

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Woodbury, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SY 0162 8984	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording of hedgebanks at Greendale Business Park, Woodbury Salterton, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> N
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 09/1195/mout	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> exeterar1-75224	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 34/2010	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EA 7132	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 03/02/2010	
<p><b>Description of works:</b></p> <p>Monitoring and recording was undertaken during the partial removal of two hedgebanks as part of an extension to Greendale Business Park west of Greendale Barton (Fig. 1). The programme of archaeological work was required as a condition of planning consent and a brief for monitoring and recording was prepared by the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES Ref Arch/dc/ed/15041). The fieldwork consisted of machine excavation, under archaeological control, to expose cross-sections of the two banks; these sections were then recorded. The hedgebanks appear on late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century (first edition and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS mapping) and were considered, potentially, to be medieval or early post-medieval in origin.</p> <p>Hedgebank 1 was aligned SW-NE, whilst hedgebank 2 was aligned NW-SE. Both would have formed boundaries to an existing field system.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> (Fig.2)</p> <p>Hedgebank 1 comprised an earth core (14) sealing a light greyish-brown silty clay deposit (19) which might be the remains of a possible buried subsoil. This in turn overlay a reddish-brown clay natural subsoil (11). The bank core was overlain by a mid brown silty clay deposit (15) representing the probable result of organic growth and decay on the surface of the bank. A shallow infilled ditch (17) was present on the SE side of the bank; it was observed to have cut a subsoil (12). The ditch was infilled with a mid-brown silty clay deposit (13) perhaps representing a natural infill when the ditch was open. Subsequently the ditch became overlain in antiquity by deposits which had slumped in from the surface material of the bank whilst the outer edge of the ditch is sealed by a topsoil deposit of mid reddish-brown silty clay (16) which represents the current soil deposit of the field. A modern ditch (18) was present on the north west side of the bank; this ditch was excavated by Greendale Business Park contractors in 2005 during enabling works and had subsequently become partially infilled with deposits deriving from the surrounding material including material slumping in from the hedgebank. Significantly, it is possible that the modern ditch has removed all traces of an earlier ditch. The bank was crowned by a close-cropped hedge consisting of willow and holly. The buried soil was heavily contaminated by root disturbance and was therefore unsuitable for sampling.</p> <p>Hedgebank 2 comprised an earth core (23) containing frequent rounded cobbles in the upper part; it overlay a reddish-brown clay natural subsoil (21). The bank core was overlain by a mid-brown silty clay deposit (22), representing the probable result of organic growth and decay on the surface of the bank. The bank was flanked by two shallow ditches, 25 on the NE side and 26 on the SW side. Both were cut directly into natural subsoil and were infilled by mixed primary deposits (28 and 29 respectively). Both of the infilled ditches were subsequently overlain by material which had slumped down from the hedgebank and the outer edge of ditch 26 was observed to be sealed by a topsoil (27) of reddish-brown silty clay which represents the current soil deposit of the field. The outer edge of ditch 25 was disturbed by a tree-throw hollow and no relationship with the field deposits was therefore established. The bank was crowned by a blackthorn and holly hedge and contained frequent large beech trees.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>The banks appeared to be of simple construction with flanking ditches having originally provided the material for the bank (although the original ditch on the NW side of bank 14, if it existed, appears to have been lost to 21<sup>st</sup> century re-modelling). The banks remain undated; no finds were recovered from the bank material.</p>		

**Recorder:**

J. Austin (Exeter Archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**

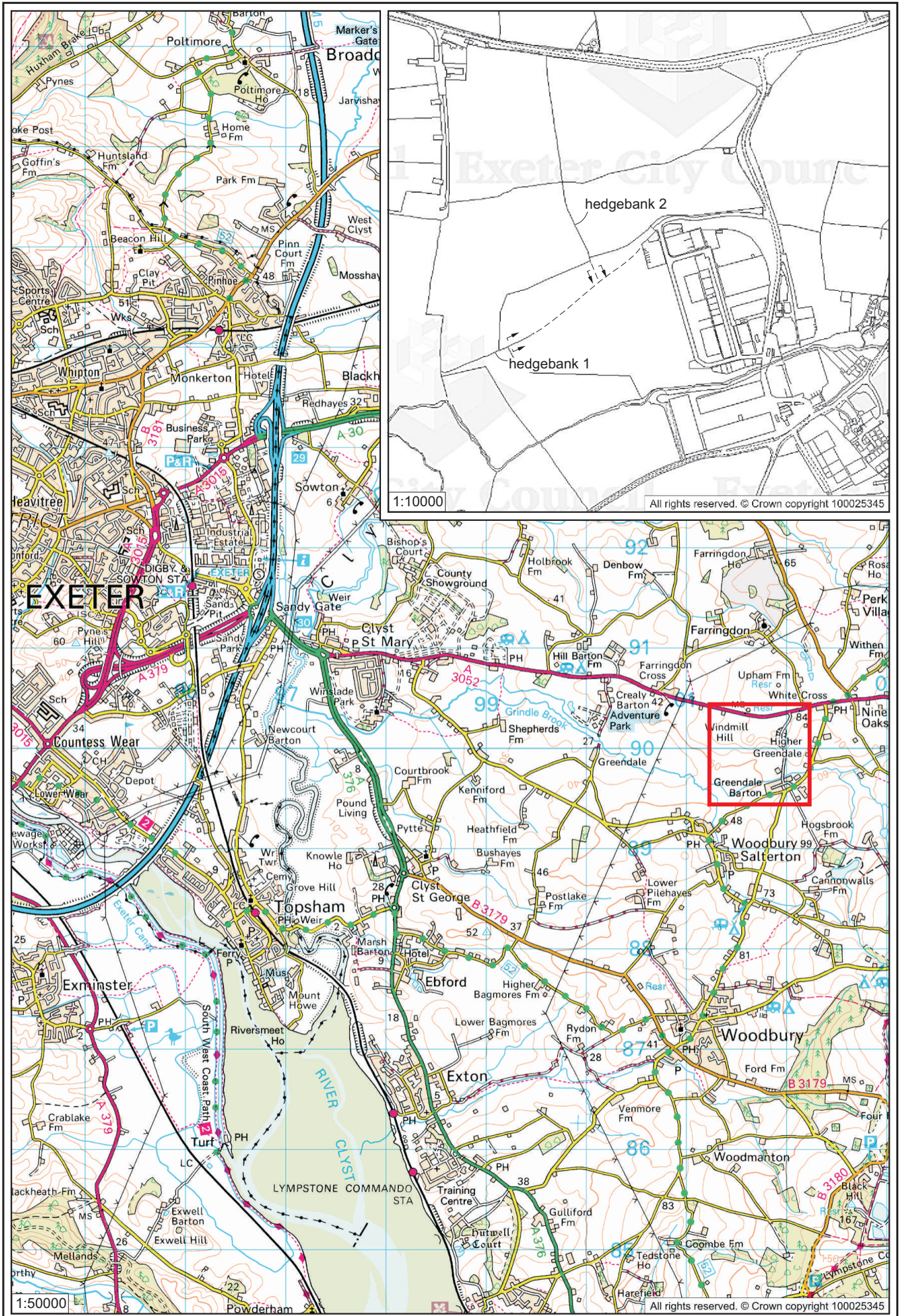


Fig. 1 Location of site.

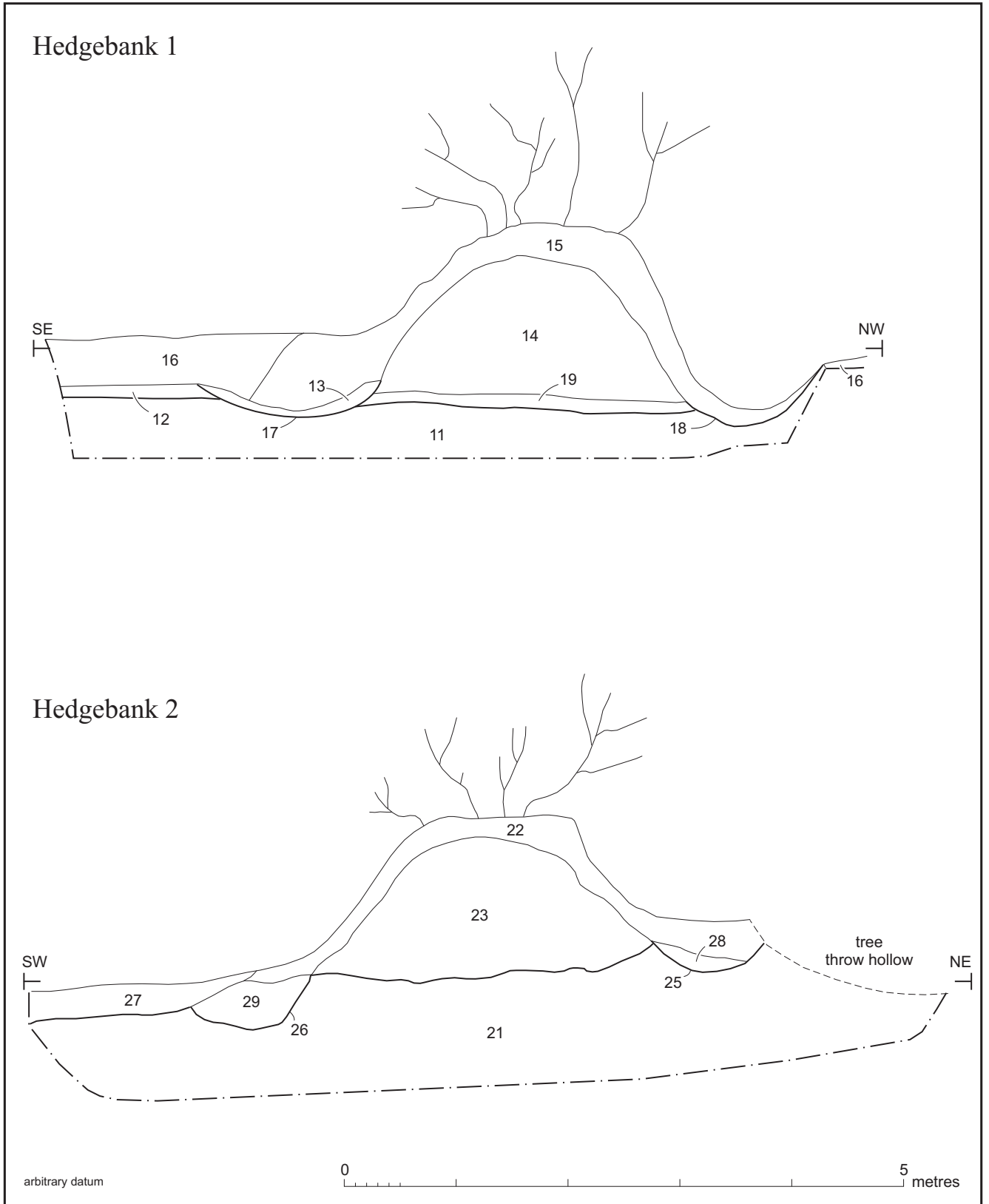


Fig. 2 Sections through hedgebanks 1 and 2.