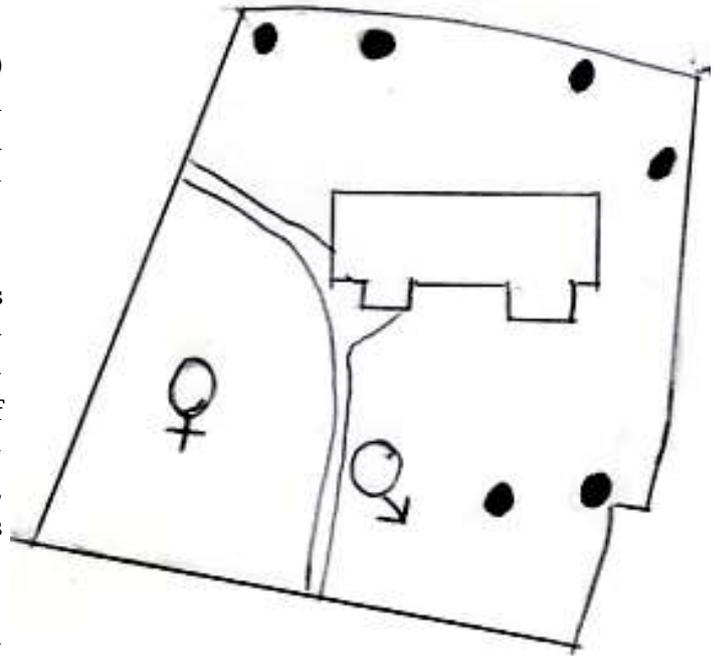


The church shares a site with a Roman Fort called CANOVIUM and overlooks the valley of the river Conwy. As well as the two veteran yews growing south and southwest of the church, a further six younger yews grow here.

E. Hyde Hall's *Description of Caernarvonshire* (1809/11) refers to 'some very large yew trees (one of which measures sixteen feet round the trunk), and the spot in general is well shaded with trees which blend in the prospect with those belonging to Caerhûn Hall'.

In Black's *Picturesque guide to Wales* (1870) Caerhun is described as 'an agreeable village, near the river, and surrounded with wood. To this site has generally been assigned the Roman station *Conovium*. The ground-plan of several Roman buildings has been traced, and a well-constructed bath, a magnificent shield, and other relics, have been found. In the churchyard are three enormous yew-trees of great age'.



In 1896 the Rev JW Roberts gathered the following information for John Lowe's *The Yew -Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*, noting 3 trees as follows:

	Ground	3'	bole	height
A	22'	19'	4'6"	50'
B	14'	17'	5'	38'
C	19'	19'	1'6"	36'

Each one was described as 'not hollow', and all three were 'surrounded by young shoots'. It is likely that these shoots exaggerated the girth measurements.

In *Snowdonia National Park* (1966) W.M. Condry regarded Caerhun as 'worth visiting for its yews. One of them, a single trunk took 3 times my outstretched arms to get round, which gives a girth of 16½ ft'.



My visit in 2000 was carried out before I had access to this historical information, and its purpose was to confirm the continued existence of the two trees recorded in Meredith's *Gazetteer*, the male and female pair seen below. These are undoubtedly two of the three trees recorded by Revd. Roberts in 1896, and it is possible that the third is one of the unnumbered trees on the plan.



Female

The female yew measured about 18' at 1'. A sawn off branch revealed hollow spaces inside the tree. Foliage was thin with many brown leaves.

The bole of the male tree seemed solid and bulged outwards from the base. It measured 17' 2" close to the ground, 19' 3" at 3' and 19' 9" at 5'. It was covered in adventitious growth, much of which had been trimmed. The main growth was carried on 2 branches rising centrally side by side.



Male

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