A Walk from Braunton Museum/Countryside Centre

to St. Anne's Saunton Walk 1

Time: 60 minutes + return walk. Take a flask and a bite to eat in the grounds by kind permission of St. Anne's but please take any rubbish away with you. The walk requires a drive to Braunton Burrows Sandy Lane Car Park – a lovely drive in itself along the historic boundary between the Great Field and Braunton Marshes Take the road out from the Quay Café, instead of turning right at the roundabout to Tesco, past the Pill, ignoring the turning on your left down the toll road, continue on, turning left into Sandy Lane and then very shortly into the Car Park. Or cycle the route in its entirety.

Take care: especially with children and dogs (accompanied please by a responsible adult)- crossing the main road; you will be on the SW Coast Path which crosses the golf course at one point – beware flying golf balls. There may be cyclists. Please close gates.

- Take the main path from the car park into the Burrows. Do pause to read the information board about the Burrows. After a short section of aggregate, at the gate there is a turning right on to the SW Coast Path signposted Saunton 2.5 miles. Take this path which will lead you to St. Anne's.
  Sam Ellacott Braunton historian (his biography is a fascinating read) writes that St. Anne's Chapel once stood near the shore but is now buried beneath dunes by the great road leading from Saunton to the waterside opposite Appledore with many houses adjoining. Just the legend of bells sounding from the water survives. There used also to be a ferry from this point to Appledore.
- This is an interesting path at times sheltered by stunted trees and shrubby growth and at points views out over the Burrows.
- Part way along you will find yourself walking through the East Course for Saunton Golf Club. Take care: There are a few holes where the tee is on one side of the path and the green on the other. You have the right of way and golfers should wait for you to be clear. At one point you will be walking alongside a fairway on your left. Golfers will be teeing off from behind a dune and cannot see you but hopefully they will be aiming for the fairway. The track here is also used by golf course maintenance vehicles so do be vigilant. Dogs are not allowed on the course so do keep any dogs under control
- Founded in May 1897, Saunton Golf Club's iconic East course was designed by the renowned golf architect Herbert Fowler earning praise as one of the finest championship links, a reputation it retains today hosting elite tournaments as one of the world's top 100 courses.
- Ahead you will see to your left Saunton Sands Hotel, just poking through the trees the roof of St. Anne's in the middle, and to the right a cream house called Knockbeg
- Continue on. The SW coast path is well marked and you will turn off the main track to the right through a gate across a field then through a second gate and

on to a minor lane with houses bordering. Proceed straight on to the main road and cross over to the lane immediately opposite. Take care: there is a 30mph limit but often cars exceed this.

- Follow the track which bends to the left. Saunton Court can be glimpsed on your right. Saunton Court is grade 2* listed for its gardens in particular. Both house and gardens were re-modelled by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1932. Please respect the owners' privacy.
- St. Anne's can be reached through the pedestrian gates on your left through a lovely glade.
- Please take a token out of the box hung on the railing by the porch and return to the Museum/Countryside Centre to have your card stamped.
- St. Anne's is holding Open Days from 24th – 31st October – please see their flyers for further details
- If the little church is open do go in. Both church and lynch gate are listed Grade 2. There are some interesting boards about its history: the land donated by the Christie family, the building of the Church by the Mortlock-Brown family of Lobb in 1895 and lovely stained-glass windows by Mary Lowndes Slade School of Art London a leader in the Arts and Crafts movement and important roles in the Women's Suffrage movement. In the porch is the font from the vanished chapel in the dunes.

We do hope you have enjoyed your exploration of Braunton. We would love you to make a donation using the QR code, by card on www.brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk or cash at Braunton Museum or Countryside Centre

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