

In 1856 *Pictures of Nature around the Malvern Hills*, Edwin Lees wrote: 'The imposing feature of two grand old yew trees in it, one of which exhibits the singular appearance of the brown and dried mummy of the original tree, encased in a subsequent deposition of alburnum, or new wood; which, in its turn, may also be encompassed by descending layers, and thus the tree be renewed for ever. The secondary or even tertiary cortical deposition, as it may justly be termed, I have noticed in many old yews, whose precise age, therefore, it would be difficult to ascertain. The companion yew is hollow; the largest is 26ft. in circumference. It is probable that both may be about 700 years old, or even more'.

In *Worcs Naturalists Club proceedings* of 1868 we read the following: 'Two ancient yews in the churchyard were deemed dendrological curiosities from their size and appearance.....Mr Lees considered them to be at least 800 years old'. This would give an age today of 950 years - or a planting at around the time of the founding of a Norman church.

1998: The larger male has a bole of 8'10", supporting many large branches. A substantial mound of grass cuttings covered the ground on one side of the tree.

Girth was 20' 8" at 1' and about 23' at 4', a measurement exaggerated by the copious ivy filling one side of the tree. While much of this had been sawn off, a stem 8" in diameter emerged at the base of the tree.



The photographs below show the male yew in 2020, when girth was recorded as follows:

22' 5" at or close to the ground

21' 2" at 1'

21' 5½" at 4'. This is nearly 2' lower than in 1998 and demonstrates the unreliability of measurements over ivy. It is also possible that a portion of the tree has been lost.





Its partner female yew, seen below in 1998, is a hollow shell 8' high which incorporates much dead wood. Girth was 15' 8" at 1', swelling to 20' 9" at 5'.



The tree is seen below in 2020, when the following girths were recorded: 15' 11" at 1' ; 18' 11½" at 3' and 21' 7" at 5' (affected by branch development and spray and not a reliable measurement).





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