KEY
- - - Main route
- - - Alternative return route

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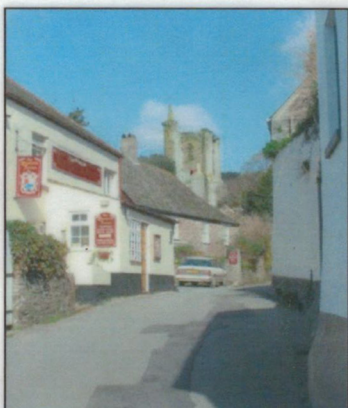South Hams District Council
100022628 2007

Further Interest

Heritage

During the Second World War, the whole area around Slapton was used by American forces to prepare for the invasion of Europe. 3000 people from seven parishes had to leave, taking with them everything they owned, and find somewhere else to live for almost a year.

The memorial by the car park on Slapton sands is to the sacrifice of those local residents who had to wrench themselves away from their homes for the war effort.

One casualty of the war was the Royal sands Hotel, a grand and well known old edifice which once stood where the car park is now. The damage began with a stray sheepdog which set off

mines close to the hotel. Intensive live artillery exercises on the beach there finished it off.

The village of Slapton has been around for millennia. There were settlements here in the Bronze Age, followed by a fort during the Iron Age. Until recently Slapton – whose name means 'slippery place' – could only be reached along narrow lanes from inland. That, along with the fact that it is invisible from the sea, means that the village has had a fairly peaceful as well as long existence.

The atmospheric tower you can see looming over Slapton Village is now mainly a home for rooks and bats. Centuries ago, though, it was part of a college chantry for priests. Sir Guy de Brian, the local lord of the manor, built the chantry in 1373, on condition that a mass be sung for his soul each year.

Landscape

The shingle ridge of Slapton Sands is mainly made up of