

In the past:

1814: *An historical, topographical and descriptive account of the Weald of Kent* by Thomas Downes, described the tree as follows: 'One of the largest yew trees in the county', Thomas a Becket is said to have preached in the early part of the 12th century to a group of parishioners under a yew 'that was over 500 years old then'.

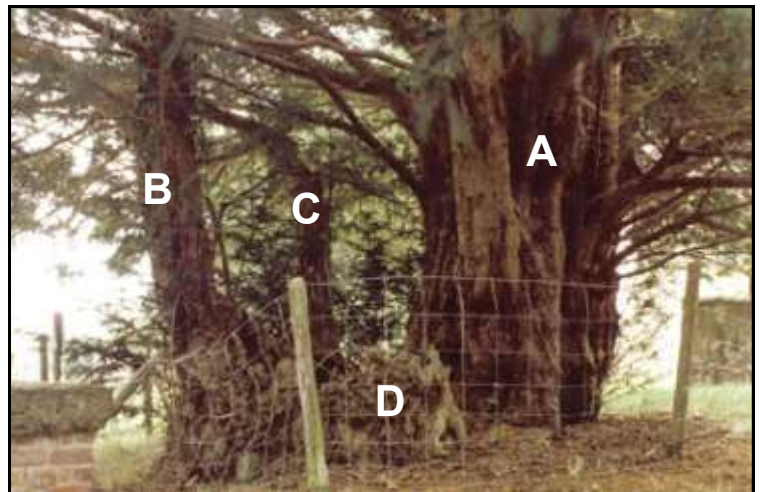
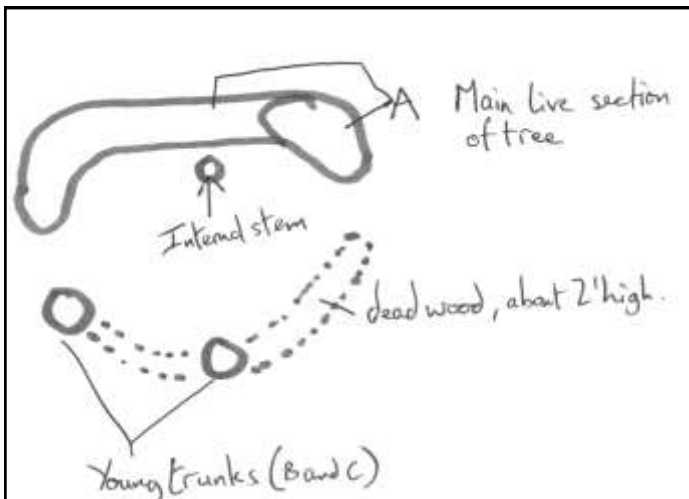
In Saunders' sepia drawing c1850 the yew is half hidden at the east end of the church.



1897: Rev. F.Fox gave Lowe (*Yew Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*) details of the tree including a girth of 27' at 3'.

1972: In his book *Trees of the British Isles in history and legend*, Wilks thought 'that the existence of the yew in the martyr's day cannot be discounted, and for this reason preservation and treatment has been arranged'. I do not know what this consisted of.

1999: Almost half of what remains of this yew's circumference is dead wood. When this has completely decayed it will leave 3 fragment yews. Visitors to this churchyard in 2200 will see what appears to be an old yew (A) and two young yews (B and C) growing in close proximity. Records such as this will help to explain how this came about. At (D) is one of the sections of dead wood.



Two photos taken by Ian Robert Brown in 2008

