

## 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?

**DIDDLESBURY** 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.

**LEIGHTON** St Mary SJ613051 2/4/2003 Tim Hills

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'.

**LINLEY** St Leonard SO687985 22/11/2008 Tim Hills

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.

**MARTON** St Mark SJ2878102641 2017 Paul Wood

Two young yews.

**MEOLE BRACE** Holy Trinity SJ486106 3/4/2003 Tim Hills

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'.

**MIDDLETON** Holy Trinity SO54007733 2016 Paul Wood

Many younger yews.

**MIDDLETOWN** All Saints SJ3017312656 2018 Paul Wood

A single young yew.

**MORTON** St Philip and St James SJ2908024050 29/7/2014

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**WELSH FRANKTON**      St Andrew      SJ3631633183      2017      Paul Wood  
A number of younger yews.

**WELSHAMPTON**      St Michael      SJ4328434954      2018      Paul Wood  
A number of younger yews north of the church.

**WENTNOR**      St Michael and All saints      SO 374927      5/10/2007      Tim Hills  
A line of younger yews on the W perimeter.

**WESTBURY**      St Mary      SJ3544509469      2018      Paul Wood  
Though there are no yews in the churchyard there are many younger yews around the village.

**WHITTON**      St Mary      SO57577285      2015      Paul Wood  
A number of young yews on the churchyard perimeter.

**WISTANSTOW**      Holy Trinity      SO43228558      2018      Paul Wood  
A number of younger yews around the churchyard.

**WOLLASTON**      St John the Baptist      SJ3283812337      2018      Paul Wood  
No yews in the churchyard, but a young yew on the castle mound next door to the west.

**WORTHEN**      Holy Trinity      SJ3274604725      2017      Paul Wood  
Many young yews.

