



it seems that the villa was constructed cAD300, some buildings were destroyed cAD350 - probably by fire, as a burnt layer lay below a rubble of roofing slabs. Subsequently, the evidence indicates that occupation continued on the site, although there is no sign of removal of the rubble destruction layers in the centre of the main building.



Market Cross, Nunney

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear – footpaths can be very muddy, and there may be occasional brambles and high stiles.

Please remember to follow the country code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Keep to public paths across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep all water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise



Every effort has been made by Mendip District Council to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet. No responsibility can be accepted for errors and omissions. If you have any comments about this walk, please let us know.



helping you to enjoy your countryside

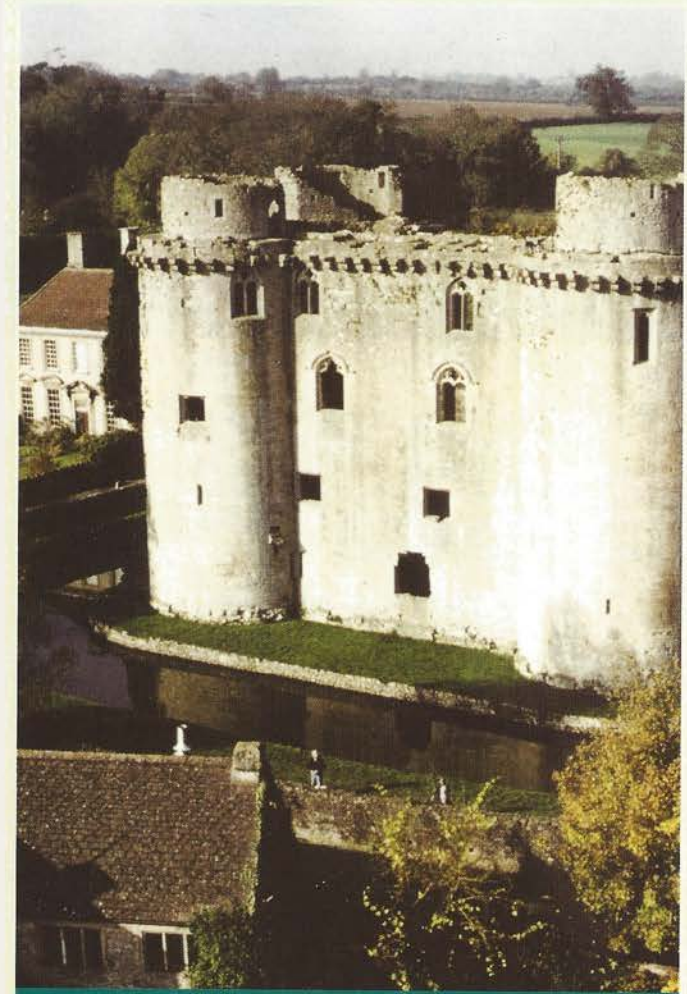
This publication has been produced by Mendip District Council
with the assistance of Somerset County Council

Telephone: 01749 648999

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Nunney

RURAL WALK



Interesting walks around the Mendip District

A walk in the Nunney area passing the site of Lower
Whatley Roman Villa

Easy walking, approx 4 miles taking 2 hours



All Saints Church and Castle, Nunney

Please park with care and consideration in Nunney

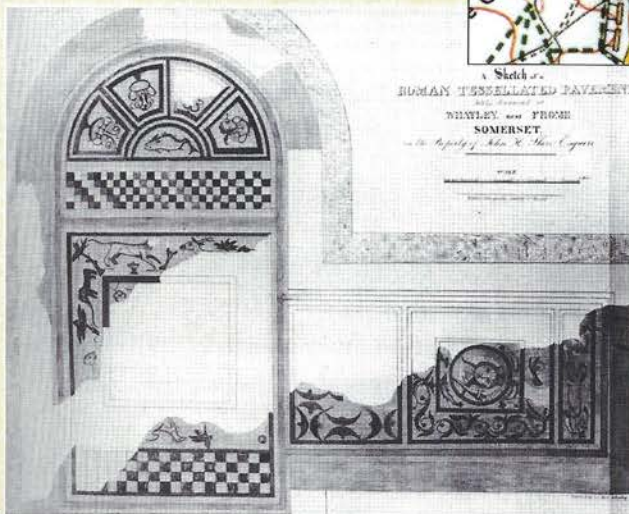
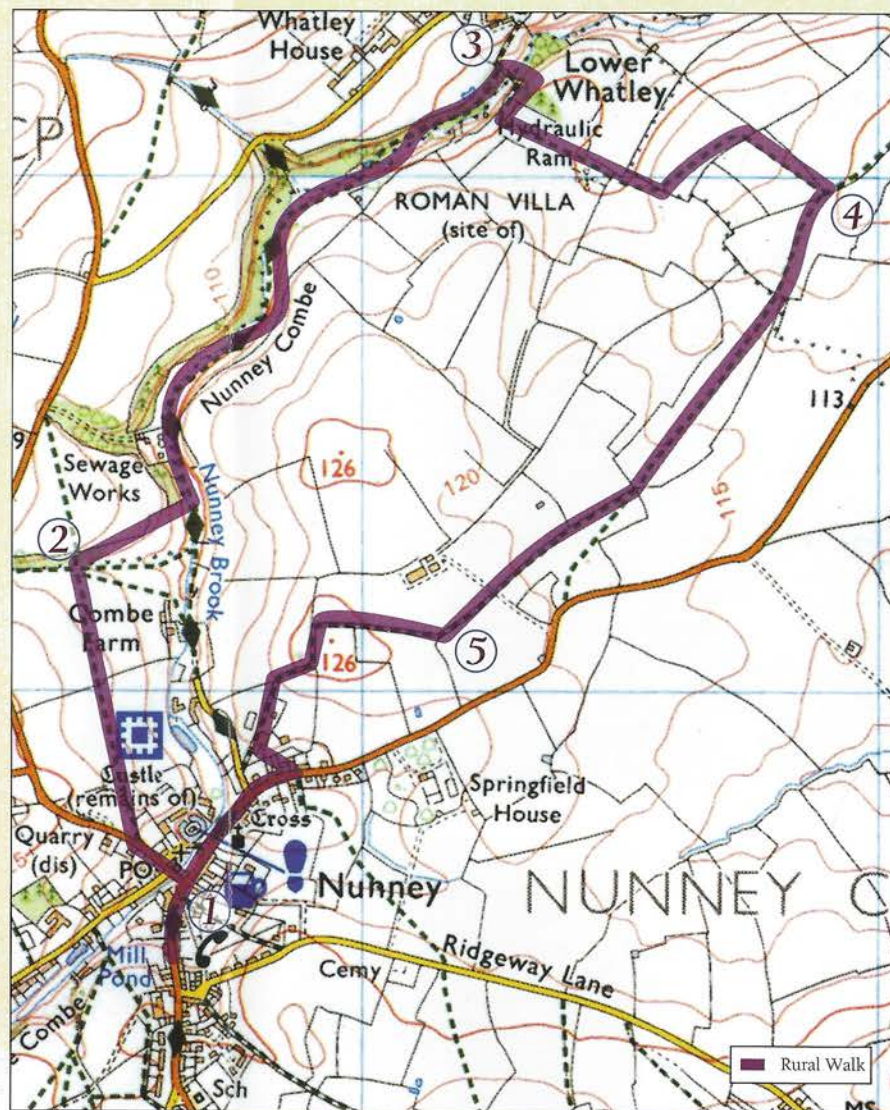
- 1 Starting from the thatched shelter in Nunney Market Place, cross the bridge, walk up the hill, and turn right onto the footpath which starts from the little lay-by about 50m up the hill. Crossing the stile into the field, follow the right-hand field boundary straight to the next stile. Cross the stile and go straight again, heading for the row of trees.
- 2 When you reach the line of the trees, turn right and follow the slightly hollowed track to the stream. Cross by the bridge, and turn left. Walk along the bank until you reach a metalled road. At this point cross the bridge, and turn right to follow the opposite bank of the stream. After a fairly long walk, the path leads you upwards to a stile onto a lane.
- 3 Turn right, and follow the lane through a couple of right angled bends, when the lane comes to an end. Turn into the long narrow field on your sharp left.

Walk the length of the field, pass through the gate at the far end - you may notice some linear lumps and bumps in the field in this area - this is the site of the northern part of the Lower Whatley Roman Villa. Follow the left-hand hedgeline until you find a stile. Cross into the next field, and head for the gateway in the diagonal right-hand corner. Once through this gate, follow the left-hand hedgeline down to a gate in the far corner.

4 Go through the gate, and head at 1 o'clock to find a double stile in the hedge slightly to the right of the diagonal corner of the field. Over the two stiles, and walk the length of the long field ahead of you, until you find the stile in the hedge. Cross the stile and follow the right-hand field boundary, entering a green lane shortly after crossing a farmtrack.

5 Follow the lane to its end, then turn left, and follow this green lane until it becomes a metalled track. Walk down the track, turn left and then right onto High Street, and you will shortly find yourself back at the start point.

The Lower Whatley Roman Villa was partly excavated in the 19th century, and some further excavation took place in 1958, in advance of ploughing. Surface indications suggest that the villa consisted of building ranges which formed at least three sides of a square; the extant hedge bisects the villa buildings. In the field to the south of the footpath a mosaic pavement was found during the 19th century. This was uncovered and displayed under the protective cover of a purpose-built shed; by 1958 the mosaic had been so disturbed by souvenir hunters that only the tesserae forming the border remained in situ, and all the figurative work had been looted. In the south-east corner of the villa a bath suite appears to have been added to the back corridor, with two small apsidal areas which probably contained plunge pools. One of the domestic rooms



The Roman Mosaic at Lower Whatley

was heated by a hypocaust system - Roman-style central heating. Three infant burials were found under the floors, a common find in Romano-British settlements; the practice is a link with the pre-Roman Iron Age culture - locally, infant burials were found beneath floors in the Glastonbury Lake Village. From the limited excavation which has taken place to date,



The Guard House, Nunney