

Slices of Yew and Stump Ring Counts from Ranscombe Farm Reserve

The following samples were obtained from the branches of four yews recorded from the above reserve.

Each slice has been polished, and ring counts achieved using a light source and a x30 loupe. Thanks to Paul Harrison for the photographs and to David May for the ring count information.



This sample slice obtained from a branch-stump from Mill Hill yew 1 (see Ranscombe Farm Reserve article 2 p4).

Circumference: 1 foot 1¼ inches

Ring count: 130 to 135 + 30 to 35 + for the sapwood + another 20 for rotting once dead.

This sample slice obtained from a branch-stump from Mill Hill yew III (see Ranscombe Farm Reserve article 2 p5).

Circumference: 1 foot 5¾ inches.

Ring count: 130 to 135 + 60 for the sapwood + another 20 for rotting once dead.



This sample slice obtained from a branch-stump from Site I yew (see Ranscombe Farm Reserve article 1 p 3).

Circumference: 1 foot 2¼ inches

Ring count: 130 to 135 + 30 for the sapwood.



This sample slice obtained from a branch-stump from Site I yew (see Ranscombe Farm Reserve article 1 p 6).

Circumference: 1 foot 2½ inches

Ring count: 130 to 135 + 40 for the sapwood.



Ranscombe Farm Reserve Stump Ring Counts

Pre 1640 boundary yews (see Ranscombe Farm Reserve article 2, page 3)

The storm of 1987 afforded us the opportunity to carry out the following ring counts on the stump of a yew damaged at the time, as well as another which is not referred to anywhere else in these reports. This is believed to have been felled for its commercial value in 1989. The results of the exercise raises doubts about the ages of the yews considered to be pre 1640 boundary yews.

Grid Ref: TQ7001767483 Stump girth: 9 ft 7 inches Height: 2 ft 8 inches Ring Count = 280
Heart wood well preserved.



Lastly the stump of the yew felled for its commercial value.

Grid Ref: TQ6990267516

Stump girth: 10 ft 2 inches

Height: 2 ft

Best ring count obtained (over an area 7 inches across) = 120



As can be seen the heart wood is lost.





My thanks again to David May for all his assistance during this final exercise.

This record has been created by Clifford Hansford
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