



Two veteran yews grow at Ashill, a male west of the tower and a female north west. In 1889 Rev C Houghton sent information to Lowe for his *Yew Trees of Great Britain and Ireland* in which he described them as 'very fine trees, but a heavy snowstorm, followed almost immediately by a very severe frost, broke down the largest stem, and the trees are in consequence much disfigured'.

Mee, writing *The King's England* c1940 thought Ashill would be more appropriately named Yewhill 'for the sake of the twins in the churchyard'.

The male yew was described by Collinson in his 1791 *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset* as having a 'vast spread of branches extended north and south 46'' and with a girth of 15'. One hundred years later (1895) Lowe was given girths of 14' 7" at the ground and 15' at 3'. In 1999 I noted that although several large branches had been removed, this was a green and vigorous tree, supporting two large areas of growth from its 7' bole. Girth was 16' 7" at the ground and 18' 3" at 3' over ivy.

The female yew was described by Collinson as dividing into 'three large trunks just above the ground, but many of the arms are decayed'. Described for Lowe in 1895 it was given a girth of 17' 9" at the ground and 20' at 3'. In 1999 I recorded a bole dividing at 1', from which point several large branches rise and spread to form a fine expansive crown. It was in good health and covered in arils. The lower part of the trunk was clad in ivy over twiggy growth. Girth was 19' 9" at 1', 21' 4" at 2' and 26' 9" at 5'.