

1861: Dr. Bull gave also the dimensions of the Sarnesfield yew-tree, which was not given in Mr. Woodhouse's paper, and which had been kindly procured for him. This was a very fine tree. It measured 21ft. 3in. at five feet from the ground, and was said to be ninety feet high, though he scarcely thought it could be so high as this. *Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club Transactions*

1938: Mee, in *The King's England* wrote that 'In the churchyard is an old wide spreading yew'.

I visited on 3rd May 1998. The only reference I had at that time was from Meredith's *Gazetter* in *The Sacred Yew* (1994). It noted a yew with a girth of 21ft south of the church. We were unable to find a tree south of the church fitting the description. We could see yews on the other side of the churchyard wall, but thick undergrowth meant they could not be accessed.

I revisited on 26th November 2011 and found the old yew (below left), growing 30m beyond the churchyard wall NE of the church. The male yew looked solid but had spaces into a hollowing centre with internal growth. A tall straight stem rose above the hollows. Girth was 20' 9" between 1' and 2' and 21' 3" at 2' up on upper slope keeping the tape horizontal. An additional measurement was recorded by Paul Wood in October 2015. He found the tree's smallest girth to be 20' 9" between 1' and 2'.



It was noted that of the many yews planted on the south side of the church, all of these are young and outside the boundary wall.





The old yew is seen below in 2011



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