

In the past:

1855: 'Here was an ancient yew tree'. *Post office directory of Hants, Wilts and Dorset*

1904: 'To the west is a grand old trunk of a once fine yew. It is the largest in the county...though much battered about in this exposed situation, it still shows considerable signs of vitality'. Cox's *Little Guides*

1939: *The King's England* '...its mighty yew, a giant very much alive if a little decrepit...the veteran is one of the biggest yews in Hampshire, with a girth of more than 27'.'

1954: Rev A.Bishop Lunn advised Swanton that 'It is hollow; two, if not three men can get into its trunk. The crown, though somewhat battered, carries many branches, some quite large, and there are branches, large and small, growing on the trunk'. Swanton considered that it might be older than its girth suggested, due to unfavourable growing conditions in such an exposed location.

1981: 'A large yew, trunk now split in two, will separate over the ages and appear to be two trees'. Allen Meredith

1998: The yew was not, as Cox recorded in 1904, the largest in Hampshire - though it would be fair to say it was one of the largest. Growth on this tenacious and unusual female yew is now restricted to two sections, on each of which dense foliage was a rich healthy green. The bole is a living work of sculpture, filled with unusual shapes and hollows and with a richly coloured bark.



Girth records:

1904: 27' 6" at 4' 6" Cox's *Little Guide*

1998: 24' 2" at the ground, which included a small decaying fragment; without this the figure is reduced to 23' 5" -Tim Hills

2003: 23' 2"/7.06 at 1.1m Two fragments of a once larger tree, pruned carefully for reduction - Russell Cleaver

2012: 22' 10" - measured at a mixture of root crown and ground, with a slightly undulating tape and including the small stump - Peter Norton

Peter Norton's photographs in 2012 provides an excellent example of the yew's regenerative powers. He described it as a yew in two halves and still fragmenting, with sculptured white wood, a small internal stem and a rich green crown almost perfectly dome shaped, with many arils evident.



