

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF A PORTION OF THE REMNANT OF FARM 225 NEAR BARKLY WEST, NORTHERN CAPE

On Wednesday 13 July 2005 I accompanied Itumeleng Lute of Botswere Mining, acting on behalf of Nyala Resources (Pty) Ltd., to the farm Remnant of 225, lying about 13 km north-north-east of Barkly West. The examined portion was confined to a ca. 150 x 150 m area of flat undisturbed ground some 100 m south of the Williamstown farmhouse shown on the 1:50 000 topo-cadastral map 2824BC Windsorton.

SUPERFICIAL GEOLOGY

The examined area was coated by Red Hutton Sands except for a few small patches where this thinned to expose a low concentration of subrounded chalcedony pebbles and andesite cobbles. A gravel pit abutting on the road just west of the farmhouse showed that andesite bedrock there was covered by calcrete in which there were also a few fluvial clasts. It would therefore seem that the red sands are locally underlain by thin vestiges of the Miocene-aged Older Gravels, which are also known from the adjacent farm, Harrisdale 226.

STONE AGE ARCHAEOLOGY

The few (3 – 4) artifacts (all flakes) that were found all appeared to have come from the surface of the Older Gravels, which was probably exposed for much of the Pleistocene. One of them, based on chert, is taken to be a rather squat flake-blade, which is very tentatively referred to a late phase of the Acheulean.

CONCLUSIONS

The small area that was examined yielded a sparse scatter of artifacts that are probably of many ages and that have no significant heritage potential.

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