

Idsworth Common

A survey of the yews

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Introduction

The survey was carried out in 2012 on a strip of ancient woodland, sandwiched between the Forestry Commissions' Havant Thicket and the Rowlands Castle to Hordean road. It is part owned by East Hampshire District Council.

The wood contains a remarkable number of old yews with some forming small groves. The trees are much older than those in Havant Thicket, from which it is separated by a substantial woodbank. Other species noted were ash, birch, sycamore, Turkey oak and sweet chestnut. Rhododendron has recently established itself in the central area and is spreading.

The wood is divided within its length into Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) in the southwest strip and Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) in the northeast.

Investigations have revealed that this small wooded area was once part of Idsworth Common and in turn part of the former parish of Idsworth which was lost when the new parish of Rowlands Castle was formed in 1932.

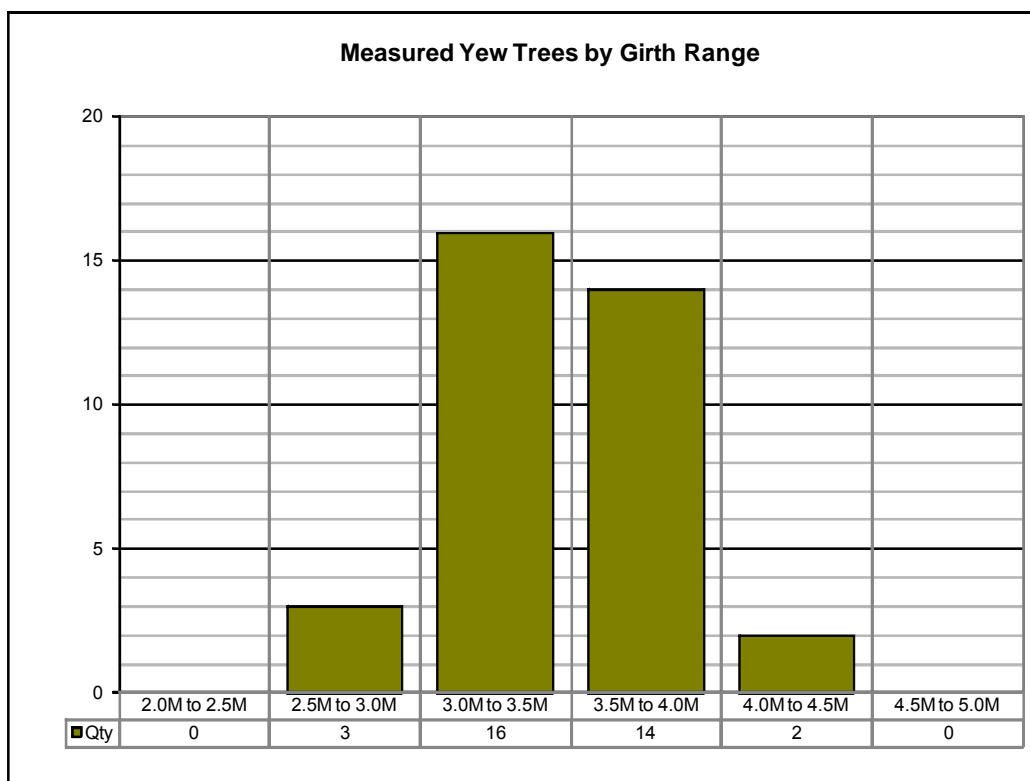
Idsworth Common, along with other Commons in the area, was enclosed under an Act of Parliament in 1812 and an enclosure award of 1816. This common lay entirely outside the Forest of Bere, although there is documentary evidence that the Bishop of Winchester's (Middle Ages) hunting chase of Havant Thicket (Havant Chase) was once part of the Forest.

Idsworth Common was almost certainly partly or entirely wood-pasture and would have been, prior to its enclosure, subject to rights of common held by the tenants of the manor of Idsworth.

The substantial woodbank also formed the old parish boundary and at one time may have been the boundary of the Bishops hunting chase as there is evidence of a ditch on the Havant Thicket side, designed to keep the deer inside the Chase.

The road (B2149) which runs parallel to the surveyed woodland dates from around the time of the enclosure and there may have been an original track which used to run along the Common/Parish boundary.

Many yews were observed during this survey of which 35 had their girths recorded and are featured in this article.



Observations

Off road parking can be found along Manor Lodge road (B2149) at NGR SU723102.

Grid Loc (SU)	Sex	Girth			Height measured	Comments
		Ft	Ins	Mtrs		
7203710746	Female	11	1	3.3782	1'	Possible deer debarking
7202910744	Female	11	2	3.4036	1	
7194910768	Female			0.0000		Many side limbs, no measurements
7191810822	Female	10	3	3.1242	Root crown	
7196410806	Female	10	2	3.0988	Root crown	
7194110813	Female	12	10	3.9116	Root crown	9 stems from a 4' break of crown (Small group of 3)
7194110813	Female	10	3	3.1242	Root crown	
7194110813	Female	9		2.7432	1'	
7188610850	Female	10	5	3.1750	1'	
7187110859	Male	11	3	3.4290	Root crown	
7187010874	Male	10	3	3.1242	Root crown	
7186810882		9	9	2.9718	2'	Measured higher to avoid lower burrs
7190610892	Female	10	8	3.2512	1'	Columnar yew
7191110916	Female	10	8	3.2512	1'	
7189510968	Male	11	11	3.6322	1' 6"	A girth of 13' 2" at the ground was discounted due to branch growth.
7188010964	Female	9	9	2.9718	Root crown	
7188010957	Female	9	11	3.0226	Root crown	
7181910988	Male	10	11	3.3274	1'	
7179411005	Male	12	4	3.7592	Root crown	
EHDC						
7173811060	Female	11	10	3.6068	About 1' 6"	Undulating tape to miss side limbs
7168211102	Male	10	9	3.2766	Close to ground	Unnecessary tree management
7163811162	Female	13	5	4.0894	Root crown	2' 6" break of crown, sprawling - grouping of 3
7163811162	Male	11	2	3.4036	Root crown	
7163011208	Male	12	7	3.8354	Root crown	Excludes side limb
7158811212	Male	12	8	3.8608	2'	At least 13 branches are embedded in the ground. Noted a sooty mould deposit on one branch, possibly caused by scale insects releasing honeydew to which the mould spores are attracted.
7158111215	Male	11	10	3.6068	1' 6"	
7157611195	Male	10	2	3.0988	1'	
7153911231	Male	12	4	3.7592	1'	Undulating tape to gain minimum girth. 3 stems emerging from a 2' break of crown.
7149011279	Male	12	7	3.8354	Root crown	
7148511294	Male	13	9	4.1910	Root crown	
7148311323	Male	12	3	3.7338	1' 6"	
7147411338	Female	10	2	3.0988	Root crown	
7153211338	Male	11	8	3.5560	1'	
7157411370	Male	11	11	3.6322	Root crown	Visible from the road, has much epicormic growth
7144411360	Male	12	5	3.7846	Root crown	Undulating tape but large side limb has exaggerated the girth.
7141811353	Female	12	5	3.7846		Undulating tape plus one side limb omitted.
7145411317	Female					3 healthy layerings from this small tree

All measurements are taken from the root crown, unless otherwise stated.

SU7203710746

Female 11' 1" at 1'



SU7194110813

Female 12' 10"



SU7187110859

Male 11' 3"



SU7189510968

Male 11' 11" at 1' 6"



SU7181910988

Male 10' 11" at 1'



SU7179411005

Male 12' 4"



SU7173811060

Female 11' 10" at 1' 6"



SU7163811162

Female 13' 5"



SU7163811162

Male 11' 2"



SU7163011208

Male 12' 7"



SU7158811212

Male 12' 8" at 2'



Sooty mould deposit on one branch



SU7158111215

Male 11' 10" at 1' 6"



SU7153911231

Male 12' 4" at 1'



SU7149011279

Male 12' 7"



SU7148511294

Male 13' 9"



SU7148311323

Male 12' 3" at 1' 6"



SU7147411338

Female 10' 2"



SU7153211338

Male 11' 8" at 1'



SU7157411370

Male 11' 11"



SU7144411360

Male 12' 5"



SU7141811353

Female 12' 5"

