

## 4 Key buildings

Dunsford has 26 listed buildings within the present Conservation Area, excluding individually listed churchyard memorials and walls. Most are traditional Devon buildings, the Telephone Kiosk being a notable exception. All are listed at Grade II except for the church and Lewishill. Some of these buildings, and some unlisted ones, are essential to the unique character and appearance of Dunsford. Those considered most important are set out below.

### Church of St Mary: Grade I

A fine parish church in the Perpendicular style of the 15th century. Constructed of dressed granite it is an attractive example of its kind. By virtue of its elevated position it is prominent in views from within the village and the surrounding countryside.

### Lewishill: Grade II\*

To the east of the church, set back from the road, is this important and complex building. It was altered and adapted over the centuries before undergoing a phase of restoration and extension in the 20th century.

The quality of this work is so high as to be of historic importance in its own right. Fulford estate records of the later 18th century show Lewishill as the most valuable asset in the manor. Today it ranks as a truly outstanding feature of Dunsford, even though it offers only tantalising glimpses from outside its grounds.



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Fig 9: The church tower is the focal point of the village



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Fig 10: Lewishill glimpsed from the churchyard

### Listed Buildings Footnote:

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is required to compile lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest for the guidance of local planning authorities. Conservation policies are often based on these lists. The re-survey of all Dartmoor parishes was carried out during 1985-88.

A listed building is 'a building of special architectural or historic interest the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. There are about 500,000 listed buildings in England. Nationally, 2% are grade I listed, 4% II\* listed and the balance of 94% are grade II listed. Within Dartmoor National Park there are 2,861 listed buildings.

The next two buildings were formerly one farmhouse known as Chubbs Farm



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Fig 11: The Post Office with its fine lateral chimney stack

#### The Post Office: Grade II

The low eaves and prominent lateral stack reveal the 16th century origins of this building. It is the focal point of the important group opposite the churchyard and as the village Post Office it is also at the heart of the community.



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Fig 12: The Old Post Office with its massive gable chimney

#### The Old Post Office: Grade II

Believed to have been built in the 17th century as the service range of Chubbs Farm. The massive stepped gable chimney is one of the distinctive character features that distinguish Dunsford. It has a prominent location on the important central junction.



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Fig 13: Old Cawte Farmhouse

#### Old Cawte Farmhouse: Grade II

Dating from the 16th century, this building has the third exceptional chimney stack in the village. Its plan has evolved through a number of phases which have mostly added to its special character. The farmhouse is unusual in that it does not front the main street but instead faces its own little side street.



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Fig 14: The busy elevation of The Royal Oak is unique in Dunsford



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Fig 15: The vented roof is a strong feature from the churchyard and in more distant views

#### The Royal Oak Inn: Unlisted

By virtue of its position on a kink in the main street next to the church and closing the view at the top of Briton Street Lane, this is a key building. The complexity of plan and elevation create interest in views from all angles. Although its exposed local stone with brick dressings is a unique combination in Dunsford, it is a memorable and distinctive part of the village. As the local inn it is also an integral part of the community.



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*Fig 16: Brimblecombes*

**Brimblecombes, barn and cob wall: Grade II**

This group epitomises the architectural character of the settlement. The dwelling itself has 16th century origins as an open hall house with later alterations. The 18th century adjoining barn sits neatly alongside Brimblecombes to the south, and to the north is the wall that retains a thatched cap and is the last of the tall walls in Dunsford to do so.



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*Fig 17: Doone Cottage is presently outside the Conservation Area*

**Doone Cottage: Grade II**

A delightful 17th century house, typical 3-room cross passage plan and vernacular construction. Like many such properties it was subdivided in the 19th century but is now one home again. Presently outside the Conservation Area but it is a focal point entering and leaving the village along Briton Street Lane.



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*Fig 18: The unusual picket fence and continuity of materials keep the visual unity of the pair*

### **Dymonds and Dymond Cottage: Grade II**

The quirky change in height between the two properties adds interest in the roofscape, especially when viewed from the churchyard. This pair of cottages is part of the distinctive group in the centre of Dunsford and an essential element of the village character.

### **Other notable buildings**



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*Fig 19: The School*

### **The School: Unlisted**

A nice example of a Victorian school, built of local materials on a prominent site. An essential element of a thriving community, then and now. The modern extension is suitably proportioned and built of complementary materials.



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*Fig 20: The thatch on this old barn was replaced with corrugated iron a long time ago*

#### **Barn opposite Old School Cottage: Unlisted**

A rambling cob building, formerly thatched but now with corrugated iron. Appears to be a small threshing barn with a horse engine house on the gable end – a rare position if that was its purpose. As the most prominently located unconverted agricultural building in the village it is in need of sympathetic restoration and use.



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*Fig 21: East Steps and Foxhole*

#### **East Steps and Foxhole: Grade II**

Probably the last thatched homes to be built in Dunsford around the early 1800s. The taller stature, deeper plan and regular fenestration are indicative of their age. Sited at the bottom of Reedy Hill adjacent to the church the pair make a significant contribution to the quality of the village centre.



*Fig 22: St Nicholas*

**St Nicholas: Unlisted**

A substantial Georgian residence in its own grounds – the only building of its kind in Dunsford. Its character and location suggest it was once the rectory. It is especially evident in views from the nearby public footpath, where it is seen in tandem with the church.