

Department of Archaeology and Anthropology
P.O. Box 266 / 36 Aliwal Street
Bloemfontein
9300 / 9301

Tel.nr. 051-447 9609
Fax nr. 051-447 8043

Email: gerda.coetzee@nasmus.co.za



28 June 2017

SAHRA
P.O. Box 4637
CAPE TOWN
8000

To whom it may concern

MATERIAL CULTURE STUDIES AND TREKBOER RESEARCH: PERMIT APPLICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK ON THE FARM MOOIFONTEIN, PORTION 9 OF THE FARM MORGENWACHT 109, COLESBERG DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The farm Mooifontein (portion 9 of the farm Morgenwacht 109) is situated in the Colesberg district (3024DD). See Figs. 1 to 4. The proposed archaeological fieldwork at Mooifontein will form part of a larger project focused on the study and analysis of material culture concerning early Trek-farmer sites located in the north-eastern Cape and southern Free State. Mooifontein has been identified as one such site and additional complementary sites will be identified through on-going survey work in the area. Collectively these sites contain a material culture sequence from the early 19th century to the mid-20th century and will serve as comparative data with other farming sites such as Welkomskraal, which I studied for my Masters dissertation, Bulhoek, a trek-farmer site in the district of Steynsburg, and Leeuspruit, a trek-farmer site in the Rouxville district. The Trek-farmer research is currently registered as a research project at the National Museum, Bloemfontein and will evolve into a Ph.D. thesis.

Mooifontein was given as a loan farm to Petrus Albertus Venter in the early 1800s and in 1837 the farm was registered in the name of Jacobus Potgieter. Mooifontein was situated on the wagon route

between Colesberg and Graaff-Reinet (Figs. 5-7). In July 1856 Hamelberg travelled from Richmond (Cape) to Colesberg following this route where he met Kootje Potgieter and his family. Kootje was the brother of Flip Potgieter who owned Mooifontein. In 1896 the farm was transferred to Herman van Loenen Sluiter and in 1898 to Johannes J. Du Plessis (Fig. 7).


The remains of several structures are still visible at the site (Figs.8-14). These include the foundations of a few houses and stock kraals. Artefacts are scattered across the surface, especially in the vicinity of several houses that were identified during the preliminary investigation of the site (Figs. 15-20).

The proposed fieldwork will focus on the middens, specifically the surface collection of midden material, as well as excavations in the identified middens. The GPS location of the research area is approximately at S30°53'10.10" E24°51'56.90".

Collection of the material from the middens will not only help to protect this heritage in a professional manner, but the analysis of the recovered material will also provide a better understanding of the political-economy of this site, as well as other related Trek-farmer sites.

Besides the proposed excavations and surface collections at the middens, the site will also be mapped to determine the layout of the farm to gain a complete picture of the cultural landscape.

I trust that this application will meet with your approval.


.....
G.C.J. Coetzee

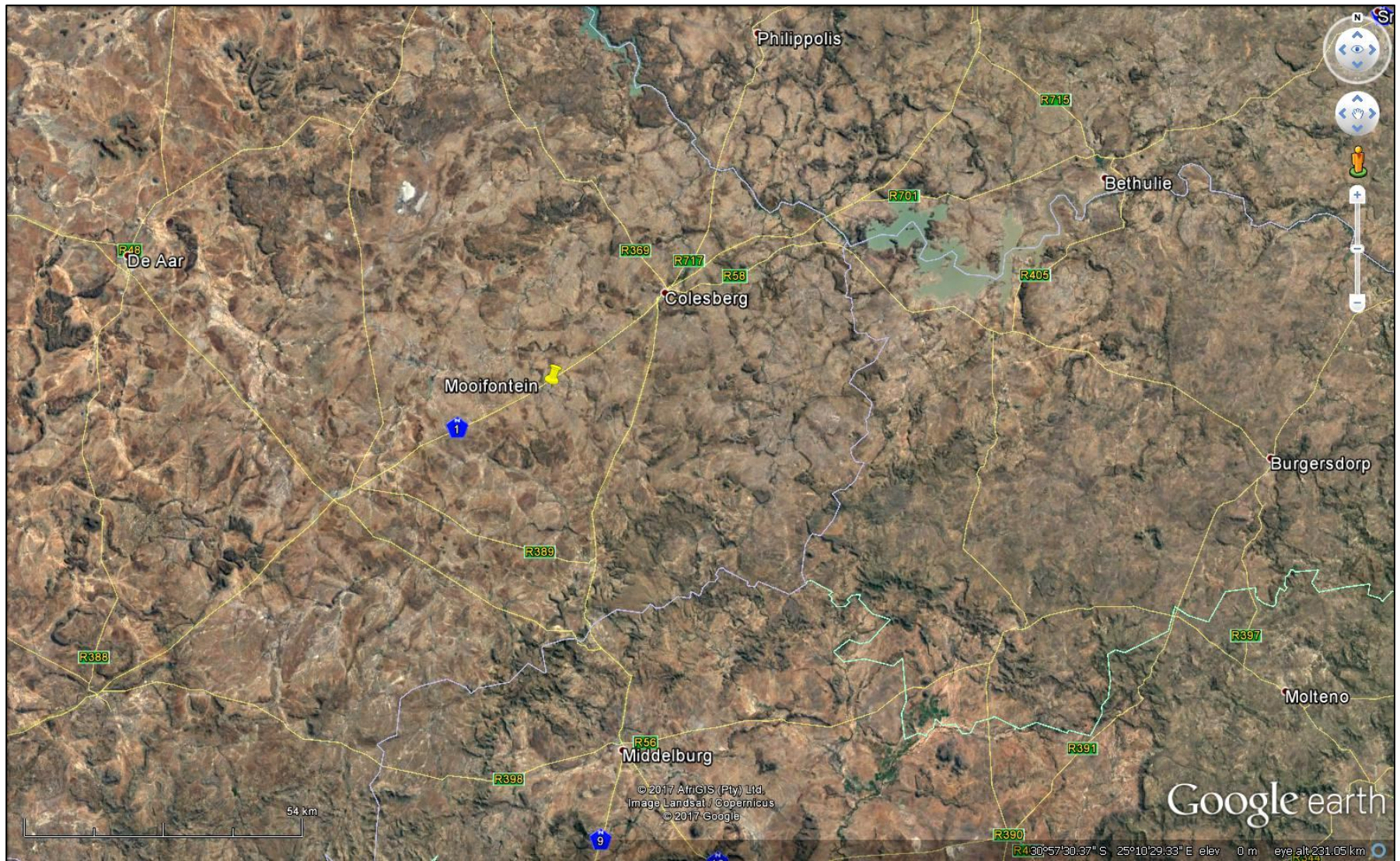


Figure 1: Google earth image showing the location of Mooifontein in the Northeastern Cape.

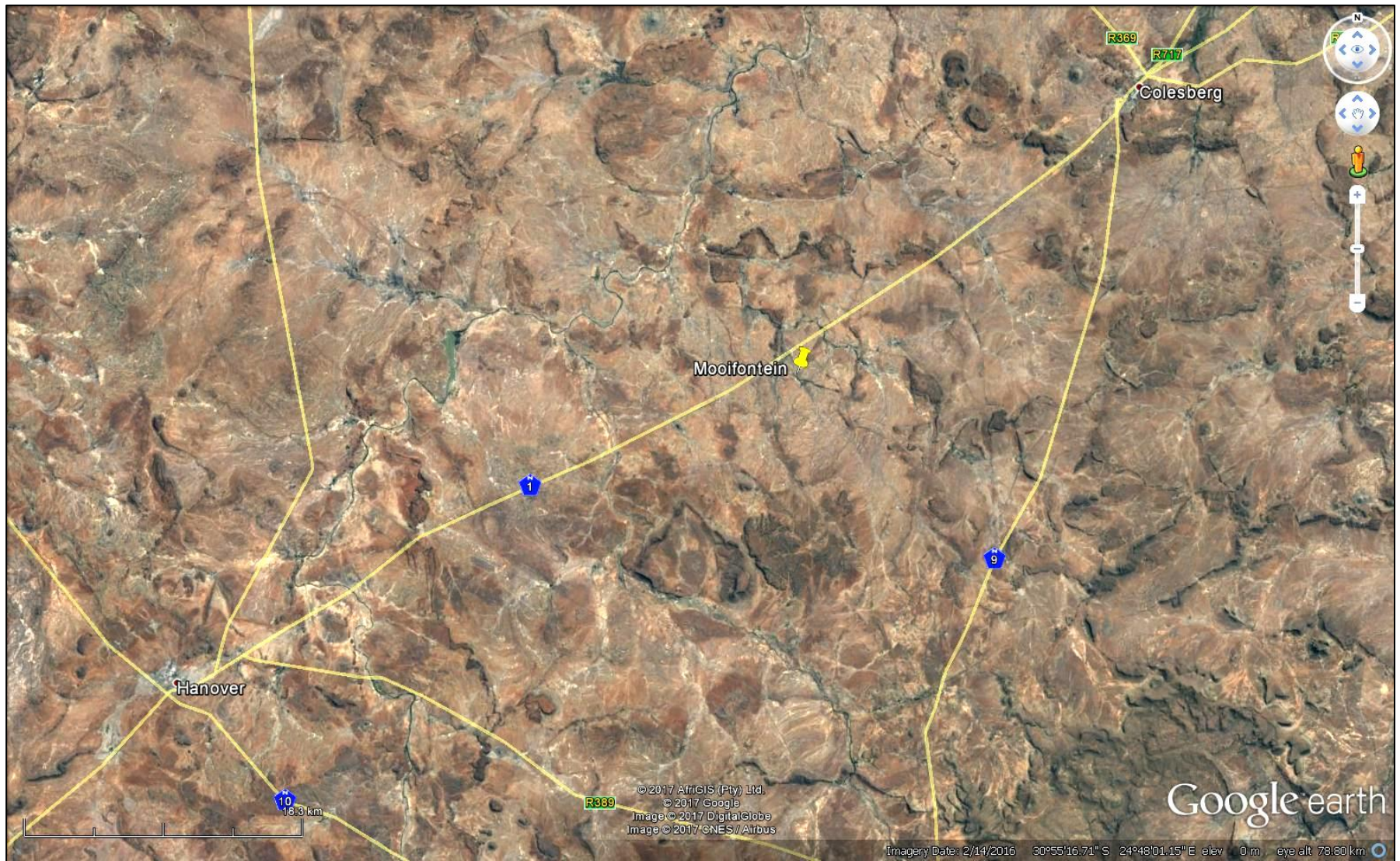


Figure 2: Google earth image showing the location of Mooifontein between Colesberg and Hanover in the Northeastern Cape.

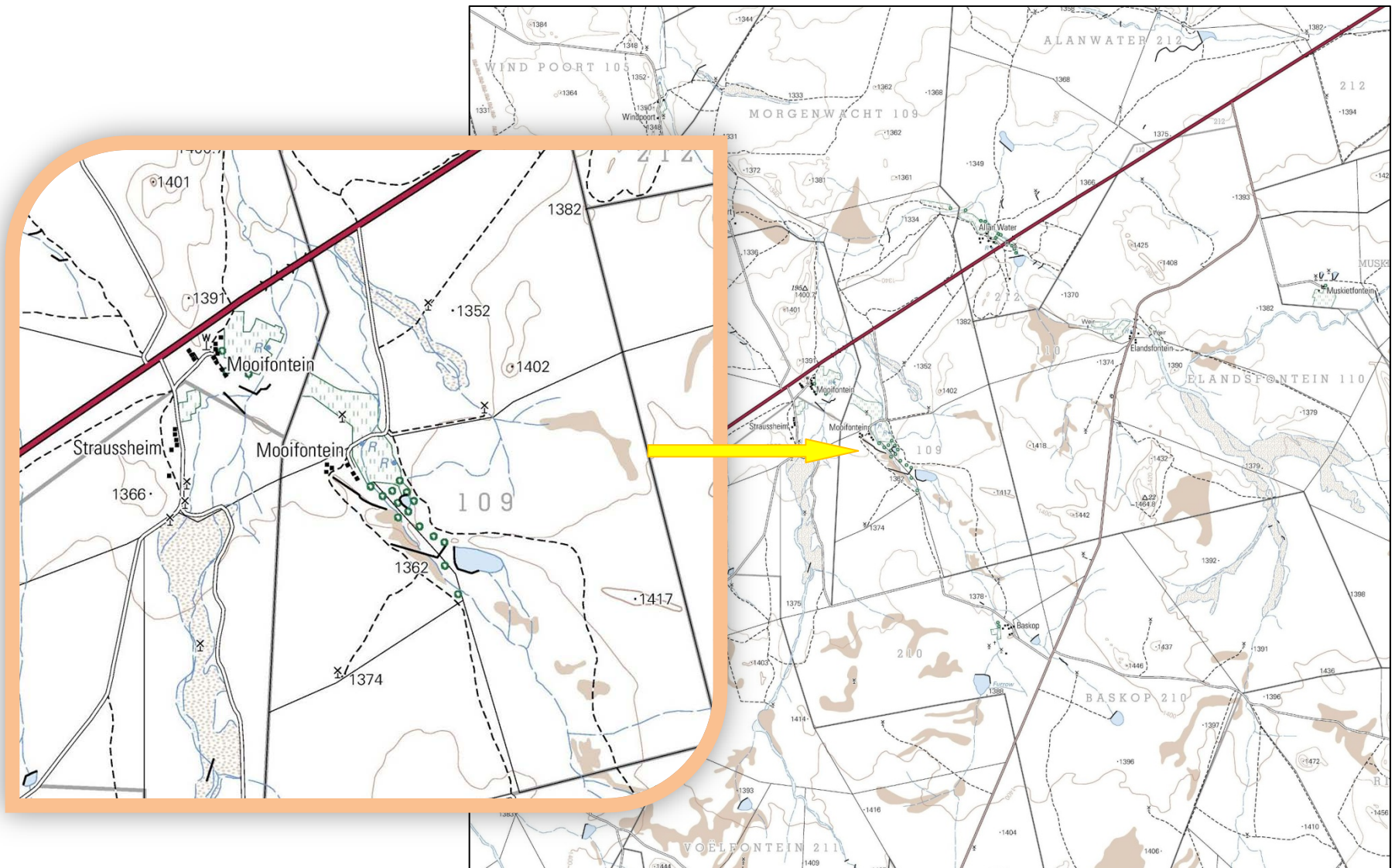


Figure 3: The location of Moolfontein between Colesberg and Hanover in the Northeastern Cape on the 1:50 000 map (3024DD).

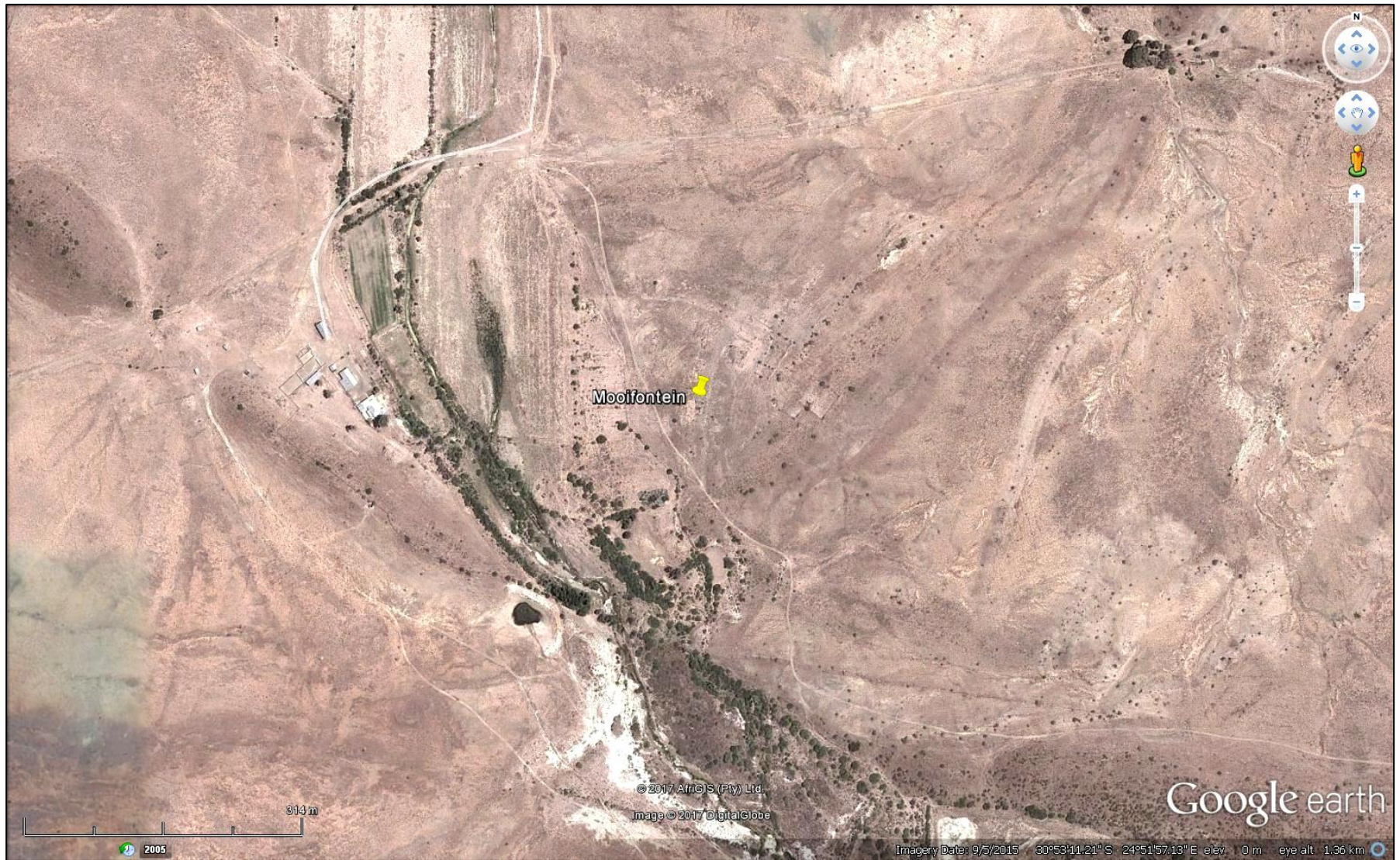


Figure 4: Google earth image of Moiofontein in the Colesberg district. The research area is indicated by the yellow marker.

J.G. D.G. F. 300/1837.

(Part 1: For description see part 2).

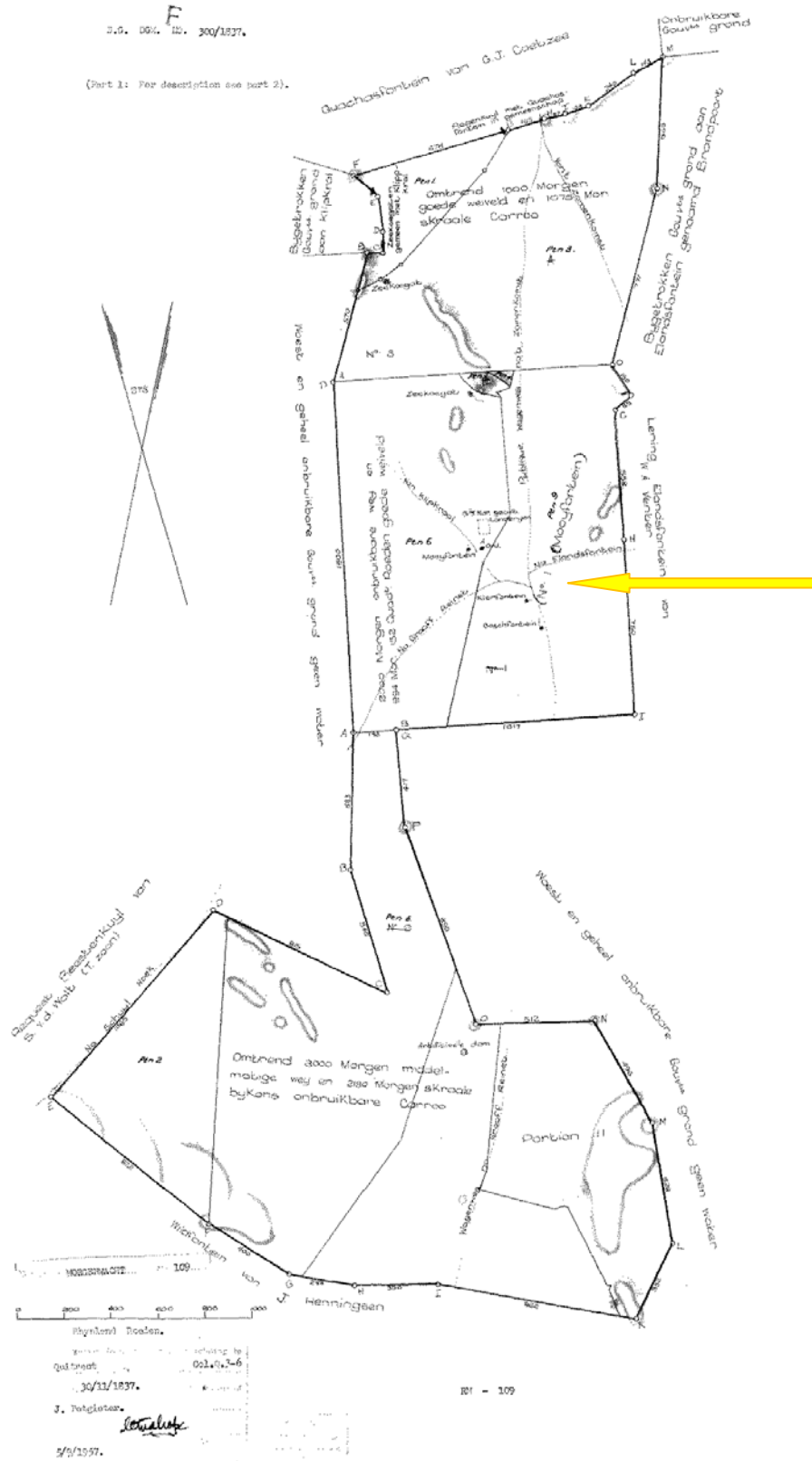


Figure 5: Map of the farm Morgenwacht 109. The research area on portion 9 is indicated by the yellow arrow.

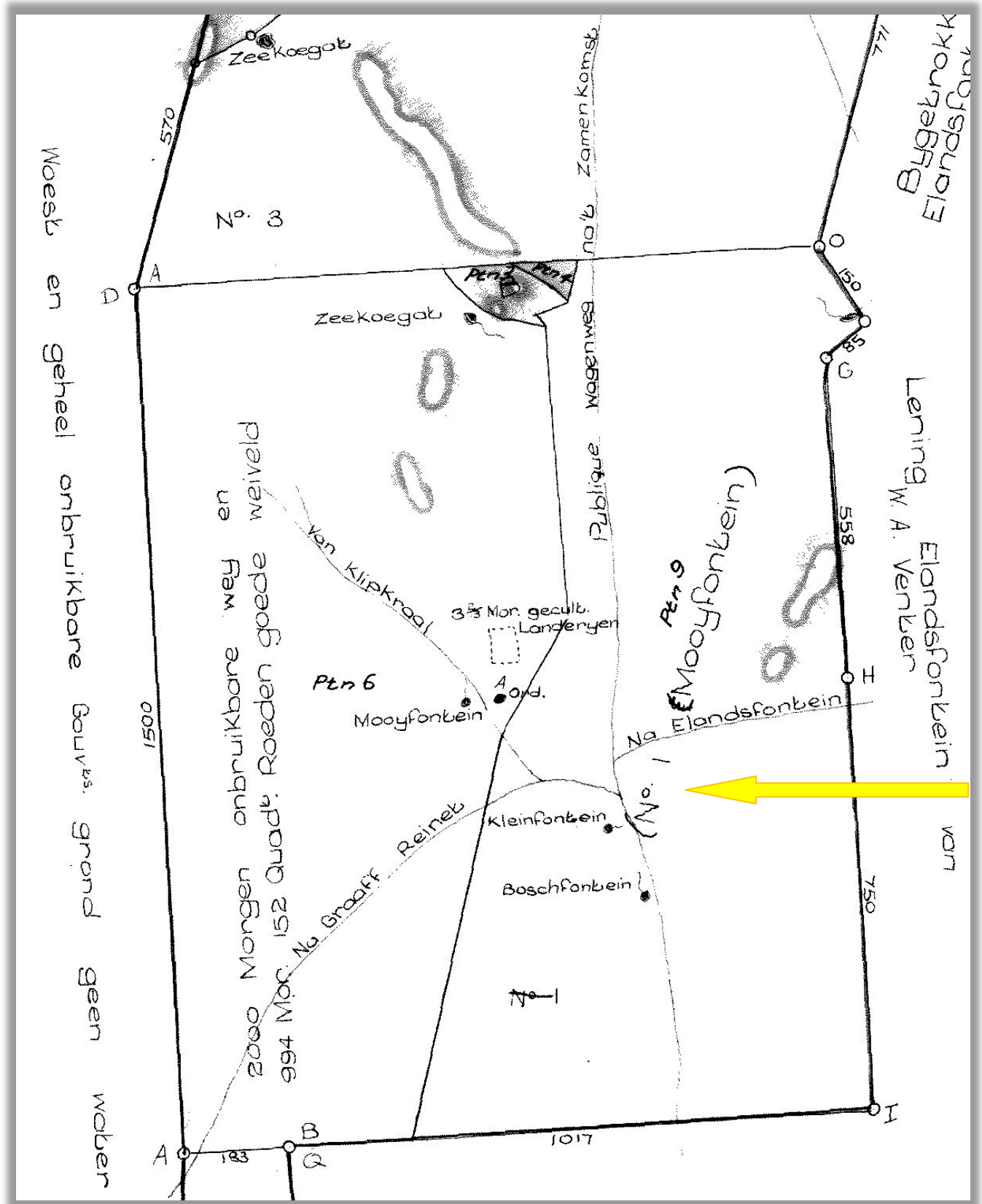


Figure 6: A close-up of the map in figure 6, focusing on portions 6 and 9 of the farm Morgenwacht 109.

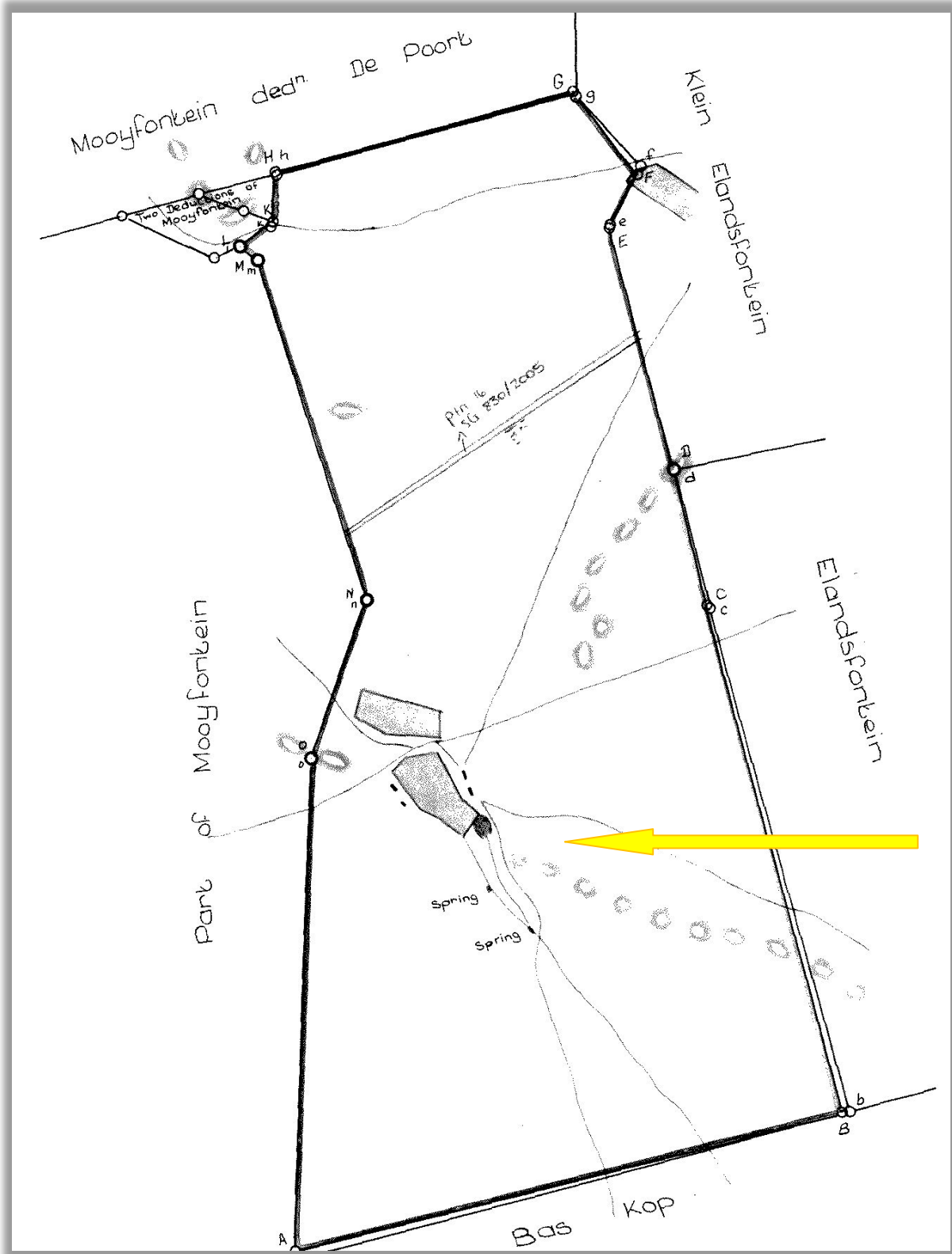


Figure 7: A map of portion 9 of Morgenwacht 109, ca. 1898. The research area is indicated by the yellow arrow.



Figure 8: Google earth image of the research area at Mooifontein in the Colesberg district. Structures with middens are indicated by the green markers.



Figure 9: The foundations of a stone structure and a clay structure (right).



Figure 10: The foundation of the clay structure.



Figure 11: Looking from the clay structure towards another structure in the background.



Figure 12: The remains of a house.



Figure 13: Stock kraal.



Figure 14: Stock kraal.



Figure 15: A midden behind the houses.



Figure 16: Some of the artefacts visible on the surface.



Figs. 17 & 18: Ceramic pieces visible on the surface.



Figs. 19 & 20: Ceramic pieces visible on the surface.

Sources

CHIEF SURVEYOR GENERAL

<http://csg.dla.gov.za>

GISA, 2006. *Suid-Afrikaanse Geslagregisters, Deel 14: Va-Vi*. Stellenbosch: Genealogiese Instituut van Suid-Afrika.

Spies, F.J. du T. 1952. *Die dagboek van H.A.L. Hamelberg 1855-1871*. Kaapstad: Van Riebeeck-Vereniging.