of this G.H.Q?
Wartling	A churchyard yew, 35 yards NW of the church alongside the Lamb Inn. Girth of about 15ft noted 20 years ago.
West Grinstead	<a href="http://www.madeleinebeard.co.uk/Documenta/shrine.html">www.madeleinebeard.co.uk/Documenta/shrine.html</a> “The room in which we spoke, partially hidden by ancient yew trees, was where the congregation heard Mass before the church was built.....the trees are a constant reminder of the history of hidden Catholicism in this holy place.”
West Thorney	Churchyard yew with a known planting date of 1870.