

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*

1997: Some time after 1880 the 'grand old hollow tree' 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.

Edwin Lees in the mid 1800s considered the yew to be at least 500 years old while Morton's suggestion of it dating from the Norman period makes it anything from 850 to 950 years. Considering both of these would give a range today between 650 and 950 years old, an altogether reasonable estimate for this tree.

2013: A decision was made to remove all the long spindly branches and let the tree concentrate its effort at survival from new growth at the top of the bole. It would appear to have been an inspired decision.

