

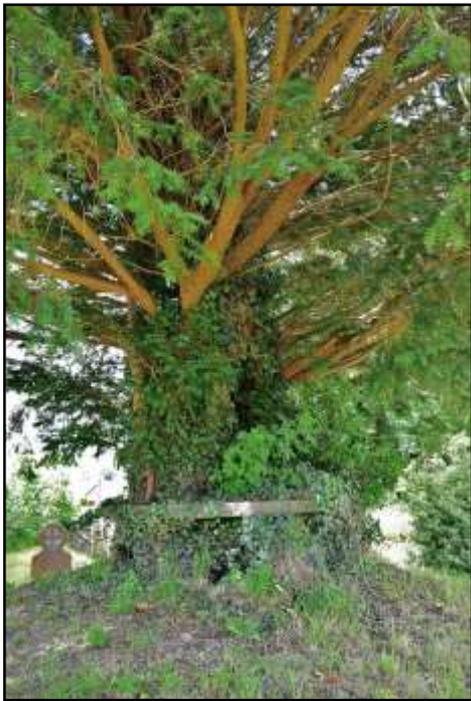
Eight yews grow here. Paul Wood's plan also shows a 9th outside of the present churchyard.



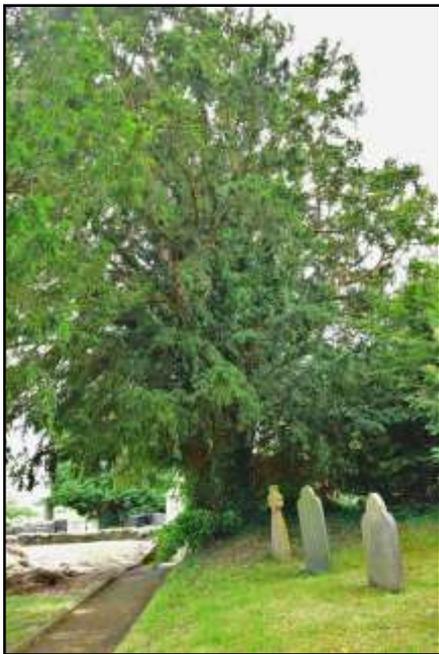
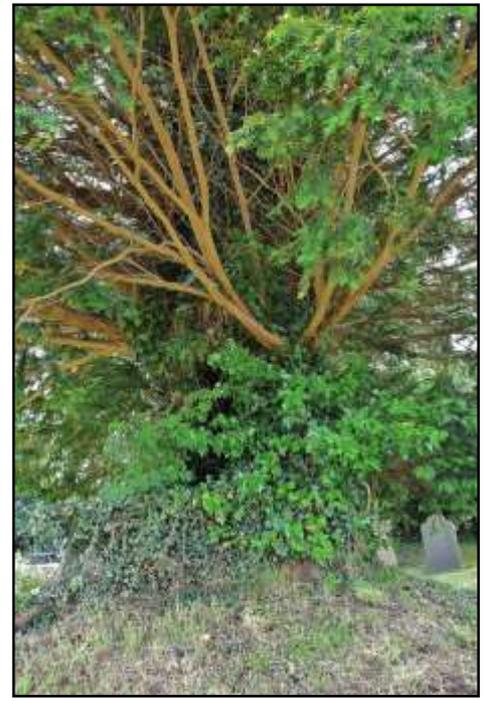
The largest is female on a mound SW of the church - number 2 on the plan. When a large portion of the tree was removed, its hollow trunk was filled with concrete, and above this two large stone slabs were placed to make a bench. When I visited in 2001 girth was 17' 9" at 1'. Geoff Garlick's photos show the yew in 2006.



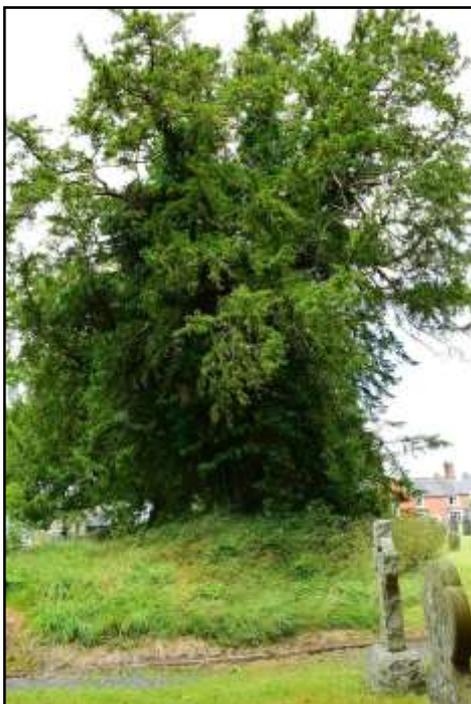
The information that follows is based on Paul Wood's 2016 visit. Yew 2 was now unmeasurable, affected by thick twiggy growth, ivy and other out of control weeds. This seemed a shame since the rest of the churchyard was so well kept.



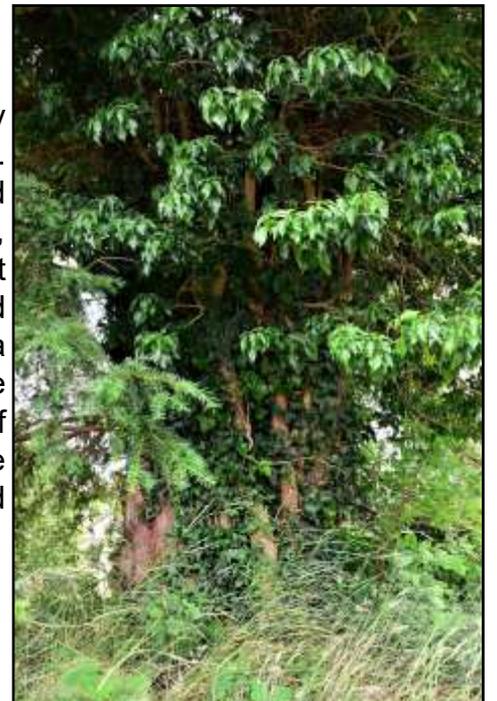
Yew 2



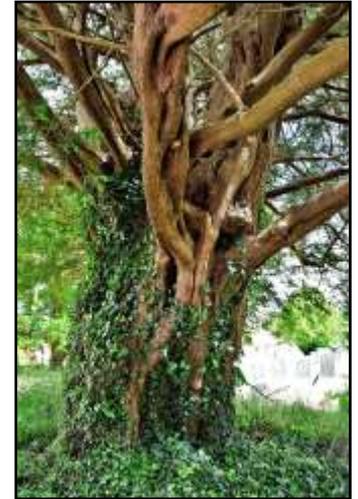
Yew 1, considered to be a youngish multiple stemmed tree, was hidden behind dense and impenetrable twiggery growth.



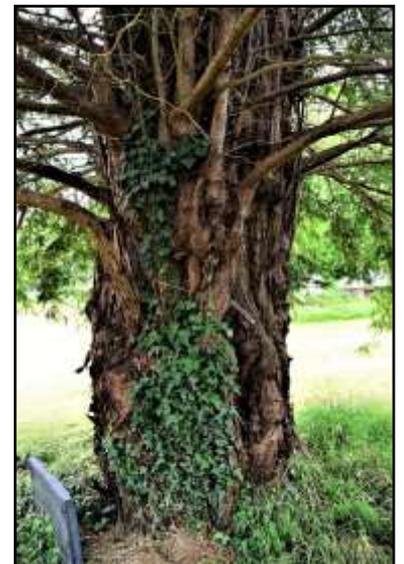
Yew 3 is male with a serious ivy problem, especially on its east side. The bole is short and fluted and measured only 9' at the ground, though its appearance hinted that it might be older. The canopy and crown had variable foliage and a number of dying branches. The tree is on a curving bank 15m south of yew 4. The possibility of it being the bank of the bailey of the motte and bailey castle might be considered.



I measured yew 4 in 2001 and recorded a female with a girth of 15' 2" at 1'. In 2016 Paul Wood photographed the tree and described an oval shaped bole that rises about five feet before an explosion of leader branches of all sizes and a girth of 16' 1" (4.90m) at 1'. Many branches were removed on the north side a considerable time ago, with new growth covering 60% - 70% of the removed material, though it is still visible through the thin ivy covering the bole on the north side. This removal gives the yew a lop-sided appearance. Paul considered that when the branches were removed a section of dead stump was also removed and that this yew has been larger girthed in the past. Foliage was plentiful and growth looked vigorous. Some holes were noted suggesting that the tree might be hollow. Also considered possible was that the yew had in the past been cut back to little more than a stump. An ivy covered bump at the foot of the tree was possibly yew stump but could not be positively identified.



Yew 5 is a young tree next to the northern entrance to the churchyard. Though it only had a girth of about 8' it is beginning to become hollow.



Yew 6 is the youngest Yew at the site with an estimated age of about 100 years.



Yew 7 grows at the NE boundary of the churchyard about 10m from the church. It has suffered greatly with a large concrete area next to it topped with a large plastic box and with all the churchyard waste in and around the tree. It does appear to be growing well but age and size are not possible to establish.

I recorded yew 8 in 2001 with a girth of 12' 10" at 4', describing the tree as a split yew with an old dead stem in the centre. I considered that it could in time become two fragment yews.

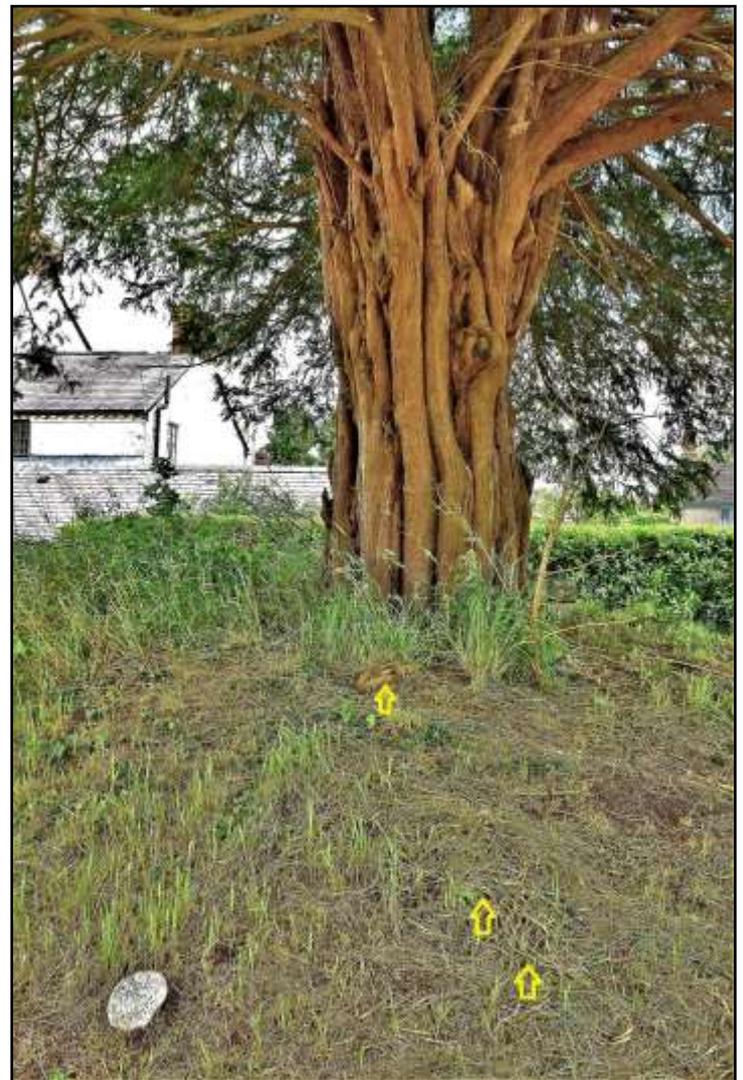
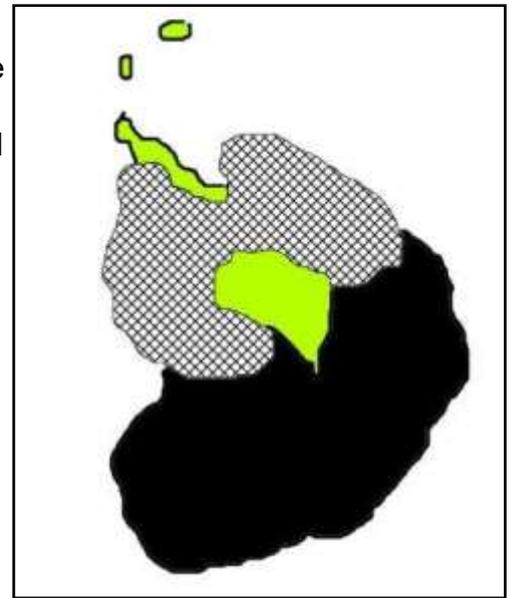


In 2016 Paul Wood was more thorough in his investigation and considers that this might be the remaining fragment of what was once an ancient yew of large girth. When he approached the tree he wondered why, in a well trimmed churchyard, a tump of long grass had been left around this yew.

On the west side of the tree he noted dying piece of yew near the tree and in the grass an area containing much cubical rot. It was not possible to tell whether these were from dying old exposed root, or were once part of a huge girthed tree, or were created by another yew that is lost.

Along with Paul, I have no doubt that this yew has been considerably larger in girth. But by how much will remain a mystery until somebody is interested enough to search further for answers. Perhaps the technology of three dimensional mapping below the surface will become relatively cheap in the future.

Paul Wood drew this ground plan of the yew.
The cross lines show the current growing 'figure of eight' shape of the tree.
The yellow areas are above ground areas of old white sapwood and black cubical rot.
The black area is the long grass area with the remains of cubical rot.



Paul Wood also recorded tree 9. Although it is found outside the present churchyard east of the church, tucked into a hedge and part hidden by a fence, this was the original churchyard boundary. He recorded a male yew with a girth of about 10ft.



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