

The only part of this church older than the 1673 tower is 'one Norman looking window high up at the east end of the north aisle-probably transplanted from the old church'. (Pevsner)

The 1848 *Topographical Dictionary of England* noted its 'fine old yew-tree'.

In 1852 *The British Gazetteer, Political, Commercial, Ecclesiastical, and Historical* by Benjamin Clarke reported that 'in the churchyard there is a remarkably fine yew-tree, which is 28 feet in circumference'.

When Swanton saw the yew in 1952 he noted that there were cables and iron rods keeping the branches together. He thought that an encircling fence should be considered for the tree's protection.

1999: There is only one gap in the bole of this hollow male yew, too narrow to allow entry into the tree's centre. From all sections of its vast bole is an outpouring of large and small branches. A section of dead wood crosses the hollow centre before being covered with new growth.

Attempts made in the past to arrest the natural outward lean of the tree are still visible, though the thick steel wire is gradually becoming enveloped in new wood. There were also marks where wire has been removed; these too will heal.



Girth:

1852: 28 feet in circumference - Benjamin Clark

1880: 28' 6" at 18" - Lowe *The Yew Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*

1952: 28' at its narrowest about 1' from the ground - Swanton *The Yew Trees of England*

1997: 11m tall x 282cm diameter at 0m. - Owen Johnson *Trees of Sussex*

1999: 29' 6" at the ground - Tim Hills

2012: 29' 5" at the ground with a slightly undulating tape (January) - Peter Norton

Photos below - Peter Norton 2012





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