

According to Haslam 'the origins of Llanbadarn Fawr are lost, but an early medieval date for its foundation seems likely on the basis of its dedication and location'.

*A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* (1849) described 'some fine yew-trees' in the churchyard.

Though the church is thought likely to be of early medieval foundation, the present building was erected in 1879. There is more than one place with this name in Wales and the map reference is essential.

The Google plan, prepared by Paul Wood, shows 4 yews growing in this churchyard, which was perhaps larger before construction of the present A483.

The yellow line signifies part of the original churchyard boundary, suggesting that the two oldest yews, trees 2 and 3 were once on this boundary. This would probably need archaeological exploration for confirmation but the earthwork curve would certainly seem to place the church in a central position.



1999 - Tim Hills: I recorded two significant yews. The largest is number 3 on the plan, a male growing SSW of the church. Measurement was not possible since numerous branches cut from the second yew had been propped against its bole.

At a height of about 6' two main branches separate from the bole, and it would be possible to climb onto a platform between them. The hollow branch on one side was filled with small internal stems among the crumbling red heartwood. The other was seen to be hollow from the ground, growing above roots which stretched away from the tree.

By 2006 the timber had been removed, enabling Russell Cleaver to record 20' 6"/6.25m at 3'.



2016 Paul Wood: The oldest and largest yew had become the churchyard dumping ground. About 80% of the wood previously stacked around the tree had gone, only to be replaced by a ton of rubble and soil. Ground level on the east side of the tree was consequently at least 2' higher than the rest of the ground around the tree. The lower limbs of the yew appear to be cut off as soon as the opportunity arises. Quite noticeable was the redness of the first few feet of the bole, while above this the bark was much yellower in colour. There was much intertwined dead and live wood and many small internal stems fusing to form at least three larger ones. The tree could not be measured. From a distance its foliage was a light green and almost yellow combination. It did not give the impression of a tree in great health.





Yew 2, female, is the tree from which all the cut timbers had been removed. It divides into 2 main branches at 6'8". Girth was 15' 8" at 3' in 1999.

2015 - Paul Wood: Twiggy growth, secondary growth and large embedded stones meant no measurement was possible, though the tree appeared to be fine. The pictures show a tree whose features are for the moment hidden from view.





Of the two young yews here, tree 1, left, is female with a girth of about 9' and yew 4, right, is a short stout yew with thick foliage. Twiggly growth covered most of it and a small amount of ivy had encroached. It was not possible to measure and an estimated girth was 8'/9'.

