

ABERDEENSHIRE

The sites on this page already appear in the Gazetteer, but in each case the trees have not been recorded since the date shown in the descriptions below.

Arbuthnott	The yews are described by Hutchison (1890) as growing "in the manse garden" with the "church of St Ternan of Arbuthnott, near which they stand, consecrated by Bishop De Bernham in 1242." According to Hutchison, when Pinkerton saw these yews at the beginning of the 1800s he pronounced them to be at least five hundred years old. Hutchison considered it not improbable that they were planted when the church was consecrated. Girths of the male and female pair were then about 8' and 9'.
Ellon Castle	The ruins of Ellon Castle stand on what was formerly known as the ancient fort of Ardgith. The site is not open to the public. Hutchison (1890) recorded no fewer than 15 yews at this site, with a plan showing the location and girth of each. They grow in a garden sheltered by high walls. Girths ranged from 8' to 14'.
Oldmeldrum	The only description we have for this location is Old Meldrum Manse. Hutchison (1890) recorded 2 yews "believed to have been planted when the manse was removed to the present site from the other side of the parish in 1680". Girths at 3' were 10' and 10' 2".
Strichen House	The remains of Strichen House lie a mile to the southwest of Strichen. It dates from 1821 and was gutted in 1954. In the 1846 Topographical Dictionary of Scotland the garden was described as "embellished with some venerable yew trees more than a hundred years old, and with thriving plantations of recent date."
Tolquhan Castle	A ruined castle site. For details of opening times go to www.historic-scotland.gov.uk A fine collection of very old yews are reported to be growing next to the ruined ramparts. In a student pack this is described as "an alleyway of ancient yew trees". In 1890 Hutchison recorded "the best of a group of old yews here" with a girth of 11' 2" at 1', 9' at 3' and having a height of 48'.