



Further Interest

Heritage

Frogmore, like many of the villages around the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary, is a very old settlement. Its name is a Saxon one and means 'the frog's pool'. This sleepy backwater once functioned as a bustling quay, and the spring tides would bring quite large sailing ships right up the creek. Coal and corn were landed loaded on the wharves here until well into the 1800s.

A limekiln stands down by the foreshore near Frogmore. Like many others it was situated close to the water because the limestone burnt in it was brought in by boat from Torbay and Plymouth. There are 27 of these kilns dotted around the shore of the estuary.

The long green lane along which you walk towards Frogmore was once the main turnpike road from Kingsbridge to Frogmore. The turnpikes were toll roads, and unpopular among many. These routes often had a soldier's pike set as a barrier across the road by the toll house, which is how they got their name. The lane here would almost certainly have been a packhorse route well before the turnpike was built in 1824.

Landscape

You may notice the greyish stone along the back of the foreshore. This rock is called Meadfoot Slate. Where the route leaves the foreshore to head inland, you pass the old Geese Quarries. The stone which built the tower at Dartmouth Castle was hewn here in the 15th century, and this quarry also provided the raw material for West Charleton church and many other local buildings.