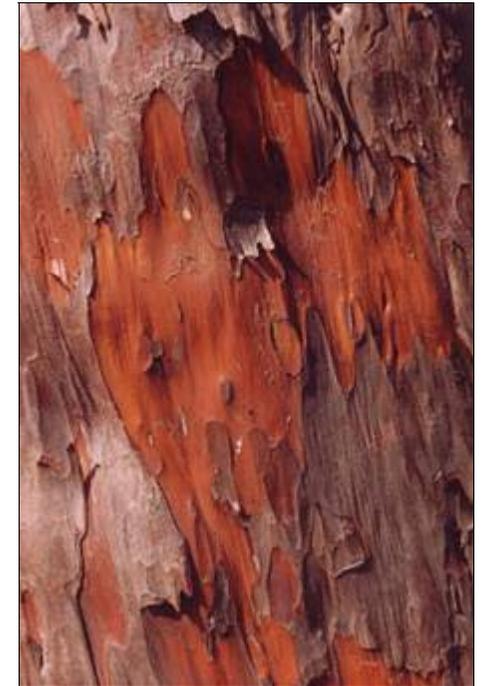
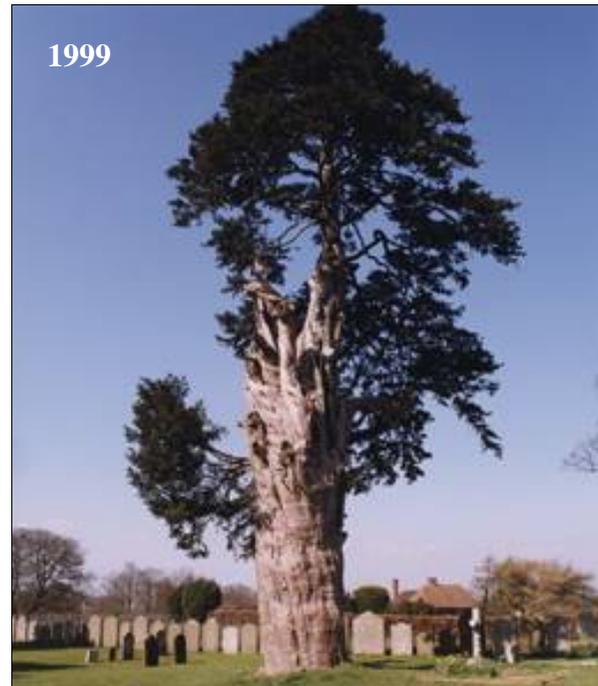
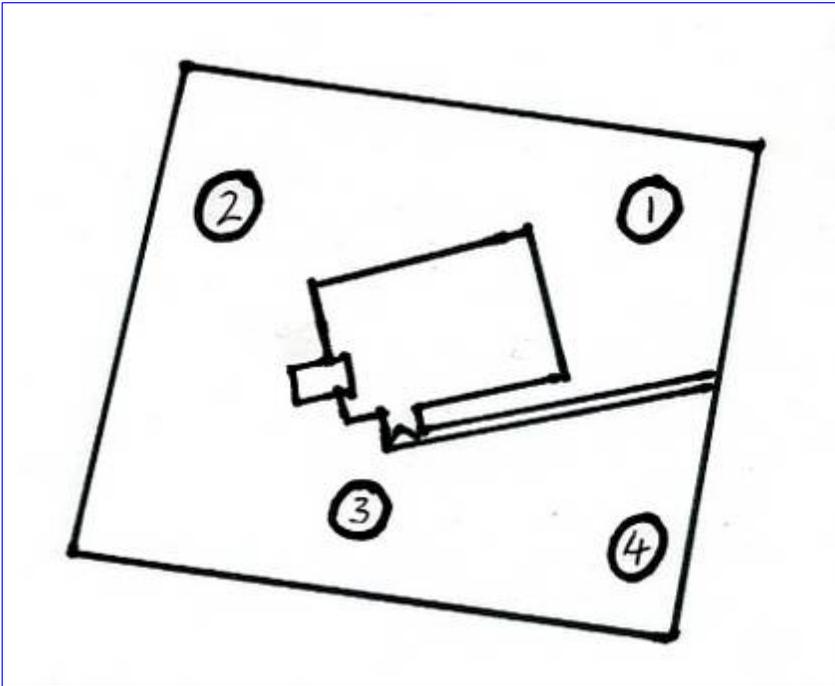


It seems that Elmsted was too remote to attract travellers and botanists in the 19th century, for this previously unrecorded yew site boasts no fewer than 4 exceptional old trees. The two on the north side are female and the two on the south side are male.

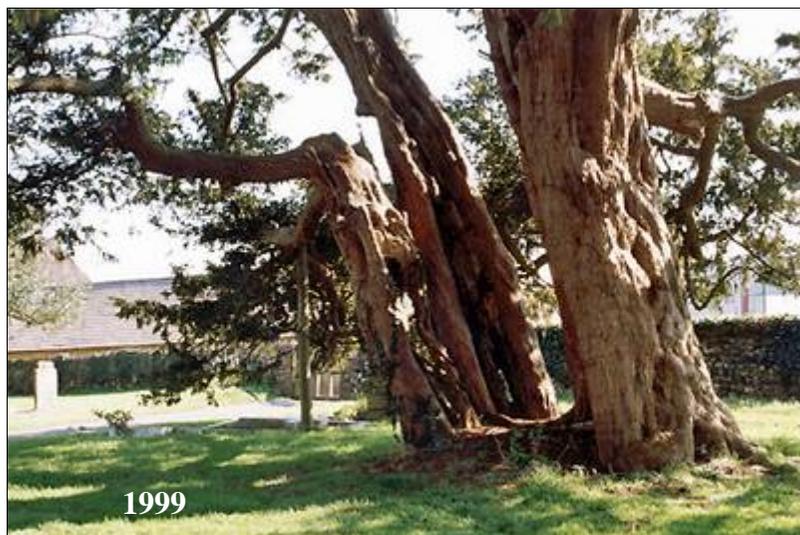
Tree 1, NE of the church, has a monumental straight bole with exceptionally red bark. In 1999 its circumference was 16' 4" at 1', 16' 2" at 3' and 16' 6" at 5'. In 2013 girth had increased to 16' 7" at 1' and 16' 8" at 5'. On the side facing the church the tree is hollowing and internal stems can be seen. Both ivy and elder had germinated inside the tree, and ivy filled much of its canopy.



Tree 2 grows NW. It is hollow, with many internal structures visible. A large section of the bole is dead sapwood, which will decay and alter the shape of the tree. In addition a large limb carries considerable weight which may eventually cause the tree to split and become a tree of fragments. Girth in 1999 was 22' 8" at 1' and 21' at 3'. In 2013 girths of 21' 5" at about 3' and 21' 9" just below the limb were recorded.



Tree 3 grows SSW. It has become 3 fragments with much of the original tree long gone. The leaning fragment was supported on props. In 1999 I recorded a girth of 21' 5" at 1'. In 2013 I measured between 1' and 3' to obtain the tree's minimum girth and recorded 21' 8".



Tree 4 grows SE and is a hollow male split into 2 fragments. Branches dip to a height of 3'/5' above the ground all around this yew. Girth in 1999 was 18' 4" at 1' and 20' 1" at 3'. In 2013 girth was 18' 10" at 1' and 20' 2" at 3'. This excluded section A, a loose piece of old dead sapwood. Photos on this page were taken in 2013.

