

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 is 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 a not unreasonable 950 years - or a planting at around the time of the founding of a Norman church.

1998: The larger male (left) 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. Its partner female yew (centre and right) is a hollow shell 8' high which incorporates much dead wood.

Girth: Male yew: 20' 8" at 1' and 23' at 4', the latter figure swollen by ivy. While much of this had been sawn off, a stem 8" in diameter emerged at the base of the tree. Female yew: 15' 8" at 1', swelling to 20' 9" at 5'.

