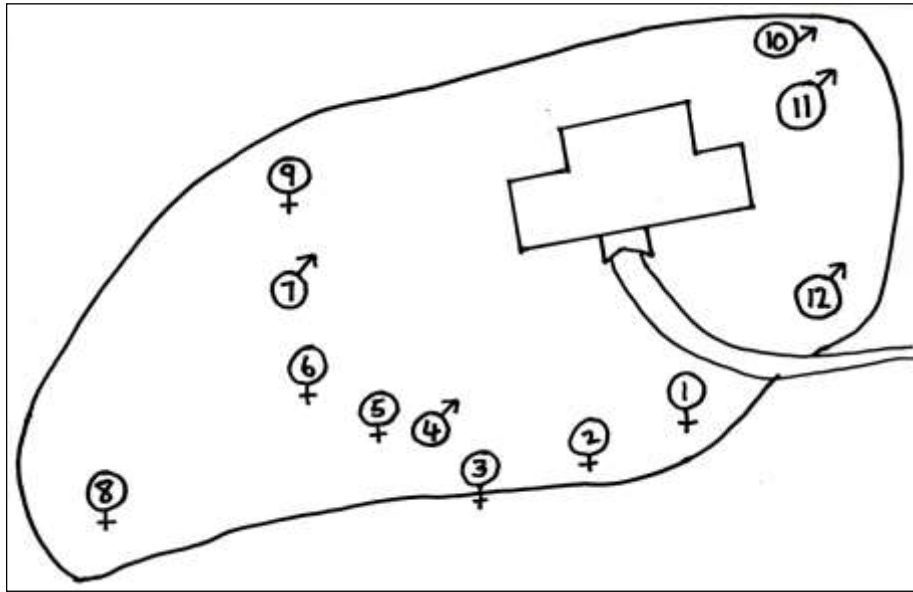


'The location and dedication point to an early medieval origin for the first church at Llanfeugan, some sources positing a 7th century foundation'. *The Buildings of Wales: Powys* by Richard Haslam 1979

The churchyard was described in 1834 as having 'some of the finest yew trees in south Wales, one of them 9 and a half yards and another 7 and a half in girth, and though generally of very great age, their trunks are most perfectly round'. Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*

Visits were made in 1998 and 2012, recording a rough circle of 12 trees around the church. Photos are from 2012.



Tree 1

Female, 12' 6" at 5' in 1998 and 13' 6" near the ground and above spreading roots in 2012. A tall, hollow tree which branches at 12'. There is much internal growth.



Tree 2:

Female, 11' at 4' in 1998 and 10' 11" at 2' in 2012. Branches dip to the ground.





Tree 3: Female, a hollow tree with much internal growth. Five major branches grow from the bole at about 10'. This might have once been a larger girthed tree. In 1998 a girth of 17' 4" was recorded at both 3' and 5'. In 2012 a girth of 17' 6" was recorded at 5' and 17' 8" at 3'.



Tree 4: Male, many branches from 8' and upwards. One area has rotted and is forming a hollow. There is twiggy growth from close to the ground. In 1998 girth was 16' 6" at 3', this had increased to 16' 7" at the same height in 2012.



Tree 5: Female, with a fluted leading branch and a hollow filled with internal growth. There are already signs that this may become two fragment trees. A girth of 13' 2" at 5' was recorded in 1998. In 2012 this was 13' 6" at the same height.



Tree 6: Female, already 2 distinct parts to this leaning tree suggesting future separation into 2 fragment yews. A girth of 16' 8" at 3' was recorded in 1998 and 17' 4" at the same height in 2012.





Tree 7: Male, of fine appearance with fluting high into its main branch and a substantial limb leaning away from the bole. In 1998 wood was propped against the tree and filled some of its hollow, but this had been removed by 2012. Girth of 22' 7" at 5' recorded in 1988 and 23' 3" at the same height in 2012. The narrowest part of the tree, at a height of about 2', was also measured in 2012 as 21' 2".



Tree 8: Female and the only tree not in the circle. This area of the churchyard was in use as a store for builders equipment. As well as the dried grasses under the tree, wood was propped against the bole, barbed wire hung from it and an assortment of metal scaffolding and planks littered the area. This is no way to treat an old tree growing in a churchyard.



Tree 9: Female, with much hollowing and internal growth suggesting it was once a larger tree. A girth of 16' 9" at 3' in 1998 grew to exactly 17' at the same height in 2012.



Tree 10: Male, at a height of about 10' are indications where this hollowing tree may eventually split into two. Several large limbs have been removed and 3 substantial branches carry the main growth. In 1998 girths of 20' 9" at the base and 22' 10" at 4' were recorded. In 2012 girth at the base was 20' 11".



Tree 11: Male, in three main sections, the most substantial of these dividing at 4' into two growth areas. A dead branch rises to about 10'. Girth at the base was 29' 8" in 1998 and exactly 30' in 2012.



Tree 12: Male, in an overgrown part of the churchyard. In 2012 I struggled through undergrowth to discover a tree hidden by dense twiggy growth but with a girth similar to tree 11.

