

'An early medieval inscribed stone, a 14thC effigy and a 15thC font are preserved within the church, and the churchyard with its hint of curvilinearity could take the site back to early medieval beginnings'. *CPAT*

In the 1833 and 1849 *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, the site is described as 'remarkably picturesque, and is adorned with some fine yew-trees, several of which, though of great age, are flourishing in full vigour'.

Wilson's 1870 *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described the churchyard as 'shaded by massive yew-trees'.

The 1970 Brecon Yew Survey's plan showed 8 yews with girths of 12' and above.

In 1984 Allen Meredith visited the churchyard and wrote "I was saddened by my visit on 29th July, very few yews now existed in the churchyard; after looking around the churchyard what was once a circle of ancient yews was now for the most part burnt out ashes where those great trees once stood, and only three very old ones remain:

- 1) NE yew male 19' 3" at about 4'
- 2) East yew female 19' 4" at about 4'
- 3) Did not measure - too close to wall

While I was measuring the yews the owner of the nearby rectory explained that some of the old yews were cut down because it was thought they could be a danger to the building. I explained that the largest boughs could have been lopped and the yews saved. The owner went on to explain that one evening while they were burning the remains of one old yew, a sudden howling wind was heard which made them a little uneasy. They then heard a loud crashing noise and departed soon after. In the morning they found to top of another old yew had broken off, while another made a crashing noise as part of its trunk had come away. It is sad that most of us are ignorant when it comes to protecting these old trees."

I first visited the site in 2000, and the trees were photographed in 2011.

Tree 1: NE of the church, male, with a bole that divides at 5' into a fluted main branch and a substantial limb. Girth at 1' was 18' 7" in 2000 and 18' 10" in 2011. The 1970 Brecon Survey recorded a girth of 20' for this tree.





2016 Paul Wood: A covering of ivy and twiggy growth hid all the bole details. In spite of many dead looking branches, the yew's foliage was deep green.



Tree 2 is female and grows east of the church. It has a rugged and substantial appearance, expanding gradually in girth to a height of 15'. Large internal stems can be seen inside the decaying outer shell of a tree that has been larger girthed in the past. I recorded 16' 11" at 1' in 2000 and 17' 7" at 1' in 2011.



The 1970 Brecon Survey recorded a girth of 21' for this tree.



2016 Paul Wood: The Yew itself had a few gravestones leant against it, the bole was covered in algae and the foliage was covered in lichen. I thought this yew had been much larger in the past with three, possibly four former internal stems visible. In spite of it being smothered in ivy, I was able to remove sufficient to record a girth of 17' 1" (5.21m) at 1'.







Tree 3 grows south of the church against the perimeter wall. From a platform at about 5' develop two main growth areas. Girth was 17' 0" between the ground and 1' in 2000 and 16' 7" close to the ground in 2011. The ground level has built up to the height of the top of the wall, so the original base of this tree is several feet below what we see today. The 1970 Brecon Survey recorded a girth of 20' for this tree.





The yew in 2016 - Paul Wood:

