

Nikolaus Pevsner, who rarely recorded non-architectural detail, was sufficiently impressed to note that 'Four old yew trees stand close to the church, two W, two E'. The church is a little way from the present village and is thought to mark the site of the older and now deserted village. Today it is approached along its own green lane.

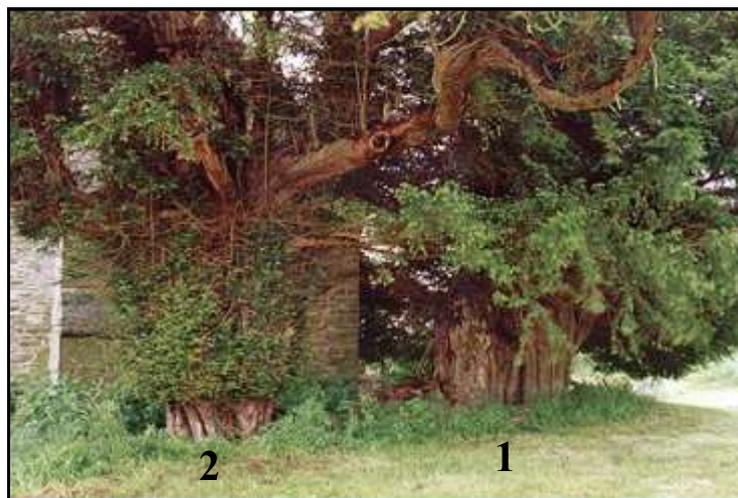
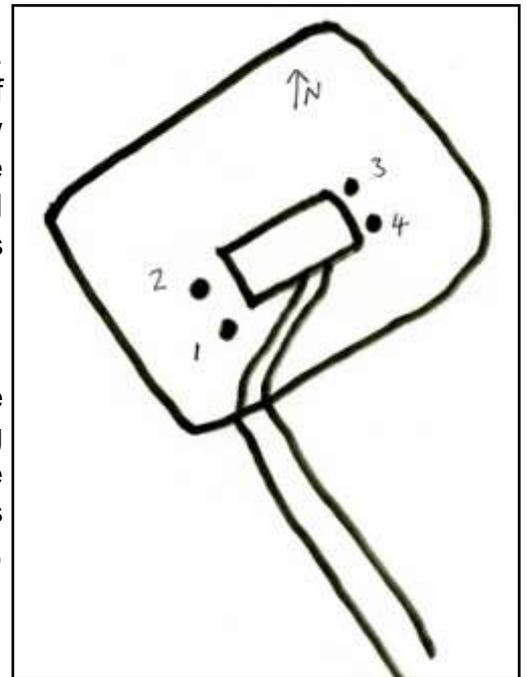
1866: 'One of the four magnificent trees in the churchyard measures 20 feet in girth and the smallest 15. The spot is well worth a visit. The church is very small and very old. It stands in a secluded spot at a little distance from the village and from the road. Two yew trees stand at the W. and two at the E. of the church, far surpassing the bell turret in height and all but hiding it from view. The huge spreading branches rival those of the cedar in their graceful sweep, and are interlaced with each other in the most curious and intricate manner'. *Woolhope Transactions*

1876: 'In the churchyard are at the east and west ends of the church four fine old yew trees, very much admired'. *Littlebury's Directory and Gazetteer of Herefordshire*

2000: Tree 1, female, grows at the south west corner of the church. At 3' a large hole has been left after removal of a branch. An area of dead wood with a fine silky lustre is about 2' wide and 5' high. New wood is beginning to grow over it. A gap is being created on the church side where the interior is rotting; when this is gone it will create a horse shoe shaped hollow tree. Many upright branches grow alongside the main branch from 15' upwards.

Girth: 1866 - 17' at 5' and 16' at the ground 2000 - 19' 3" at 2'

Tree 2, smallest of the four is male and grows at the west end of the church. Only the first 2' of its red bole were visible below a covering of twiggy growth; this is green and copious on the side of the tree seen here, but looks less healthy on the side facing the church. Its main branch leans considerably. Girth in 2000: 12' 2" at the ground, swelling to 18' 4" at 4'.

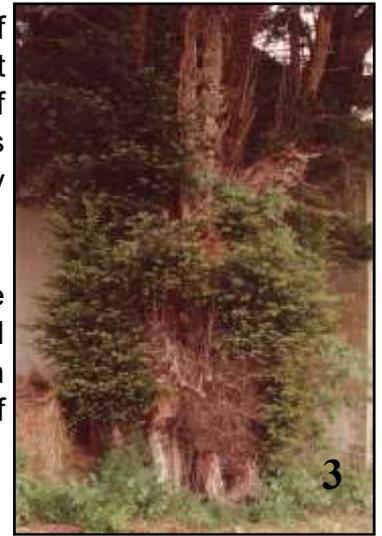




Tree 3, female, grows at the north east corner of the church. Its solid bole leads into a straight main branch. One further significant area of growth faces the church. From 2'²/₃' upwards most of the bole was concealed behind twiggy growth. Girth in 2000: 16' 5" between 1' and 2'.

Tree 4, female, grows at the east end of the church. It consists of 3 main areas of growth and large dead branches in the centre. On the church side a hole reveals internal growth in the heart of the tree.

Girth 1866: 20' 6" at 5'.
2000: 19' 1" at the ground.



I was informed by Ruth Perkins, church treasurer, that in 2002 trees 1 and 4 had recently had branches removed following storm damage.

2015

In 2015 Paul Wood took measurements and photos of all four yews. Tiles had been removed from the base of tree 1 and a girth of 19' 6" (5.94 m) at 2' was recorded.



Yew 2 has had a serious intrusion of burrowing animals. A girth of 12' 4" (3.76m) was recorded at ground level on the church side of the tree. This is nearly a foot higher than the opposite side.



Yew 3: Burrowing animals are starting to interrupt the ground levels around a tree which is otherwise in good condition. There was much twiggy growth at a height of about 2'. It was measured at a height of 16" on the south side, which is only 8" on the north side. A girth of 16' 5" (5.00m) was recorded.



Tree 4: A hole with internal stems has started to appear on the east side of the tree at the ground. Measured at ground level a girth of 19' 3" (5.87m) was recorded.



© Tim Hills/Paul Wood - Ancient Yew Group - 2019