

900 Hundred Years of Trees Lost

This occurred in Great Bowden Cemetery; Try a few thoughts on why!
The English Yew "taxus bacata"

The Yew can withstand severe temperature change, grow on any soil type mostly found on high ground, almost indestructible, but susceptible only to flooding.

Our English Yew 200 yrs. May be a lot more? Will be a sad loss by the look of it.

The Irish Yew "fastigate". We have lost 6 no. Now cut down.

The Golden Irish Yew. Over on the left side is expiring a spot which suffered a local flood patch though seemingly higher on the slope, became waterlogged when the field culvert blocked last summer.

Lawson Cypress. The tall one, 60ft. is in the middle is a variant of the original brought into Britain by Andrew Murray to Lawson's Nurseries of Bangholm, Edinburgh, 1854.

Tall trees are much favoured by birds, the foliage when crushed smells distinctly of parsley, these trees do very well in Britain readily producing many variants. Grows on any soil, after brief flooding however can be killed by collar rot from Phytophthora fungi, this one is a lost cause as well.

In all nine evergreen trees will have been lost, 900yrs. Accumulated growth has gone.

Extensive drainage work is in progress to minimise future water logging, another

Factor, in addition the cemetery grave digging, i.e. Multiple excavations grouped into heavy clay soil has retained / attracted the water logging at the same period the field drain was blocked for such a long time. Flooding occurs in the adjacent field, village side; water coming through the fracture along the bottom of the wall does not help!

A deep watercourse maintained across the bottom of the cemetery will allow for natural drainage of the soil, permitting normal absorption during wet weather in the future.

Information on the trees I obtained from the books here listed.

Field Guide. Trees of Britain and Northern Europe. Alan Mitchell 1974 edition "Collins"

Title as above by. Alan Mitchell. & David More. PB. 1985. "Dragons World". ISBN. 18 50 28 0002.

Tree Guide, The Most Complete Field Guide to the Trees of Britain & Europe HB. 2004 Collins. ISBN 000 7191634

Compiled by Compass Group Member.
Alf Herbert 23rd July 2008.