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**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON ERVEN 1, 44, 7586 AND
4979, RHODES UNIVERSITY, GRAHAMSTOWN, EASTERN CAPE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The impact of the construction of two, and in the future an additional four, Rhodes university residences on the outskirts of Grahamstown are considered in this report. At least one of the residences will partially cross a section of the Old Bay Road, the original road into Grahamstown in the 19th century. A heritage impact assessment was undertaken in December 2007 to determine the impact of the development on the archaeology and historical heritage of the area. In terms of Section 34 of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999, this section of the remaining road is part of the built environment and since it is older than 60 years, is protected in terms of the Act. However, only a very small section of the road will be impacted and the section which will be affected does not have any of the stone edging which is found further south.

Despite records in the Archaeology of the Albany Museum which suggest that archaeological material was collected in the area some 80 years ago, no archaeological material was observed during the field survey.

It is recommended that the development may continue but that the contractor should alert the archaeologists at the Albany Museum if any sub-surface archaeological material or historical material is uncovered during site clearance.

INTRODUCTION

This Heritage Impact Assessment is concerned with the proposed construction of two student residences of 104 rooms each, straddling erven 1, 44, 7586 and 4979 on the campus of Rhodes University, Grahamstown (Figure 1a). These erven are potentially of importance as they are crossed by the original 19th century road connecting Port Elizabeth to Grahamstown, namely the “Bay Road”. Today this track merges into Prince Alfred Street and then into New Street. We were also asked to consider the further impact of the development of an additional four residences and an associated building, to the east of the Bay Road and further up along a small ridge (Figure 1b).

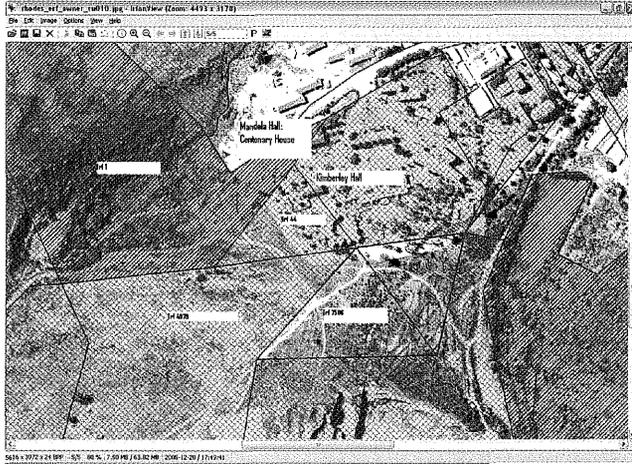


Figure 1a: Location of erven affected by development.

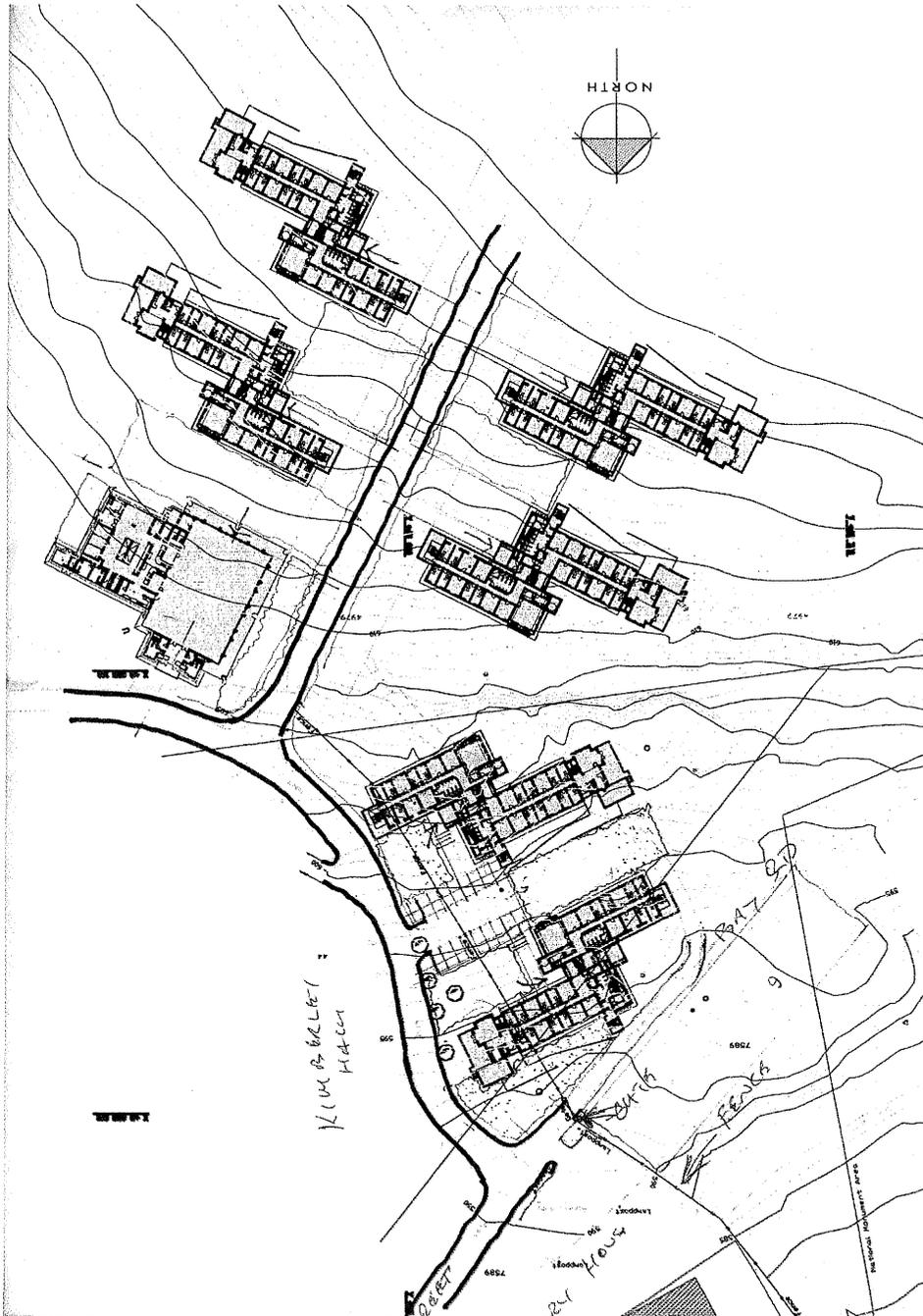


Fig. 1b: The location of the new residences. The “Bay Rd” is indicated by hand in the lower right of the map.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Dr L Webley and Mrs F Way-Jones were requested to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed construction in terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999. The brief was to determine if any archaeological or historical sites would be negatively impacted by the development.

NATIONAL HERITAGE RESOURCES ACT No 25 OF 1999

Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999 clearly stipulates that any person constructing a road or similar linear developments exceeding 300m in length

or developing an area exceeding 5000 m² in extent is required to notify the responsible heritage resources authority or SAHRA. SAHRA will in turn advise whether an impact assessment report is needed before development can take place. Section 34 stipulates that no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

With regard burial grounds and graves, Section 36 (3) of the Act stipulates that no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage authority or SAHRA, (a) destroy, damage or exhume the grave of the victim of conflict; (b) destroy, damage or exhume any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority.

In terms of the Act all archaeological objects, palaeontological material and meteorites are the property of the State. Any person who discovers any of these materials in the course of development must immediately inform the responsible heritage resources authority. No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage authority destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or disturb any archaeological sites and material, palaeontological sites and meteorites.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND TO THE AREA

Very little information is available on the archaeology of this area. The Albany Museum has a collection of Holocene microlithic implements manufactured on silcretes, which were collected from a small rockshelter (called Bushman Cave in the accession register) between 1895 and the 1920s (see extracts from the accession register below). The collection includes classic thumbnail scrapers (see Terminology). This collection of stone tools is referred to in the accession register as “King’s Quarry”, which relates to a stone quarry in the immediate vicinity of the Bay Road. Figure 3 shows the location of two quarries, one on either side of the Bay Road, but it is not clear which is “King’s Quarry”. Dr J Binneman of the Albany Museum attempted to re-locate the “Bushman” shelter in the 1980s, but without success, and it is assumed that the site was destroyed by quarry activities.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE AREA

Records relating to the distribution of the 1820 Settlers suggest that the point at which the wagon parties divided and went their respective ways took place on the farm called Assegai Bosch (Webley 2007). Here the wagon tracks split either to Salem or to Graham’s Town (Fig. 2).

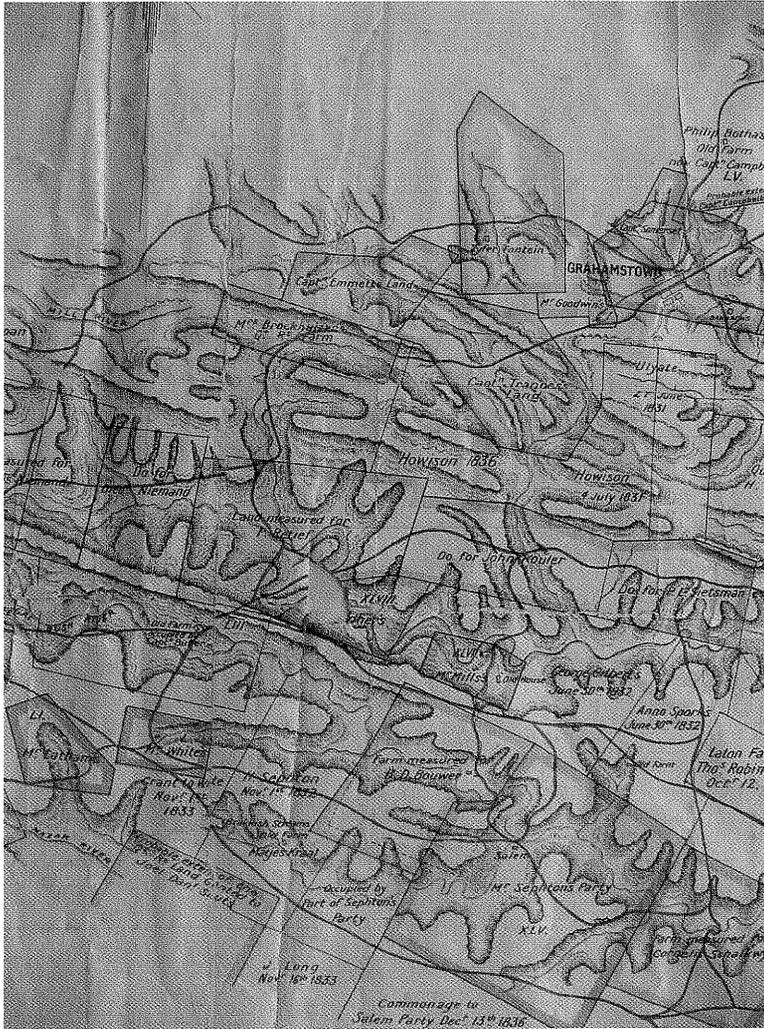


Figure 2: Map of 1820 showing the location of the old roads, and the approach to Grahamstown through the farm “Zyfer Fontein” and Mr Goodwins.

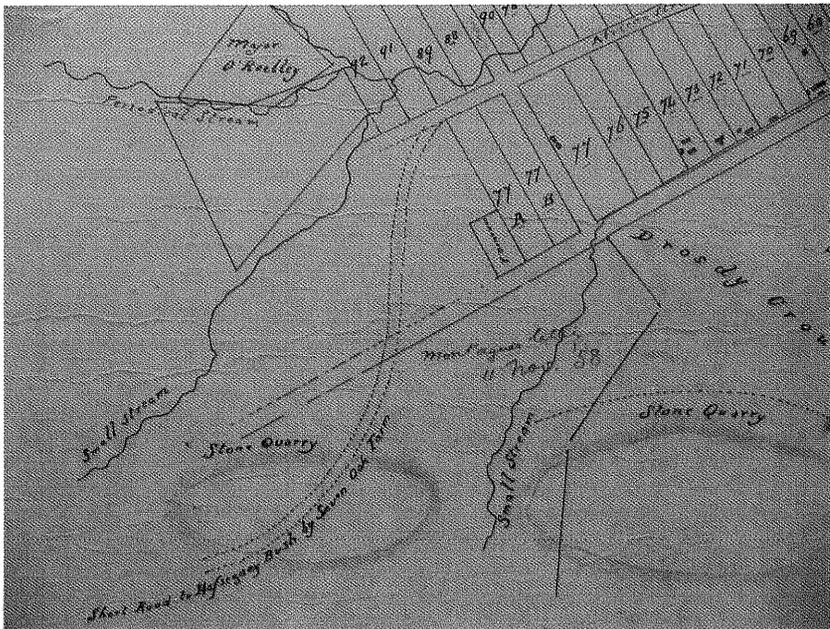


Figure 3: Map of 1824 showing the entrance of the old road into Grahamstown.

The route to Graham's Town proceeded to Boekenhoutfontein (Zwaarthoogte) and Carl Rust Mountains to the high plateau called Highlands. From Highlands Nek (Klein Zuurberg) the wagons crossed Mill River (old inn/post at Mill River), travelled through Krysfontein (Atherstone farm), and Slaai Kraal and down Brickmakerskloof into Grahamstown. It is this section of the Old Bay Road that is the focus of this study.

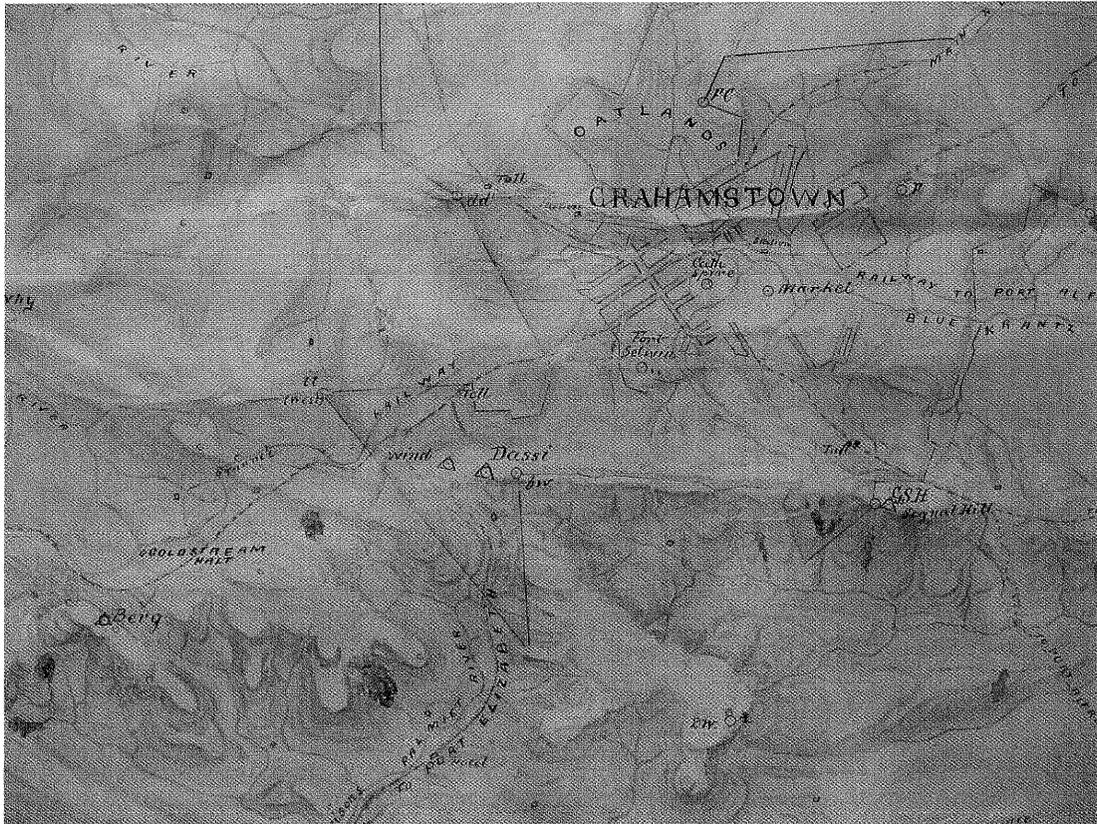


Figure 4: Map of Grahamstown c. 1888, showing the road into town passed Coldstream.

Figure 2 shows the farm "Fairholme" on the wagon route just before the outskirts of Grahamstown. According to Dr CJ Skead's *Albany Gazetteer*, this was the original military farm of "Zijferfontein" or "Cypherfontein" later called Coldsprings (Figure 4). The Cape Mounted Rifles were stationed here until the 1830s when they moved to the Chronic Sick Hospital buildings on Prince Alfred Street. Today this piece of land is occupied by a student residence, Stanley Kidd of Nelson Mandela Hall, Rhodes University. Cypherfontein had many names: Drostdy farm. Today the farm "Fairholme" is part of "Strowan", George Palmer's farm since the 1840s.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The research combined both a desk top review of the available archaeological data, an historical and archival review by Mrs MF Way-Jones (the historian at the Albany Museum in Grahamstown) and a site visit. The area designated for development was visited on the 5 December 2007. We walked along the Bay Road from the stone bridge to the present fence which marks the beginning of Prince Alfred Street.

The GPS co-ordinates of the stone bridge are:

S 33°19'06,6"
E 25°30'20,9"



Figure 5: Section of the stone bridge on the old Bay Road.

A number of readings were taken on the road, it is only the lowest residence (Figure 1) which may encroach onto the edge of the road). The following GPS measurements were recorded for the old Bay Road:

S 33°19'05,1"
E 25°30'22,7"

S 33°19'04,2"
E 25°30'26,2"

S 33°19'02,7"
E 25°30'33,5"



Figure 6: The Bay Road showing the large stones which edge the road.



Figure 7: Lithograph by Bowler dated 1864, “Graham’s Town from the Bay Road”, the large stones lining the edge of the road are clearly visible.



Figure 8: Oil painting by FT I'Ons (dated 1840s) showing the entrance to Grahamstown along the Bay Road.

A number of readings were taken on the locations of the proposed residences, two of which are located below a ridge and the other four residences and additional building above the ridge:

S 33°19'02,4"
E 25°30'35,9"

S 33°19'06,0"
E 25°30'37,7"

S 33°19'07,1"
E 25°30'38,3"

S 33°19'04,2"
E 25°30'39,2"



Figure 9: Location of the new residences, with the fence and Centenary House visible in the background.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The development of one residence is likely to impinge very slightly on the edge of the Old Bay Road. However, this particular section of the road does **not** have any of the stone edging as observed in the old lithographs and oil paintings (Figures 7 and 8). The impact of this construction on the remaining section of the Road is likely to be minimal. No historical material was found along this section of the road despite the fact that it was an important thoroughfare into Grahamstown during the 19th century. It is possible that historical material (including stone features or ceramics) may be uncovered during development of the site.

The accession register in the Albany Museum suggests that there may have been a possible Bushman cave in the area which yielded a collection of stone artefacts. These artefacts were collected and accessioned about 80 years ago, and there is no evidence of the cave today. No archaeological implements were found in the development footprint.

No graves or cemeteries were discovered during the visit. If unmarked graves are discovered during the development, they should be fenced and protected.



Figure 10: A Google Earth map indicating the location of the new residences; the stone quarries and Prince Alfred Road which runs into the Old Bay Road and then crosses the stone Bridge.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND POSSIBLE MITIGATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) protects all archaeological sites and it is an offense to destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or disturb archaeological sites without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

No archaeological or historical artefacts were discovered during the survey. Certain areas appear to have been disturbed. This makes the discovery of *in situ* archaeological remains unlikely.

It is important to note that Old Bay Road is an historical feature on the landscape and is therefore protected by the National Heritage Resources Act. **Section 34 of the Act stipulates that no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.** However, the development will only impinge on a very small section of the Road, and this section does not have any distinguishing marks such as the stone edging. The most significant section of the

road, which includes the stone edging, as well as the stone bridge, are still retained. For this reason, applying for a permit is unnecessary.

No cemeteries or graves were discovered but unmarked graves may exist. The Act clearly indicates that no graves may be damaged, destroyed or exhumed without a permit. If any graves are located during development they should be fenced off to protect them from destruction. Failure to do so is not only an offence under the Act, but may also lead to problems at a later date if the descendants of the people buried in the graves, request permission to visit them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important that a section of the Bay Road including the culvert/bridge and an extent of the road with the stone edging be kept intact so that there is a record of this type of road construction. However, it is important to note that the development of the residences will not impact on the most significant section of the road. It is recommended that development may continue on the designated areas but that the developer should be alert to the following:

- 1) Concentrations of stone tools and/or bones
- 2) Freshwater shell concentrations or middens
- 3) Human remains, including burials
- 4) Remains of earlier (European) stone structures or rubbish dumps.

If any of the above is discovered, further development of the property must stop immediately and archaeologists as well as the South African Heritage Resources Agency should be contacted to determine the significance of the discovery.

REFERENCES

Barnes, P. 1979. Where duty leads. The life of Charles Jasper Selwyn. RE. The Grahamstown Journal. (GTJ). 27 August 1835.

Lanham, W. Bain. 1958. On the Road of the Settlers – Highlands Nek. Grocott & sherry, Grahamstown.

Webley, L. 2007. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment on portions of farms Boekenhout Fontein, Assegaai Bush and Birchwood Park for the establishment of game lodges and resorts to be incorporated into the Greater Lalibela Nature Reserve, Eastern Cape.

Unpublished manuscript

Jervois, Lt WFD. Unpublished manuscript. Diary and letters dating from 1842 – 1848.

Map References

1. Knobel, J. 1820, 1821, 1822. General Map of the South Eastern Part of the District of Albany. Accession No ref: SM 1171
2. Lewcock, E. 1962. (copy of 1824 map). Plan of Graham's Town. Accession No ref: SM 3434/2

3. Unknown cartographer. 1837. Plan of Graham's Town 1837. Accession No ref: H 823.
4. ?. Ernest D (illegible). 1888. Topographical Map of part of the Division of Albany. Accession No ref: SMD 134
5. Morris, Sgt Maj RG. 1906. Untitled (Description: Albany showing field cornetcies). Accession No ref: H 149.

Paintings/Engravings

1. Fastening bales of wool on wagon by FT I'Ons 1846. Oil on board. SM 2527a.
2. Graham's Town. Austen, W. 1860. Line Drawing. Original in the Library of Parliament. SM 3793.
3. Grahamstown from the Bay Road. Bowler, TW. 1864. Lithograph. SM 3388f.
4. Graham's Town from the Bay Road. Bowler, TW. Lithograph by Walton. SM 7100.
5. Graham's Town Division of Albany. From a sketch. Baines, Thomas. 1852. Watercolour. H 95.

TERMINOLOGY

Holocene Microlithic Assemblage: refers to an assemblage of stone tools dating to the period 10 000 to 2 000 BP (Before the Present). These assemblages are dominated by small convex scrapers (thought to have been used for skin work) and backed microliths (such as segments and backed bladelets).

ALBANY MUSEUM ACCESSION BOOK ENTRIES

792-796. Arrow heads notched at base. Loc: Bushman's Cave. Kings Quarry, Grahamstown. Donor F Pym, Nov 1895. (missing)

797-798 Pointed small stones. 798a used very likely as barbs for arrows and spears. Loc: Bushman Cave. Kings Quarry, Grahamstown Donor F Pym. Nov 1895. (797 missing).

799-801. Stone rubbers. Loc: Bushman Cave, Kings Quarry, Grahamstown, Nov 1895.

1608. Series of 3 flakes collected at a rockshelter in the quarry on the PE road, just beyond the Chronic Sick Asylum. March 1918. Rev. P Stapleton and school boys.

1665. A series of stone implements from Kings Quarry, Grahamstown, Master J Fogarty, Aug. 1920.

1700. A few implements from a rock-shelter in Grahamstown. Kings Quarry. Miss A Whitworth.

1714. Implements from Kings Quarry, Grahamstown (rock shelter). R Fitchat.

1809. Scrapers etc, from Kings Quarry, Grahamstown collected by Mr Feniger in June 1926, others from same quarry Grahamstown, by F Pym.





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