

Aberyscir church is a Victorian rebuild, with little of its medieval past surviving. While its origin is unknown, an early medieval beginning is considered plausible. The earliest reference to yews at this site is from 1860, when *A handbook for travellers in South Wales and its borders* noted that the church was 'planted round with yew'.

These two females are all that remain, growing either side of the path close to the church entrance. The yew on the left in both of these photographs suffered in the winter of 2007, when its top snapped off in a snow storm. In visits carried out in 2000 and 2006 a healthy green canopy was noted, though it was competing with large quantities of ivy growing high into its branches. It is possible that the ivy added significantly to the weight those branches were carrying, making it more susceptible to the heavy snow-fall. In 2011 several healthy branches remained on the large stump, though some of the foliage was brown. Girth in 2000 was 17' 1" at 1'.

2006

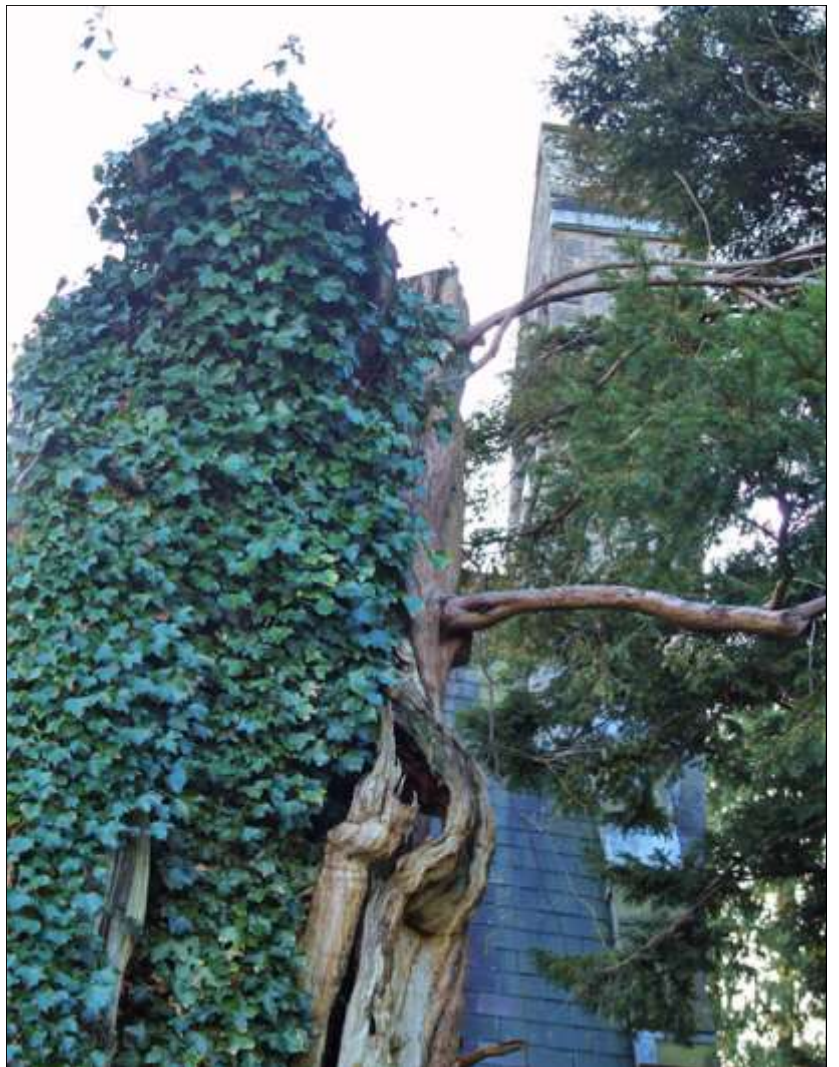


2011

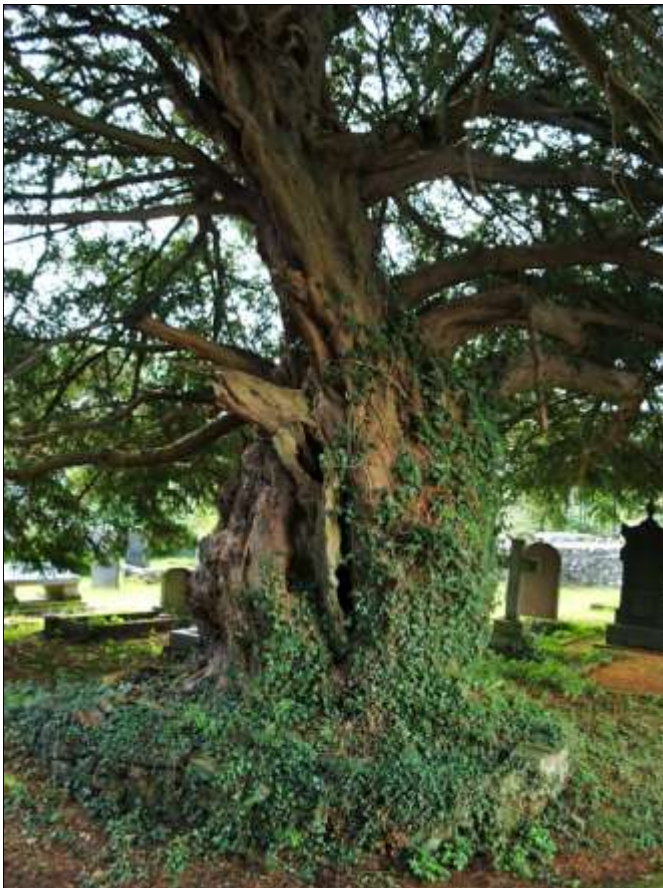




2011 - The tree has several living branches and the potential to recover.



The second tree has a memorable shape. The level of the ground inside the hollow is 2' above that outside. It has several distinctive faces, seen here and on the next page. Girth in 2000 was 20' 7" between the ground and 2' to obtain the minimum girth. It is seen here in 2006, unless otherwise shown.



2017 Paul Wood found the snow damaged yew continuing to recover with small amounts of foliage on some of its branches. He recorded a girth of 16' 10" (5.13m) at 1', a few inches less than in 1998. A piece of whitewood on the ground that had become detached from the north western side of the base probably accounts for the lost inches. A large portion of the current shell on which there is no life was starting to break off, with the main growth being the exposed internal root. It was unfortunate that all that is good about this yew was overshadowed by ivy that has again been allowed to become thick and rampant around the top of what is left on the east side of the tree. It seemed already out of control and only a matter of time before the yew is inundated. There is obviously a considerable weight in this ivy and if it is not removed its weight might cause further damage to this yew.



2017 Paul Wood: A hollow yew bursting with twiggy growth all over. A small amount of ivy would be easily removable. The tree's smallest girth was 6.32m at 30cm (20' 9" at 1').

