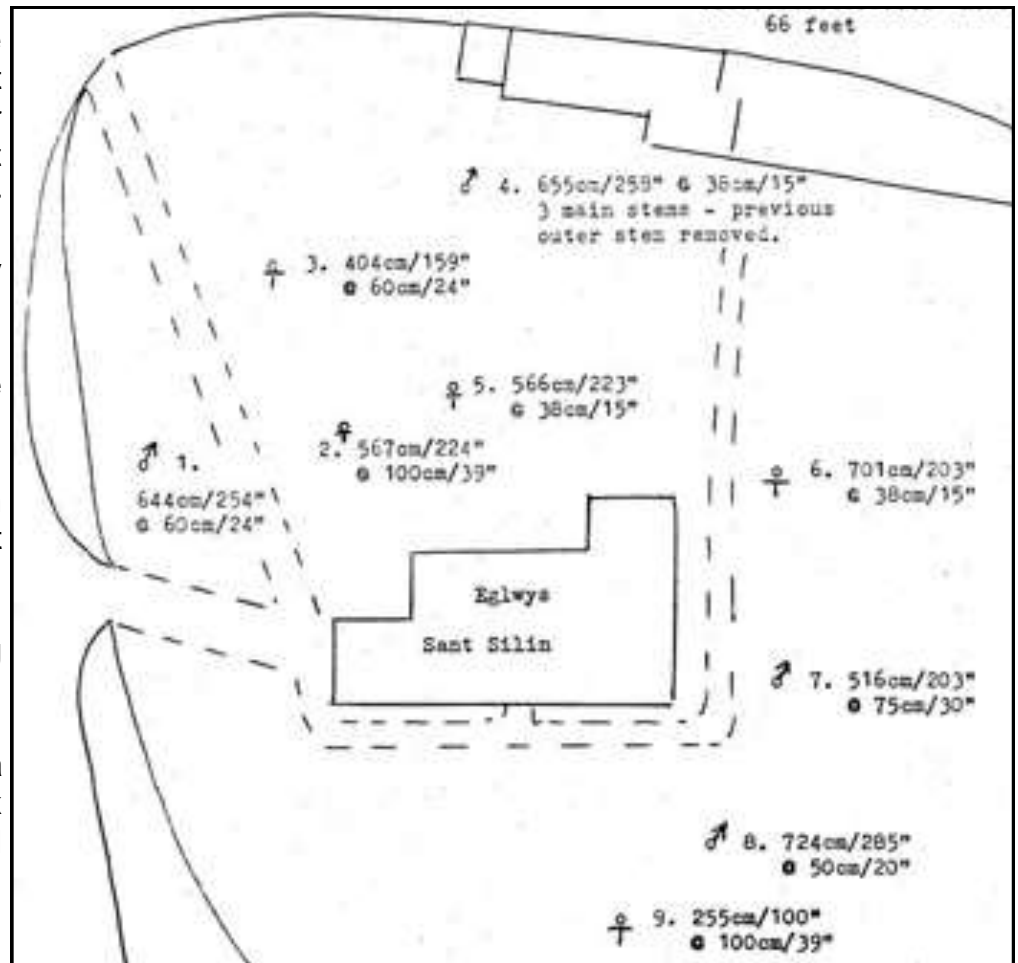


December 1871 *Bygones* 1871 p19:

YEW TREES IN WALES (O.A.) The fine yews in Llansilin churchyard are very striking in appearance, and eight of the finest when measured are found to be very large in circumference. They were measured wherever the bulk appeared to be greatest, either close to the ground or at a distance from it varying from half a foot to four feet. The largest tree is 25 feet round, and the rest as follows:- 22½ ft, 19 ½ ft, 18ft, 17½ft, 17ft, 14ft, 13ft. A small but equally venerable tree, with a much shattered and very hollow trunk, is in the centre of the churchyard, and three other well grown trees are near the walls. These last, being smaller than the other trees, were not measured'.

This plan was drawn by Reg Wheeler in 1983.

I visited in 1998 and 2009. In a churchyard with ten yews, the six most significant are recorded here.



Tree 1 is male measuring about 23' at 5' in 1998. It had a wall built inside its large hollow! Reg Wheeler recorded 254" (21' 2") at 2' in 1983.

The first photo was taken in 1998, before ivy was removed. The 2nd and 3rd photos from 2009 show just how different in appearance two sides of an old yew can be.



Tree 2, female, may eventually become two fragments. Reg Wheeler recorded a girth of 18' 8" at 3' 3" in 1983. In 1998 I recorded about 21' at 5'. The photos from 1998 and 2009 show the difference made by the removal of ivy.



Tree 3 on Reg Wheeler's plan is female with a girth of 13' 3" at 2' in 1983. I made no further record of this tree.

Tree 4 is male with 3 clearly separating sections. Reg Wheeler's girth in 1983 was 21' 6" at 15" and he described it as having 3 main stems, with previous outer stems removed. In 1998 I recorded a girth of 26' 3" at 5'.



Tree 5 is female with a large visible bole and many branches. Reg Wheeler's girth in 1983 was 18' 7" at 15". In 1998 I recorded 19' 3" at the base, including the remains of a dead section, and 18' 0" at 5'.



Tree 6 is female and grows east of the church. In 1983 Reg Wheeler recorded a girth of 701cm at 38cm, which he mistakenly translated to 203" (18' 7"). 701cm equates to a more reasonable 23' 0". In 1998 I recorded a girth of about 25' at 3'. Size will decrease when the dead section comes adrift. A limb is also showing signs that it may eventually split away from the trunk.





Yew 7 on Reg Wheeler's plan is a lost yew.

Yew 8 is a solid looking male with a fluted trunk. Reg Wheeler's girth in 1983 was 23' 9" at 20". In 1998 I recorded a girth of 26' 6" at 5'.



Yew 9 is a younger yew with a girth of 8' 4" at 3' 3" in 1983.