



DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

HER Recording Form

National Grid Reference	Centred on SX 54108 70084 (GPS)	HER ID number (leave blank)	
Name/address of site	Welltown Farm, Walkhampton, Dartmoor, Devon Application Number - 0369/22		
Summary of site	Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief during cable trenching		
Detailed Description			
<p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ISCA Archaeology Limited on 6 March 2023, on behalf of Mr Richard Glanville, during groundworks associated with the laying of an underground electrical cable linking a 14 panel, above ground solar array, to the western corner of Welltown Farm building.</p> <p>The location of the solar array is within a green field site to the north-east of Welltown Farm, Walkhampton (Fig. 1). The cable trench ran from the western extent of the main Grade II* Listed Welltown Farmhouse, to the location of the proposed solar array to the north-east. The Site is situated in rural farmland and is bounded on all sides by hedgerow boundaries and green fields. The main village of Walkhampton is located c. 850m to the south-west. Welltown Farm is in an area of Bronze Age activity. The village of Walkhampton was present within the Domesday Book. The farm itself may date back to the 12th century, with the present structure possibly dating to the 16th century, with extensive 17th century alterations.</p> <p>Results (Fig 1: Plates 1 - 3)</p> <p>The groundworks consisted of a single c. 140m long machine dug trench, measuring up to 1m deep by 0.3-0.4m wide. The northern extent of the trench was to the southern edge of a southerly sloping pasture field (Plate 1). The soil sequence consisted of between 0.3-0.6m of a reddish-brown silty clay topsoil, sealing a yellowish-brown clayey silt subsoil. The underlying natural substrate consisted of a blueish-grey silty clay, with frequent sub-angular stones. To the western half of this northern field, the topsoil sealed a fine reddish-brown silty loam, interpreted as a colluvial hill wash which butted up against the stone bank which formed the northern edge of an east/west aligned sunken lane, located just to the north of the farmhouse (Plate 2). The cable trench cut southwards, through the stone walling on the northern extent of the sunken lane, and through the compacted stones, up to 0.4m below the lane, before passing through a gateway into the garden area to the north of Welltown Farm (Plate 3). In the garden area, the cable trench was only dug to a depth of 0.4m by 0.3m wide. The overlying garden soils consisted of a 0.35-0.4m deep dark, humic rich silty topsoil, directly sealing the underlying stone rich subsoil. The garden soil contained occasional roof slate fragments.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were observed, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The groundworks exposed a simple soil sequence, to the eastern half of the northern, east/west aligned trench, the underlying natural substrate was exposed, and was clearly undisturbed. To the western extent, the trench cut through the colluvial deposit, but the base of which was not observed, except for a short section under the stone bank. In the garden area only the top of the underlying subsoil was exposed. Although no archaeological features were noted, there remains the possibility of existence remaining in those areas where the trench was not excavated to the top of the natural substrate.</p> <p>Report number: R01-0046-2, Museum Reference number: PLYBX.2023.1, OASIS number: iscaarch2-513616</p>			
Evidence for site	Negative		
Reference	ISCA Archaeology 2023. <i>Welltown Farm, Walkhampton, Dartmoor, Devon: Witten Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Report R01-0046-1</i>		
Period/ Date	N/A	Site Type	N/A
Recorder Contact Details	Simon Sworn, ISCA Archaeology Limited		
Date Recorded	13 March 2023	Photos sent as email	
Photos Fig 1 and Plates 1 - 3			

Please return completed form to:

Cultural Heritage Service, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Parke, Bovey Tracey Devon. TQ13 9JQ
Email : culturalheritage@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

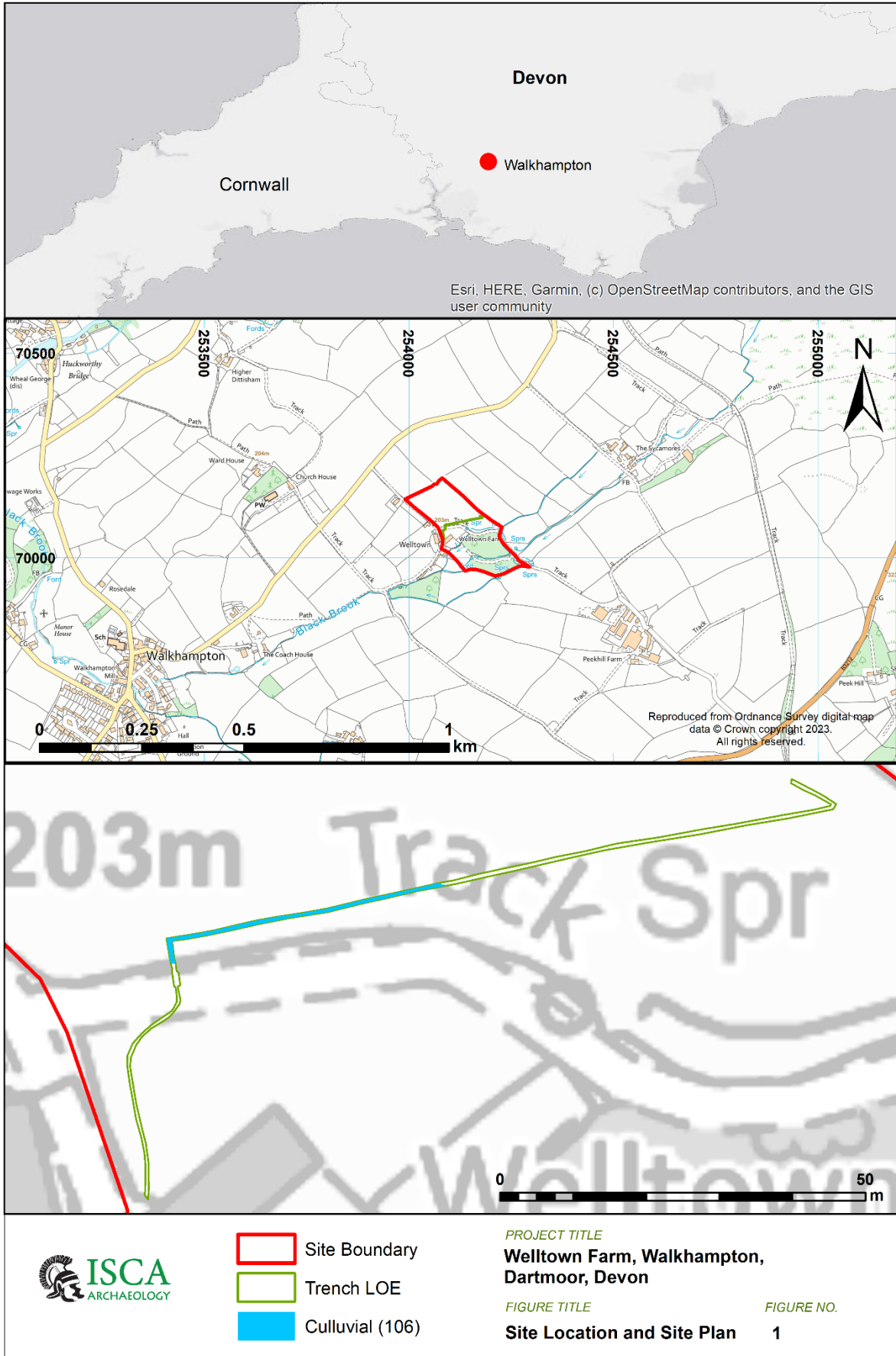




Plate 1: General view of the northern extent of the cable trench, showing the southerly sloping field, the sunken lane, and Welltown Farm building to the right. View to the south-east.



Plate 2: Cable trench cutting through the sunken lane, with stone-faced bank to the left. Scale at 1m. View to the east.



Plate 3: General view of the garden area directly to the north of Welltown Farm. Scale at 1. View to the south-west,