

Addendum

RE: Great Bowden Cemetery – The English Yew. Aging a yew tree?

Andy Lear at the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust his response to our enquiry via John Coombs.

Yews grow at about half the rate of standard trees; measurement of the girth indicates age in years. Yews are difficult as our tree measures 215cm. Just above ground level then it does divide into four trunks.

Andy refers to the Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe.

By Alan Mitchell (Collins).

Example, 240cm. Girth = 200-250years old. 480cm.G. = 600 to 800 years old.

Taking averages: - ref. 225cm.into 240cm. =1.06cm. per. Year. gives

G. B. Cemetery Yew. Girth = 215cm. Times 1.06 = 203 years of age an approximation it has to be!

The four girth measurements taken at 130cm. From ground level as follows. 141cm. 96cm. 120cm. 76cm. By amalgamating these four into one area we arrive at a girth of 263cm. Giving a speculative age bracket of 250 – 300 years for this cemetery yew.

NO new growth this year none at all is visible externally on the branches, but little dark green sprouts are appearing on the lower trunk, it has to be wait n, see time.

The high water table of last summer may be the cause! Let us hope for recovery.