

Bicknoller's ancient yew is seen on the left in 2000 and on the right in 2015.



In 1791 Collinson described this as a 'very large aged yew tree' in his *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*.

In 1940 Mee described it as an 'immense split yew' in *The King's England*, also noting the stocks which are still in situ today.

In 1993 Percy Morgan recorded the yew as having a '3½' split and very hollow, 3 iron props holding up the three large boughs and ½" iron rods inside the trunk holding it together'.



In 2000 I recorded a girth of 25' 9" between 1' and 2' and 22' 11" at its narrowest point. Four metal poles were supporting the split, hollow female tree while the curved metal plates between pole and tree were being swallowed up by layers of new wood. Ivy prevented measurement in 2015.

The yew presents two distinct aspects. From one side it appears close to separating into two hollow fragment yews; from the other it can be seen that these sections are well joined and that the bole has an appearance of great strength. Spreading roots help anchor the leaning tree. Each of the two sides of this green and healthy yew support both large and small branches in great profusion.

In 2006 Owen Johnson described a 'female tree south of the church; very hollow and leaning and split apart long ago, with gaps through the trunk at the base. Braced and propped'. Height 13m. Diameter 225cm. Girth 708cm at 0.5/1.2m.

In 2012 Peter Norton made the following observations: The yew has three cavities in the outer bole and is much hollowed, with two brace bars holding the hollowed branches in place, making four in all. The tree's two main growth areas are supported by four box iron posts having a decent size thrust plate to spread the load and a cradle to support the branches to allow for movement and growth. A girth of 25' was recorded at a height marked by 4 nails that somebody had hammered into the tree. This is about 2' from the ground as measured from the hollowed side.

29th October 2015

The younger yews were recorded as follows:

Tree 2 is female NE of the church. Girth was 8' 6" over a covering of ivy. Behind this is a yew that is many stemmed from close to the ground.

Tree 3 is an ivy clad male growing on a mound. Above the present ground level the tree bulges outwards after only a few feet. Girth was swelled by ivy, but 11' is a good guide.

Tree 4 is a bushy young male, possibly a millennium planting, its stem still enclosed in protective wrapping.

Tree 5 is a young female with two trunks above a height of 2'. Girth over ivy was just under 6'.

Tree 6 is male. Large lower branches, below a height of 7', have been removed. Girth was 7' 4" over ivy.

