

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Branscombe, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SY 3178 9051	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring on land at Edge Farm, Branscombe, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> N
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 09/1633/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> exeterar1-65759	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 411/2009	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EA6985	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 14/10/2009	
<p><b>Description of works:</b> The development lies in an area where prehistoric activity is demonstrated by known prehistoric settlements to the north (Blackbury Camp) and south (Berry Camp) and associated activity, such as findspots and flint tools. It was therefore considered possible that associated remains or deposits of prehistoric date may have survived within the footprint of the development.</p> <p>A watching brief (Fig 1) was maintained during an initial ground reduction associated with the construction of an agricultural building. The area measured approximately 47m x 18m, and was situated immediately to the north of existing agricultural buildings. This reduction exposed natural subsoil at a depth of 0.5m below the current ground level.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> The layer sequence revealed by the trenching typically consisted of the following: 0-0.3m – friable mid brown loamy clay containing occasional flint (topsoil) 0.3-0.5m – friable light to mid yellow brown loamy clay containing flint and gravel (subsoil) 0.5+ friable – mid orange yellow silty clay containing occasional flint (natural subsoil)</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> A total of 108 worked flints were recovered, predominantly struck from mottled mid grey flint or cherty flint, probably from the same source. A small number of better quality dark grey flints is included and is likely to have been imported from elsewhere. A significant proportion of both materials represent the initial reduction of chalk derived nodules, with large amounts of cortex surviving on many flakes. A small number of cores are included. One unclassified flint fragment had been heavily burnt. A number of flakes have been utilised, with either deliberate or accidental notches present on two. A side scraper with worked edges on opposing edges sides had been produced on a piece of dark gray flint. A small rough scraper had been created on a primary flake. The most accomplished tool is a large thumbnail scraper, again produced on better quality flint. An earlier Bronze Age date is suggested by the scrapers.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b> No features were found to indicate prehistoric activity within the site, although the recovery of a large number of flint artefacts from the topsoil clearly indicates the presence of prehistoric activity within the area. This probably took the form of primary flint nodule reduction.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> MFR Steinmetzer (Exeter Archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 01-12-2009

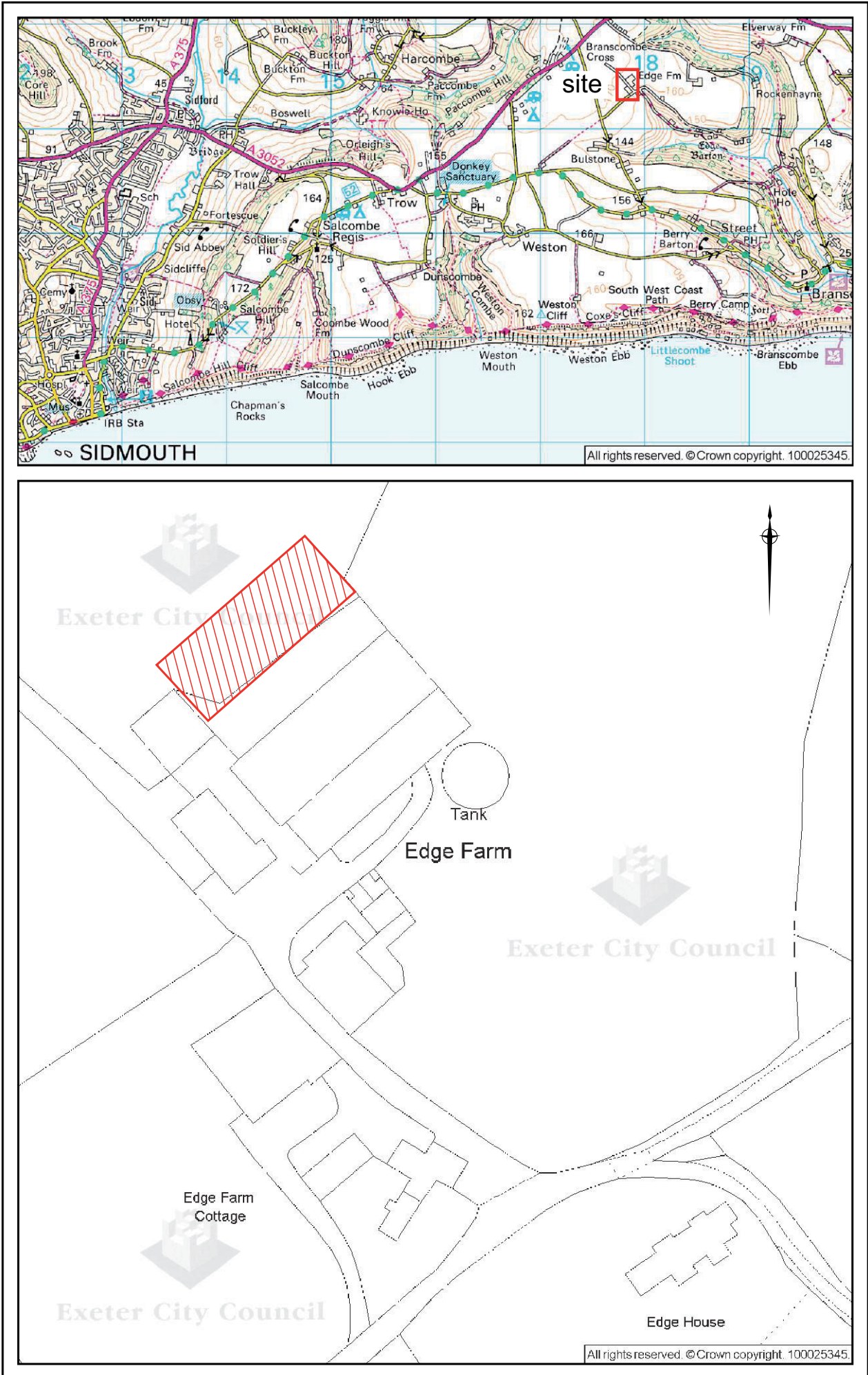


Fig. 1 Location of site.