

In the 1812 *Collections towards the history and antiquities of the county of Herefordshire*, John Duncumb wrote that 'two gigantic yew-trees, coeval with if not older than the building itself, still flourish, one on the north, the other on the south side of the church, the largest of which, opposite the porch, is 33 feet in its greatest circumference; the other, in the centre of the churchyard, is 20 feet at 6 feet from the ground. Both are quite hollow. Two smaller yews belong to a more recent age, and are both sound'. It is surprising that the yews were not mentioned again until c1938 when Mee wrote in *The King's England* (1938) that 'two yews grow side by side in the churchyard, one shapely and one with a hollow trunk 34' round'.

1999: This is the largest Linton yew, growing NW of the church, a female tree of remarkable appearance. It bulges outwards just a foot above the ground and has a cavernous interior containing an internal stem with a girth of 7'. This joins with the outer growth to form the tree's main branch. My visit was shortly after the tree was nearly destroyed by a deliberate act of arson. The internal stem was charred and the foliage on the branches it supported was discoloured. It was still possible to smell the 'charring'. In 2014 Peter Norton recorded the tree's minimum girth, a mixture of ground and root crown, as 29' 9".



The hollow yew growing east of the church is male. It might easily go unnoticed, yet had a girth of 19' 1" at between 1' and 2' in 1998. Its bole of about 7/8' supports many branches, one of which is substantial. The photos were taken in 2011.



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