

Parts of the church of are known to date back to at least 1200. The church handbook however describes the 'fine old yew near the south door' as 'about 1,000 years old', so the site is locally considered to be older still. The tree was first described in 1950 for Swanton as having a 'hollow trunk with an opening of 2' in width on the south side. The opening is where some of the crown and part of the north side of the trunk was torn away many years ago'.

1999: The male yew grows on a mound SW of the church. It has a thickened horse shoe shaped bole. A section of dead wood in the hollow divides the tree into two main growth areas, and perhaps marks a point of weakness for later fragmentation into two trees. A young branch rises from the bole at ground level while at (A) another emerges almost at right angles a few inches from the ground. The canopy, while not thick, is carried on many branches and the tree appeared in good health.



Girth:

1950: 18' at 1', with an umbrage of 53' - for Swanton.

1997: 14m tall x190 @ 0m-0.6m diameter - *The Sussex Tree Book* - Owen Johnson

1999: 20' 4" at the ground, 21' 2" at 3' and 23' at 5' (excluding the small branch that rises from close to the ground) - Tim Hills

2012: 20' 5" at 1' - Peter Norton

Photos below taken in 2012 by Peter Norton



