

Harting Down
And
North Marden Down

A survey of the yews

Peter Norton January 2013



Introduction

Harting Down, just off the B2141, south of South Harting village, is one of the largest areas of ancient chalk downland owned by the National Trust. It includes a section of the scarp slope of the South Downs, and a series of parallel valleys across the gentle dip slope and lies predominantly on chalk, with a capping of clay-with-flints in places.

The South Downs are characterised by rolling chalk downland with close-cropped turf and dry valleys, and is recognised as one of the most important chalk landscapes in England - it is one of the four main areas of chalk downland in southern England.

It lies within the South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and includes several earthworks and cross-dykes. There is also a 200-hectare common and renowned nature reserve, designated for its chalk grassland and juniper scrub. Its three hills form part of the South Downs Way, and it has a rich blend of habitats with panoramic views.

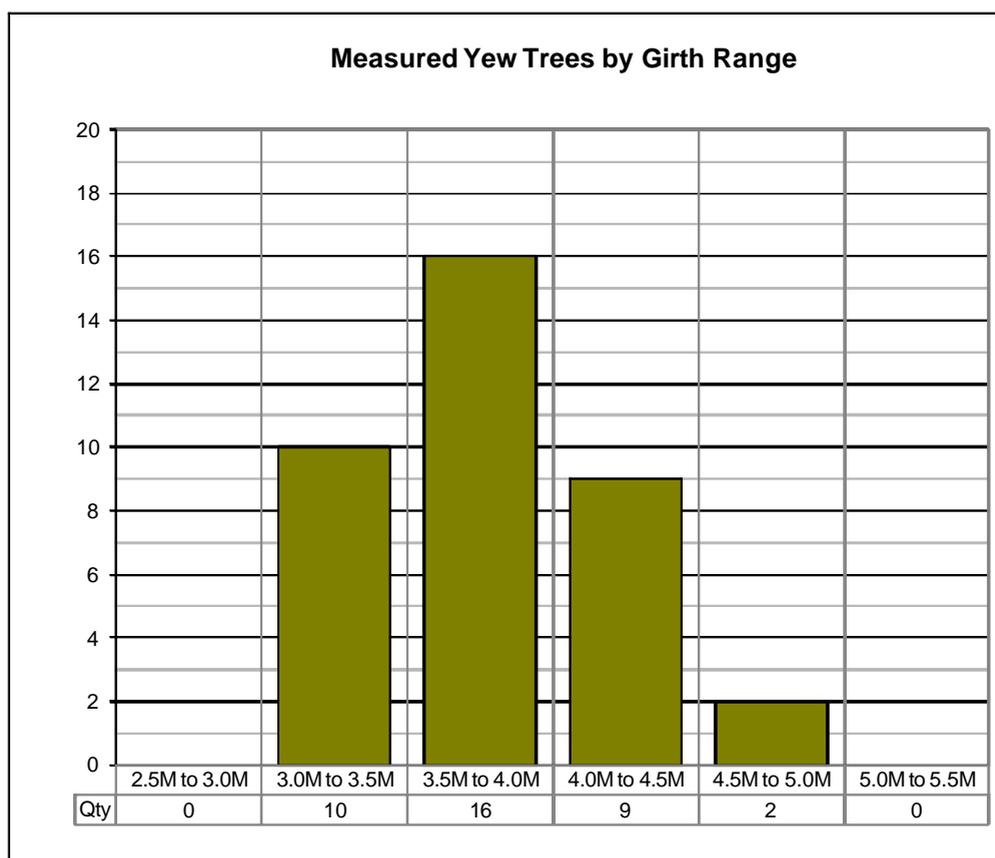
This local nature reserve and Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) has traditionally been grazed by sheep although changes in farming practices has allowed for secondary woodland to establish.

Stands of yew can be found growing on the steep sided slopes of Little Round Down and Whitcombe Bottom (north and south).

North Marden Down, on the southern boundary of Harting Down is comprised of mature yew stands, as well as oak and birch with hazel coppice understory. Other occasional tree/shrub species include white-beam and hawthorn. There are no rights of way through this yew wood but access is allowed via one small gate.

A total of 37 yews have been measured but many younger trees were also observed during three visits. Detailed recordings are found on page 3 followed by photographs of the larger yews.

Apart from the main National Trust car park a small area closer to the yews can be used for parking at SU797169, at the side of a bridleway.



Observations

Grid Loc (SU)	Area	Sex	Girth			Height measured	Comments
			Ft	Ins	Mtrs		
80171738	Little Round Down	Female	11	4	3.45		
80171744	Little Round Down	Male			0.00		Not measured - small stand of 11 trees
	Little Round Down				0.00		Not measured
80281736	Little Round Down	Male	14	1	4.29		
80281736	Little Round Down	Male	12	9	3.89		Evidence of debarking
	Little Round Down				0.00		General view
80311741	Little Round Down	Male	12	10	3.91		Evidence of debarking
80371733	Little Round Down	Female	15		4.57		yew has collapsed
	Little Round Down				0.00		General view
80361750	Little Round Down	Male	14	2	4.32		Evidence of debarking
80361752	Little Round Down	Female	12	7	3.84		
8002517460	Whitcombe Bottom (south)	Female	10	8	3.25	1' from top of slope	
8001117480	Whitcombe Bottom (south)	Female			0.00		Not measured
7999417479	Whitcombe Bottom (south)	Female	11	11	3.63	Root crown	
	Whitcombe Bottom (south)				0.00		General view
7992817491	Whitcombe Bottom (south)	Male	10	10	3.30	Root crown	Evidence of debarking
7989417512	Whitcombe Bottom (south)	Male	10	9	3.28	Root crown	
	Whitcombe Bottom (south)				0.00		General view
7985017449	Whitcombe Bottom (south)	Male	11	9	3.58	1' 6"	Twin trunk
	Whitcombe Bottom (south)				0.00		Not measured
7997517649	Whitcombe Bottom (north)	Female	12		3.66	Root crown	
	Whitcombe Bottom (north)				0.00		General view
7992717785	Whitcombe Bottom (north)	Female	13	1	3.99	Root crown	
7990917801	Whitcombe Bottom (north)	Female	12	9	3.89	1' 6"	
	Whitcombe Bottom (north)				0.00		General view
7985617836	Whitcombe Bottom (north)	Male	11	9	3.58	Root crown	
7983617822	Whitcombe Bottom (north)	Female	13		3.96	Root crown	Sprawling
7979917839	Whitcombe Bottom (north)	Female	13	4	4.06	Root crown	
	Whitcombe Bottom (north)				0.00		General view
7994917593	Whitcombe Bottom (south)	Female	12	2	3.71	2' from top of mound	
	Whitcombe Bottom (south)				0.00		General view
7992817538	Whitcombe Bottom (south)	Female	12	9	3.89	Root crown	
8002717003	North Marden Downs	Female	11	8	3.56	1'	Excludes the smaller yew
8002316996	North Marden Downs	Male			0.00		Not measured
8016816888	North Marden Downs	Male	14	7	4.44	Root crown	Heaved
8014716854	North Marden Downs	Female			0.00		Not measured
8016216813	North Marden Downs	Female	10	8	3.25	1' 6"	
8020616791	North Marden Downs	Male	12	1	3.68	Root crown	Severe debarking
8028716679	North Marden Downs	Female	11		3.35	Root crown	
8030916711	North Marden Downs	Female	15	6	4.72	Root crown	Flow of new wood
8030516714	North Marden Downs	Male			0.00		Not measured
	North Marden Downs				0.00		General view
8028016566	North Marden Downs	Female	11	1	3.38	Root crown	
8029316552	North Marden Downs	Female	11	5	3.48	Root crown	
	North Marden Downs				0.00		General view
8033016681	North Marden Downs				0.00		Not measured
8034216699	North Marden Downs	Female	13	5	4.09	Root crown	
8034316765	North Marden Downs	Female	11		3.35	2'	
8034116747	North Marden Downs	Male	13	5	4.09	1' from top of slope	
8033516746	North Marden Downs	Female	14	4	4.37	Root crown	
8032416774	North Marden Downs	Female	13	7	4.14	Root crown	
8032216723	North Marden Downs	Female	10	3	3.12	Root crown	Hollowing
8030516743	North Marden Downs	Female	12	11	3.94	1' from top of slope	
8027716792	North Marden Downs	Male	11	7	3.53	1' from top of slope	
8028716788	North Marden Downs	Male	14	4	4.37	1' from top of slope	

Little Round Down

SU80171738

Female

11' 4"



SU80281736

Male 14' 1"



SU80281736

Male

12' 9"



General view of smaller yews



SU80311741

Male

12' 10"



SU80371733

Female

15'



SU80361750

Male

14' 2"



SU80361752

Female

12' 7"



Whitcombe Bottom (south slope)

SU7999417479

Female

11' 11"



General view of the younger yews



SU7992817491

Male

10' 10"



SU7985017449

Male

11' 9"



Whitcombe Bottom (north slope)

SU7997517649

Female

12'

General view of the yews



SU7992717785

Female

13' 1"

SU7990917801

Female

12' 9"



SU7983617822

Female

13'

SU7979917839

Female

13' 4"



North Marden Downs

SU8002717003 Female 11' 8"



SU8016816888 Male 14' 7"



SU8020616791 Male 12' 1"



SU8030916711 Female 15' 6"



SU8034216699 Female 13' 5"



SU8034116747 Male 13' 5"



SU8033516746

Female

14' 4"



SU8032416774

Female

13' 7"



SU8030516743

Female

12' 11"



SU8028716788

Male

14' 4"

