Collinson’s 1791 History of Somerset described ‘A large yew tree, whose trunk is 4 yards in circumference at 4’ above ground.’

In 1895 Rev. W. Lance reported to Lowe (Yew trees of Great Britain and Ireland) that the yew was ‘Not hollow, spray on one side.’

In May 2002 it was ivy that covered the bole of the male yew, hiding its features. What could be seen was the bulge at a height of 4’ and a hollow space closing over at a height of about 6’, from which point many thick branches develop. Girth was 14’ 9” at 1’.

Revisiting in 2015 the ivy had been cleared and it was possible to see the tree’s features and take photographs. It appears that we are only seeing half of the tree recorded in 1791 and that (A) was once internal growth. The black line indicates the portion of the tree that has gone. Girth was 15’ 0½” at 1’.

At the SE perimeter is a smaller yew (right). Ivy clad and unattractive at the moment, it will have its day in the future. Girth was about 11’ at 1’.

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