

The yews here were first noted in 1833 in *An Historical and Descriptive Account of the Coast of Sussex: Brighton*: 'The small church a little further to the right, has a very pretty appearance, with a neat spire, a restored window at the east end, which is mantled with ivy, and two curious old yew-trees in the churchyard'.

The Society of Antiquaries journal of 1934 noted that 'at the present time Yew is not found growing on the Downs anywhere near Brighton, except in Stanmer Park'.

1999: This site is part of a large area of parkland on the outskirts of Brighton. The old village well is next to the church. The largest of the two yews (left) is female, consisting of a thickened hollow shell inside which an internal stem about 3' in girth becomes part of the most fluted of its 3 straight and tall branches. There is still much evidence of the tree that once filled the central void. Its eventual loss will radically alter the yew's appearance. Foliage was thin on an otherwise healthy looking tree.

Girth: 19' 6" approximately - Tim Hills

Owen Johnson recorded the diameter of this yew as 179 cm at 0.5m in 1998



1999 - Tim Hills



2007 - Ancient Tree Inventory



2009 Jeroen Heindijk



The 2nd yew is filled with small internal stems. Low twiggy growth covered the lower bole. Three tall branches rose above its hollow interior. Girth was 18' 6" at about 2' 6". In 1998 Owen Johnson recorded a diameter of 174 cm at 0.4m.

A drawing of Stanmer's largest yew by Nibbs in 1852. Next to it is Andy McGeeney's photo c2000.



This is an excellent example of the long lasting nature of old yew sap wood.

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