

3.7 Princetown

The Core Strategy says the following about Princetown (section 3.5.6): One of the highest settlements on Dartmoor, in the late 18th/ early 19th century it was transformed into model farming community and prison town by Thomas Tyrwhitt. The economy and community is now less focused on the prison; tourism and visitor services play a much larger role.

Princetown's vision looks to:

- ◆ *provide opportunities for high quality housing development*
- ◆ *sustain and improve the range of local shops and services*
- ◆ *enhance opportunities for business and commercial development including the tourist economy*
- ◆ *improve the character and quality of the built environment*
- ◆ *improve community facilities*
- ◆ *conserve the historic fabric of the settlement.*

Providing opportunities for high quality housing development

3.7.1

The housing stock in Princetown comprises a significant number of prefabricated 'Cornish' units which are now reaching the end of their life. The last decade has seen some of these units (for example at Woodville Avenue) replaced with modern houses. Development at Woodville Avenue, Heather Terrace, Tavistock Road, and more recently at Stoneycliffe Place, means that Princetown has seen 55 new houses built (net) since 2006.

3.7.2

While there is a need to improve the range of house types and tenures, as well as the quality of the housing stock in Princetown, there is currently little or no local need identified for affordable housing. There is therefore no land allocated for housing in Princetown. It should be noted, however, that opportunities for housing development on brownfield land do exist in the village.

It is considered that development of these sites for a small number of open market houses over the longer term may be acceptable. This would be acceptable only where this is of significant environmental or community benefit in line with Policy COR15 of the Core Strategy, and provided no local need for affordable housing is identified at that time.

Sustaining and improving the range of local shops and services

3.7.3

As an isolated community, it is important that basic local shops and services are available Princetown. The village supports a post office and shop, local pubs and cafés, though many of these will be reliant on income from visitors during the tourist season. Policy DMD19 aims to enable local businesses to grow and develop, and resists the loss of important local shops and services in the community.

Enhancing opportunities for business and commercial development including the tourist economy

3.7.4

Recent developments in Princetown include the purpose built Dartmoor Brewery, and the Duchy Square redevelopment. The latter has improved the character and appearance of the village centre. Village centre shops and services are centred around the Square, on Tavistock Road and Two Bridges Road. Employment opportunities in Princetown are limited. Policy COR18 allows for the expansion of existing employment sites and the provision of new sites where necessary in order to support local employment opportunities. Policies COR19 and DMD44 provide for the development of tourist accommodation and facilities.

Improving the character and quality of the built environment

3.7.5

Development has taken place in Princetown in recent years which has helped to improve the quality of the built environment through the improvement or replacement of sub-standard buildings, and the conservation and enhancement

of heritage assets. Opportunities exist for the continued improvement of the character and quality of the built environment in Princetown. Such development can provide significant environmental or community benefit and may help to address an imbalance in the housing stock, replace sub-standard houses, and provide opportunities to conserve and enhance Princetown's Conservation Area; an important asset in its tourist appeal.

While a number of the remaining 19th century buildings in the village are not listed, they are important heritage assets that characterise Princetown.

Improving community facilities

3.7.6

The community of Princetown has a significant asset in the form of the new Village Centre; a facility offering a hall, meeting rooms, as well as a youth club, library and doctor's surgery. The village has historically relied on facilities provided and/or supported by the Duchy of Cornwall, and those associated with the prison, and it will take time to develop the centre as a self-sustaining facility. Policy COR17 enables the Authority to continue to support the community, Borough Council and other organisations in improving and developing community facilities in Princetown.

Conserving the historic fabric of the settlement

3.7.7




Whilst Princetown might be regarded by some as bleak and lacking in character, its architecture tells an important story; buildings associated with the prison are of local stone, solid and of distinct character and much of the settlement has developed to be resilient to the elements in an exposed landscape. This is important not only as a heritage asset but also part of the appeal of Princetown to tourists. Thus a Conservation Area was designated in Princetown in order to conserve and enhance the historic centre of the village. The Conservation Area was recently extended to include a large area of prison land to the east of the original prison complex, containing surviving historic landscape in the form of prison buildings and associated nursery and allotment type uses.




**Adopted Version
Development Management and
Delivery Development Plan Document**

Inset Map 9

PRINCETOWN

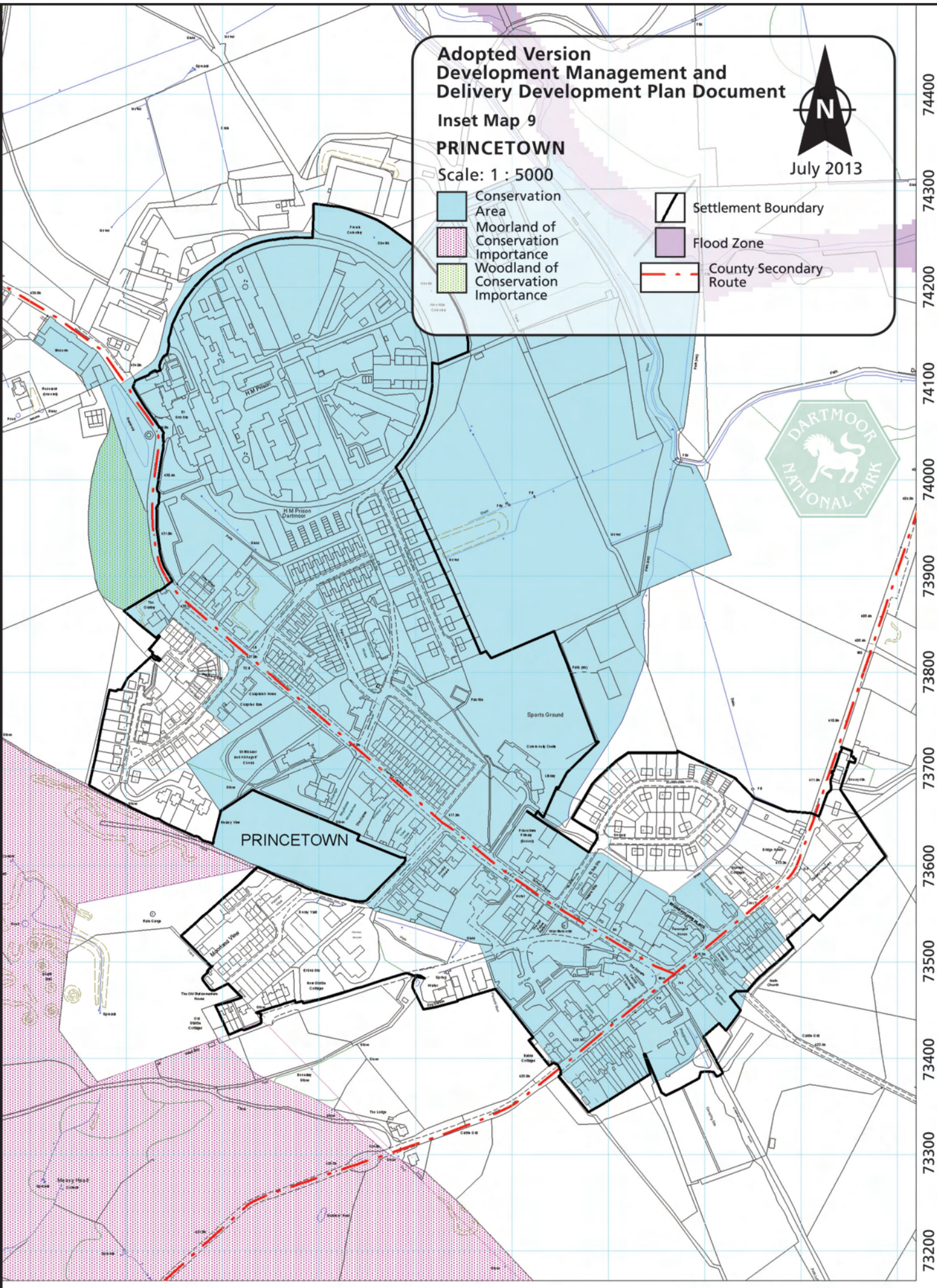
Scale: 1 : 5000

-  Conservation Area
-  Moorland of Conservation Importance
-  Woodland of Conservation Importance

-  Settlement Boundary
-  Flood Zone
-  County Secondary Route



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