

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Shebbear, Torridge District	National Grid Reference SS 4406 0922	Number:
Subject: Watching brief at Barn Close, Shebbear		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no: 1/1945/2006/FUL	Recipient museum: Museum of North Devon and Barnstaple	
OASIS ID: 40361	Museum Accession no: NDDMS 2007.118	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA6324	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 18.2.08 – 18.3.08	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Groundworks for a development of 32 dwellings in two fields in the village of Shebbear were monitored (Fig. 1-2). A desk-based assessment undertaken in 2006 (Exeter Archaeology report No. 06.96) suggested that some field boundaries might represent the remains of a medieval field system.</p> <p>Two hedgebanks were breached: a 25m section at the northern end of the western boundary and two sections of the east-west aligned hedgebank in the southern part of the site (Fig. 2). Both hedgebanks were recorded on <i>pro forma</i> Exeter Archaeology Hedgebank Morphology Recording Sheets. The only finds were modern items recovered from the disturbed edges of the banks.</p> <p>A large portion of the site was stripped of topsoil down to <i>in situ</i> clay/degraded slate (Fig. 2). This varied in thickness from 0.15m in the north-east to 0.4m in the south-west of the main field. No archaeological features were exposed. Only modern finds were retrieved.</p> <p>At the east-east aligned hedgebank the southern field was c. 0.9m lower than the field to the north - the probable result of cultivation erosion.</p> <p>There were no indications of a second east-west aligned hedgebank in this area as indicated on the Shebbear Tithe Map of 1844 and the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps of 1885 and 1906 (produced in the assessment). The hedgebank was not indicated on the 1955 OS map.</p> <p>There were no signs of a small structure indicated on the pre-1955 maps in the northern end of the site, near the entrance.</p>		
Recorder: Neil Goodwin, Exeter Archaeology		Date sent to HER: 8.4.08

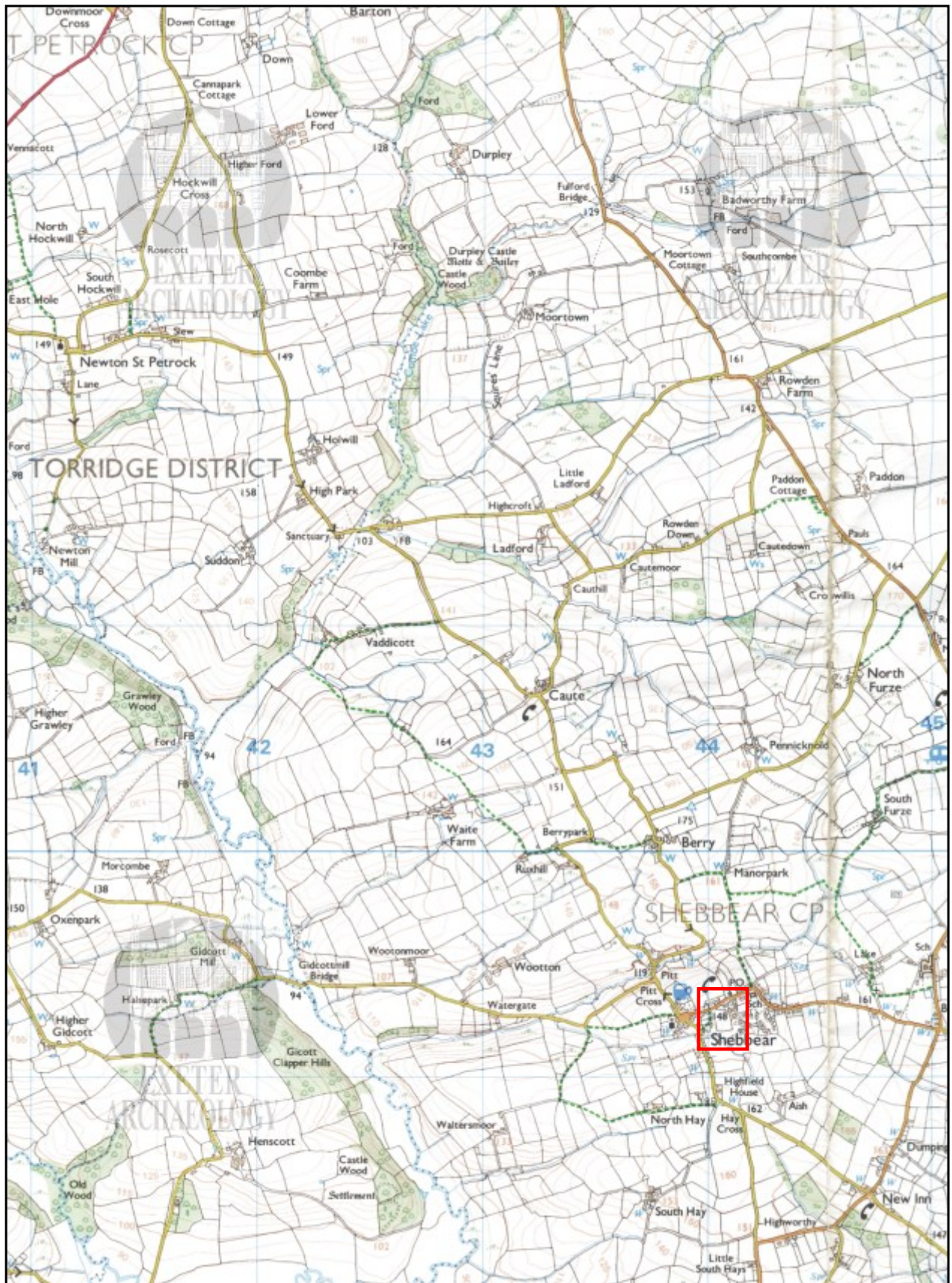


Fig. 1 Location of site. Reproduced from the 1:25000 Explorer 126 by Permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright 1995. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100016685.

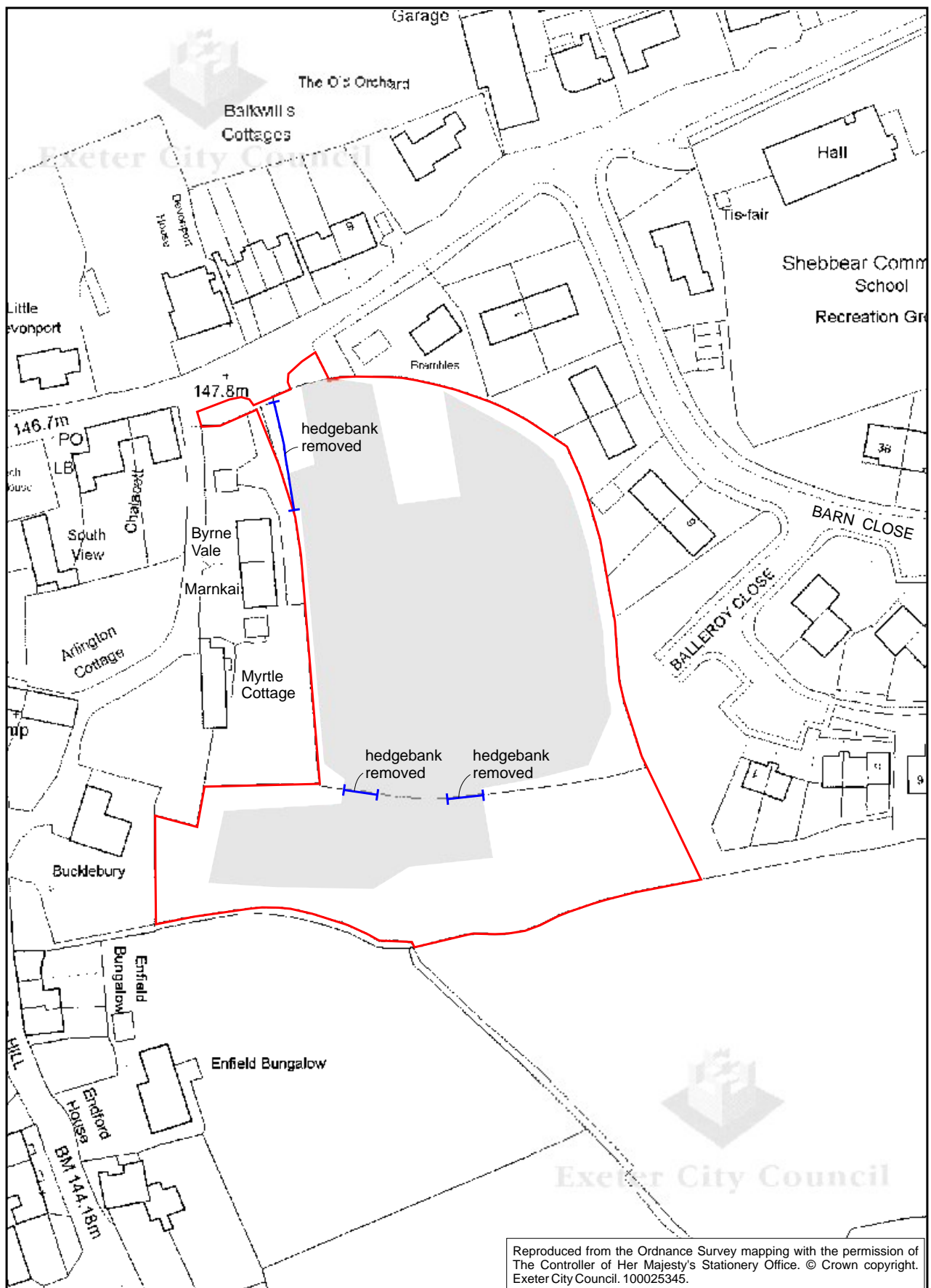


Fig. 2 Location of site indicating observed areas of topsoil stripping (shaded) and hedgebank breaches (blue). Scale 1:1,250.