

Little appears to be known of the origins of this site. Evidence suggesting the possibility of an ancient site are: (1) a 'hint' that the church yard was once sub-circular (2) very old yews (3) an ancient stone embedded in the base of one of the trees.

I visited in 1998 and 2012. The trees are numbered 1 to 5, starting with the smallest girthed south of the church and going round the churchyard in a clockwise direction.

In 1998 I recorded that this yew was already developing into a hollow shell with an internal stem. A girth of approximately 12' was recorded.

In 2015 Paul Wood recorded a hollowing female tree that had possibly been larger because the visible dead wood appeared to be attached to an internal stem of some size that had fused to the shell. Ivy was beginning to cover the tree but it looked healthy. Girth was 3.68m at 30cm - 12' 1" at 1'.

In 1982 Reg Wheeler wrote 'Yew tree south from the church 13' 4" at 4' from the ground, obviously hollow at some stage, new growth on inside and outside.



photos Tim Hills 2012



photos - Paul Wood 2015







Tree 2 SW of the church is male.

In 1982 Reg Wheeler described it as 'consisting of three stems, one of which appears to be dead. The other two quite healthy though partially decayed. The tree grows on a mound. Although obviously separated this appears to have been a single trunk at some stage.' He recorded a girth of 30' 2".



The photos above from 1998 and below in 2012 show the tree now consisted of only two stems, with a combined girth of about 21'. All that remained of the third was an almost concealed piece of stump. Including that in the measurement gave a girth of 26' 6" at the ground.



Paul Wood photographed the yew in 2015. He recorded a much fragmented male tree that has been





Tree 3, WSW of the church, is female. In 1982 Reg Wheeler gave a girth of 16' 4". He described 'only half a trunk but vigorous in growth, half that's left is hollow, a large stone about 2' across and 4' in length lies half buried at the base of the tree.

These photos from 1998 show all that remained was a section of hollow shell with a girth of 16' 6". At its base is a large and ancient stone.



Paul Wood 2015: A much reduced shell of a tree that appears to be splitting again on the east side. There is still plenty of foliage which appeared very green in the strong sun. Girth at ground level on the hollow (west) side of the tree was 5.08m (16' 8"). This measurement may be more to do with the tree leaning as it splits than new growth. The fallen stone perhaps has some carving on it but was too heavy for one person to move. It is possibly pre Norman.







Tree 4 was described in 1982 by Reg Wheeler as 'consisting of two large stems. Here also is a stone, but much smaller than the previous one.'

It is male and grows WNW of the church. It is twin trunked from a 4' bole. Girth was about 22' in 1998.

photos 2012



Paul Wood 2015: The yew is split in two. Grass cuttings piled in the gap and around the tree hid the ground level. It is possibly on the original churchyard boundary. Not measured because of false ground level. Tree seemed to be growing well.







Tree 5, east of the church, is female with an approximate girth of 17' 6" in 1998.

In 1982 Reg Wheeler described it as about 19' girth, most of inner growth dead, new growth on outside.

photos 2012



Paul Wood 2015: Lots of new growth and some ivy around the ground and lower bole. Appears to be hollowing on the west side of the tree but thick growth prevented proper assessment. The tree is female with a girth of 5.35 at 25cm (17' 6" at 1').



The discovery of Reg Wheeler's notes from 1982 reveal that at least 3 old yews have been lost from this site - as follows:

NNW - dead stump of what was a very large tree, hollow and burnt out.

North - another dead stump, must have been of some considerable size, judging from the remains. A small yew sapling grows by it.

SE - 15' girth growing on a mound. Decayed and hollow, was at some stage of much larger girth.