

The modern church was built in 1865 on the site of a 12th century church. In 1883 its yews were described as 'remarkable specimens' in *The Flora of Hampshire*. The churchyard contains 3 significant yews that display a variety of characteristics.

Tree 1: In his *Yew Trees of England* (1952) Swanton described this yew as 'three parts of what was probably long ago one complete trunk. One part is 7' in girth, the second 6' 7" and the third (propped) 7' 8". The second and third are separated by a gap of about 4'.'



I visited in 1998 and would agree that these are almost certainly fragments of a very old tree. The fallen trunk on the left grows parallel to the ground and was supported on a single prop. Several new branches rise vertically from it, some 20' long and thick enough to provide evidence that it fell a considerable time ago. A highly polished section of this trunk shows that it has been used as a seat for decades. The standing section, also hollowed out, leans towards the church, with some of its roots showing. There was some evidence of fire or smoke damage.

The next photos were taken by Peter Norton in 2011





Tree 2 was recorded in 1952 by Swanton as '22' 10" at 3' with trunk about 6' high crowned with 3 large branches'.

In 1998 I recorded a girth of a girth of 22' 9" at 1'; 24' 6" at 3' and 24' at 5', with a bole height of 6/8'. From it rises a leading branch with a substantial limb pulling from it and two further large branches. It gave the impression of a tree that might eventually split into two fragments.



Photos below - Peter Norton 2011



Tree 3: In 1952 Swanton recorded a girth of 16' 7" at 3', describing its 'central interior growth 2' 7" in girth, crown intact and branches hollow'.

1998: Here we see evidence of a yew has been considerably larger. At (A) is the 'central interior growth' described by Swanton, now usually referred to as an internal root or internal stem. It would have grown downwards from a branch through the decaying centre of the tree. With the loss of the side of the tree marked by the black line, the internal stem now appears on the outside. Girth at 5' was 17'.

Additional photos Peter Norton - 2011

