

1791: 'In the churchyard is a remarkably large old yew tree...the body near one and twenty feet in circumference'. Collinson's *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*
This information was reproduced in the 1857 *Journal of the British Archaeological Association, Vol 13.*

1940: In *The King's England*, Mee described it as 'a yew which must have been a sturdy youth when the Spanish Armada came' in 1588.

1946: In *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality* Vaughan Cornish gave the yew a girth of 'nearly 7 feet'. Since his information came from Collinson's 1791 records it should at least have said nearly 7 yards. And thus is misinformation created and passed on.

I first visited in 1997. The male yew grows on a mound SW of the church. It consists of a main branch and 3 further areas of growth, but supported relatively thin foliage. Twiggy growth covered the bole, and meaningful measurement was difficult. Close to the ground it was certainly above 19'.

In June 2005 Richard Bottle recorded a girth of 584cm (19' 2") just above the ground.

In July 2014 Peter Norton recorded 19' 2" by threading the tape behind lower growth at the point of its minimum girth, a natural waistline at a height of about 2'.



1997



2016