

In *Tree Heritage of the British Isles*, Andrew Morton described Rhulen as ‘down the narrowest of lanes into the wildest of Radnor landscapes. On top of the Bronze Age mound is the simple, late Norman church with its unique recessed door and altar surround. Against the east wall of the church are the remains of a yew that crashed in a storm in the mid-1980s (tree 5 on plan). The tree prevented any extension to the chancel in the 14th century. Around the perimeter of the mounded churchyard are extremely old and battered yews’.

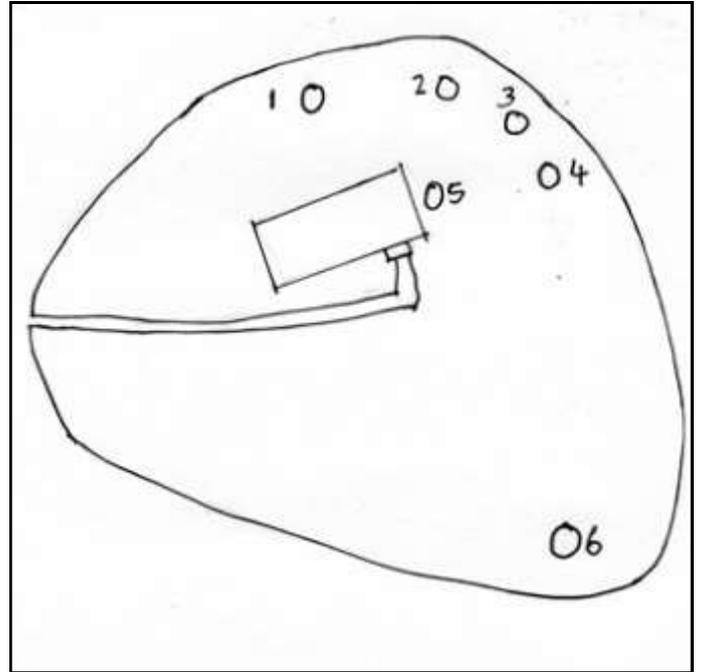
1999: Five of these old and battered yews can be seen today, four growing close to each other north and east of the church, the other south east.

Tree 1 is female with a tall, straight trunk (A) measuring 10' 6" at 3'. When the old sapwood at B (10'/12' high) and C finally rots, photographs like this will provide the only evidence that the remaining fragment (A) was once part of a large yew. Around the base, taking in both live and dead sections, girth was 17' 4".

Photos:

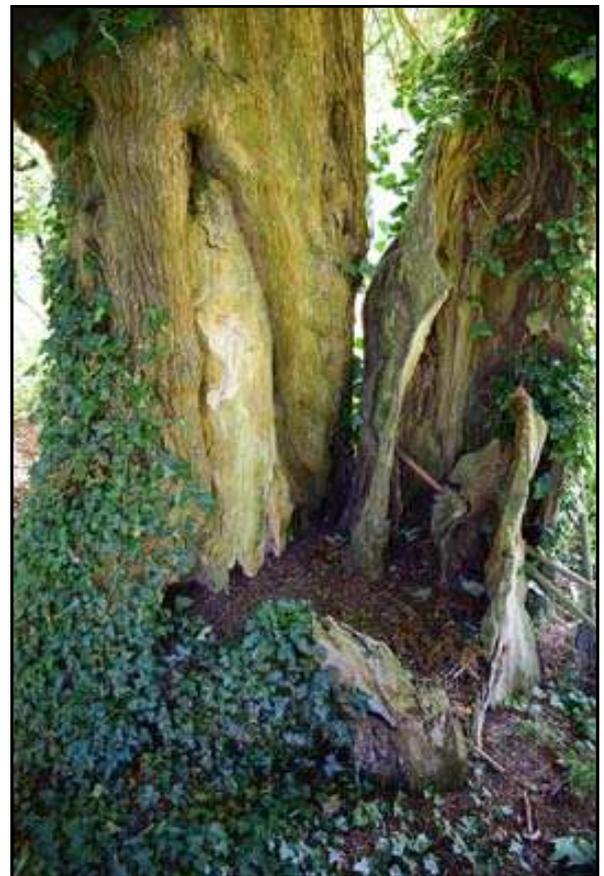
1999 Tim Hills

2015 Paul Wood.



1999

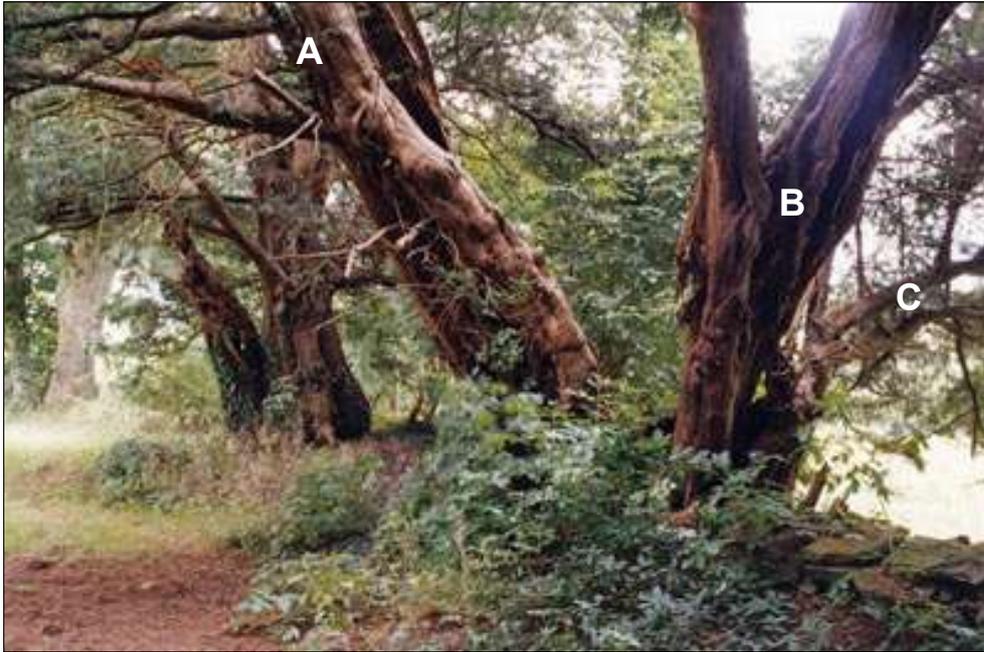
2015



The photo in 2015 was taken after the removal of a recently dumped bag of rubbish, a car wheel and other items.

1999: Tree 2, male, consists of fragments that spread in different directions. (A) leans towards the church and is a horse shoe shaped hollow almost to the top. (B) leans eastwards and includes a hollow branch. Against this is a smaller section of separate growth (C) pointing towards the north. A piece of dead trunk about 3' high completes the tree. Girth around these fragments at the ground/3' above the adjoining field, was 20' 2".

1999

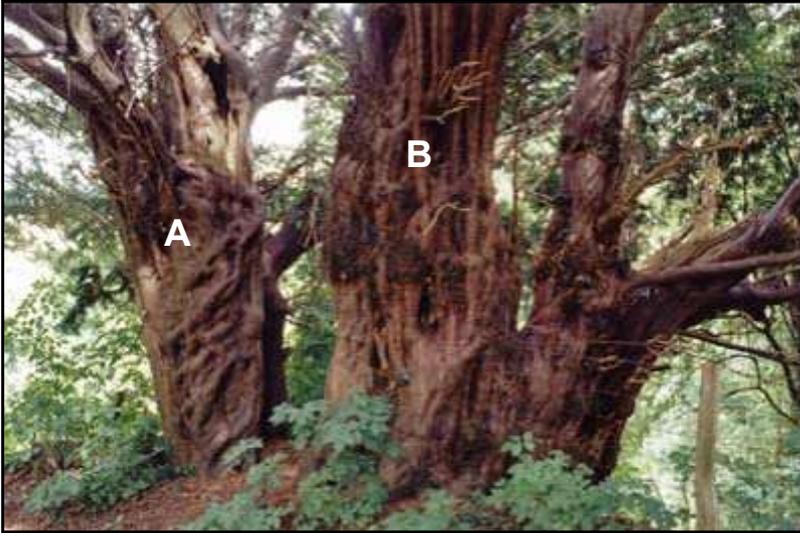


2015

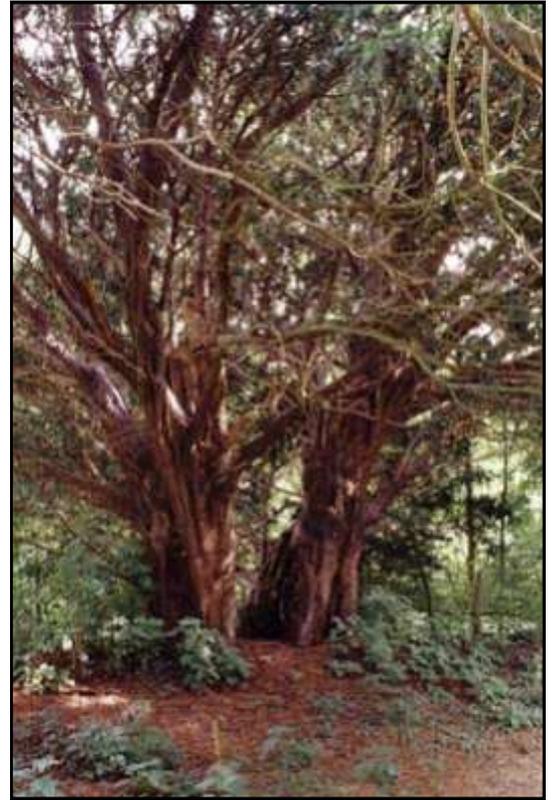


2015: Paul Wood found the area around the tree overgrown. The tree had a piece of fence nailed to it and there was rusty barbed wire entangled with a pile of dead branches interspersed with various bits of discarded rubbish.

1999: Tree 3 is a fragmented female measuring 26' 3" at the ground. (A) is a small hollow trunk which measured 9' 2" and supported many branches. (B) is an elongated trunk supporting a main fluted branch and many smaller branches.



1999



1999



2015



2015: Paul Wood found the yew fenced in on the church side with many dead twigs on the ground. Interspersed with this was broken glass and rubble that appeared to have been used to level up the ground. A steep drop outside the church boundary made it too dangerous to attempt to measure.



1999: Tree 4, female, is a horse shoe shaped hollow tree of small girth. At the time of this visit it was the store for churchyard rubbish and large pieces of sawn off yew. Barbed wire prevented measurement.

2015: Paul Wood: Rubbish, rubble, broken glass, wire, barbed wire spoil this tree and it could not be measured.

Tree 5: In Andrew Morton's *Tree Heritage of Britain and Ireland* he tells of the yew that crashed in a storm in the mid- 980s. The tree apparently prevented any extension to the chancel in the 14th century.

1999



2015



1999: Tree 6 on the plan grows SSE of the church. It consists of an elongated shell with a girth of 23' 10", but including the leaning section that grows at one end this rises to 26' 2" (measured as near to the ground as possible). The hollow shell narrows as it rises into the main branch; there is much branching throughout the tree. The space around the bole was filled with elder.

2005 Geoff Garlick



2015

2015



2015 Paul Wood: A yew free of rubbish. It is horse shoe shaped and hollow. Measurement was not possible because on each side of the tree the churchyard wall had collapsed.