

The yew was first recorded in the 1791 *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*, described by John Collinson as 'a very ancient yew tree, nearly 18' in circumference'. In 1940, Mee's *King's England* called it a 'hollow giant probably older than Magna Carta'.



1997



2012

The male yew grows NW of the church at the far end of the churchyard, close to the boundary wall at the foot of the Mendip Hills. It has a fluted bole which bulges slightly at 4'5"; above this point it is covered in upright twigg growth. Its large girth is retained for a considerable height giving the tree a commanding presence. The bole is intact apart from two gaps, one 15" wide and 3' high, the other 20" wide at the ground tapering gradually to a height of about 8'. There are signs of hollowing and a portion of the original trunk is visible.

Girth has been recorded as follows:

1791: Collinson 18' - height not given

1940: Mee 8 yards round his trunk

Although the yew does not at first sight appear to have lost a large section, these two historic measurements and a present girth of only 19' suggest that this has happened.

1946: Cornish 18' (this is a repeat of Collinson's 1791 information, **not** the girth in 1946)

1997: Tim Hills 19' 4" at 3'

1999: Tim Hills 18' 5" close to the ground 19' 4" at 3'

2012: Tim Hills 18' 7" close to the ground 19' 5½" at 3'



2012

A second yew grows at the entrance to the churchyard, SE of the church. Its girth was exactly 13' at 5' in 1999.

In 2012 it measured 13' 8" at 1' (above roots) and 13' 9" at 3'.



2012