

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Cheriton Fitzpaine	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 8735 0637	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological recording on land north of Cherry Meadow, Cheriton Fitzpaine		<b>Photo:</b> N
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 09/00611/DCC	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> exeterar1-65175	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> RAMM 368/2009	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EA6963	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 09.09.09	
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out on specific ground works within the proposed development area as set out in a brief supplied by Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (DCCHEs). The work consisted of monitoring the removal of two hedgebanks, comprising the southern site boundary where it extended along the road, and the north-south aligned boundary within the development area. This work was required as a condition of planning consent for the construction of a new primary school.</p> <p>The site lies to the north east of the historic settlement core of Cheriton Fitzpaine, within an area which the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project identifies as "medieval enclosures based on strip fields". The eastern and southern site boundaries are likely to represent the remnants of a medieval field system, as is the boundary which runs north-south within the site.</p> <p><b>Results (Figs 1 &amp; 2)</b></p> <p>The excavation of a controlled section through each of the two hedgebanks to be removed was monitored and each section face cleaned and recorded.</p> <p><i>Trench 1</i></p> <p>This trench was excavated to investigate the north-south boundary. The boundary comprised an earthen bank of two phases. The earlier phase consisted of a ditch (103) and upcast bank (107) with rough stone packing (108) on its western side, presumably to consolidate the loose material. Following an episode of slumping of the primary bank (104 &amp; 105), a second phase, consisting of two roughly built stone revetting walls (109 &amp; 110) with earth packed between them (111), was constructed above the first. This wall bank type of construction is typical of the post-medieval period. Ditch 103 had subsequently been filled (106) with material similar to the surrounding subsoil.</p> <p><i>Trench 2</i></p> <p>This trench was positioned to investigate the southern site boundary, which was shown to consist of a single ditch (205) and upcast bank (200). To the north, the land rises gradually and topsoil had accumulated against the bank at the base of the slope, almost completely obscuring it in plan. To the south the flanking ditch had been filled (204) by slumping of the bank, then truncated by the construction of the present road surface, before further slumping (206) obscured both the ditch and road side.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>With no ceramic or other artefactual evidence recovered, it is difficult to be certain about the date of these hedgebanks. However, in trench 1, the earlier bank form preserved within the post-medieval wall bank, suggests the possibility of an earlier, possibly medieval, origin to this boundary.</p>		
<b>Recorders:</b> A. Farnell & P. Jones (Exeter Archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 13-11-09



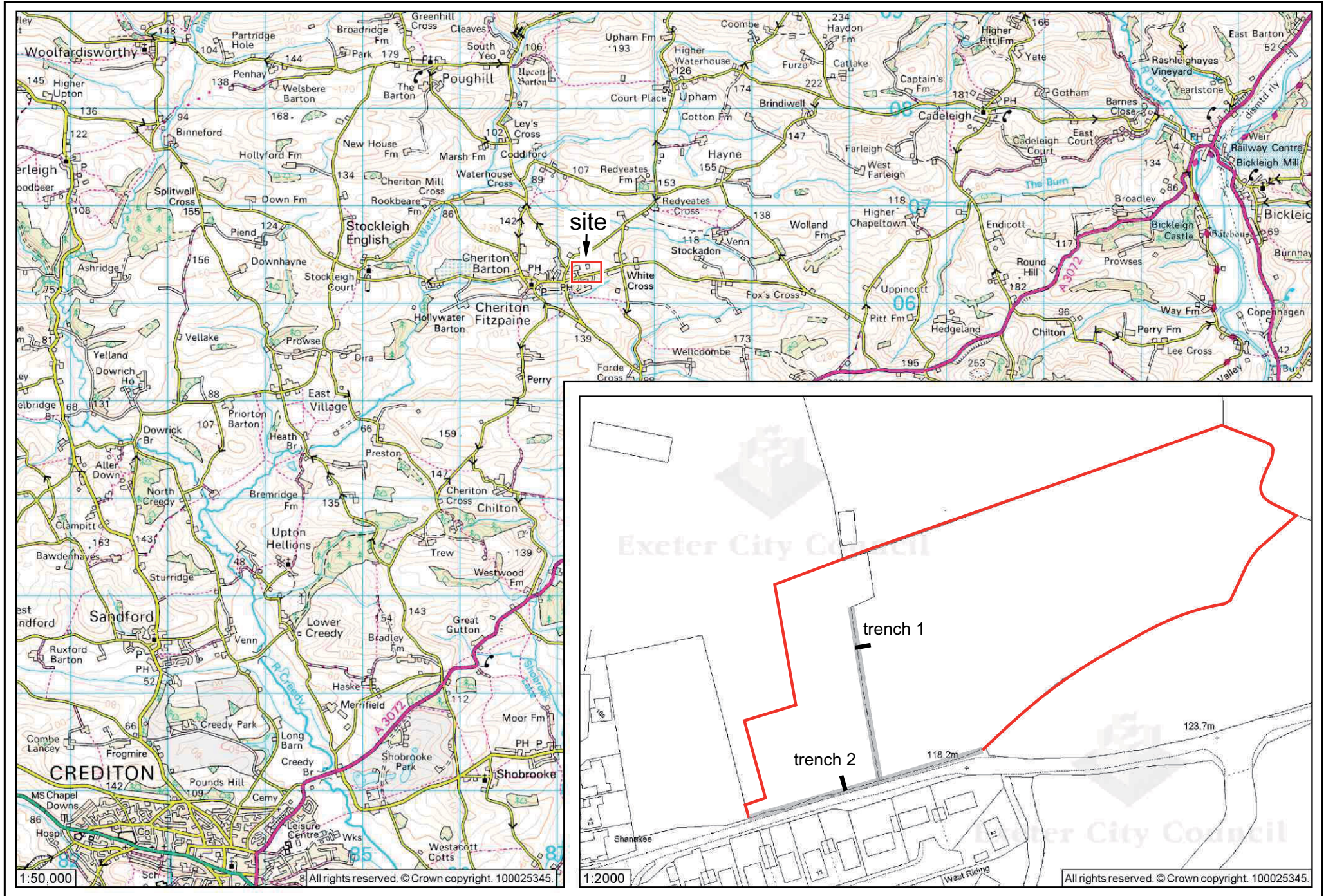


Fig. 1 Site location.

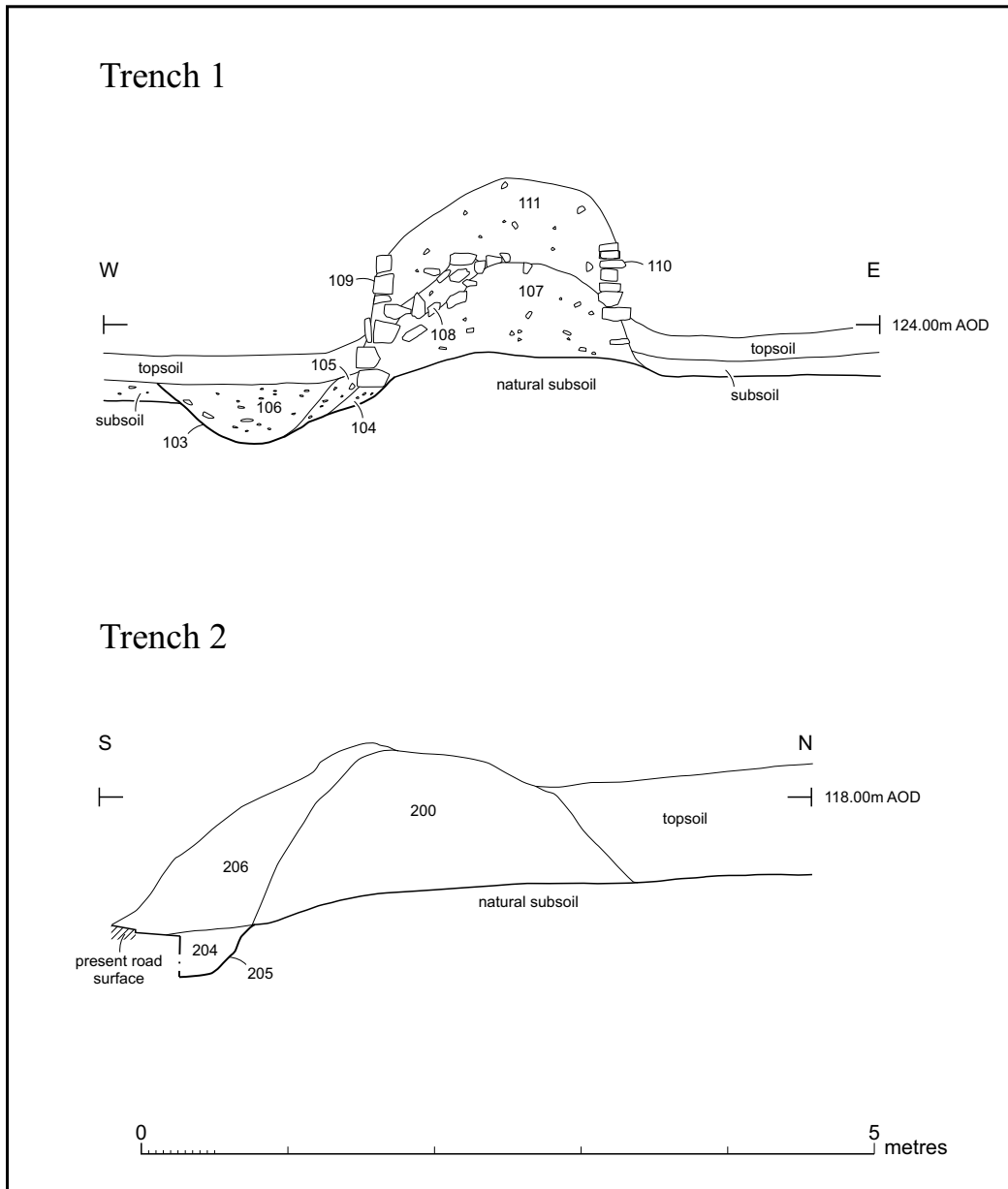


Fig. 2 Trenches 1 and 2: sections through hedge banks. Scale 1:50.