

EAST CHILTINGTON

unknown dedication

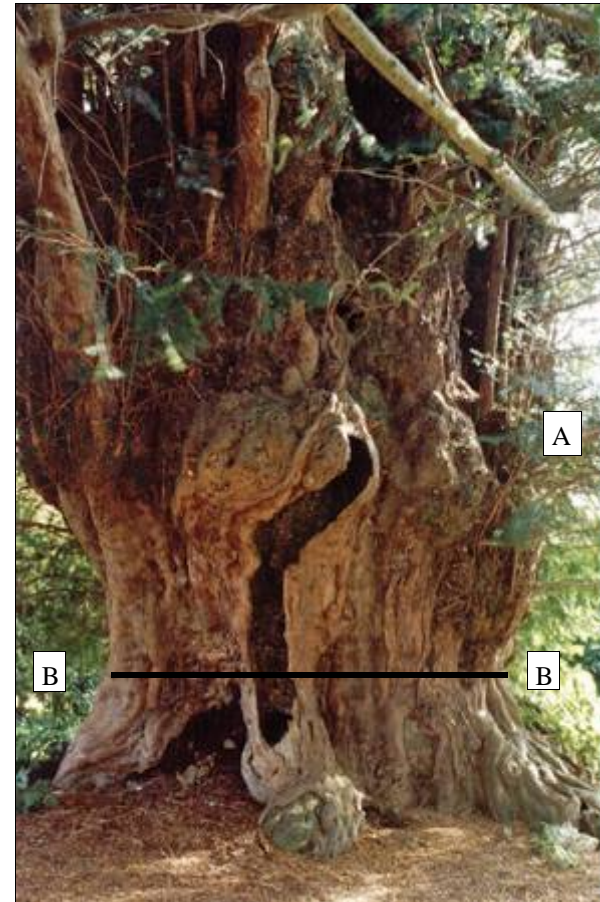
Diocese of Chichester

TQ3698115100

1999: East Chiltington Parish Church stands on a knoll and dates back to the early 12th century. The size of the tree suggests that it was planted one or two centuries later, though it could be coeval with the church building.

In 1911 Horsfield's *Sussex* reported that 'There is a yew south of the church: it has lost its head, and has been filled with two tons of concrete to preserve the rest'. Many yews were similarly mistreated at a time when their ability to grow from within was not generally understood.

In spite of this the female tree was in good health, with thick green foliage on its many new branches, though in the recovering crown foliage was still thin. The cutting of ivy had removed one competitor and added to the impression of a well tended tree.



The surface of the bole seen here is clear of low growth, but on the other side is covered in small twigs. At a height of about 5', half of its bole bulges and from the additional surface area created, many thin branches (A) rise alongside the thicker central branches.

The photograph on the right follows a narrow strand of living wood on its sinuous pathway across a large area of dead sapwood.

Girth:

1994: 13m tall x 207 cm diameter @ 0.4m *The Sussex Tree Book* - Owen Johnson

1999: 21' 6" recorded at the narrowest point (B) Tim Hills

