BISHOPSTOKE Formerly diocese of Winchester SU465193

This site is 'indicated by a turfed platform, contained by the red brick foundation course of the nave and west tower. Tablet set in ground states a Church existed from Saxon times until 1891 and is mentioned in the Domesday Survey' *Hampshire Treasures*. There was no remaining trace of the church on land which has been levelled, with new houses built adjacent to a park area that abuts the river Itchen.

May 2003: This male yew no longer looks like the outside of a tree. A large section has leaned and fallen and now lays on the ground. From this springs much new vertical growth. A branch emanating from these 'entrails' carried thick foliage. A second male yew about 7 metres NNE appeared to have layered from this parent tree. Girth: 16' 11" at 1'.



September 2005: Russell Cleaver described the yew as 'hollow, female, one stem erect, 2 others horizontal. Much of the trunk now missing, the ground level girth is a better guide to its age. It could once have been larger. 16' 11" @40cm but 19' 7"/5.97m at ground level.

August 2008: Hugh Milner - 'I inspected the tree with Jonathan Rau, Woodland Officer with Hampshire County Council. Our inspection shows a self-set elder has grown from close to the base of the yew for some 25 years and a younger but planted maple nearby are both interfering with the Yew's welfare. The Tree Officer with Eastleigh Borough Council, owners of the former churchyard, will be doing work in the area shortly and will be addressing these matters. Speaking to me recently, a local 78 year old man remembers the tree clearly as a four year old. In the 1960's he remembers the tree either lying on or being supported by an iron post and that the tree was reputed to be of 11th century origin. Yesterday, a 60 year old local lady directed me to what in her youth was referred to as 'The Witch's Tree'.



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