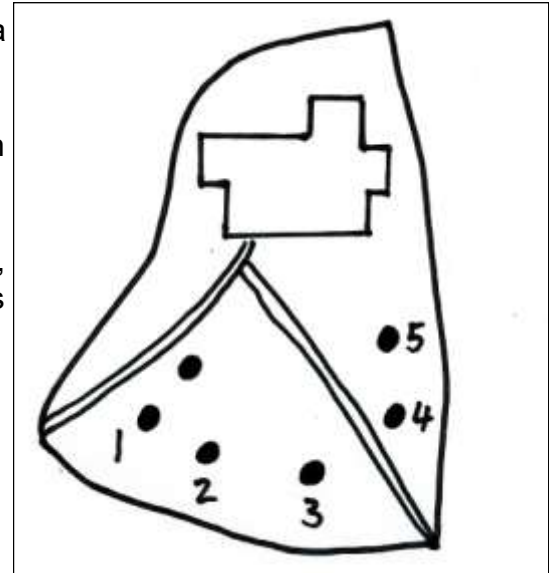


In 1834 Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* described a 'churchyard ornamented with numerous yew trees'.

When the Woolhope society visited in 1910 they wrote of yews in the churchyard that in their opinion 'were 1,000 years old'.

The Brecon Survey of 1970 listed seven yews, with girths of 16', 13', 17', 13', 16', 16', 14'. Their survey counted tree 3, below, as two individuals. Tree 1,2,3 and 5 are recorded here.



I visited in 2000, 2010 and 2014.

Tree 3 is an ancient female consisting of two separated fragments that lean away from the original centre. The trunk closest to the road (left) supported considerable growth and appeared solid, though closer examination found it to be hollow. From 8' and above it was covered in adventitious growth.

This stem measured 14' 5" around its base in 2000. The stem furthest from the road (right) was also hollow and had a girth of 16' 1" around its base in 2000. Measurement around the base of both stems was about 24'.

On February 14th in 2014 a rare east wind blew with exceptional force and felled both fragments of this ancient tree. What happens next remained to be seen, but it was probably inevitable that by 2016 most of the yew had been cleared away, leaving only a 2 metre section of each of the two stumps in place. There were no signs of new growth from either stump.





Tree 1, female, has much sculptured dead sap wood (A). When this eventually decays it will leave an arch under which it will be possible to pass through the centre of the tree. Girth in 2000 was 15' 10" at 1' and in 2010 was 16' 2" at the same height.

Geoff Garlick 2004



Tim Hills 2014



Paul Wood 2016





Tree 2 is a male measuring 14' 3" between the ground and 2' in 2000, and 14' 4" close to the ground in 2010 .

Paul Wood 2016: The yew grows half on and half off a mound. Measured at the ground level on the north side of the tree a girth of 14' 4" (4.37m) was recorded. What little bole was visible, behind thick ivy and twiggy growth, was deep purplish red in colour. A small stack of stones had been placed near the tree.



Tim Hills 2014



Paul Wood 2016

Tree 4 on the plan is an extraordinary looking tree with a short bole of little more than 2' before its girth increases considerably. I measured under the bulge at 20" and a girth of 9' 4" was recorded at its narrowest point. Much of the upper bole was hidden by ivy and twiggy growth. Paul Wood 2016

Tree 5 had been given an estimated girth of 12'/14'. The tree has 'a central spine of dead white wood. Ivy covered about 60 per cent of the bole and grew high into the canopy. Girth at the ground was 11' 4" (345cm). The foliage was noticeably yellowy green. Paul Wood 2016

The unnumbered tree on the plan was measured at the ground slightly above the partially exposed root crown where a girth of 9' 6" (290cm) was recorded. It has a hollowing centre with white wood seen protruding in various parts of the tree. It appeared to be growing well with much twiggy growth. Paul Wood 2016