

Much has been written about this location and its remarkable yews.

1798: During Warner's *Second walk through Wales* he was 'induced to stroll into the churchyard... remarkable for several enormous yew trees, of which 4 measure 15', and one 27' in circumference'.

1803: '.....and entering the churchyard, I took a near inspection of a famous old yew-tree, which had arrested my attention in passing to the inn. The trunk is very short, though of great thickness, and is surrounded with a stone seat for the village sages to rest on. A little above this seat, ten principal branches proceed from the same stock, and spreading in a circular direction, occupy a diameter of twenty-four paces in their utmost diameter, making a circumference of little less than two hundred and twenty feet. This amazing tree, which is still flourishing in all its parts, rises to a very great height, and is unquestionably the finest I ever saw'. *The British Tourists: Or, Traveller's Pocket Companion, Through England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland*. William [Fordyce] Mayor

1815: Hutton was 'taken to the churchyard to see a curious yew tree, from the root of which 9 boles ascend'.

1834 and 1849: Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* described '3 remarkably fine yew trees, one measures 28' 3" in girth and from one stem throws out a great number of scions, which spread around it an extensive shade, and together present an appearance of sombre magnificence'.



1998

1840: The Cambrian traveller's guide, and pocket companion by George Nicholson: 'In the churchyard are several large yew trees, one of which, far superior, to the rest, rises from the ground with a single stem, but at the height of between 3 and 4 ft. divides into six large branches. The girth of the trunk is 22 ft. 6 in. The average radius of the branches which spread on every side is 39 ft. forming a circumference of about 240 ft. Of the 6 stems 4 spread laterally and 2 rise nearly perpendicular. The height from the root to the summit is about 40 ft. No part of the tree exhibits any symptoms of decay. That at Aldworth, in Berkshire, though its trunk be 9 yards in circumference, is not comparable to this in health and beauty'.

1851: Edwin Lees in *The Botanical Looker Out* described its 'excessively distended branches, spreading 40' from the bole on every side, in singularly gloomy grandeur'.

1855: '30 ft with 6 great branches' was noted in *Welsh Timber Trees* 1977 4th Edition H.A.Hyde and S.G.Harrison.

1998: Only 2 of the 5 yews reported in 1798 have survived. This male, seen here in 2008, had a girth of about 33' at 3' and was in fine condition. The massive vertical stem in the centre, largely dead but with new growth up one side, is clearly an ancient internal stem, for outside of it, forming part of the rim of the original tree, can be seen remains of the wood that would have once encased it. This central trunk of 'white' wood rises to about 15ft. The tree supports three massive areas of growth, each splitting into many thick branches.



The smaller female yew is seen below in 1998 and 2008. In 1998 it had a girth of about 18' 6" at 5'.

