

West Sussex Yews – Stansted Forest

Stansted Park and Forest is situated in the county of Sussex on the border of Hampshire, just to the east of Rowlands Castle village. Stansted Forest is comprised of roughly 230 hectares of woodland growing to the west of Stansted Park and forms the south western edge of the West Sussex Landscape; Western Downs.

In the medieval period the Earls of Arundel had a hunting lodge on the site, surrounded by a vast forested area recorded as in use for hunting and for timber production. Changes in ownership over the years resulted in a new house being built in the 17th century (1686) when the formal gardens were laid out. It is possible that the central avenue through Stansted Forest was created at the same time. In 1804 the estate was sold and it is said the new owner replanted the whole site, including the forest. 1900 saw the destruction, by fire, of the Elizabethan house and all its historical records. The new house was built in 1901 on the same footprint and since 1983 the House and Estate have been owned by Stansted Park Foundation, an independent charitable trust set up by the 10th Earl of Bessborough.

Today the forest is a mixture of woods and small grassy paddocks, still retaining the character of the medieval hunting forest, while large scale sweet chestnut coppicing continues to be carried out.

The estate is crisscrossed with public footpaths and visitors are welcome in the forested area (to the west of the park) but are asked to remain on the paths and rides. This is necessary in order to protect the wildlife, flora and fauna found within the planted areas, and some areas are closed to the public. Please also respect notices of closure due to temporary forest works. Public car parks are open until 5pm and refreshments are available at the Pavilion Tea Room in the Walled Gardens. <http://www.stanstedpark.co.uk/>

The visit to the forest was arranged with the estate office for the 26th April and we were warmly greeted by the Head Forester who gave us a map of the area indicating the position of yews. Some 50 yews were recorded and are detailed on page 2. Many grow on the hanger to the north west of the forest, a mixture of some notable yews but mostly a colonization of young specimens. Note that the map on page 3 does not contain all the unmeasured yews noted along the hanger.

The form of the trees notably divided into two types:

1. Those with a trunk and a break of crown above.
- 2 Those that broke in a multi-limbed form below or just above ground level.

This may be a result of former 'open forest' type woodland in which the latter grew, allowing the young tree of type 2 to spread in all directions, not being forced by adjacent trees to reach for light.

The remaining three pages have illustrations of some of the more notable yews along with embedded links to Street Map which indicate their precise location.

Table of recordings

Grid Loc (SU)	Photo #	Sex	Girth			Height measured	Comments
			Ft	Ins	Mtrs		
7451210704	2793 thru 2795	Male	12	8	3.8608	Root Crown	Reduced drip line
7386510817	2796	Female	9	10	2.9972	Root Crown	4 leaders from a 12ft bole
7394010721	2797 thru 2799	Female	12	7	3.8354	Root Crown	Evidence of fallow deer debarking, now occluding well
7395010683	2800	Female	11	4	3.4544	Root Crown	
7448811092		Female			0.0000	Young - not measured	Evidence of a wood mouse larder - Hundreds of broken yew seeds near base of tree
7450111129	2801 thru 2805	Female	15	8	4.7752	Ground	Tree has 6 large side limbs of which 3 have been cut plus 3 central leaders
7428611091	2806 thru 2809	Male	13	1	3.9878	1'	Threaded thru at about 1ft to miss several side limbs.
7430411106		Female			0.0000	Young - not measured	
7423111137	2810 thru 2813	Male	14	8	4.4704	Root Crown	
7418511131	2814 thru 2816	Male	15	6	4.7244	Root Crown	3 vertical and 3 side limbs - 5 root layers + evidence of deer debarking
7397911039		Male			0.0000	Young - not measured	
7452611267	2817 thru 2820	Female	11	10	3.6068	1'	Measured at about 1ft to miss lower limbs - 10 layers with 3 succesful new trees
7420811289		Male			0.0000	Young - not measured	
7478411206	2821	Male	11	1	3.3782	Root Crown	
7539810755	2822 thru 2824	Female	11	8	3.5560	Root Crown	Also measured at 3ft and 10' 3" was recorded
7513811090	2825 thru 2826	Female	14	1	4.2926	Root Crown	
7517011138	2828	Male	8	7	2.6162	3'	2 young male yews - one has grown close to an older oak which in turn is coalescing the yew
7516011149	2829 thru 2831	Male	11	4	3.4544	Root Crown	Group of 4
7506811139	2832 thru 2834	Female			0.0000		Not measured as least two trees having 6 layers from one
7503211151	2836	Male	14	2	4.3180	Root Crown	
7503211151		Male			0.0000	Young - not measured	
7502011168	2837	Female			0.0000	Young - not measured	2 female and one female and one male on opposite side of the drive and not photographed
7503011238	2838 thru 2839	Male	12	9	3.8862	Root Crown	
		Female			0.0000	Young - not measured	grows nearby to the above male
	2840	Male			0.0000	Young - not measured	Opposite side of the drive to the above
7494811314	2841	Female	11	8	3.5560	Root Crown	
7448011652	2842	Female	13	2	4.0132	Root Crown	The first of many yews along the hanger
	2843				0.0000		Typical of the hanger yews this small grove
7452111721	2844 thru 2845	Male	13	3	4.0386	Root Crown	this height excludes the side limb at the rear of the photo.
7457711715	2846 thru 2848	Male			0.0000	Impossible to measure	The tree grows on the edge of a marl pit with a mass of limbs from a distorted bole. Having 4 succesful layers with one new tree recording a 3' 6" girth
7460111714	2849	Female	11	9	3.5814	Root Crown	A 4' 6" bole with 2 main leaders
	2850	Male			0.0000		twin trunked and not measured
	2851				0.0000		General photograph of the yews along the hanger
7471711799	2852 thru 2853	Male	12	7	3.8354	Root Crown	
	2854	Male			0.0000	Young - not measured	
	2855 thru 2856				0.0000		General photograph of the yews along the hanger
	2857 thru 2858	Female	10	4	3.1496	Root Crown	four succesful layers
7501711915	2859 thru 2860	Female	10	9	3.2766	2'	this exludes two side limbs and the last tree measured along the hanger
7549210856		Male			0.0000		two yews on the bank alongside the road. Not measured as on private part of the estate
7525011561	2861 thru 2863	Male	11	5	3.4798	Root Crown	Two yews close to each other - the smaller female was not measured
7518011582	2864	Female	11	9	3.5814	2'	
7518011582	2865	Female	10	4	3.1496	1' 6"	
7512211755	2866 thru 2870	Male	13	5	4.0894	Root Crown	The yew grows on top of a spoil heap taken from a marl pit very close by.
7521911674	2872 thru 2873	Female	13	11	4.2418	Root Crown	7 layers with one succesful
7527011632	2874 thru 2875	Female	11	2	3.4036	Root Crown	
7531411726	2877 thru 2879	Male	10	6	3.2004	Root Crown	Massive low branches with a thin main leader

Map of yew positions

- Not measured
- Measured male
- Measured female

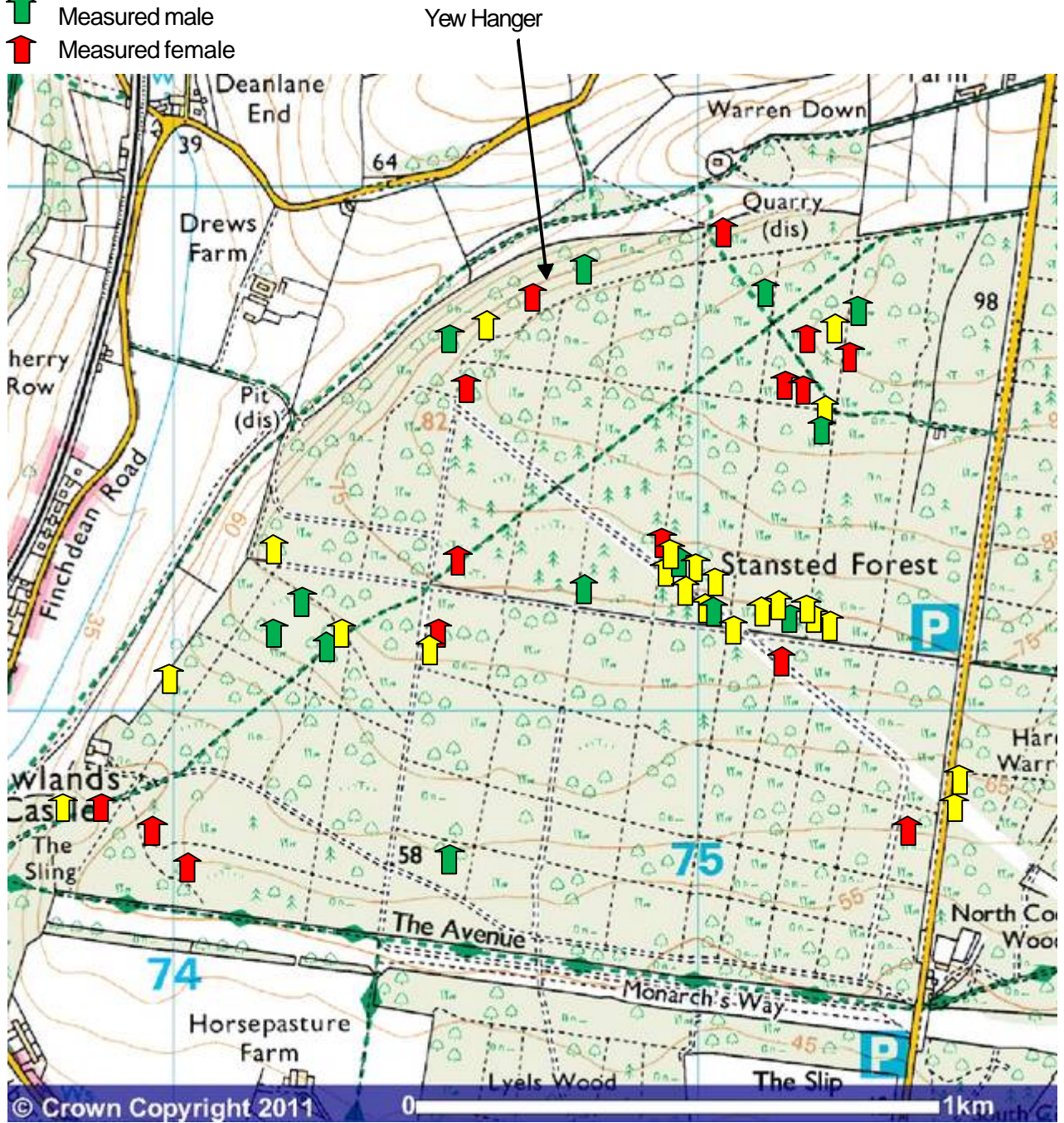


Image produced from Ordnance Survey's Get-a-map service.
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Click on the embedded link – Street Map will open in a separate window and indicate the exact position. You may have to increase the zoom control on the R/H side of the map to level 3 or 4.

SU7451210704



SU7394010721



SU7450111129



SU7428611091



SU7423111137



SU7418511131



SU7513811090



SU7503211151



SU7503011238



SU7448011652



SU7452111721



SU7457711715



General views along the hanger



SU7512211755



SU7521911674



SU7531411726

