SHROPSHIRE - churchyard sites with younger yews

BEDSTONE St Mary SO36897574 2017 Paul Wood
A few younger yews around the north and east perimeter of the churchyard. Around the village and Bedstone College Grounds are many more yews of various sizes with some close to 12ft in girth.

BISHOP’S CASTLE St John the Baptist SO323884 11/10/1999 Tim Hills
A yew grows north of the church's north porch, close to the road. Though girth at the ground is only 11’ it swells to 16’ at 5'. This is possibly a notable yew and needs to be revisited.

BITTERLEY St Mary SO57077731 2017 Paul Wood
A young yew south of the church.

BORASTON No dedication SO61347004 2018 Paul Wood
Younger yews.

BROSELEY All Saints SJ678015 22/11/2008 Tim Hills
The church was once in the centre of the village. The church internet guide describes ‘an ancient yew’ standing in the church grounds. Old but clearly not ancient. The male yew had a girth of 11.9” at 6” and a bole height of 6’8”, above this many upright branches. Uniformity of these suggests that it had its crown removed. The space beneath the tree was being used to store old tombstones etc.

BURFORD St Mary SO58326802 3/6/2000 Tim Hills
A Norman church, rebuilt in the 14th century. A female yew with a girth of 12’ 1"grows here.
CLEOBURY MORTIMER  St Mary  SO67397578  2108  Paul Wood
A couple of younger yews. I also noted that the main road to Milson from Cleobury Mortimer, called Tenbury Road, had a number of younger hedgerow yews near Southwood/Bransley Villa.

CORELEY  St Peter  SO61327399  2108  Paul Wood
Some possible ivy infested yew stumps on the eastern boundary but the ivy is so thick it would need specialist equipment to clear.

CULMINGTON  All Saints  SO49368196  2016  Paul Wood
A few younger yews.

DAWLEY MAGNA  Holy Trinity  SJ686065  7/4/2012  Tim Hills
This village is on the edge of Telford. Two yews appear in a 1786 Rev. Williams painting. Both have been topiarised and would have probably grown slowly in their early years (as at Painswick). In the painting they look quite substantial trees. Today two stand in almost identical positions. Are they the same trees, or were the two seen in the painting removed when the church was completely rebuilt in 1845?

DIDDESBURY  St Peter  SO50838537  2106  Paul Wood
Many younger yews.

DODDINGTON  St John  SO61547616  2017  Paul Wood
A couple of younger yews.

DONINGTON  St Cuthbert  SJ808047  7/4/2012  Tim Hills
Rev. Williams watercolour (1791) shows one yew SW. Two now grow in this position. Both look too small to be the tree in the painting.
EATON-UNDER-HAYWOOD  St Edith  SO49959000  27/11/2011  Tim Hills
A Norman church, built on sloping ground. The Rev. Williams watercolour of 1789 shows a large girthed tree growing east of the church. Today a male yew grows in that position. It is a much younger tree with thick low twiggy growth preventing access to the trunk. It was presumably planted to replace the tree seen here. Girth appeared no more than about 8'.

EDGTON  St Michael  SO38648573  2017  Paul Wood
A couple of younger yews in the churchyard but a substantial yew noted in the village at SO38738579. Unable to gain access.

ELLESmere  St Mary  SJ4017934855  2018  Paul Wood
A number of younger yews.

HEATH  Heath Chapel  SO556857
A small Norman church is all that remains of a deserted medieval village, the earthworks of which lie to the north of the chapel. An ancient yew is apparently seen in an old drawing of the chapel.

HOPESAY  St Mary  SO38918328  2017  Paul Wood
A number of younger yews.

HOPTON CASTLE  St Edward  SO36347825  2017  Paul Wood
No yews in churchyard but a number of younger yews in the gardens along the street leading to the church.

KNOWBURY  St Paul  SO57197522  2017  Paul Wood
Young yews along the southern churchyard boundary.
There are certainly many yews around, but nothing that appeared of particular significance.

In the 1930s *The King’s England* noted that ‘clipped yews are everywhere and everywhere delightful. They are in the garden of the 18th century hall, in the churchyard, and over the cottage gate, this one 30’ high, clipped in a haystack shape’.

Here is a church in a field, built in the late 12th century. In the 1851 *History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 10* is this description: In the 1850s the church stood in a field near a ‘venerable’ yew, with no burial ground. A male yew grows S of the church, but it did not appear to be a tree described as venerable 150 years ago.

Two young yews.

SE of the church a yew whose many branches from 2’ to 5’ up on the bole arch up and over to reach the ground in most places around the tree. The rest of the bole feeds into central growth. There was much gall on this female tree, with a girth of 10’ 11” at 1’. In the 1930s *The King’s England* described ‘shapely yews’.

Many younger yews.

A single young yew.

Many yews ring church, but nothing above 9ft in girth.
NASH  St John the Baptist  SO64427171  2018  Paul Wood
A couple of younger yews.

NEEN SOLLARS  All Saints  SO66007227  2018  Paul Wood
A single yew near the south porch, possibly older than it looks. It has recently had a major overhaul. A number of younger yews also noted around the village.

NEEN SAVAGE  St Mary  SO67427733  2018  Paul Wood
A tight topiarised common yew at the east end of the church was not investigated due to work in the churchyard.

SIBDON CARWOOD  St Michael  SO41298315  13/12/2017  Paul Wood
The church dates from the 1700s though many (including myself) believe the site is one of a lost medieval village and therefore of an older church. Research has yet to explore deeper into the history of this site.
Two yews are noted here. The first grows 30m SE of the church and it is not possible to be sure whether it is one or two trees. As well as the living wood, there are the remains of old white sapwood, particularly in a hollow on the south side. Since both male and female were seen in the foliage this would normally suggest two separate trees, but the yew is capable of surprising us with both sexes appearing on one tree. The 2nd yew grows 10 metres west of the church. Girth is only 7/8’ but of interest is that its branches on the west side are being allowed to take root on the ground.

SILVINGTON  St Michael  SO62107984  2016  Paul Wood
No common yews but a number of younger yews on the boundary of the old rectory next door

STOKE ST MILBOROUGH  St Milburga  SO567823  11/9/2009  Tim Hills
SSW of the church. Girth (including thick ivy stems) between 9’ and 10’. Ivy penetrates right to the top of the tree. Good green and thick foliage. Beneath the tree and between the tree and adjacent wall a massive pile of rubble.
A number of younger yews.

A number of younger yews north of the church.

A line of younger yews on the W perimeter.

Though there are no yews in the churchyard there are many younger yews around the village.

A number of young yews on the churchyard perimeter.

A number of younger yews around the churchyard.

No yews in the churchyard, but a young yew on the castle mound next door to the west.

Many young yews.