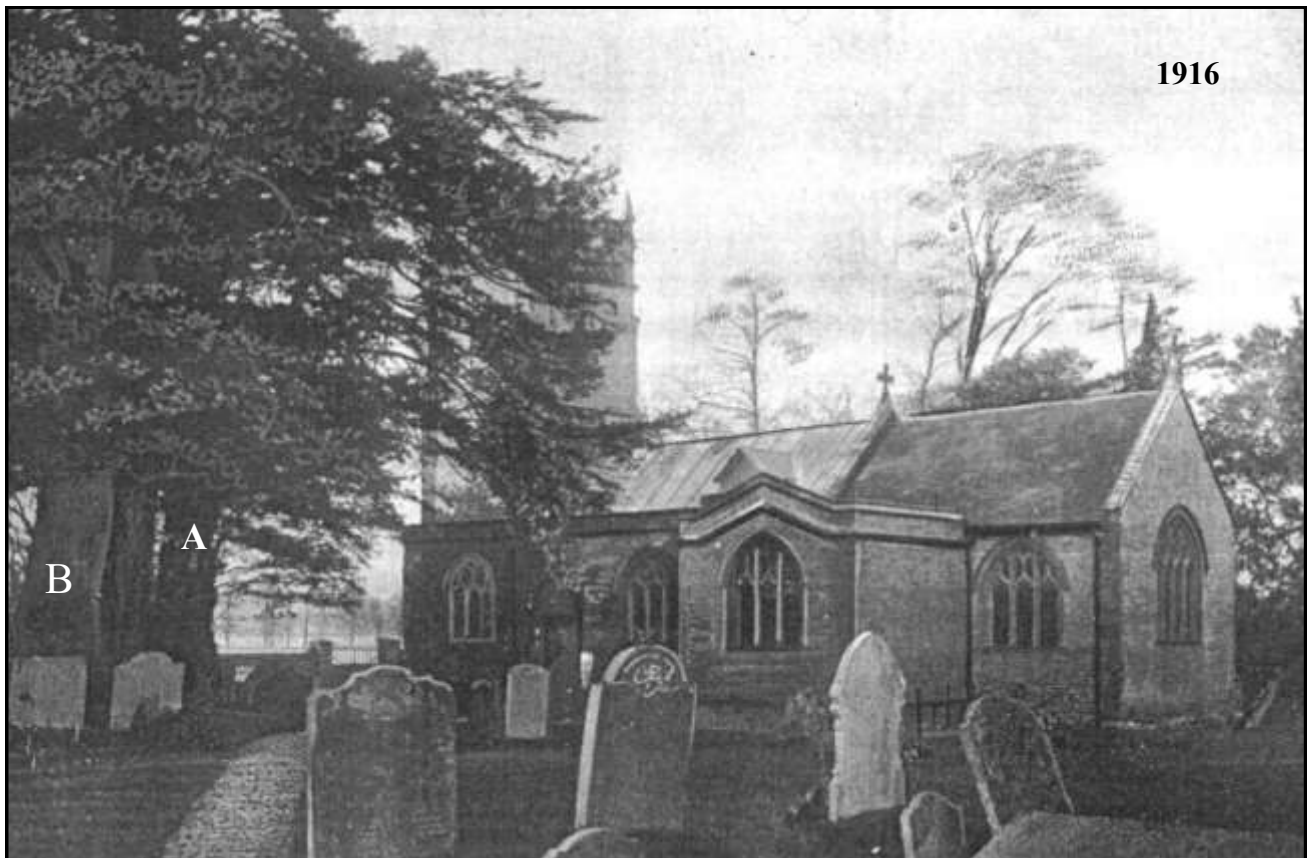


In 1791 Collinson recorded '2 remarkable old yew trees, of astonishing girth' in *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*. Both were alive in 1916 when Robinson, in *West Country Churches* wrote: 'Opposite the S entrance are two ancient and famous yew trees. These aged and venerable fathers of the various trees which surround the hallowed spot have weathered the storms and tempests of many centuries'.

One of these remarkable old yews has survived and grows today on a small mound close to the church tower. It has spread outwards at its base, providing more support for its vigorous healthy branches. In 1997 (left) composting grasses filled its large hollow space. By 2005 (right) the compost had been removed, but now ivy was beginning to become a problem.

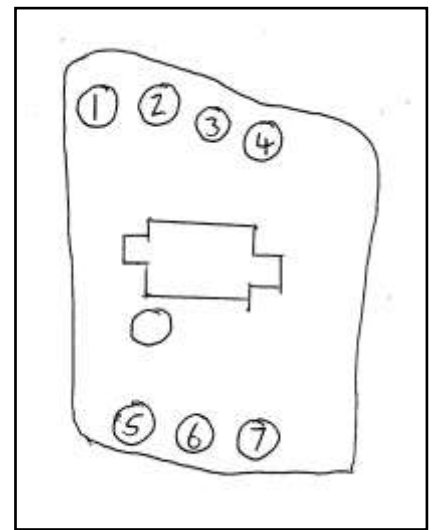
From a height of about 6' the tree is carried upwards on 3 main branches. Girth at its narrowest, just above the spreading base was 20' 6" in 1997.



The surviving yew is A on this 1916 photograph/postcard. All that remains of tree B is the stump.



Many younger yews also grow here. On the north side of the churchyard is a line of 4 yews by the north gate that leads out of the churchyard and into Ston Easton Park. They are all tall and of varied appearance.



1 and 2 grow either side of a path. The most westerly (1) is male, with roots stretching down to the path. It consists of a main rising stem, with many smaller stems attached to it from close to the ground. Measured above its bulging roots, but also taking in some ivy a girth of about 11' 6" was recorded.

The second is also male. It has a large dead stem next to the living one, which was also showing signs of decay. Girth was between 8' and 9' above its roots.

The third is female, with a straight trunk and two new stems joined to it close to the ground. This will probably result in a rapid increase in girth. Measured close to the ground above its roots, girth was 7' 7".

The fourth has a fine trunk that divides into 3 uprights at a height of about 12'. Girth of 8' 6" to 9' at 4' would be affected by ivy and twigggy growth.



These 3 male yews, numbered 5,6,7 on the plan, grow along the south perimeter.

The most westerly, tree 5, has a girth of 7' 3" at about 1'.

Tree 6 looks more substantial than its neighbours and consists of 4 thick branches from a 3' high bole. Approximate girth over ivy was between 9' and 9' 6" at 1'.

Tree 7 is a small rather scrappy looking yew filled with old polyporus sulfureous in its lower branches. It had a girth of between 6' to 6' 6" close to the ground.

