

In 1802 Edward Jones wrote in *The bardic museum: of primitive British literature...* that 'Overton Churchyard is famed for being surrounded with twenty-five yew-trees, that grow in an admirable manner'. Because of the large number of individual yews this site became known as one of the 'Seven Wonders of Wales'. Only one yew however is of great age.

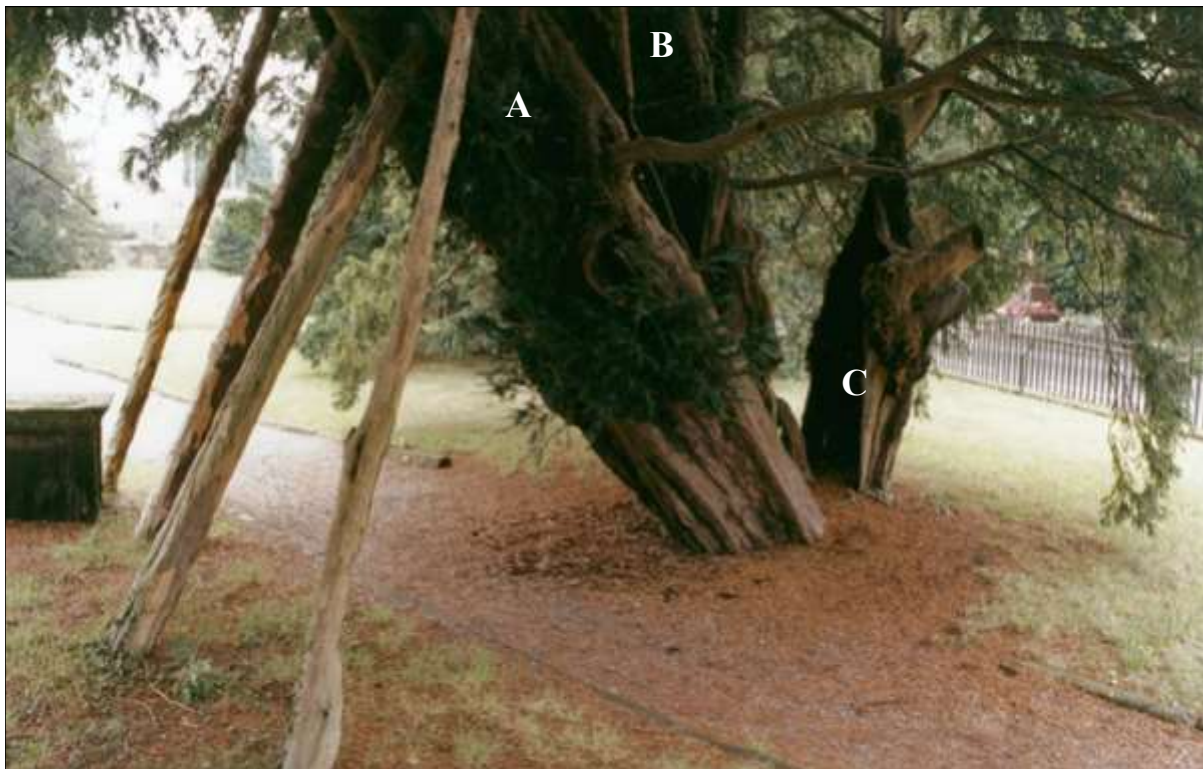
By the time John Lowe wrote *The yew trees of Great Britain and Ireland* (1896) there were 22 yews at this site. By 1999 one further yew had been added to that number and there were also plans to plant a millennium yew.

1999: This old male grows NW of the church and was supported on 4 yew props. These were preventing the large hollow fragment (A) from falling across the path. Attached to it is a large dead section with thin slithers of new growth snaking along it.

Section (B), also hollow, is joined to (A) to a height of 4'. Higher in the tree metal clamps prevent these two from pulling further apart. Both A and B supported an abundance of young and vigorous growth.

Section (C) is dead and stands apart from the rest of the tree.

2004: At a meeting led by Andrew Morton (*The Trees of Shropshire*) a picture of this yew showed that railings had been placed around the tree to help protect the ancient fragments.



Girth around A,B and C was 15' 8" and around A and B was 12' 4".