

6 Spaces and Views

Spaces Refer to Map 8 Page 32.

There are few spaces in Dunsford that indicate conscious design, but there are areas that contribute to the special quality of the place in a variety of ways.

A Churchyard

The most significant public space is the churchyard. There is interest throughout – in the church itself, the memorials, the planting and the variety of views in all directions. It is a restful place to pass time and to contemplate (fig 39 page 33).

B Central Area

Although it is not a planned space, the centre of the village has a tangible character. This is derived from the quality of the buildings, how they address the street and the fact that this is the focus of activity. The Royal Oak car park next to the village hall is an important space that lacks definition and character (fig 40 page 33).

C School Playground

As the place where younger members of the community spend much of their time it has a particular significance. For others the sound of children at play is part of village life. Visually speaking, the fencing is unattractive, but it seems to be ubiquitous in village schools throughout Devon.

D Seat Beside Old School Cottage

This is one of the few places where it is possible to sit a while. As such it has its own importance even though it is not a particularly well tended spot. In some ways its informality is right for the village – understated but functional (fig 41 page 33).

Views Refer to Map 8 Page 32.

1 Village Centre from the east

Perhaps the trademark view of the village centre, captured on early postcards and little changed today (fig 42 page 33).

2 From the Churchyard

Views from the churchyard looking south encapsulate much of what is special about the place. The dramatic wooded valley sides of the Teign forming the backdrop, seen over charming thatched roofs with memorials to generations of residents in the foreground (fig 44 page 34).

Looking north beyond the churchyard extension are remnants of the once extensive orchards that are an essential, though diminishing, part of the village setting (fig 43 page 34).

3 South from The Royal Oak

Looking down Briton Street Lane over the thatched roof of Brimblecombes to the wooded valley of the Teign beyond is one of the finest vantage points (fig 45 page 34).

4 Up Briton Street Lane from Brimblecombes

The view back up Briton Street Lane from the vicinity of Brimblecombes is a tightly enclosed view and a special pinch point. The substantial, colourful and welcoming focal point of The Royal Oak closes the view and indicates arrival in the village centre (fig 46 page 35).

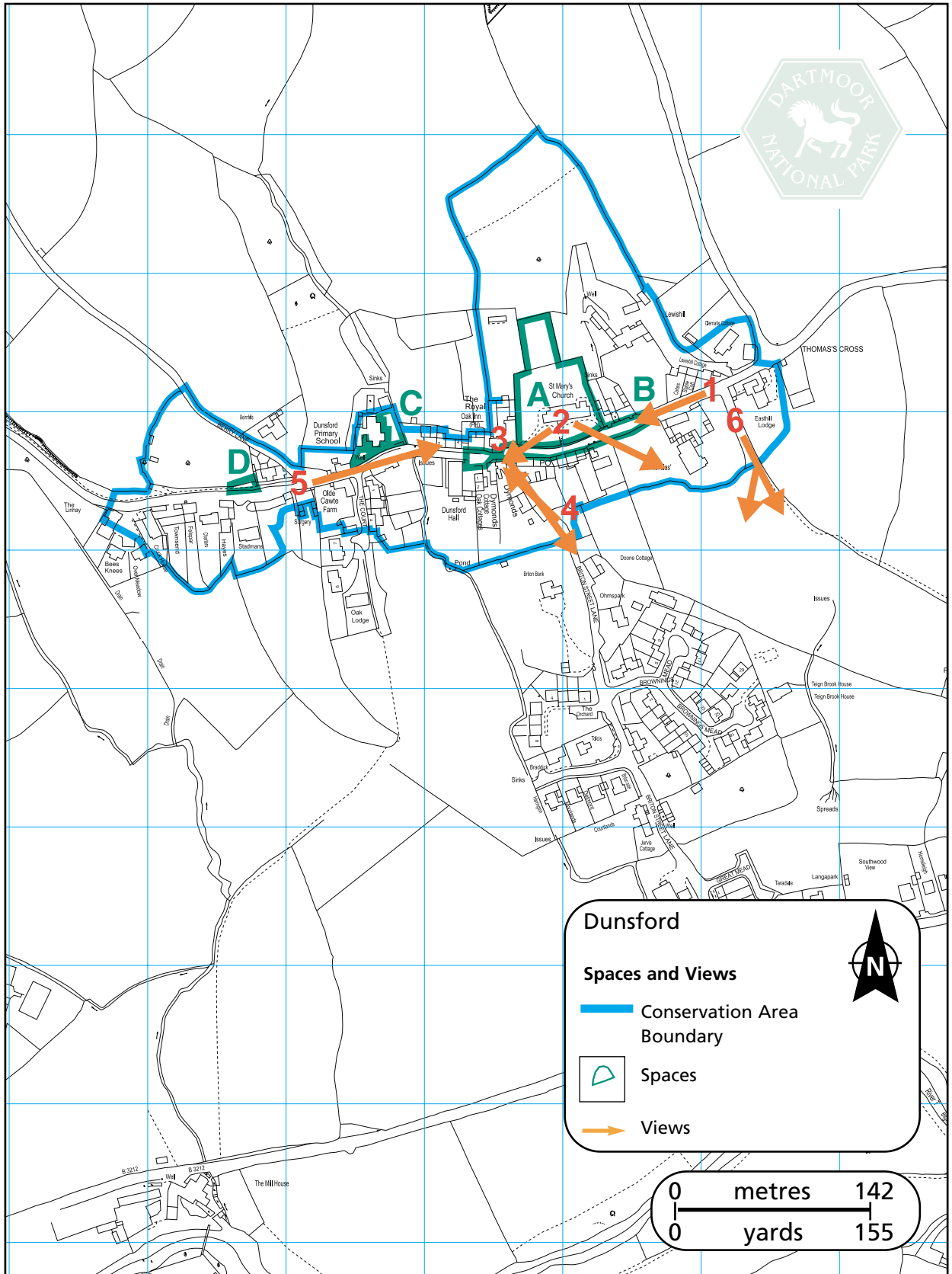
5 View east from Orchard House

The slightly sinuous and undulating nature of the main street offers a series of pleasing views in both directions. Perhaps the one that best represents the character of the village is looking back towards the church from the vicinity of Old Cawte Farm. Rendered cob walls, raised pavement, thatch and slate roofs all interlock in the foreground with the fine church tower, framed by trees and buildings, rising above the distinctive roofscape of The Royal Oak (fig 47 page 35).

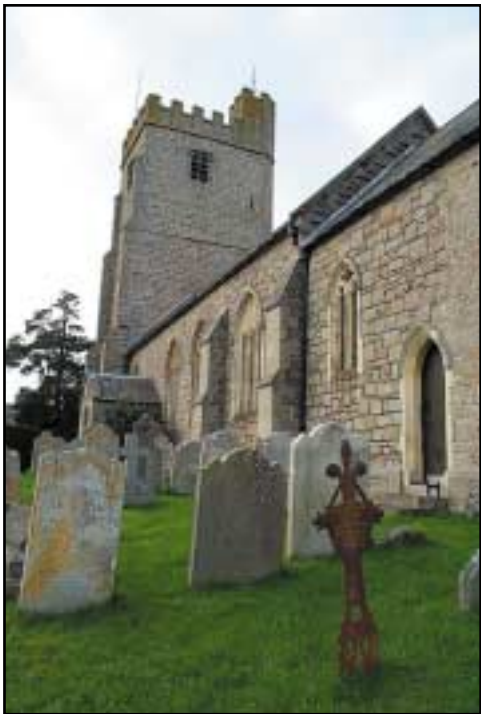
6 Footpath south of Easthill Lodge

The lane that leads to the large house St Nicholas has a tunnel-like quality that creates curiosity and then opens out to wonderful countryside views (fig 48 page 35).

Map 8 Spaces and Views



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Fig 39: The churchyard with listed iron memorial in foreground



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Fig 40: The centre of Dunsford



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Fig 41: The seat



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Fig 42: View of village centre from the east



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Fig 43: Looking past St Nicholas from the churchyard



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Fig 44: Looking towards and over Dymonds



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Fig 45: Down Briton Street Lane to Doone Cottage and beyond



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Fig 46: The funnel-like top of Briton Street Lane



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Fig 47: A view full of interest



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Fig 48: Looking SE from the entrance to St Nicholas