

The Tarlton Yews

Gloucestershire

This narrow wooded copse is found alongside a minor road a few miles west of Cirencester and close to the village of Tarlton.

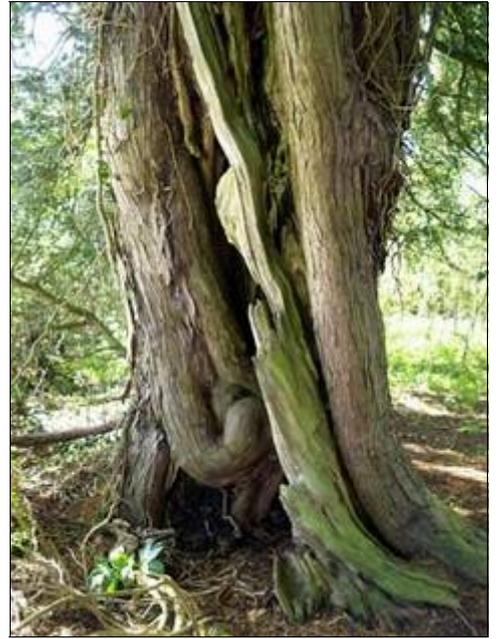
The thirteen yews recorded here are spread over a distance of about 200 metres, with two more further along the road, suggesting that this feature is the remnant of a once longer line of yews. Several of these trees grow close to each other, and it is possible that some were planted alongside already well established yews to form a boundary hedge.

O/S map 163:ST 952 995

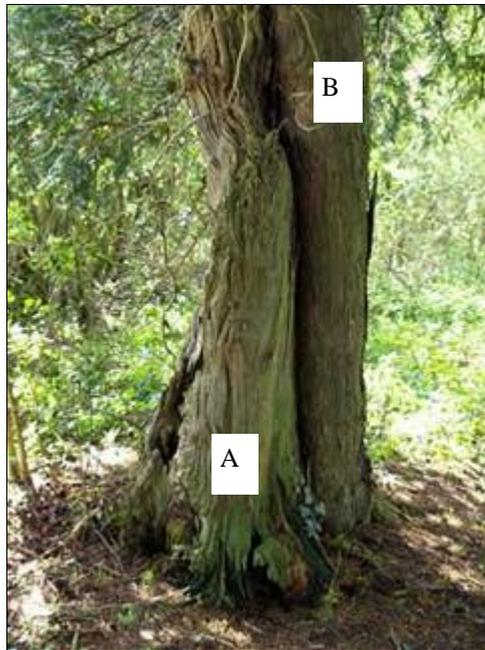
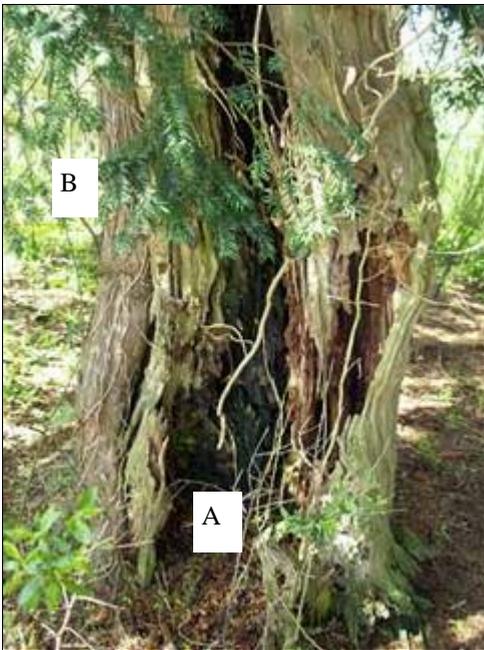


The trees are recorded east to west

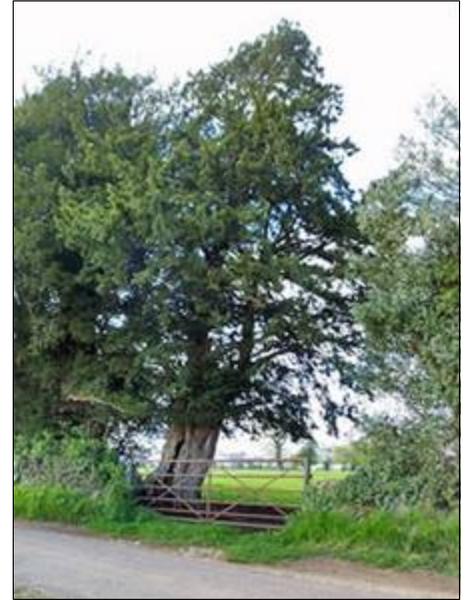
Tree 1: Male, 11' 11" at 2' (over ivy) in 2012. New wood is wrapping around the decaying original.



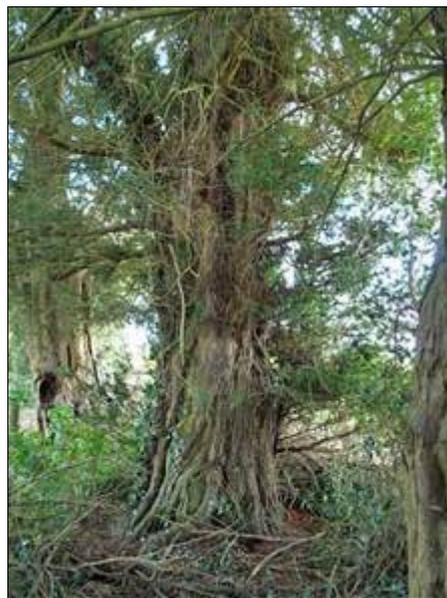
Tree 2: Close to tree 1, female, 7' 4" at 2' in 2012. The original tree (A) is decaying, but new growth is well established to one side of the old shell (B).



Tree 3: Male, approximately 13' at 5' in 2002. Its large dead sapwood shell acts as a frame for new external growth, while on the inside (A) is an internal stem.



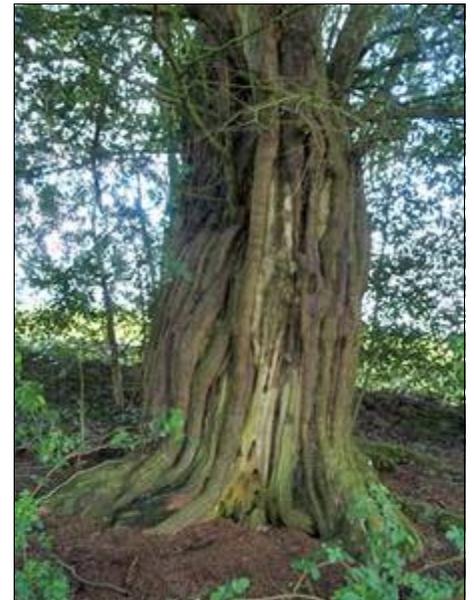
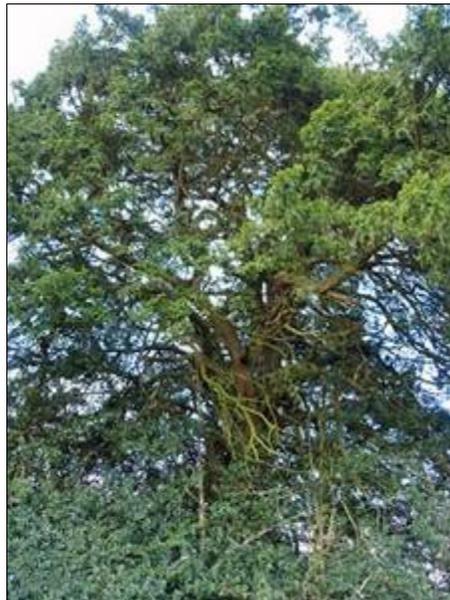
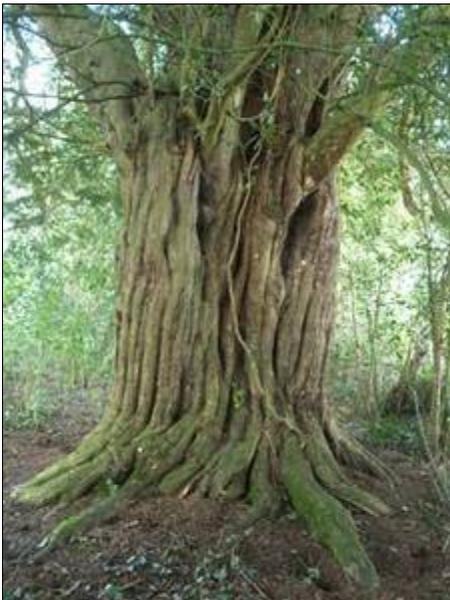
Tree 4: Female, growing about 4 metres from the third tree. 10' 4" at 5' in 2002 and 12' 8" at 2' in 2012. It appears solid, but the decaying sapwood at A is thin and will soon break down, allowing the crumbling heartwood to spill out and create a hollow tree.



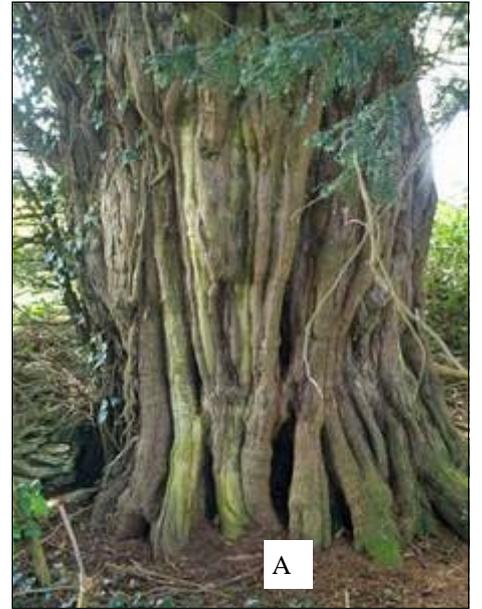
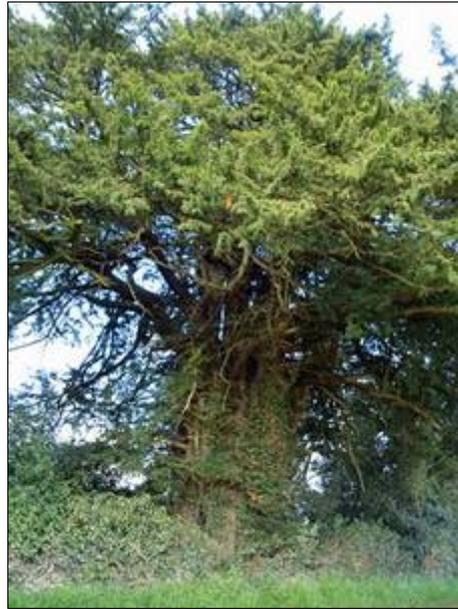
Tree 5: Male, growing about 4 metres from tree 4. It is much rotted and broken, particularly on the side facing the road. What were once internal stems now appear on the outside of the tree.



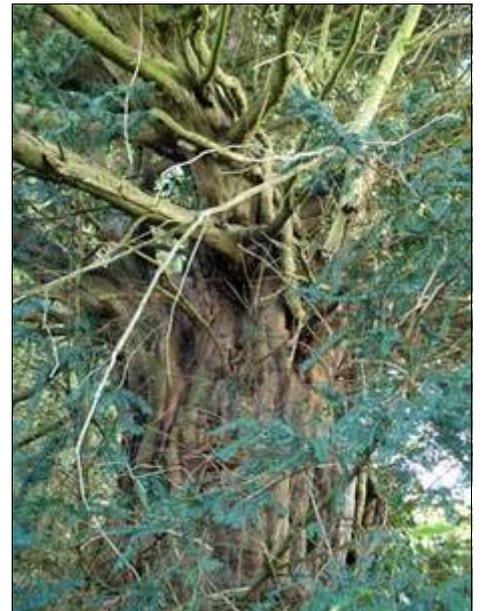
Tree 6: Female, 13' at 5' and 13' 7" at 2' in 2002; 14' 4" above the spreading roots in 2012. Live wood on all but 1' of the bole's circumference.



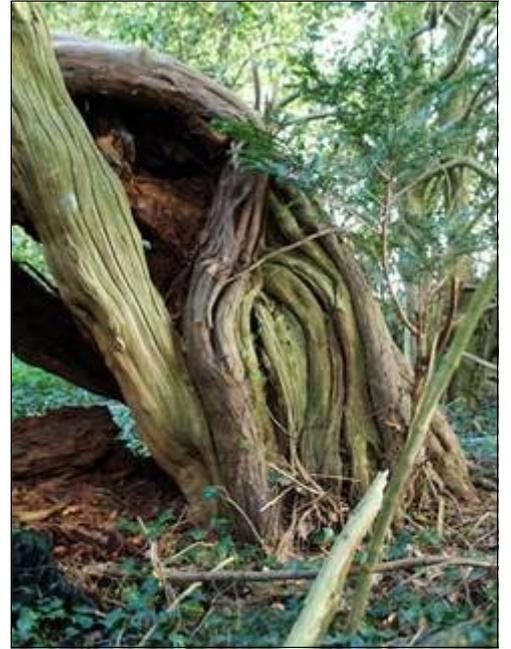
Tree 7: Male, 17' 5" at 5' in 2002 and 16' 10" at 2' in 2012. Two main branches and numerous smaller ones rise from a solid looking bole at about 10'. Above a height of 15' are the marks where many branches have been removed. At A is a hollow section, in which internal growth could be seen.



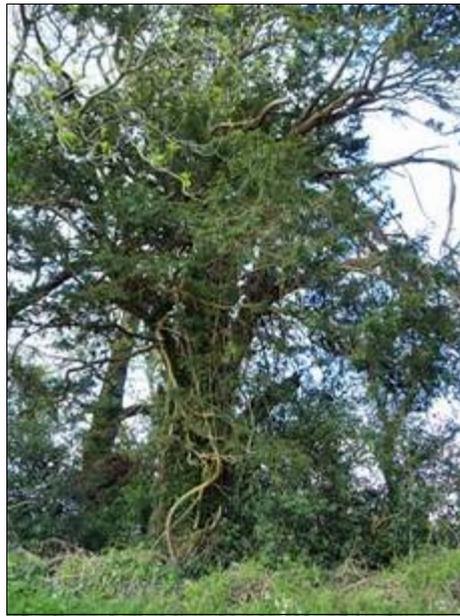
Tree 8: Male, 17' 8" at the base in 2002. New growth rises from the edge of a large stump.



Tree 9: 7' 5" at 5' in 2002. By 2012 the tree had leaned right over and now rests on the ground. Vigorous growth in its fallen canopy.

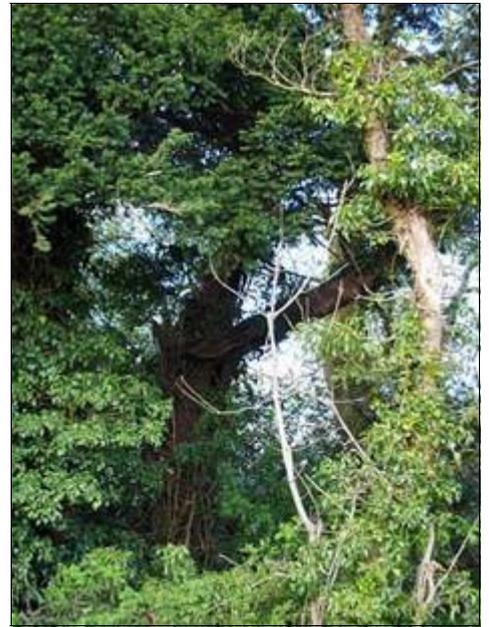


Tree 10: Male, 11' 2" at 4' in 2012. It grows 4 metres from tree 9. Two main branches.

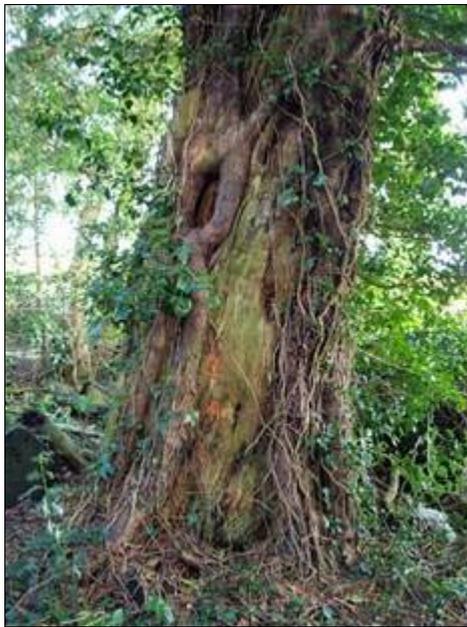


Trees 11,12 and 13 grow ten metres further along the road.

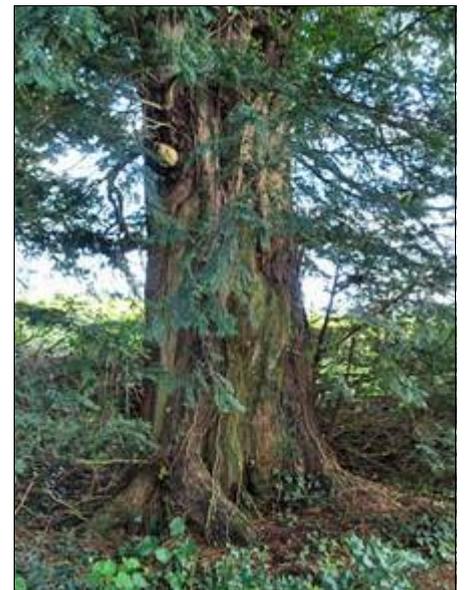
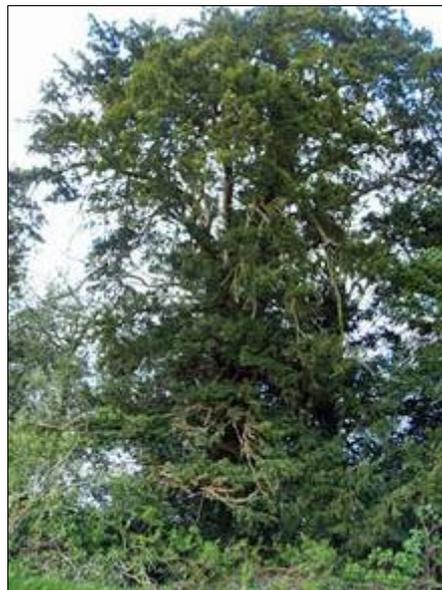
Tree 11: 8' 7" at 5' in 2002 and 8' 9" at 2' in 2012. The few slithers of new growth on this old shell develop into several small branches.



Tree 12: A hollowing shell measuring 12' 1" at 3' in 2002. It has been cut off at a height of 15/18', with removed branches lying on the ground.



Tree 13: Male, 9' 9" at 5' in 2002. Becoming hollow.



Two yews grow further along the road, one with a girth of about 14', the 2nd much smaller.

Further research into the history of this area might reveal a connection with the ancient Hailey Wood yew, which grows only a mile to the north of this site. Leading up to this remarkable male tree is a planted avenue of 15 tall young yews, all of which appeared to be female.

