

1829: The first record we have is of an 'ancient yew tree' noted by John Rutter in *Delineations of the north western division of the county of Somerset*.

1889: Measurements of 22' at the ground and 24' at 3' were sent to Lowe and published in *The Yew Trees of Great Britain and Ireland* 1896. Historical measurements often do not include inches, which suggests an approximate rather than an accurate reading.

1946: The Revd LJ Carter responded to a request from Cornish for information. He gave the yew a 'girth of about 27 ft' which was published in *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality*.

1958: Swanton, writing in *The Yew Trees of England*, thought that earlier measurements 'may have included spray'. It is more likely that the tree had been measured at what was then the conventional height of 5' and took in some of the leaning branches.

2003: The healthy female yew grows NNE of the church in a churchyard containing many yews. Most of its bole is covered with live wood. A hole at the ground 16" high and 13" wide, revealed vast hollow spaces within what otherwise appears to be a solid tree. Some of the hollow spaces had been filled with stone or concrete. The large leaning branch which grows from the base of the tree will exaggerate any measurements above 1'. I recorded 23' 10" close to the ground.



Beneath the yew is a grave with the following inscription:

Here would I sleep. This is the spot which I have long marked out to lay my bones in
Tired out and wearied with this naughty world,
Beneath this yew I would be sepulchred
It is a lovely spot! The sultry sun
From his meridian light, endeavours vainly
To pierce the shadowy foliage.

Christopher George
1786 - 1866