

'An early medieval inscribed stone, a 14thC effigy and a 15thC font are preserved within the church, and the churchyard with its hint of curvilinearity could take the site back to early medieval beginnings'. *CPAT*

In 1849 the *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* described the site as 'remarkably picturesque, and is adorned with some fine yew-trees, several of which, though of great age, are flourishing in full vigour'. Wilson's 1870 *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described the churchyard as 'shaded by massive yew-trees'.

The 1970 Brecon Yew Survey's plan showed 8 yews with girths of 12' and above. Four of these have gone, trees of 20', 14', 13' and 12'. I was told they were cut down in 1985 and new trees planted to replace them.

The site was first visited in 2000, and the trees were photographed in 2011.

Tree 1: NE of the church, male, with a bole that divides at 5' into a fluted main branch and a substantial limb. Girth at 1' was 18' 7" in 2000 and 18' 10" in 2011. The 1970 Brecon Survey recorded a girth of 20' for this tree.



2016 Paul Wood: A covering of ivy and twiggly growth hid all the bole details. In spite of many dead looking branches, the yew's foliage was deep green.





Tree 2 is female and grows east of the church. It has a rugged and substantial appearance, expanding gradually in girth to a height of 15'. Large internal stems can be seen inside the decaying outer shell of a tree that has been larger girthed in the past. I recorded 16' 11" at 1' in 2000 and 17' 7" at 1' in 2011.

The 1970 Brecon Survey recorded a girth of 21' for this tree.



2016 Paul Wood: The Yew itself had a few gravestones leant against it, the bole was covered in algae and the foliage was covered in lichen. I thought this yew had been much larger in the past with three, possibly four former internal stems visible. In spite of it being smothered in ivy, I was able to remove sufficient to record a girth of 17' 1" (5.21m) at 1'.



Tree 3 grows south of the church against the perimeter wall. From a platform at about 5' develop two main growth areas. Girth was 17' 0" between the ground and 1' in 2000 and 16' 7" close to the ground in 2011. The ground level has built up to the height of the top of the wall, so the original base of this tree is several feet below what we see today. The 1970 Brecon Survey recorded a girth of 20' for this tree.



The yew in 2016 - Paul Wood:

