

A church has stood on this spot for 1200 years.

In Bell's 1928 *pocket guides* he notes a 'very aged yew, or $\frac{3}{4}$ of its shell, with branches still plentifully covered with leaves'. The church guide acknowledges the remarkable nature of this tree: 'It is practically hollow and it is a miracle of nature that so much can be supported on so little'.

In 1994 Owen Johnson described 'a slanting, broken fragment of a once gigantic bole'.

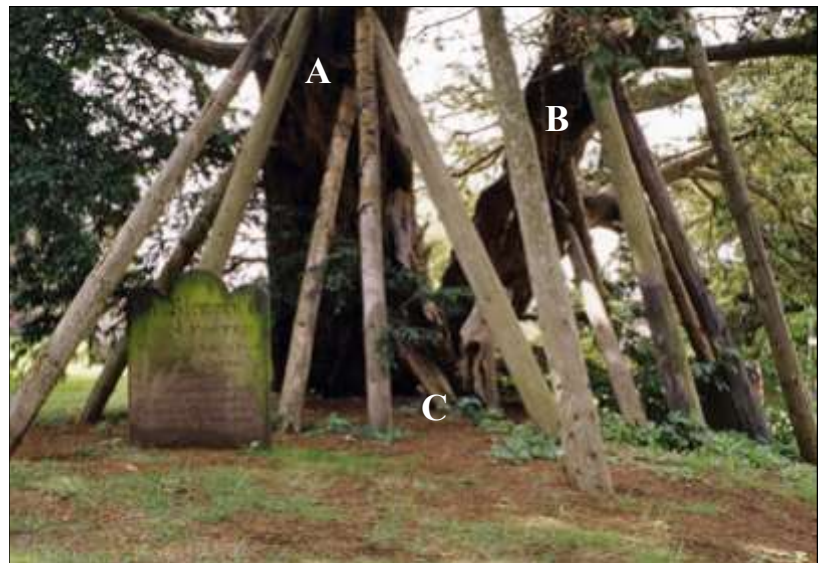


1999: I noted that the two hollowed out trunks which make up this fragment are still linked. It is possible that new wood will be laid down where they join and prevent the complete separation into two fragment trees - only time will tell.

The section nearest to the church (A) was supported on 7 props. An internal stem resting against it joins to one of its 3 main branches. At (C) a large piece of dead wood has only a tenuous link with the living tree and will probably soon fall or be removed.

The trunk nearest to the road (B) rested on 5 props, with a 6th resting against the tree!

In addition to the 13 props, the two trunks were chained together in an attempt to slow the process of separation. The female yew grows NE of the church and at the time of visiting had only sparse foliage.



Girth:

1994: Meredith's gazetteer in *The Sacred Yew* - 23' 8".

1994: 11m tall x 220 cm diameter - O.Johnson *The Sussex Tree Book*



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