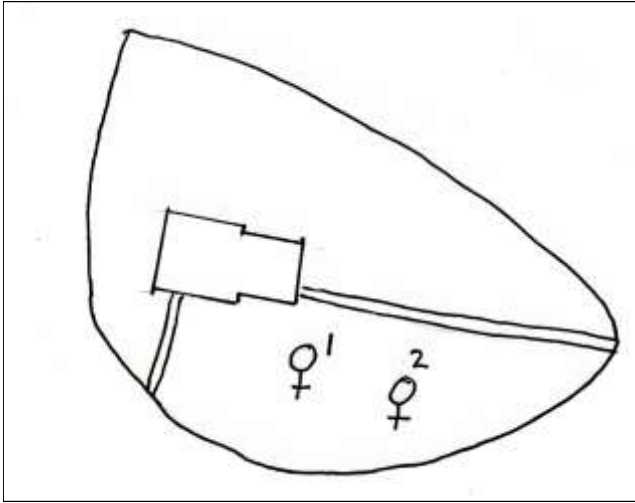


In 1939 Mee wrote in *The King's England* that 'the churchyard has 2 great yews, one perhaps 500 years old with a trunk 19' round'. The 1791 watercolour painted by Rev. Williams shows tree 1 at a time before the development of three branches that give its crown such a distinctive shape today. The painting is reproduced with the kind permission of Shropshire Archives, ref 00012552, 6001/372/3 (264/16401).



1999 Tim Hills: Two female yews grow on mounds at the east end of the church on the south side. Tree 1 is an exceptionally tall yew, whose height was reported to be 73' in *The Eternal Yew* 1992.



Tree 1, closest to the church, consists of a thickened shell around a small hollow. To either side of this are two of the main growth points while a third rises from the back of the hollow. All three have grown vigorously through the lower canopy to create a tree of unusual appearance. Branches dipped towards the ground around the tree, hiding the drying grass clippings that had been piled beneath it. Girth was 18' 7" at 2'.

In 2015 Paul Wood recorded a girth of 18' 11" (5.77m) at 3", avoiding the gravestones that leant against the tree. He noted a horseshoe hollow shape developing in which internal growth could be seen. He was informed that the lower twiggy growth was regularly trimmed.



Tree 2 (below) grows on a very steep mound. It is seen in 1999 and 2015. In 1999 I noted a solid bole, dividing at 4'/5' into a central section supporting large branches and smaller outer growth. Foliage was dense. Girth of 18' 7" close to ground was exaggerated by twiggy growth.



2015 Paul Wood: The photos below from 2015 show the other side of the tree. The large mound can be partly explained by the fact that the churchyard soil is spread there if any funerals leave excess soil from the grave. Looking at the size and age of the tree and where the root system starts I would confidently say there was an original mound for the tree to grow on, possibly a barrow. We recorded 19' 4" (5.89m) at the ground. Ivy on the tree was quite sparse, though there was much on the ground approaching the tree. The bole is fragmenting and new growth forming giving the tree a gnarly appearance. It was home to many wasps on our visit.



Paul Wood also identified a third yew at this site. It is an odd looking tree, which, while it measured 16' at the ground, this had halved to 8' at a height of 5'. It gave the impression of having once been a larger tree that had rotted and then collapsed in on itself.

