

1845: In *Rambles by Rivers* James Thorne noted that 'Seathwaite churchyard contains a fine old yew'.

1852: *A Handbook of the Whitehaven and Furness Railway* by John Linton contains the following: '...and when the weather was fine, they sat upon the ledge of turf and stones piled round the roots of the patriarchal yew tree, in the centre of the churchyard, while their bodily wants were thus supplied by him who had just before been ministering to their spiritual necessities. The yew-tree just mentioned, is a remarkably fine one, and measures about 20 feet in circumference'.

Date of drawing not known



1946: In *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality*, Vaughan Cornish was informed by J. Marchington that the yew had a height of 'about 70 feet, and circumference of boughs 160 feet'. A girth of 15' 8" at 5' was also recorded.

2002: The male yew grows SSE of the church. Pieces of stump at the ground confirmed that it has been a larger girthed tree. Its lower branches have been systematically removed, so that now its growth is concentrated into one fluted, slightly twisted, and unusually straight trunk. Foliage was thin and in places brown. After 2008 I began to receive reports of the tree's decline. A revisit in 2014 found several branches still alive. In 2002 girth was 18' 6" between the ground and 1', which included two small pieces of stump. Girth will be reduced when these have rotted. Also 13' 8" at 3' and 15' 8" at 5' - Tim Hills

2002



2014



2014

