

In 1899 *Woolhope Transactions* noted 'the fine yew in the churchyard'.

Mee's *The King's England* was more forthcoming in 1938, describing 'an amazing veteran, a vigorous yew with a spread of branches 70' across and fitted with a seat inside its 30' hollow, where 7 people may sit and shelter'.

1998 and 2011: The Much Marcle Yew it is now rightly recognised as the 'magnificent, fully crowned tree' described in Morton's *Tree Heritage of Britain and Ireland*. Inclusion in Thomas Pakenham's *Meetings with Remarkable Trees* has led to greater numbers of people enjoying the pleasure of visiting this great tree. It is female and grows south of the church, where its spreading branches are carried on a frame constructed in Victorian times. Similar structures are found at Bentley in Hampshire and Doveridge in Derbyshire.

Girth:

1882: 28' 6" at 5' John Duncumb (Meredith)

1899: 28' 9" at 5' from the ground - Woolhope

1953: 30' 1" at 4' 6" - Church visitors book

1959: Mitchell measurement of 30' 6" - presumably at 5'

1989: 29' at 5' *The Sacred Yew* (1994)

2006: 30' 11" at 4' 6" - Tim Hills

2014: 27' 3" at 1', the tree's minimum girth. Nails had been hammered in at about this height all round the tree. - Peter Norton

An age of 1500 seems to have become accepted for this tree. This originated in a certificate issued in the 1990s by the Conservation Foundation. It is however only an estimate, and the tree is probably much younger.



