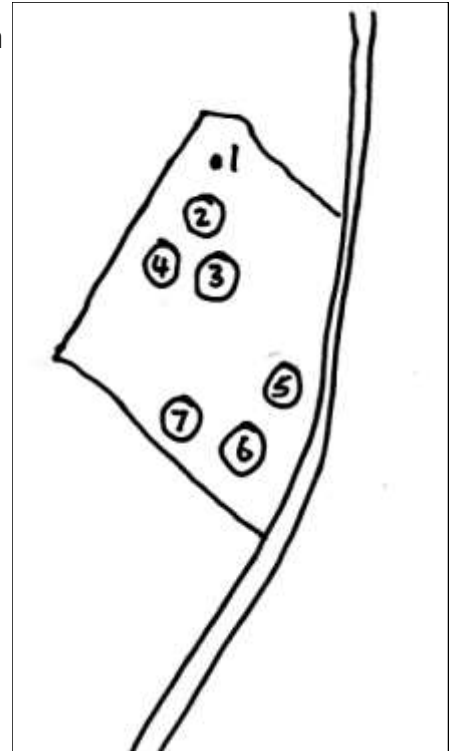


The village of Abergwesyn is at the foot of a steep mountain road, once a resting place on the route used by drovers bringing their animals on the long journey to English markets.

The map of 1833 shows two churchyard sites, those of Llanfihangel Abergwessin and Llanddewi Abergwessin. These two village communities, separated by a small river, each had their own church, and their parishes were not combined until 1885.

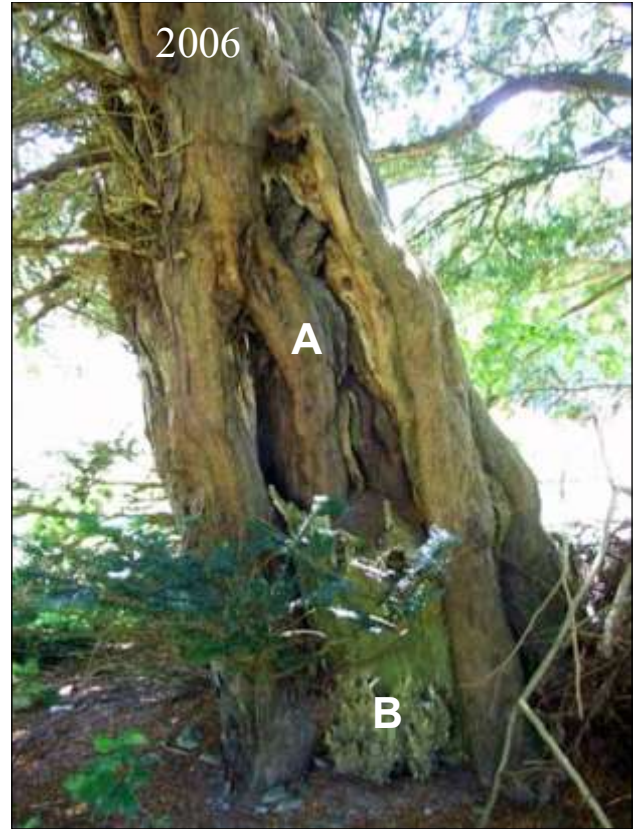
Llanfihangel Abergwesyn is considered the older of the two settlements, possibly early medieval, though no outward sign of antiquity was ever found in the lost church (seen here in this postcard before it was taken down in 1946) or in its churchyard. The only evidence of antiquity would seem to be the trees, with several yews having a likely age above 500 years.

Trees 2 to 7 are recorded here and the final page features the veteran yews at the Llanddewi Abergwessin site.



- photos
- 1998 Tim Hills
- 2006 Geoff Garlick
- 2015 Paul Wood

Tree 2 is a twin trunked male with complete separation at between 6' and 8'. The trunk shown is hollow, with internal growth seen at (A) and remains of the sapwood shell that once enclosed it at (B). Girth was about 12' at 5' in 1998.



Tree 3- A large portion of its trunk is dead, and when it decays girth will be further diminished. Its interior had been scorched by a recent fire. Only the ivy seemed unaffected, growing into its topmost branches. A metal band encircled this male tree, whose girth was 17' 4" at 5' in 1998 and 17' 5" at 1' in 2005.





Both sections that make up tree 4 are male, but it is not known whether this is one tree or two. The two boles are separated by about 12 inches and appear to have developed from the same root material. Girth of (A) was 17' 6" at 5' in 1998 and 17' 6" at 1' in 2005. Girth around both trunks was 23' 10" at the ground in 2005. Girth around the smaller leaning tree was 11' 6" at 3' in 1998



Tree 5 has a single male branch on a female tree. It grows on a steep slope and was covered in bristly growth and low branches. It had a bole of about 4', above which its main stem divides into two at about 8'. There was much hollowing. Girth was 21' 6" at the ground in 1998 and 21' 7" at the ground, avoiding bulging roots, in 2005.



Tree 6, male, is 'vase' shaped and at its broadest at a height of about 4'. It was covered in twiggy growth. Where the ground drops away are signs that the tree was once larger than 20' in girth.



Tree 7, male, has a bole height of 8'. Its girth was 16' 11" at 2' in 2005.



ABERGWESYN St David SN85295257

A bridleway leads from the bridge over the river Irfon to the site of the medieval church of St David in what was a circular churchyard. This pair of yews, growing only a few feet apart, will mark this as a sacred site long after all traces of the former church have gone.



Tim Hills 2005: The yews grows SW of where the church once stood. The largest is the most westerly of the pair and appears to be solid, rising into a tall well-developed central branch surrounded by 5 thick limbs. Girth of 20' 1" at the ground was exaggerated by twiggly growth. In 2015, when the photos were taken, Paul Wood 2015 recorded a girth of 20' 2" (6.15m) at the ground. Two of the branches had begun to hollow.

Paul Wood recorded the smaller yew (below right) in 2015. Measured at the ground and clear of any twiggly growth a girth of 12' 10" (3.91m) was recorded.



© Tim Hills/Paul Wood - Ancient Yew Group - 2019