

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Whimble, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SY 0364 9884	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording of a hedgebank at Hitts Barton, Whimble, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> N
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 09/1225/AGR	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> exeterar1-74968	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 48/2010	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EA7181	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 19/02/10	
<p><b>Description of works:</b> Monitoring and recording was undertaken during the removal of a hedgebank (Fig. 1) prior to the construction of an agricultural building. The work consisted of machine excavation, under archaeological control, to expose a cross-section of the bank. This was then cleaned, investigated and recorded. The hedgebank appears on 19<sup>th</sup> century historic mapping and may therefore have been medieval or early post-medieval in origin.</p> <p>The hedgebank is aligned NW-SE and forms part of the eastern boundary to the existing farm yard. To the NE the ground slopes down towards the bank and immediately to the SW of the bank is a levelled concrete yard.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> The bank core consisted of a primary deposit of reddish brown clay silt (103) derived from the underlying natural subsoil (102), overlain by mixed clay and loam (104) which was in turn overlain by a reddish brown silty clay (106). No evidence was found for a former land surface beneath the bank. A shallow infilled ditch (105) was present on the up-slope (NE) side of the bank, and contained a clean silty clay fill (107). The bank was overlain by dark brown clay loam (108) representing the probable result of organic growth and decay on the surface of the bank. On the NE side of the bank this material had slumped over the infilled ditch. Cultivation on the up-slope (NE) side of the bank had resulted in topsoil (109) accumulating against the side of the bank. The uppermost deposit in the sequence consisted of a layer of decaying vegetation and leaf litter (110), which had been cut through by a small modern drainage ditch to the SW (111).</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> The bank was of a simple construction with no evidence of a preserved buried soil beneath. No deposits of archaeological significance were found and no dating evidence recovered.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> J Austin (Exeter Archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 01/04/2010



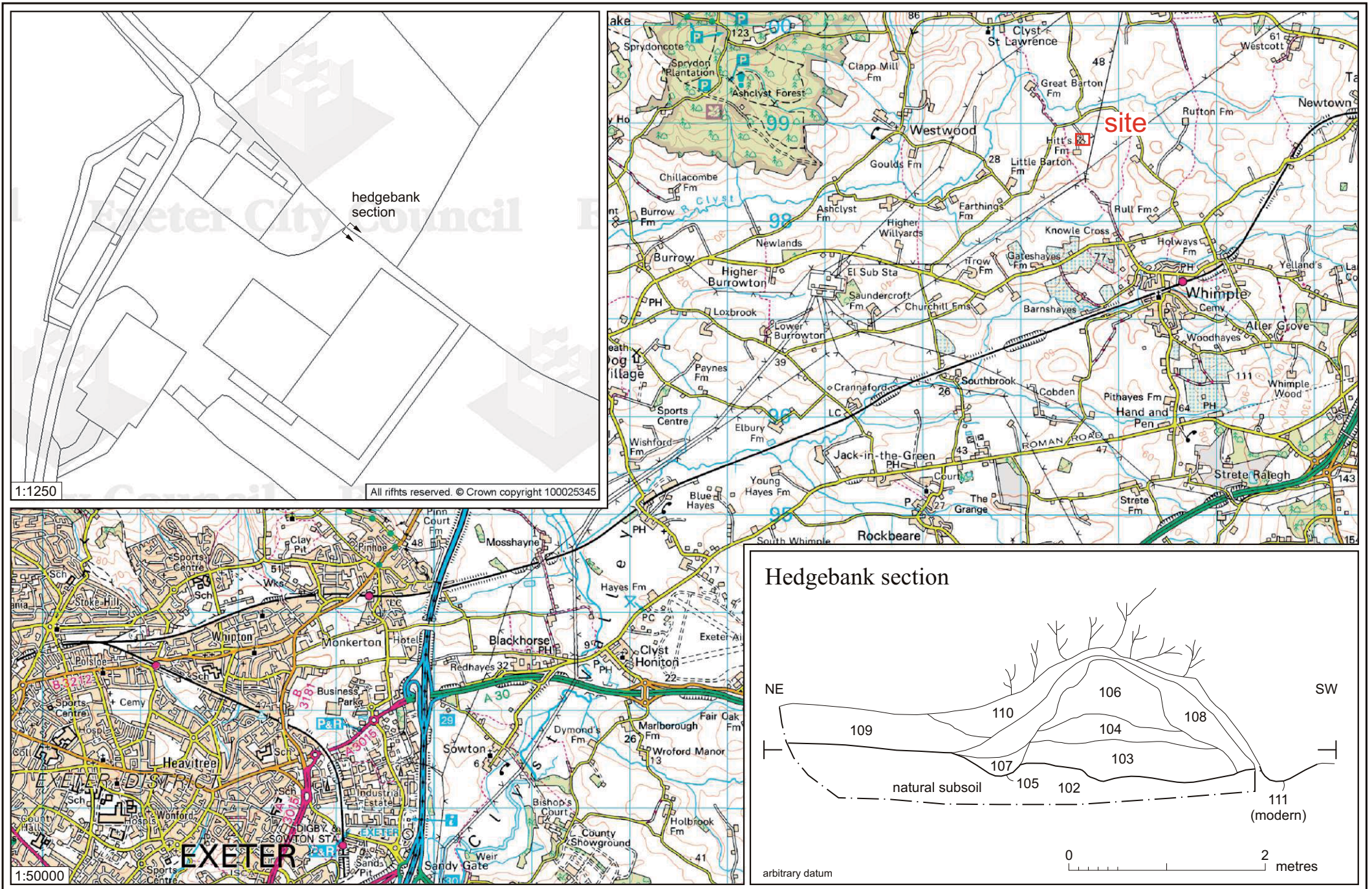


Fig. 1 Location of site and section showing hedgebank construction.