

## 5 Local Details and Street Furniture

Central Dunsford is enhanced by the shop/ Post Office and The Royal Oak. Both avoid excessive signage and bring life to the street. They also attract traffic which is clearly an issue for the whole community and has its own impact on the Conservation Area.

The themed pseudo-historic street light is found throughout the village. By day they appear somewhat incongruous and by night the village seems rather over-illuminated. The number of traffic signs has been recently increased along with the insertion of a very utilitarian traffic-calming scheme. The tarmac islands, plastic kerbs and excessive signage detract from the raised pavements and surrounding buildings. The effect is significantly detrimental to the special character of the Conservation Area.



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*Fig 23: Traffic calming on the main street*

Dunsford is fortunate in having a wealth of small details that contribute to the outstanding quality of its streetscape. Such is the depth of character the features can be divided into sub-sections.

### Walls

There are two kinds of walls that abound – tall walls in rendered cob with a variety of cappings but all originally thatched, and stone walls in granite or assorted rubble stone. The cob walls are a particularly typical element of the streetscape in Dunsford and some fine examples are found enclosing gardens as well. These have lost their render in some cases but the scale of the walls and the sense of enclosure they offer to the streetscene throughout the village is distinctive. The walls that frame the top end of Briton Street Lane epitomise the character of cob boundary walls.



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*Fig 24: The wall between Dymonds and Brimblecombes is the finest example of traditional enclosure in Dunsford*



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*Fig 25: A bare cob wall between East Steps and the churchyard*

The stone walls vary considerably, from rough rubble to dressed granite. As well as the prominent examples at the churchyard and Lewishill, there are other interesting walls like the garden wall north of Doone Cottage and the wall at Old School Cottage. The revetment walls that support the raised pavements are another theme of the village.



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*Fig 26: Raised pavement and garden wall at Old School House*



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*Fig 27: Dressed granite wall at Old School Cottage*



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*Fig 28: Rubble wall with granite slab coping near Doone Cottage*

### **Raised Pavements**

These are a feature of some villages and many towns in Devon and are usually an indication that the settlement enjoyed sufficient wealth and status to seek such enhancements. West of the church the pavement is almost continuous on the north side of the main street as far as the edge of the village beyond Townsend. At intervals there are granite steps linking to road level.

In the days of unmetalled roads, and with horses and regular livestock movements through the village, these pavements would have made getting around a much less messy business.



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*Fig 29: Raised pavement and steps beside the school*

### Surfacing

There are some outstanding examples of traditional cobbling in Dunsford. As well as the church path the areas in front of the Post Office and Brimblecombes are particularly fine. Other good examples include the patches at the bottom of the sets of church steps. Where pavements exist they are mostly edged with granite kerbs that offer a sense of quality and continuity to the streetscene.



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*Fig 30: The efficiently designed cobbling at Brimblecombes*

*Fig 31: The church path*

### Mounting Blocks, Granite Troughs and Steps

There are two good mounting blocks in the centre of the village, outside the Old Post Office and Foxhole. These are in situ and are reminders of past times when horses were part of everyday life.



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*Fig 32: Mounting block and granite trough at Foxhole*



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*Fig 33: Pump, trough and steps at Old Cawte Farmhouse*

A variety of granite troughs are used as planters on roadside verges. In many cases this is presumably to deter vehicles as much as to add colour and interest. A significant number of properties have old granite steps that add to the richness of the streetscene. The grandest example is at Old Cawte Farmhouse, which also has a trough and pump adding to its setting. The more modest and purely functional steps, seen on a lot of other properties, are also important - a good example is at Poppy Cottage. The converted roadside barn called Felspar has an attractive external stair but the context is rather diluted by the modern window at the top replacing the doorway.



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*Fig 34: Barn steps at Felspar*



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*Fig 35: Steps at Poppy Cottage*



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### Telephone Kiosk

The Grade II listed red phonebox makes a traditional contribution to the village centre opposite the churchyard.

*Fig 36: The telephone box and another granite trough*

### Gateways

As there is a strong sense of enclosure in Dunsford, created by the tight building lines and the substantial boundary walls, gaps are all the more apparent. Fortunately many are framed by granite posts that range from the ancient to the carefully sculpted. Some granite posts have also been re-used as traffic deterrents. The cart entrance in the front elevation of East Steps is an interesting feature.



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*Fig 37: The entrance to Lewishill*



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*Fig 38: Ancient gateposts re-used and in situ at Brimblecombes*