LLANDDEINIOLEN   St Deniolen   Diocese of Bangor   SH54566592
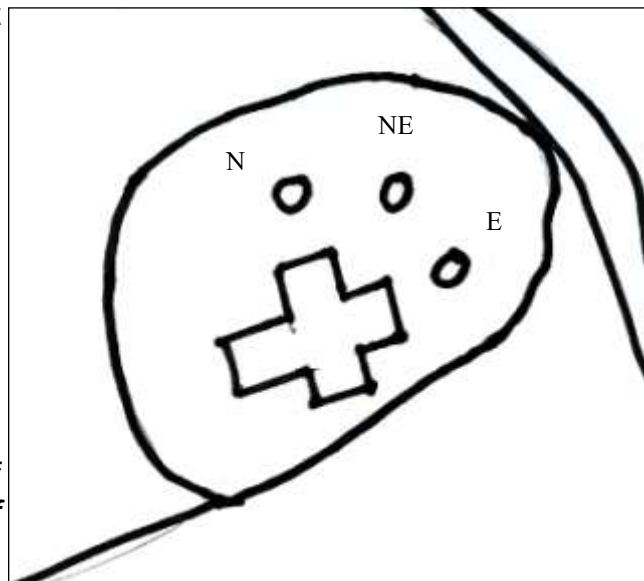
An exceptional site where 3 ancient yews grow east and north of the church. The circular churchyard has expanded into an extensive burial ground.

Its trees have not gone unnoticed. In 1809/11 Edmund Hyde Hall's *Description of Caernarvonshire* noted 'several yew trees, bald and ragged with antiquity'.

An 1828 account in *The History of North Wales* noted 'two remarkably large yew trees, which have stood there apparently for some centuries'.

By 1834 the bald and ragged trees of 1809 were 'of luxuriant growth'. Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*

In the 1860 *Notes of Family Excursions in North Wales* 'three very large yew trees' are noted, 'one of them being not far short of thirty feet in diameter'. Clearly the writer meant circumference!

An 1868 account in *The National Gazatteer of Great Britain and Ireland* noted the 'ancient yew trees', but also considered the antiquity of the site, where 'a little to the N.E. is the famous camp of Dinas Dinorwig, supposed to be of Roman origin'.

1946: 'Three gigantic yews' were noted in Vaughan Cornish's *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality.*

2008: The most easterly of the trio is this fragmented specimen. It is female, whose girth records must be affected by the leaning limb which has almost pulled away from the tree and might need propping at some stage.

The first three girths below are from Chetan and Brueton's *The Sacred Yew.*

Date	Girth	
1769	27'	Thomas Pennant
1833/40	28' 4"	Samuel Lewis
1891	28'	Gazetteer of Caernarvonshire
1984	877cm at 20cm (28' 10")	Reg Wheeler
2010	895cm (29' 4")	David Alderman

The yew growing NE of the church is female, gradually splitting into two distinct sides. Girths have been recorded as follows:

1984: 724cm (23' 9") at the ground   Reg Wheeler
2010: 768cm (24' 5") at 10cm   David Alderman

1998

2010

2008

For the moment the tree growing north is the least impressive to look at. In 1984 Reg Wheeler recorded it as male with a girth of 851cm (27' 11") at the ground.

1998

2010

2010