

# Yews of the Ranscombe Farm Reserve

## Part 2

by Cliff Hansford

These photos show the aftermath of the storm of 1987 which destroyed all but one of the six pre 1640 boundary embankment yews. These once formed a distinct line adjacent to the existing footpath. Accessible to the public at TQ6992267526



Photo 1: Looking up the embankment at the only remaining yew, with a sizeable fallen beech lying next to it. It is female with an estimated girth of 12 feet. The lower 12 feet of the bole looks the worse for wear. General foliage is good.

Photo2 looks down the embankment. In the right of the picture are two limbs from the fallen beech tree which could so easily have brought down the yew.



A stump is all that remains of this yew. 'A 'measurement' of the girth suggests 12 ft.



Another of the stricken yews.



The salvaged remains of a fourth yew. See article 3.

Post Mill yews (I, II & III). Three yews at a site thought once to have been inhabited. About 200 metres away it is believed there stood a post mill circa 1200/1300. Permission is required to access these yews.



Yews, from left to right, I (northwest), III (south) & II (east).

Below is a view of yew I.



Yew I, found at TQ7015067488, is female with a girth of 10 ft 4 inches. Height was approximately 60 feet. At a height of 9 feet the bole separates into nine sizeable limbs. There are no visible signs of hollowing. Quite a number of lower limbs have been removed. No layering is apparent. The canopy is quite thin.



Yew II is male with a girth of 12 feet 5 inches at 3 feet. It is the largest girthed of the 3 yews. Height: approx 60 feet, canopy sparse. At 4 feet from the ground the bole separates into two main trunks. There is much fire damage to this side of this yew.



Left: westerley view

Right: easterly view showing many broken (hanging) and dead branches. Also, a clear indication of its sparse canopy and criss-crossing branches.





Yew II: (southerly side)  
View of bracket fungi, growing 4 feet from ground, as yet unidentified

Yew III is in a southerly location in relation to yews I & II. It is female with a girth of 8 ft 10 inches, measured at ground level. Height was approximately 50 ft. One limb projects from its single trunk about three feet above the ground. The yew has seen better days: at ground level areas of the lower trunk appear to be rotting, and the canopy is sparse.



West Kent Downs Conservation Trust (WKDCT) Yew at TQ6950667834. A female yew with a girth of 12 ft. at ground level and a height of approximately 60 ft. One large limb, 29.5 ft long, has broken off from one of the three main trunks. A number of small lower branches have been removed. Majority of foliage is on the western side of trunk, with the eastern side quite sparse. No hollowing apparent.



View looking south westerly, showing the full extent of the broken limb.

West Kent Downs Conservation Trust (WKDCT) Yew II stands approximately 60 ft to the south of yew I. It is female with a girth of 8 ft 6 inches and a height of approximately 50 ft. Canopy is healthy, though thinning.

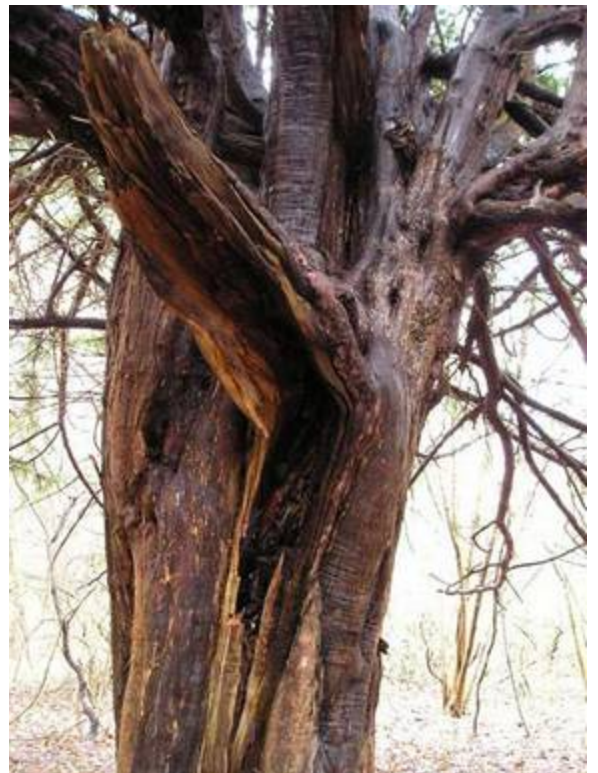


View showing showing both yews I & II

West Kent Downs Conservation Trust (WKDCT) Yew III is at TQ6939767820, It is female with a girth of 9 ft 4 inches. A large limb has broken away from main bole. Signs of fire damage can be seen in the area of break. Quite a number of limbs have been reduced in length (not sure why, as there is very little locally that they could have interfered with). Canopy quite sparse, especially at lower level. There are no signs of natural hollowing.



Complex formation of the upper limbs/branches.



Area of fire damage at the point where limb has broken.





View of trunk indicating possible signs of animal activity.



A view of what appears to be an internal root.

This record has been created by Clifford Hansford  
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