

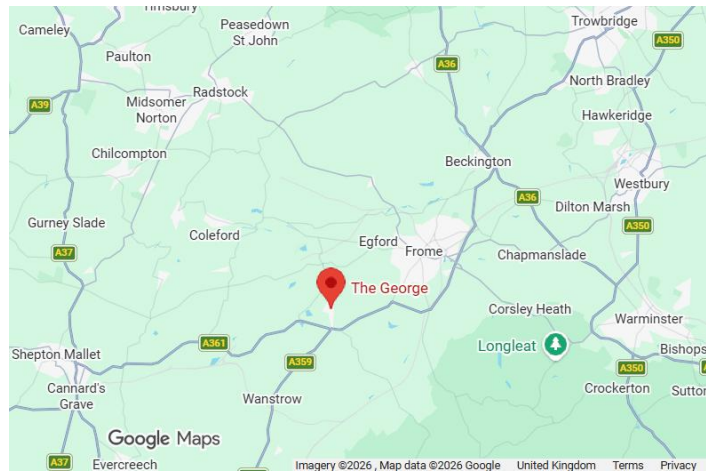
The George at Nunney Walk

East Mendip Castle & Ducks

OVERVIEW

This peaceful, 3-mile route takes in some of the highlights of the village of Nunney, including the Market Cross, Nunney Castle, and Nunney Brook where ducks frequent the sloping stone banks that once served as the washing location for the clothiers in the village.

I witnessed the remarkable sight of **Hares boxing in the March sunshine** on this walk, an absolute privilege.



Start/Finish	The George, Church Street, Nunney, BA11 4LW. 01373 836458		
Parking	Pub car park is through the archway a little way along from the pub's front door. Street parking beyond the Church, and on the other side of Nunney Brook for the Castle.		
Grid Reference	ST 737 457		
What3Words	///cleansed.caravan.skillet		
Distance	3 miles / 5 km	Time 1 1/4 hrs	Ascent 200 ft / 60 m
Paths/Terrain	The route is mainly grassy & sticky/muddy after rain, initially following the course of Nunney Brook, where tree roots are exposed, then onto paths along field margins on the way back to the village.		
Difficulty	Easy		
Public Transport	162 service between Frome & Shepton Mallett calls at Nunney Monday to Friday. Runs every couple of hours.		
Toilets	The George.		
Other Pubs Nearby	The White Hart Inn, Trudoxhill; The Talbot Inn, Mellis; Seymour Arms, Witham Friary is a historic gem. Plenty of options in Frome.		

DIRECTIONS

1. Looking at The George, turn left down Church Street. You'll soon pass the 13th Century All Saints Church, and a squadron of Mallards parked on the bank of Nunney Brook on the opposite side of the road. Study the Market Cross.
2. Turn left signposted Donkey Lane and continue until this tarmac lane approaches Combe Farm. You'll pick up a public footpath to the right-hand side, heading into a grassy area amongst trees.
3. This leads to a path that follows Nunney Brook away from the village through its wooded valley. It's been a dry few days as I walk this path and it's still 'sticky' under foot. After heavy rain it would be very muddy, but I can see alternative paths created further away from the bank for such times.
4. This path continues to its first crossing point over the Nunney Brook. Take this left hand turn over the little bridge and you'll quickly spy a public footpath signposted to your right, now on the other side of the Brook. Take this path.
5. Continue through this wooded valley. Eventually, the path takes you up a slope to an old stone bridge over the Brook. Follow this path over the bridge, then round to your right, uphill to some gates. You're leaving the valley now and heading into fields to start the return journey to the village.
6. You'll see the footpath through a gate to your left. Follow the field boundary by the right-hand hedge/edge to the gate at the other end of this field #1.
7. Through the gate into field #2 you cross to the left-hand hedge and continue a short way slightly uphill to a kissing gate through to the field #3.
8. Bear right through this gate – the footpath is clearly visible – to the top of the field, then turning left to follow the hedge line across this field. You come to a boundary of multiple fields. You're turning right in front of the tree stump in the picture, slightly downhill, following the hedge line of field #4.
9. At the bottom of this field, cross a drainage ditch to bear right following a clearly marked path across the next field #5, now slightly uphill. Cross into field #6. Continue to the top end of this field.
10. There are two gates here. You need the one on the left-hand side. Go straight on with the hedge on your right now, in penultimate field #7.



11. Use a pair of kiss gates as you cross a farm driveway into field #8, the last field!
You'll soon see that the footpath enters a wooded passage between the fields.
12. Follow this eventually turning right. Continue to the end of this section, exiting through a metal kiss gate to your right. This leads eventually back onto a tarmac drive to signal the arrival back in the village. Follow this Fulwell Lane as it rejoins Donkey Lane, then back onto Church Street.
13. Finish the walk with a visit to Nunney Castle.

NOTES

Somerset was a strategically important but bitterly divided county during the English Civil War, witnessing major battles, shifting allegiances, and heavy military occupation. Nunney's role centres on the 1645 siege of Nunney Castle, when Parliamentary forces destroyed the Delamare stronghold as part of their campaign to break Royalist resistance in the West.

Somerset sat at a crossroads—geographically, politically, and emotionally. Its towns and gentry were split between King and Parliament, and the county became a corridor for armies moving between the South West, Wales, and the Midlands.

Much of the Somerset gentry supported the Crown. In fact, Somerset's experience was one of fractured loyalties, scorched-earth tactics, and the destruction of many manor houses and small castles, Nunney among them. Nunney was not a major military centre, but it was home to a fortified residence – Nunney Castle - that mattered symbolically and strategically.

- Built in the 1370s by Sir John de la Mare, Nunney Castle was a compact but sophisticated moated tower-house.

- By the 1640s it had been modernised and was in Royalist hands.

- Its design—French-influenced, symmetrical, and more elegant than martial—was not intended for heavy artillery warfare.

- In 1645, Parliamentary forces besieged Nunney Castle as part of their sweep to eliminate remaining Royalist garrisons in Somerset.

- The castle was bombarded by artillery, which it was never designed to withstand. One wall was breached, forcing the garrison to surrender.

- This damage is still visible today: the missing section of the great tower is the direct result of the Civil War bombardment.

Why the Castle was Targeted:

- It sat on a route between Frome and the Royalist centres further west.
- It represented a pocket of Royalist resistance in a region Parliament was determined to pacify.
- Destroying it sent a message: no Royalist stronghold, however small, would be tolerated.

Aftermath

- The castle was never repaired.
- It fell into picturesque ruin—its moat intact, its walls standing like a broken tooth in the centre of the village.
- Today it remains one of the most atmospheric Civil War scars in Somerset.

