



-  Villa development, Stage 4
-  View range from Nymphaeum, looking into central courtyard

**Figure 5b.**

**View 'envelope' from Nymphaeum into central courtyard**

A view has been plotted from the Nymphaeum looking into the Inner Courtyard. The plot has taken account of the buildings that probably would have immediately neighbored the Nymphaeum at the time of its construction.

A viewpoint has been adopted at the middle of the threshold of the Nymphaeum. The floor level of the Nymphaeum (about 156.37m AOD) is only about 2m higher than the floor levels of the adjacent main villa buildings. Therefore these buildings would have framed the view. The floor levels of the subsidiary structures (that is, the furnace rooms and the portico / colonnade outside the bathhouse of the north range) lie a little lower again (there is a level difference of about 3m between the Nymphaeum and these). Therefore it may have been possible to see over the roofs of these structures or possibly see between the columns of the porticos. The combination of these factors suggests that a reasonable, but framed view would have been gained into the centre of the inner courtyard from the Nymphaeum. Interestingly, the view centre line appears to be aligned on the entrance gateway into the courtyard from the east. This means that a clear but framed view would also have been gained of the Nymphaeum on arrival in the courtyard through the eastern entrance gate.

The floor level of the Nymphaeum is nearly 5m higher than the floor of the covered way along the east side of the courtyard. It should therefore have been possible to see over the roof of the covered way and beyond the entrance gate. However, the framing effect of the adjacent villa buildings would have resulted in the view from the Nymphaeum being directed towards the hillside to the immediate south-west of the villa. It has been suggested that there might have been a direct view between the Nymphaeum and the Romano-Celtic temple in the Coln valley. This seems unlikely because the intermediate buildings (particularly the west end of the north range) would have obscured this view.