

An English Heritage site, but with free access to the churchyard.

1897: Yews were first recorded here in John Lowe's *Yew Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*. The first was described as 'Hollow, broken at 15 feet, forming a new head'. Bole length was given as 12', and a girth of 14' at 3' was recorded. The second was described as 'trunk a shell', with a girth of 11' at 4' and a height of 38'.

1999: In *The Cumbrian Yew Book* Ken Mills devotes a double page to Lanercost Priory. He describes the larger male yew as 'hollow enough to hold half a dozen people, if they could squeeze through the small hole in the hollow shell of the trunk to enter'. The yew apparently lost a large portion of its upper crown in the gale of November 1891.

2002: Two yews grow close to each other in the burial ground NE of church. The leaning male yew (left) measured 17'10" at the ground and 14' 5" at 3'.

The female yew (right) had a section of old white sapwood showing, and pieces of stump at the ground suggested that it was formerly a larger girthed tree. This is confirmed by Ken Mills who notes that 'the female lost one of her twin trunks - as a careful search reveals traces of the basal stump to this day'. What remains in 2002 appeared solid, developing into 3 main branches at about 10'. Girth was 11' 6" at 3'.

Photos - Graham Wilkinson 1996



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