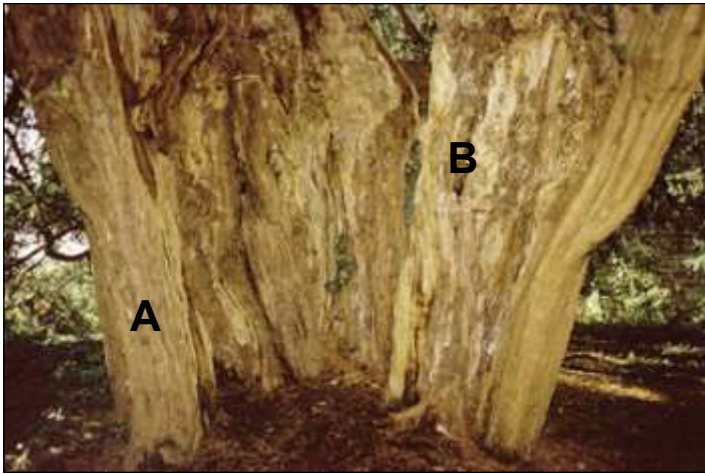


The church, thought to have Saxon origins, is close to an ancient burial mound. The 1923 *History of the County of Berkshire* described 'a very fine and ancient yew-tree'.

I first visited in 1997, recording a female yew growing east of the church, that had become two fragment trees (A and B). The photos were taken at that time.



I was later informed that the tree had been seriously damaged by fire in June 2002 - whether it was by accident or a deliberate act has never been established. Advice was taken from the Local Authority trees advisor to leave it for a year before doing anything.

In 2003 I returned and made the following observations: In spite of fire damage, there appears no reason why it should not fully recover. Much of the inside of its shell had been turned to charcoal, and the leaves above the hottest part of the fire were singed brown by the heat. In spite of this the outside living part of the tree was unscathed and foliage was still green, including on those branches sweeping to the ground. Only a few branches had been burnt too severely to survive and these will no doubt be removed in due course.

In 2005 I noted that the highest branches, which grow from the largest fragment (A), appeared dead, their singed leaves unable to recover. However growth from many branches on the lower portion of this fragment (up to a height of about 8/10ft) was vigorous and a healthy green. Foliage on the branches of the smaller fragment (B) was sparse. The area around the tree was filled with elder, unnecessary competition for the scarce nutrients needed by the recovering tree.

Girth: 1931: 20' 0" at 3' 3" *Notes and Queries* 10th October

2003: 22' at 1' ; 23' 11" at 3' - Tim Hills

2007: Approx 6.73m at 0.1m (22' 1") - difficult to be accurate with undergrowth etc - Dave Kenny

2013: 22' 4" at 6" from the ground taken from the south side of the tree. 22' 11" at 1' - P. Norton





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