St Digain

The church is on an ancient site containing several standing stones as well as a yew considered by some to be the oldest in Wales. The tree was named as one of '50 Great British Trees', in celebration of our living heritage in Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee year. Twenty years earlier however it was described in Andrew Morton's Tree Heritage of Britain and Ireland as 'somewhat ruined by the oil tank placed within the hollow bole, one of the worst examples of an old tree treated in a shabby manner'. The tank has now been moved to another part of the churchyard, enabling us to appreciate the vast space which once contained the original tree from which these fragments developed. Each one supports vigorous growth.

Like the eight younger yews in this churchyard, it is male. It grows north of the church, a feature it has in common with several yews considered to be amongst the oldest, for instance those at Discoed and Bettws Newydd in Wales, and Linton and Tisbury in England. The photos show the tree in 1998.





© Tim Hills - Ancient Yew Group - 2019