

The translocation of a hedgebank along Exeter Road, Topsham

NGR SX 2959 0889 to SX 2961 0887

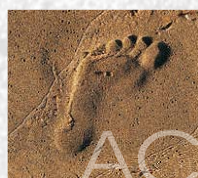
Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by
Richard Sims

On behalf of
Devon County Council

Document No: ACD233/1/0

Date: January 2011



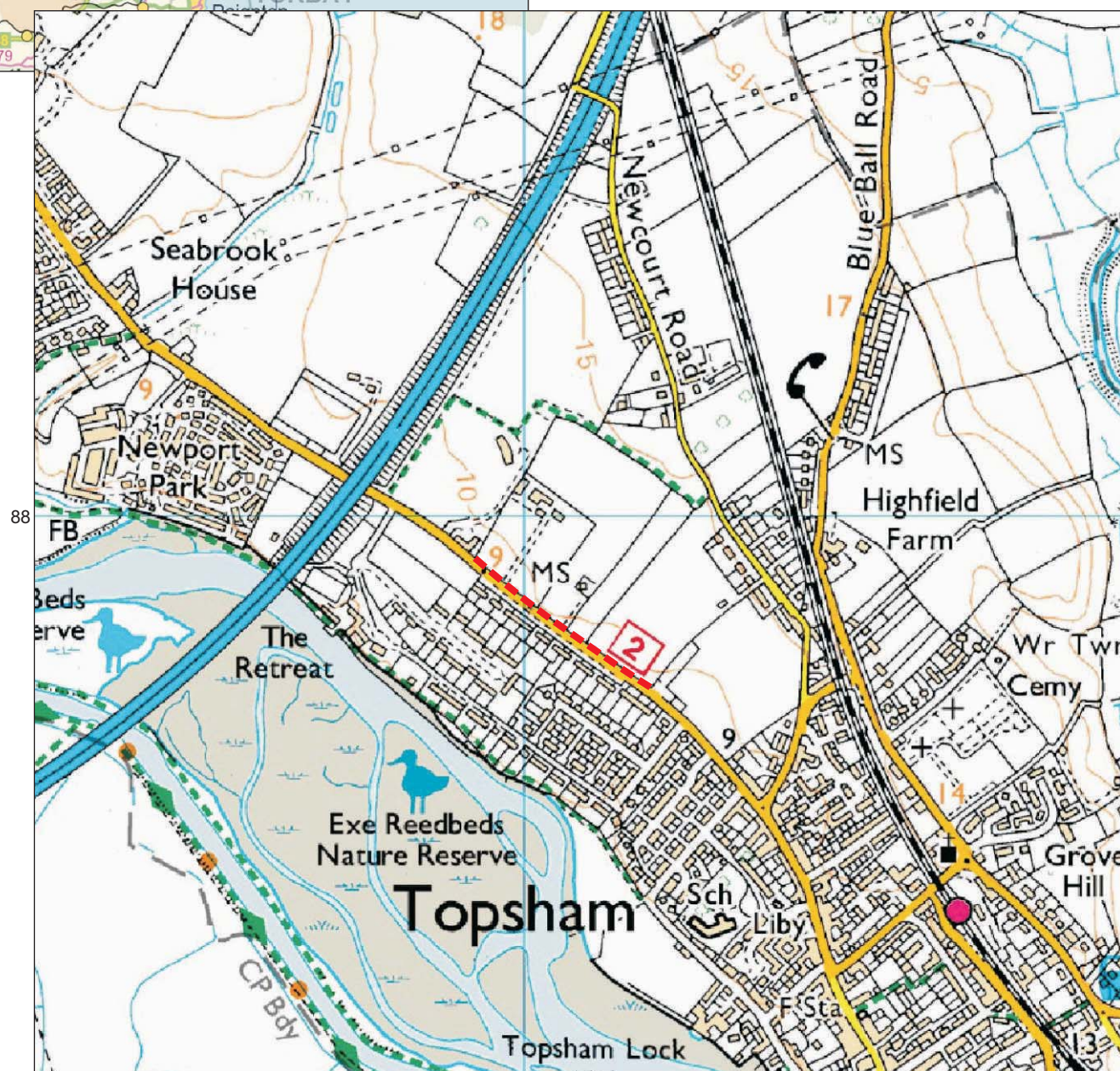
archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Topsham, Exeter City	National Grid Reference SX29590889-SX29610887	Number:
Subject: An archaeological watching brief during the translocation of a hedgebank along Exeter Road		Photo attached: Plates 1 & 2
Planning Application no: 10/3094/36	Recipient museum: RAMM, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 92115	Museum Accession no: 195/2010	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD233	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 1/11/2010-4/11/2010	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during the translocation of a hedgebank to enable the construction of a new cycle path route along Exeter Road, Topsham. The work was commissioned by Devon County Council.</p> <p>The new cycle path and affected section of hedgebank measured approximately 350m in length and extended from Broom Park Nurseries at its northwest end to Topsham Rugby Club to the southeast, flanking the northeast edge of Exeter Road (Fig. 1). The hedgebank bounded four level pasture fields and was located on low lying level ground at a height of around 9m OD. The underlying geology comprises superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel over sandstone bedrock of the Dawlish Sandstone Formation.</p> <p>Aim</p> <p>The aim of the watching brief was to provide a record of the hedgebank as it was moved, as well as to establish the presence or absence of any buried former land surfaces, archaeological features or finds.</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>The translocation of the hedgebank was carried out along short stretches using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket and gradually pulling back the hedgebank in repeated stages along each stretch for a distance of between 1-2m (Plate 1). A 1m wide strip was then excavated for the new cycle path along the course of the former hedgebank.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The hedgebank measured approximately 2m wide by 1.20m high and consisted of an earth bank of mid-dark brown friable sandy clay silt with moderate amounts of small-large sub angular stones <0.10m (Plate 2). Several finds, including fragments of 19th/20th century stoneware jars, glass bottles and industrial whiteware pottery were recovered from the bank material, but have not been retained. No evidence for a former land surface was present.</p> <p>The subsequent strip for the cycle path was 1m wide and reduced to a depth of 0.15m into a mixed weathered subsoil layer (100), comprising a light yellow friable silty sand. No <i>in situ</i> archaeological features or deposits were exposed and no finds were recovered from this layer.</p>		
Recorder: Richard Sims, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 27 January 2010



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SX

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Course of
translocated
hedgebank

0 500m

PROJECT

Topsham cycle path

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location



Plate 1. Translocation of hedgebank, view to southeast



Plate 2. Section through hedgebank, view to southeast (Scale 1m)

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