

1152: The noticeboard attached to the railings says that “When, in 1152, the Abbot and Monks of St Werburgh received the Manor of Eastham at the hands of Earl Randall of Chester, the villagers of Eastham entreated the new owners ‘to have a care of ye olde yew’.”

1854: Nathaniel Hawthorne *English Notebooks* p57 states that “In the center of the church-yard stood an old yew-tree of immense trunk, which was all decayed within, so that it is a wonder how the tree retained any life-which nevertheless it did. (This tree was noted as the Old Yew of Eastham, 600 years ago).”

1898: It was in this year members of the Royal Archaeological Society visited the village, expressing the opinion that the yew may have been planted originally against the east end of the timber framed wattle and daub chapel which preceded the Norman church. *The Sacred Yew* 1994

By 1999 only this fragment remained of the original tree. This has been badly burnt and is presumably what led to the need to protect it behind railings. When a dead central section decays, it may leave a tree of 2 or even 3 fragments.

Three main areas of recent growth emerge from the bole, two of these supported with wire to prevent further leaning. There was much epicormic growth. The female yew was recorded by Baxter *The Eternal Yew* (1992) with a girth of 21' at 4' 6".

