

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Silverton, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 95451 03238	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological watching brief at land to west of Silverdale, Tiverton Road, Silverton, Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> N
Planning Application no: 09/01863/FULL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> exeterar1-83130	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> RAMM 205/2010	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EA7275	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 14/09/10	
<p><b>Background (Fig. 1):</b>                  An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Exeter Archaeology during the removal of a hedgebank on land to the west of Silverdale, Tiverton Road, Silverton, Devon. The work was commissioned by Russell Construction, and was required by Mid Devon District Council, as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Service, as a condition of the grant of planning permission for the erection of 6 dwellings for affordable housing (planning ref: 09/01863/FULL).</p> <p>The development lies within a relatively large, regular enclosure that the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping identifies as a 'Barton Field', probably laid out between the 15th and 18th centuries. The hedgebank which was breached during construction of the dwellings appears on late 19th-century historic mapping and may have retained archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits.</p> <p>The principal aim of the project was to investigate and record the structure of the hedgebank, and any palaeoenvironmental/archaeological deposits and features exposed during breaching of the hedgebank. A route through the boundary was being selected for access to the building site. This was situated at the end of the cul de sac Silverdale, where an existing opening was already established, although narrower than necessary to facilitate site access</p> <p><b>Method:</b>                  Work consisted of ground reduction to firm subsoil for the laying of a new hardcore track and a small degree of widening of the opening. This provided a clean section through the hedgebank that could be investigated and recorded. The latter was carried out using photographs and drawing. The south-facing section through the hedgebank was chosen for cleaning and recording. The ground beneath the section was hand excavated to natural subsoil and the section drawn at a scale of 1:20. The section was also recorded using digital and film photography.</p> <p><b>Results (Fig. 2):</b>                  The natural subsoil was a medium brown clay with frequent coarse gravel (507), and was exposed <i>c.</i> 0.40m below the highest point of the hedgebank. The core of the hedgebank comprised brown sandy clay loam with stones up to 70mm long (505). On the west side of the exposure a deposit of mid-brown clay loam with occasional gravel (501) may also form part of the hedgebank, but probably represents a later ploughsoil forming over the edge of the boundary. On the east side of the hedgebank a layer of mid-brown clay loam with occasional stones (506) was partially exposed, representing a relatively modern dump of soil possibly associated with the construction of the adjacent residential development.</p> <p>A blue plastic water pipe was uncovered at the west end of the excavation. The trench for this was cut from near the surface and sliced through the core of the hedgebank. A little to the east was a further intervention comprising a curved profile cut approximately 0.36m deep with some prominent stones within the fill that suggest this may have been a former post hole. To the east of this feature were two further holes: a possible animal burrow and a hollow from a decayed root. A thin layer of very humic topsoil (500) partially overlaid the hedgebank.</p> <p>The existing access track had been laid on a stony sub-base. This extended at least 0.30m below the surrounding ground level.</p> <p>No finds were retrieved during the excavation and no evidence for palaeoenvironmental/archaeological deposits was seen. The date of the hedgebank was not established.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> G. Young (Exeter Archaeology)	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 2 November 2010	

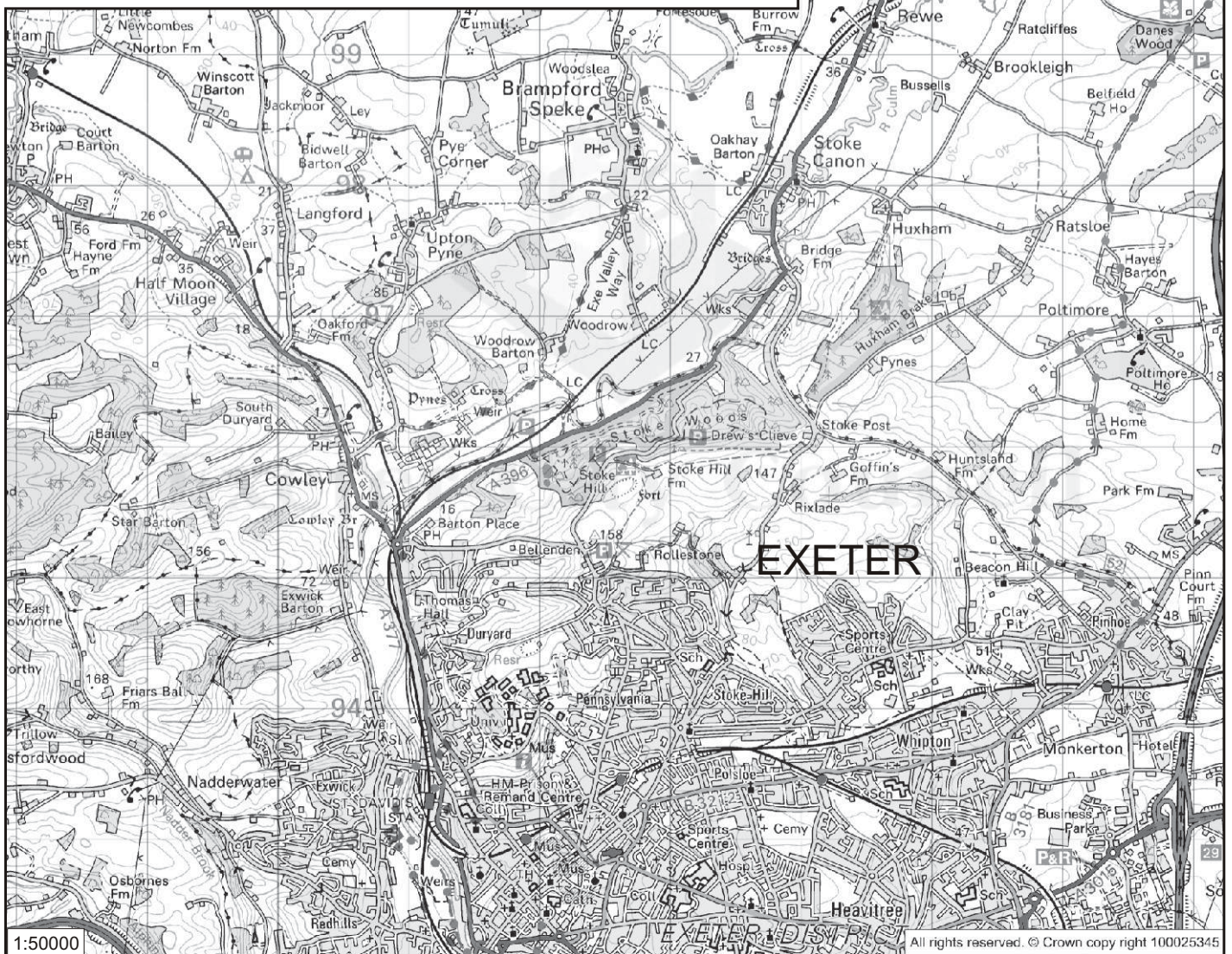
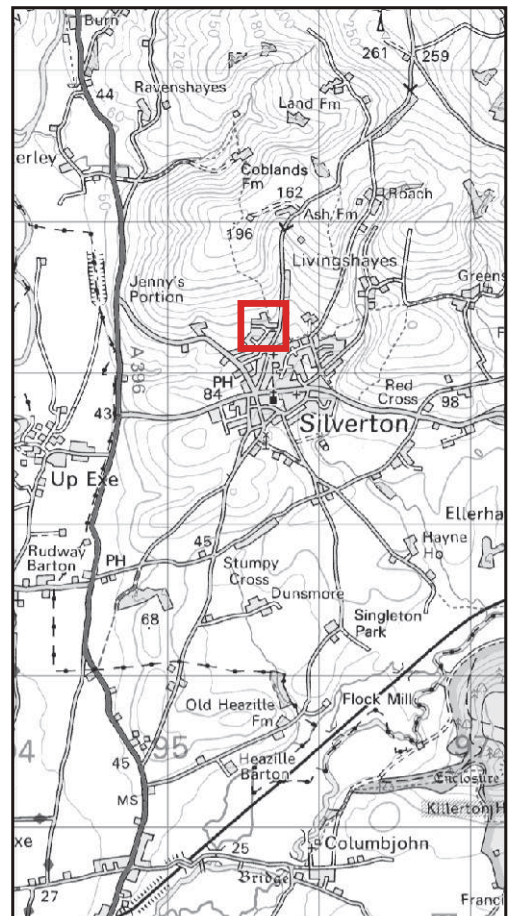


Fig. 1 Location of site.

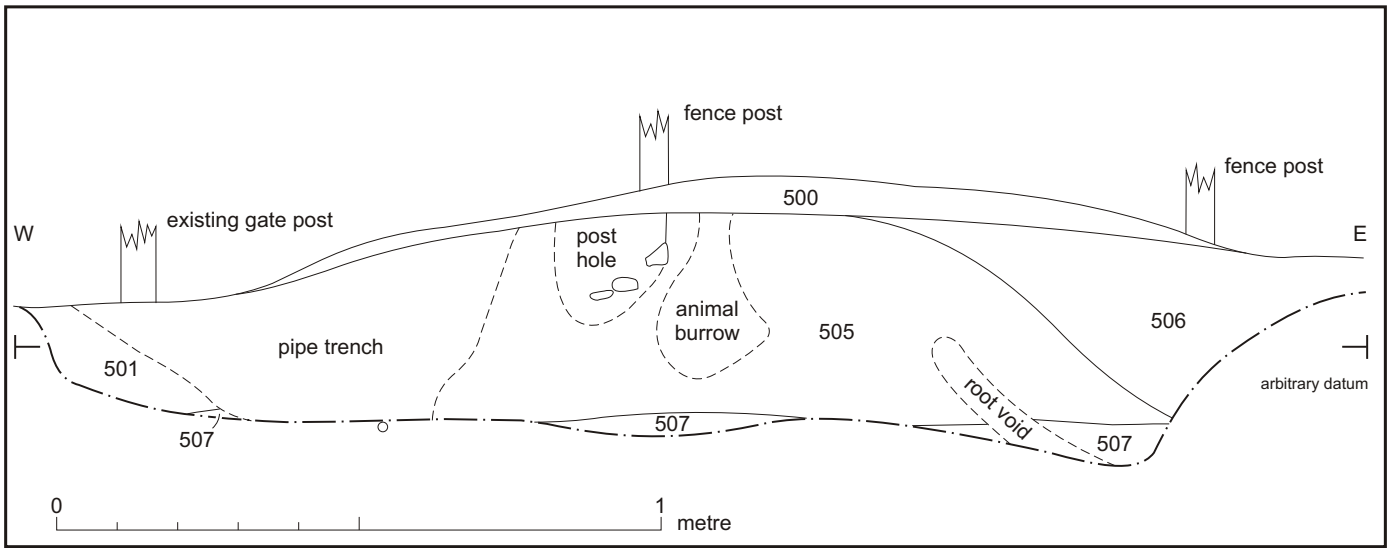


Fig. 2 Section through hedge-bank.