

Yew interpretation boards



Your yew tree can help tell the wide story of your church, group or local area. Whether your yew is a few hundred or a few thousand years old, it will probably have witnessed great changes. It may also have its own stories to tell, having witnessed ceremonies or events over the centuries.

As a result an interpretation board at your yew tree, for visitors to the churchyard or site, is a fantastic opportunity to tell the story of the tree and the site's history.



Inspiration from the “Ashbrittle Yew Project” including a metal interpretation board.

Pictures: Andy McGeeney

When creating your board, you should think about what it will say about the site. You may be erecting it at your yew tree, but what wider story can it tell of the churchyard, park or town. What information is important to tell, and how does this relate to the tree? How can you help to explain this information – are there historic maps, photographs, paintings or poems that can help to animate the topic?

Once you have drafted the content for the board, including the words and any graphics you will use, draw a rough layout on a piece of paper to see how it might look. If you haven't done so already, you should also contact companies that can help you create it. If you are using images or other graphics you will need to use a printed board, but if it is only words you may be able to create an engraved board. A local craftsman may have experience of creating boards, but there are also examples of specialists in the Contractors section below. The contractor will be able to send you a proof so you can see how the board might look when finished, and advise you of any changes that need to be made. There might be too many words or images for the board to be easy to read so you may need to edit the text or remove some of the images. If you are using a printed board, make sure digital images are of good resolution – if they look blurry in the proof you will need to reduce their size on the board, or find larger versions.

Permission

Before undertaking any work you should first check you are able to do so. Your Local Authority planning office will be able to help you learn more about what planning permission, if any, you will require. There may be a charge for the planning application. If you are installing the board in a churchyard you will also need to approach your Diocese office to check Faculty regulations.

You should also ensure you have permission to use art work, and give credits to the photographer or artist. The North East Wildlife website and We Love Yew photos page in the Further Reading below are good resources for photographs that can be used.

Contractors

A local craftsman or sign maker may be able to help you create or install the interpretation board, but you can also find contractors who specialise in this format and can create the board for you. If you use a national contractor make sure you know who and how you can install the board once it has been created. Contractors include:

Acorn Workshop (West Sussex)
www.theacornworkshop.co.uk
Tel: 07989 223634

Fitzpatrick Woolmer (Kent & Wales)
www.fwdp.co.uk
Tel: 01634 711 771

Antomic Woodworking (Leicester)
www.antomicwoodworking.co.uk
Tel: 01162 764 542

Nature Signs (Exeter)
www.naturesigns.co.uk
Tel: 01271 812301

Arien Signs (Somerset)
www.ariensigns.co.uk
Tel: 01934 744656

Robin Watson Signs (Northumberland)
Tel: 01434 602 824
www.robinwatsonsigns.co.uk

Carrington Dean Interpretation (Dorset)
www.cdinterpretation.co.uk
Tel: 01929 477 115

Shelley Signs (Shropshire)
www.shelleysigns.co.uk
Tel: 01743 460996

Further reading

National Forest guide on creating interpretation boards

www.nationalforest.org/document/information/InterpretationToolkit.pdf

North East Wildlife: Collection of nature images free to illustrate your board

www.northeastwildlife.co.uk

We Love Yew photograph collection

www.weloveyew.org/photos

We Love Yew research guide

www.weloveyew.org/weloveyew_guide.pdf

