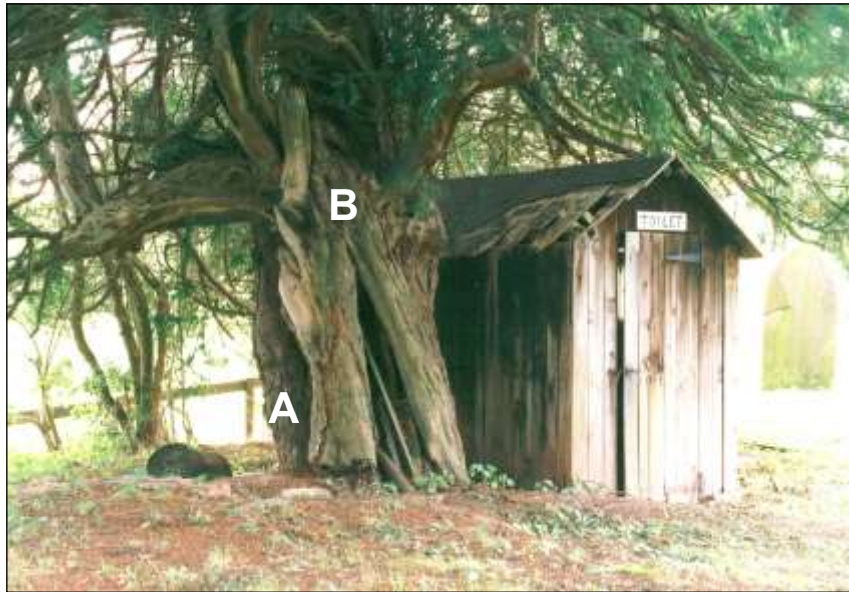


In 1866 a yew with a girth of 15' 4" was recorded in the Woolhope Transactions. It was almost certainly this male tree, growing SE of the church, in 2004 providing shelter for a makeshift toilet. At that time about half of the tree, with a girth of 8' 6" remained. The living part of the tree (A) is seen behind the dead hollow white wood trunk of the original tree (B). Other sections of the tree are no longer in situ. I noted that fires had been lit inside the tree's hollow.



By February 2016 the yew had fallen and demolished the shed. Paul Wood took the photographs and gave the following description:



The yew has a very different appearance to that photographed in 2004. The toilet shed was presumably crushed when the tree leaned over to take up its present position. It appears that an old gravestone has been used to cover the hole in the ground. The tree presumably succumbed to a mixture of erosion and exposure to wind. An established branch on its south side has stopped it falling completely flat. Smaller branches appear to be taking root and the tree appears to be growing and surviving well at the moment, though if the branch supporting the tree breaks its chances of survival will be diminished. Some root material has exposed dying fragments of a former bole, confirming that this tree has been much larger girthed in the past. The area around the tree, particularly on the west side, is unfortunately being used as a dumping ground with broken glass, cans, plastic dead flowers and much else. In a well kept churchyard will this tree be allowed to live on in its new position?