

1998: This tall female yew has been noted by botanists since 1780. Estimates of its age range from De Candolle's 1400 years in 1831 to Lowe's between 700 and 1000 years in 1897. A sign by the tree is more precise, giving the actual year of planting as A.D. 457, a date which also appears in *The Sacred Yew* (1994) without stating the source of information.

In *Heart of Mendip* (1915) Francis Knight wrote that the yew shows 'a clear case of rejuvenescence. The top of the tree was long ago broken off. Young shoots then sprang up around its stem, forming at length a solid ring around the original trunk'. When the original trunk died it left the hollow 'in which 21 men can stand upright'.

The King's England (1939) described it as 'one of the noblest yews in England, about 50' high and 200' round the branches. It is flourishing, green and shapely, with great iron bonds round its hollow trunk, which measures 33' round the base and 23' at 4' up; it must have been growing before the days of Joan of Arc'. The photos were taken in 1998.

Below are some of the girth measures given to this yew over the centuries. There is no explanation for the extraordinarily large and varied girths recorded at the base of the tree.

	1780	1833	1889	1946	1955	1983	1998
base	32'2" Lowe	36' Lowe	40'5" Sparrow		36' Rev Butler		
1'			30'10" Sparrow		29' Rev Butler		
4'	19' Lowe	22' Lowe	21' 9" Sparrow	23' Gardner	23' Rev. Butler	23' 1" Meredith	24' Baxter
5'							23' Hills
7'			22' Sparrow				



