

Civil Parish & District: Walkhampton, Dartmoor National Park	National Grid Reference: SX 55405 71710	DNP Identifier:
Subject: Archaeological Monitoring during the groundworks associated with the erection of a proposed garage at Routrundle, Walkhampton, Dartmoor		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 0089/23	OASIS ID: SOUTHWES1-515962	
Contractor's reference number/code: SSY23	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 1 st June 2023	
<p>Description of works: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client, during groundworks at Routrundle, Walkhampton, Dartmoor, Devon, (Figure 1). This work was undertaken on 1st June 2023 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation drawn up in consultation with the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) (Boyd 2023 WSI.SSY23v1).</p> <p>Routrundle was recorded as 'Rowetrendell' in 1417. The name means 'rough circle', which possibly refers to the ancient hut circle near the farm (Gover 1931). The tithe map and apportionment of c.1840 record the farm as 'Rowetrundle', made up of several buildings and small enclosures within a larger, irregular enclosure. By the first edition OS map of 1885, Routrundle is depicted as a farmhouse with building attached at the western end and a square outbuilding to the north on the same alignment. The farm therefore has origins in the Medieval period or earlier and there is the potential for the remains of earlier buildings to be revealed during the proposed works. In addition, there are two fossilised enclosures in close proximity to the farm (MDV105688 and 3775), one of which is recorded as containing a hut circle. There is therefore the possibility that Prehistoric settlement evidence may be preserved at the site. The site lies towards the western edge of Dartmoor approximately 2km south-east of Sampford Spiney and 3km north-east of Walkhampton on the edge of the moorland. The site sits at a height of c.285m AOD. The soils are the well-drained gritty loamy soils with a humose surface horizon in places of the Moretonhampstead Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the igneous granite of the Dartmoor Intrusion (BGS 2023).</p> <p>The monitoring consisted of the excavation of a series of footings for a garage building (see Figure 1). All works were undertaken by machine, where possible fitted with a toothless bucket but given the nature of the natural, often with a toothed bucket. Two parallel trenches were excavated on a rough east-west alignment. Trench 1 was 9.6m long and 0.85m wide at the east end, widening to 1m at the west end. Trench 2 was 9.3m long and 0.8m wide to the west end, 0.6m to the east end. On average the trenches were about 0.6-0.7m deep at the east end dropping to 0.8-0.9m to the west end, in line with the slope, excavated down to natural bedrock.</p> <p>The site stratigraphy (Figures 2 & 3) consisted of an active c.0.25m to c.0.6m deep brown-grey silt loam topsoil (101) with common sub-angular to sub-rounded granite stones (mostly 0.3m×0.2m×0.1m), but occasionally larger (0.4m×0.3m×0.65m). The topsoil was noticeably thicker to the west and south-west, which reflects an increased natural accumulation within a very slight combe, along the western side of the house plot and garden. The topsoil directly overlay the natural (100), which was a slightly reddish-yellow gritty sand (sugar granite) with occasional to common small sub-rounded to sub-angular granite stones. For most of the site the topsoil layer had been made up in the 20th century to create a level parking area, c.0.1m to 0.4m, the topsoil was overlaid by plastic tarpaulin and weed-suppressant garden fabric, atop this was laid a layer of soft grey friable silt, mixed with crushed blue-grey slate fragments and granite chippings as a hard-core parking surface (102). To further offset the natural slope, it was also noted that within the topsoil layer (beneath the sheeting), additional granite stones, of sub-rounded form (0.3m×0.2m×0.1m) and some larger flatter, boulders, (0.7×0.10×0.35m) had been collated within the topsoil layer, in both T1 & T2, at their west ends, these stones and disturbed topsoil were mixed with modern crushed black plastic flowerpots, plastic protective sapling tubing and fragments of tanalised posts and other 'modern' garden rubbish (103).</p> <p>To the east end of Trench 2, was a small pit 0.6m deep, with flat bottom 0.45m wide, 0.7m wide at the top, with, steep, almost vertical sloping sides. This pit was filled with dark carbon rich compost and the remains of a supportive plant post and orchard sapling protective cover, clearly a modern garden-orchard feature, excavated for a tree (since removed). No archaeological features or deposits were observed in either trench. All finds encountered on site were modern (plastics) and discarded on site. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified.</p>		
<p>Bibliography Boyd, N. 2023: <i>WSI For Routrundle, Sampford Spiney, Dartmoor, Devon</i>. South West Archaeology WSI. SSY23v1 British Geological Survey 2023: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html . Gover, J. E. B. 1931: <i>The Place Names of Devon</i>. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i></p>		
Recorder: E.L.V. Wapshott, South West Archaeology Ltd		Date sent to DNP: 13/06/2023

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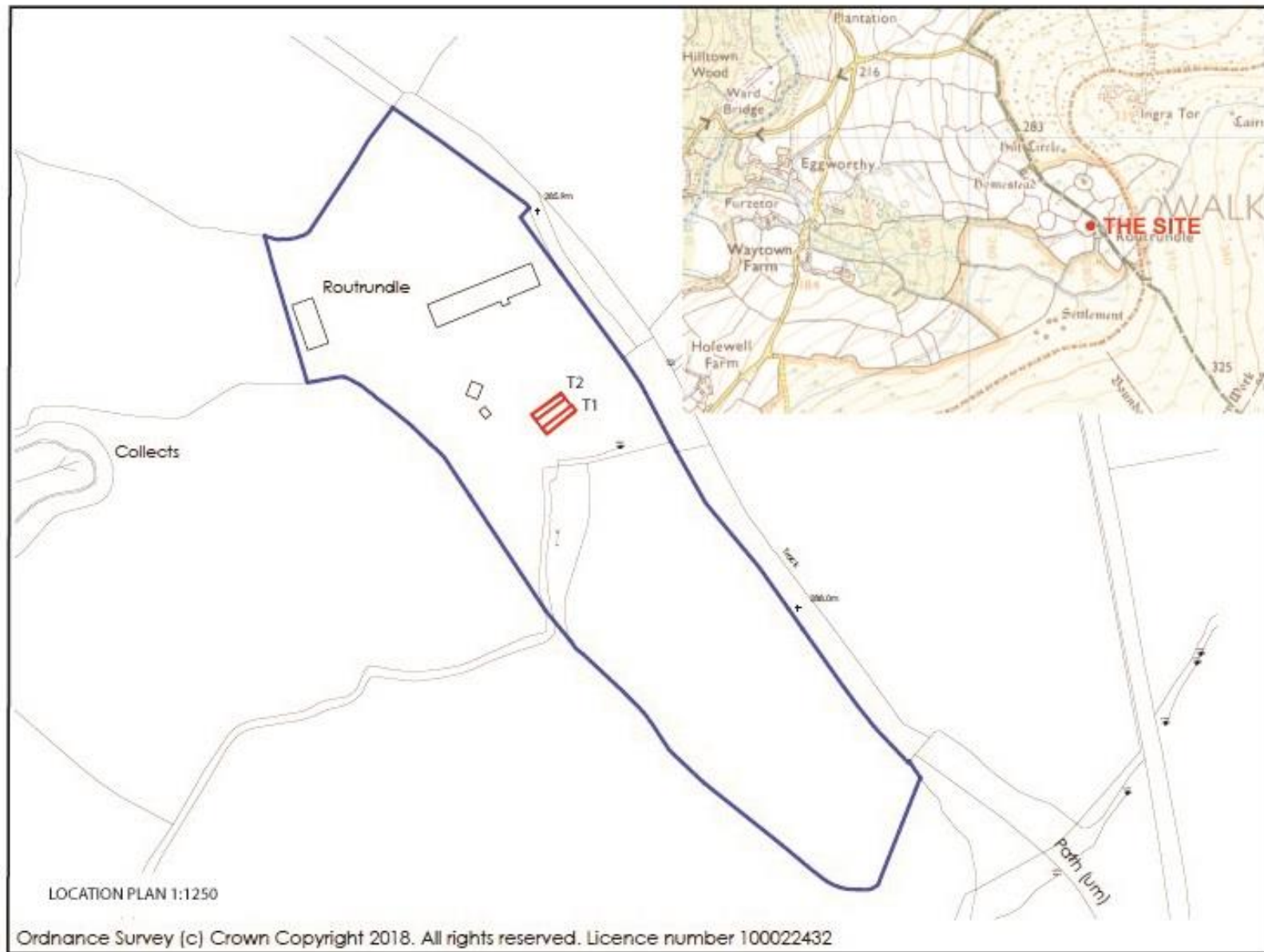


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION AND PLAN



FIGURE 2: SHOT OF T2, SHOWING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: T2, SHOWING THE DEPTH OF THE MADE GROUND LAYER LAID OVER SHEETING, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH -WEST (2M SCALE).