

In 1880 The Worcestershire Naturalists Club made the following observation: 'In the churchyard is a grand old hollow fissured Yew Tree, 21 feet in girth, the age of which was a subject of discussion, but Mr Lees, who had examined numerous yews, hollow ones being uncommon, considered it to be at least 500 years old'.

In the 1990s Andrew Morton described it as being 'of great age, probably dating from at least the Norman period'. *Tree Heritage of the British Isles*



The tree is seen on the left in 1997. Some time after 1880 the 'grand old hollow tree' must have split into two fragments. Only one of these survives to the present day, blackened by fire or smoke, yet bearing several branches, each carrying sufficient quantities of green foliage to enable the tree to make a full recovery. This may be a slow process, but there is no reason why, given time, this shell should not thicken and again become a strong vigorous tree. The dead fragment has been neatly sawn off. A girth of 16' 10" was recorded around the base of both fragments.



Revisiting in 2013 was to find that all of the long spindly branches had been removed to encourage the new growth at the top of the bole. It would appear to have been an inspired decision.



Little Hereford's younger yew was also recorded in 2013. It is a fine looking tree with a healthy crown. The area beneath its branches was being used as storage. Girth was 13' 4" at 1'.



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