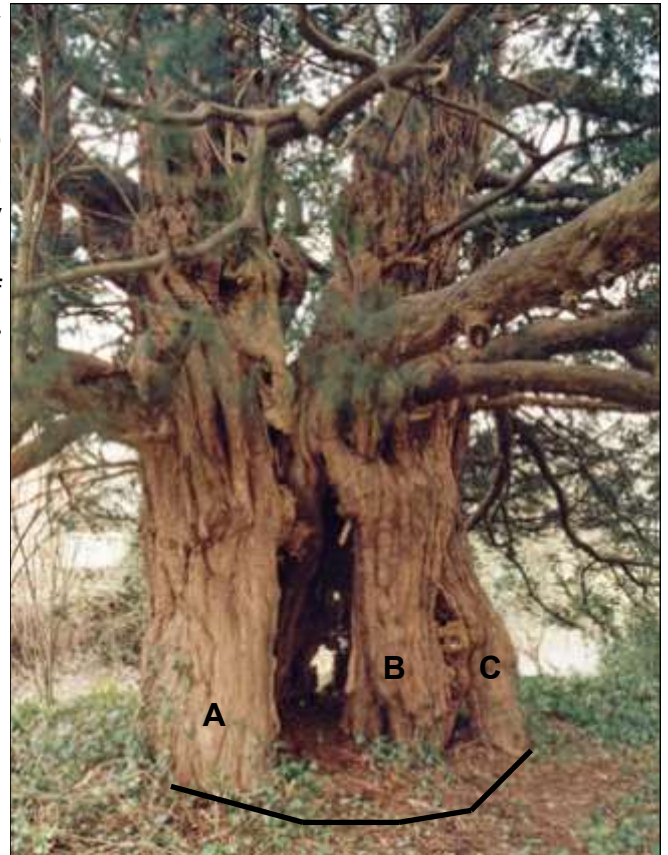
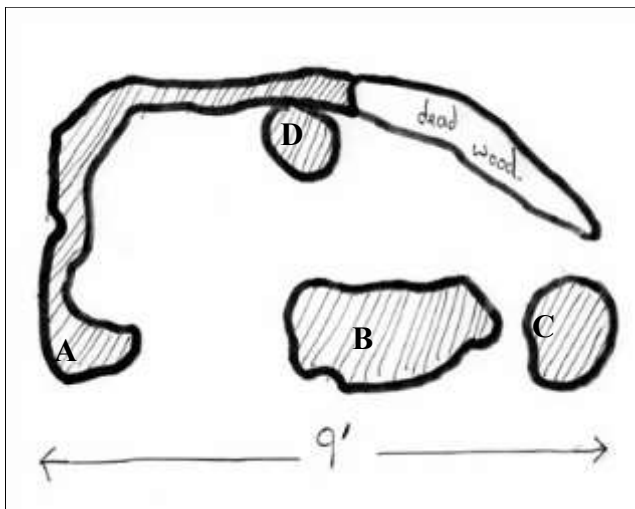


The old church of St John, dating from c.1282, was declared redundant in 1990 and ownership transferred to the parish council, but it is set to remain as a monument and place of prayer for the parish. In 1992 The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings 'took it on as a project.....to make it as safe as possible and to prevent any more deterioration'.

The Gentleman's Magazine in 1793 noted that 'the yew-tree in the church-yard, which is extremely large, and extends its branches over the mouldering graves, has long withstood the fury of the winter's blast, and remains a pleasing monument of Antiquity'. The 'great hollow yew' was also noted in Mee's *King's England* in 1939.

In 2000 I recorded the female tree, which still has many sections of the original trunk visible. The ground plan shows an elongated bole, with an internal stem attached to the back wall of the tree at D. We should consider too the possibility that B formed originally as an internal stem when the tree was more circular in shape, as indicated by the black line.

Two main branches divide from the bole at a height of about 8'. Lateral branches on the side facing the church-yard reach the ground and if left will become embedded and provide the tree with extra support.



Girth:

January 2000 - Tim Hills:

22' 11" at 1'

21' 0" at 3'

21' 7" at 5'

October 2011 - Peter Norton The following girth measurements are all taken from the ground at the south side of the tree adjacent to the foot path

23' 9" at 6"

22' 8" at 1'

22' 3" at 2'

21' 6" at 3'

21' 4" at 4'