

About this walk

Burnham-on-Sea sits at the mouth of the River Parrett and the end of the second longest strip of sand in Europe. It is a town of surprises from its independent shops to its short pier and three lighthouses.

In the 19th century Burnham was fast becoming a popular seaside town and it owed much of its prosperity to George Reed. Born in Bristol in 1805, George moved here in 1841 and used his inherited wealth to begin improving the town. His achievements included creating the first Local Board of Health, which improved sanitation, bringing in clean piped water and gas, and perhaps his biggest improvement, bringing the railway to Burnham-on-Sea generating more visitors, trade and wealth.

Photo credits

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Useful websites

nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-sw
somerset.gov.uk/england-coast-path
visitsomerset.co.uk



To report any problems on the footpaths during your walk visit:
somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/

ENGLAND
COAST PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL

Burnham-on-Sea Circular

3.4 miles / 5.5km | 1.5 - 2 hours | Easy



On your walk...

The England Coast Path is well waymarked and easy to follow. The acorn symbol of the National Trails is found on waymarks and fingerposts along the route.



Where your walk takes you away from the Coast Path it will be signed with the standard waymarks shown here:

Footpath Bridleway Permissive path

Stay safe and follow the Countryside Code on your walk and always follow guidance on local advisory signs. You can see the Countryside Code at www.gov.uk/countryside-code.



Dogs are welcome on these walks but always keep your dog under close control near livestock and wildlife, especially ground nesting birds, and always clean up after your dog and dispose of dog waste in an appropriate bin.

For more information about this walk or to download a .gpx file, scan the QR code or visit nationaltrail.co.uk/short-routes/burnham-circular



All information correct at the time of publication

WALK KEY INFORMATION & FACILITIES



Distance: 3.4 miles/5.5km

Duration: 1.5 - 2 hours

Map: OS Explorer 153: Weston-super-Mare & Bleadon Hill

Grade: Easy



Access:

An easy walk on pavements, sandy shore and local footpaths. Due to sections on the shore this walk is not suitable for wheels.



Getting here:

By car to Burnham-on-Sea where there are pay & display car parks and metered on street parking. The closest car park to the walk is Oxford Street Car Park, Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1EL.

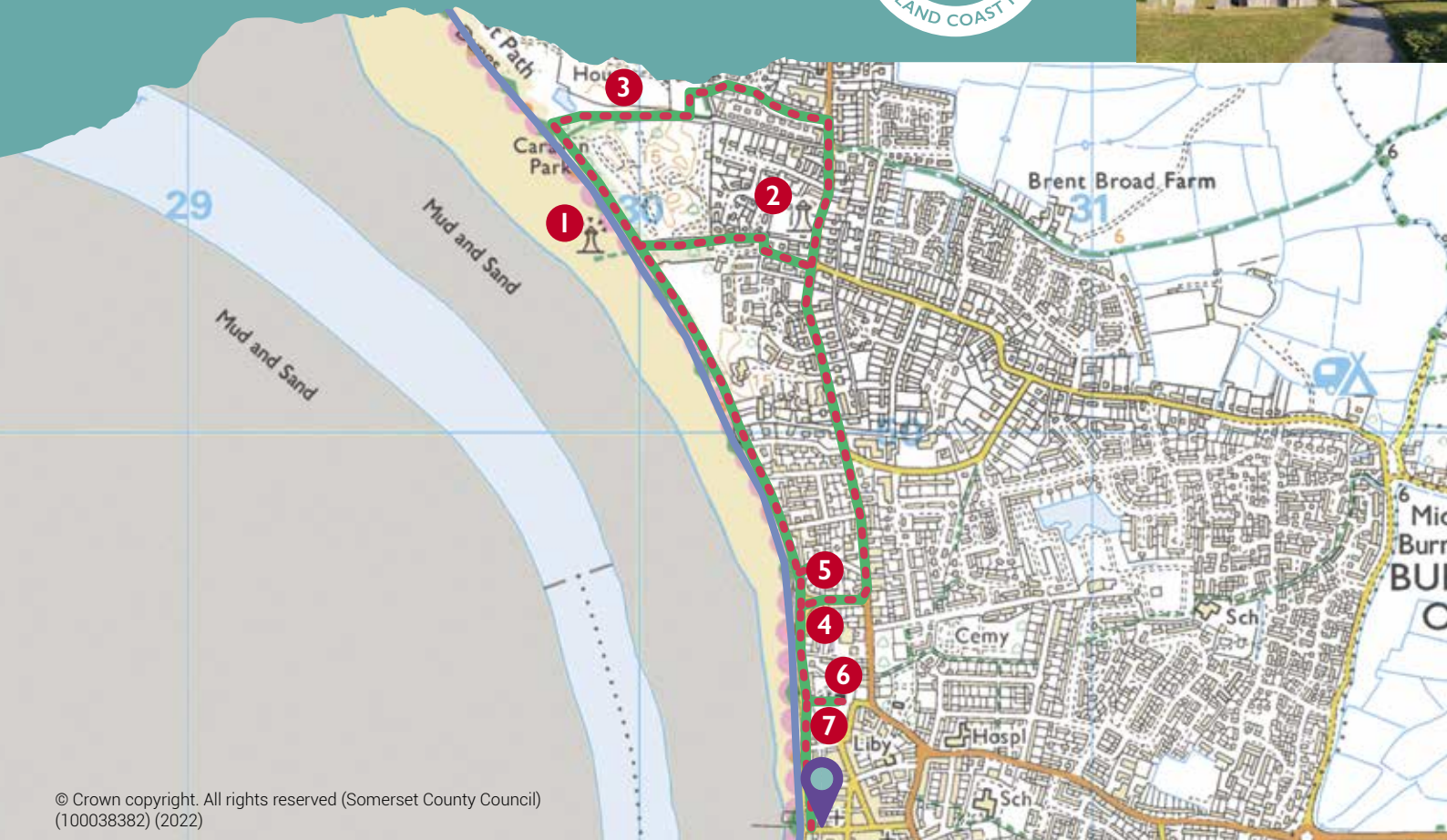
The town is on bus route 20 from Weston-super-Mare and Highbridge and 21A from Taunton and Bridgwater. To find out more visit travelsomerset.co.uk



Facilities:

There are public toilets at the Oxford Street car park and lots of pubs, cafes, shops and restaurants in Burnham to explore, as well as local shopping.

Burnham-on-Sea Circular



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England Coast Path

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DIRECTIONS

The walk begins at Burnham Pavilion, Britain's shortest seaside pier. Built in 1911, it was the first concrete structure of its kind in Europe. Today it is open for refreshments and amusements and attracts thousands of visitors each year. Walk north along the Esplanade following signs for the England Coast Path to Brea.

At the end of The Esplanade follow the wall round to the right and at the end of the wall, turn left and follow the England Coast Path signs up the ramp to the beach. Turn right along the beach and head north until you reach a well-worn path inland almost level with the only active lighthouse in Somerset.

The nine-legged Low Lighthouse ① was built by Joseph Nelson in 1832 and has been voted one of the top 10 most beautiful lighthouses in the world by the Huffington Post. There are two more inland lighthouses in Burnham-on-Sea, but these are no longer in use.

For the short walk leave the beach here and follow the footpath inland. As you walk you can see one of the other lighthouses ahead and to the left of your path. This is the High Lighthouse ②, which can be rented as holiday accommodation. When you reach Gore Road continue along it until you reach Berrow Road where you turn right. Skip the next paragraph to continue.

For the longer walk continue north on the beach until you reach a second path heading inland and marked with a

Bridleway mark. Turn right here and continue inland with Burnham and Berrow Golf Course ③ on your left, before turning sharp left and then right onto St. Christopher's Way. Follow St Christopher's Way until you reach Berrow Road and turn right, passing the High Lighthouse ② on your right, to re-join the shorter route.

Walk along Berrow Road until you come to Sea View Road where you turn right and head back towards the sea. As you reach The Esplanade notice the grand curved terraces looking out to sea. The one on your left was known as Catherine Terrace ④ and was built by the town's benefactor George Reed in 1861 and named after his daughter. To your right was Julia Terrace ⑤, named after Reed's granddaughter.

Turn left here and walk down The Esplanade until you reach St Andrew's Church ⑥ on your left. Notice its leaning tower! Just inside the porch here is a 'scratch' sundial that is thought to date this part of the church to the 1200s. Return to The Esplanade, but before reaching it turn left turn into Marine Cove Gardens ⑦. Created in 1927 by the District Council, the gardens have provided a place of rest and relaxation for nearly 100 years. Their formal design, inspired by the grand landscape artists of the day, can still be seen today.

Leave the gardens through the seating area and return to The Esplanade, continuing south to your starting point.