

Here is an example of a fallen yew allowed to rest on the ground. There is no reason why it should not live like this for many centuries. In *The Sacred Yew* (1994) it is recorded as falling 100 years earlier, while in the 1939 *King's England* it is described it as being burnt 'more than 30 years ago'. It is not known whether these two events were connected. The twisted nature of the trunk however suggests that its fall took place slowly, resisted by the pliable strength of yew wood. The ability of the tree to quickly readjust is seen in the substantial vertical branches that have developed since its fall. One of the tree's original upper branches is now embedded in the ground, helping to support the yew, along with several wooden props. At the time of my visit in 1999 it shared its growing space with a metal rubbish bin, a large slab of concrete, a compost heap and a receptacle for dead flowers. In 2005 I learned of the intention to remove the rubbish collection point from beneath the tree and relocate it elsewhere, enabling the yew to become focal point of the churchyard.

It is difficult to measure such a tree, but Meredith's *Gazetteer* (1994) gave a girth of 23', Robert Bevan-Jones in *The Ancient Yew* (2002) recorded 7 metres, and in 2002 the Tree Register reported as follows: 'Male tree SW of church. Split, collapsed, hollow and propped horizontally with vertical side branches from bole including 14m x 45cm diameter. Impossible to measure accurately but probably 7-8m girth if upright and intact.' Photos are from 1999.





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