

The Ninfield Yew demonstrates some of the extraordinary stages a yew might go through in its long life. The postcard shows a huge old sapwood stem (A) that is now gone. It enclosed many of the fragments we see today, which would have once been internal growth.



In 1999 it appears as two fragment trees which are tenuously linked together above the ground. It was growing vigorously and presented a fine canopy.

In 1994 Owen Johnson recorded it as 12m tall with a diameter of 169 cm at the ground (*Sussex Tree Book*). He described it as 'trunks, diverging from the base, are all so hollow that the tree resembles a kind of giant basket'. In 1999 I recorded a girth of 17' 8" at the ground, allowing the tape to ride above the roots, and 20' 10" at 3'.

