



# Burnham-On-Sea Past & Present. TRAIL 1 - ESPLANADE



Begin the trail at the junction of Pier St and the Esplanade. Walk past the Tourist Information Centre and on south to stop 1 (see map p.6). Next return to the TIC for stop 2, then continue northwards along the Esplanade.

1. The 'Band Shell' (above) was built as part of the 1930's South Esplanade development. It was removed and replaced by a shelter (right) during the construction of the new sea wall in 1981. Now return towards the TIC.

2. The modern Pilot Hut (below right). An old railway carriage known as the 'Cathedral' (below) used to accommodate pilots near the jetty, at the corner of Pier St and the Esplanade.





3. At this point the Marine Lake attraction was built in the 1930's. After WW II, over many years, it gradually fell into disrepair. The remains were removed in the 1990's.

4. The Reed's Arms was built by George Reed in the late 1850's to cater for the railway & steamboat service he helped to develop. It became the Queens Hotel in 1884 before recently reverting to its original name.



5. The Customs House and signal pole (built 1840). By the mid 20th century Bridgwater had taken over the customs service for Burnham so the building was converted for commercial use. Sunset House, once home a series of motor coach companies (Burnell's, Gratton's, WEMS, Baker's), is to the right (built c. 1858).







6. Next door was the 'Steam Packet' Inn, now York House. Known to have been an inn and the haunt of the seafaring community during the 1860's before becoming an apartment house. It later became a holiday home for children.



7. The old toilet block (above) was constructed in 1912 replacing the original south shelter of 1902. It was replaced by a new shelter when the new sea wall was built.



8. Now take a detour down Adam St to what was originally Herrings Coach Station (built 1947 - 48). Above we see the interior set up for a children's party for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Return to the Esplanade for No 9.

9. The bandstand was constructed in 1902 to commemorate Edward VII's coronation. It was replaced by the Pavilion (below) during the development of 1912.



10. The Burnham National School is at right in the top picture. It was renamed St Andrew's in 1906. The site now houses flats (above). The school was built at the expense of George Reed in 1855, extended in 1874 & 1890, and demolished in 1980.

11. The Royal Clarence Hotel, Burnham's earliest licensed premises, was built around 1792 when the Esplanade was still dunes and Regent St was a narrow causeway.



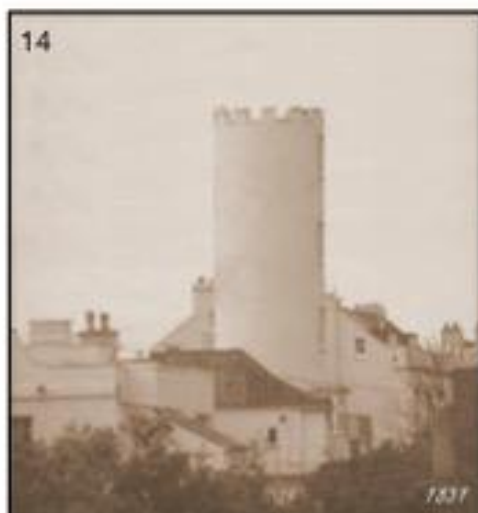




12. Marine Cove was built as a holiday attraction in 1927, next to St Andrew's Church, on land earlier reclaimed from dunes by the Revd. Davies which was part of the Old Vicarage estate. It is now looked after by a voluntary group.



13. The Paddling & Boating Pool was provided by Joseph Braithwaite in 1921 (see panel on sea wall). Due to failure of upkeep it fell into disrepair and was finally demolished in 2010. The remaining foundations were visible again in 2019 (above right).



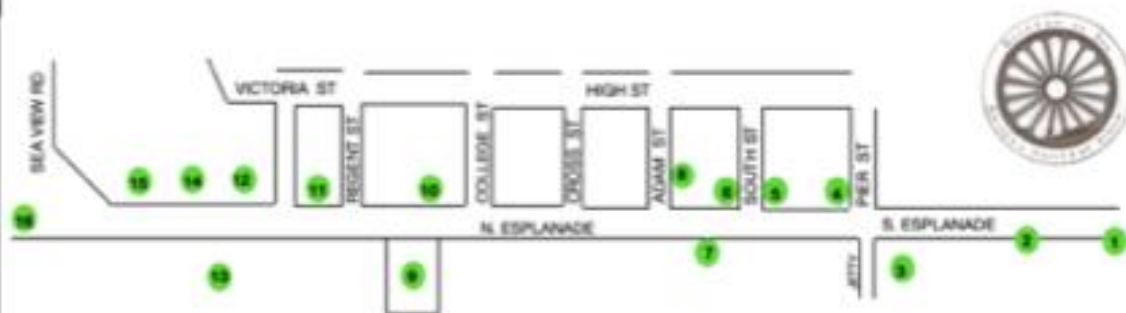
14. The Round Tower was built onto his cottage by the Revd. Davies, by 1800, in order to improve on an earlier light. It originally also had a lantern on the top but has been substantially reduced in height over the years.



15. The Spa, known as Daviesville, was built by the Revd. Davies around 1833 and operated until 1874. The engraving above shows the view from Berrow Rd along what is now Myrtle Drive. Only Steart House, on the Esplanade, remains.



16. Known to generations of children as the 'sliding steps' because of their smooth balustrade, these beach steps were part of the early Esplanade development. They were lost in 1981 when the new sea wall & plaza were created.



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*Trail development: Burnham-on-Sea Heritage Group. Leaflet design: Nigel Craik*