

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF A PORTION OF THE DELPORTSHOOP COMMONAGE

Compiled by:

Peter B. Beaumont (B.Sc., M.A. [Archaeology])
c/o Archaeology Department
McGregor Museum
PO Box 316
KIMBERLEY
8301
R.S.A.

Tel: 053-842-0986(H)/053-839-2700
Fax: 053-842-1433
E-mail: se@museumjmsnc.co.za

On behalf of:

EKOJMPAK cc
Environmental Consultants
8 Conrad Street
New Park
KIMBERLEY
8301
R.S.A.

Tel./Fax: 053-832-7510
Cell: 083-262-3683
E-mail: ekoimpak@intekom.co.za

1. INTRODUCTION

On Saturday 3 December 2005, I accompanied Ben Bernade (Eko-Impak) and Dr Hugo Bezuidenhout to Delportshoop, where we spent the morning examining the 65ha portion of its commonage (FIGURES 1 & 2). This area of flat ground is bounded on its eastern side by the Kimberley-Postmasburg road and on its south side by a ca. 1km² patch of largely mined-out Older Gravel deposits of Miocene age (de Wit *et al.* 1997).

2. SUPERFICIAL GEOLOGY

Unrehabilitated pits on and adjacent to the examined area show heavily weathered Venters-clorp bedrock, calcification of its uppermost metre, now undergoing weathering into small angular fragments, and a shallow (~10 cm) surface sand. Shale pieces were noted to be eroding out along the rim of a large pan beyond the northern limit of the examined area, which is taken to indicate that Dwyka vestiges are also present in the vicinity.

3. STONE AGE ARCHAEOLOGY

A three-hour random foot search produced less than a dozen stone artefacts that come from the surface sand and/or the disintegrating calcrete zone that immediately underlies it. This lithic sample consisted of fairly fresh irregular flakes and a core, showing alternate flaking along one edge, all mainly based on black quartzite (PHOTO 1).

4. CONCLUSION

My examination indicates that the examined area has no heritage potential and that its mining, if viable, would have no impact on the archaeological resources of the Northern Cape.

5. REFERENCES

- DE WIT, M.C.J., WARD, J.D. AND JACOB, J.R. (1997). Diamond-bearing deposits of the Vaal-Orange river system. *Field Excursion Guidebook, 6th Internat. Conf. on Fluvial Sedimentology, Univ. of Cape Town* 2, 1 - 61.

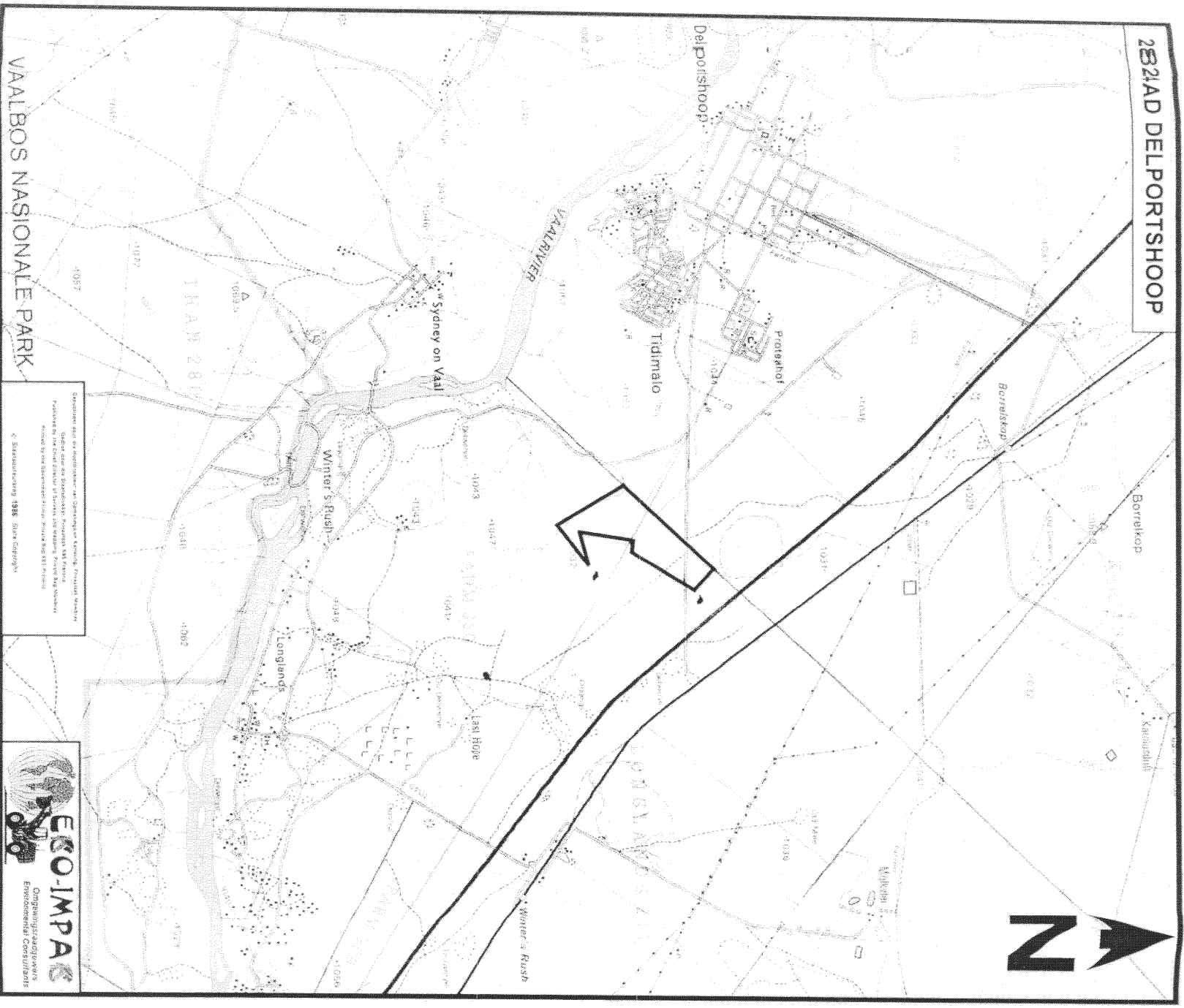


FIGURE 1: Locality map of proposed MFG Diamonds alluvial mining site (red polygon)

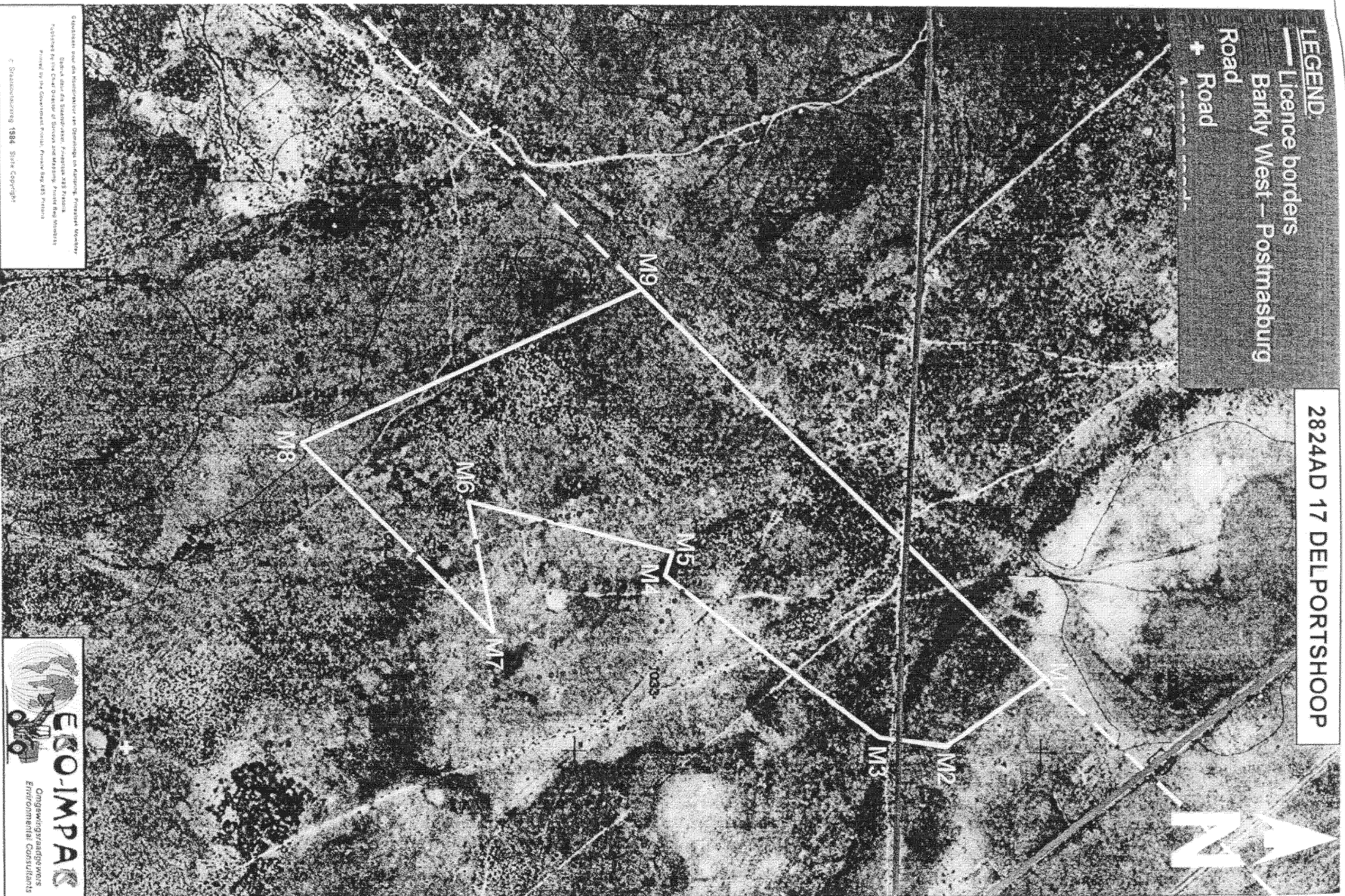


FIGURE 2: Orthophoto indicating position of proposed alluvial mining area (yellow polygon) in relation to major roads and access routes.

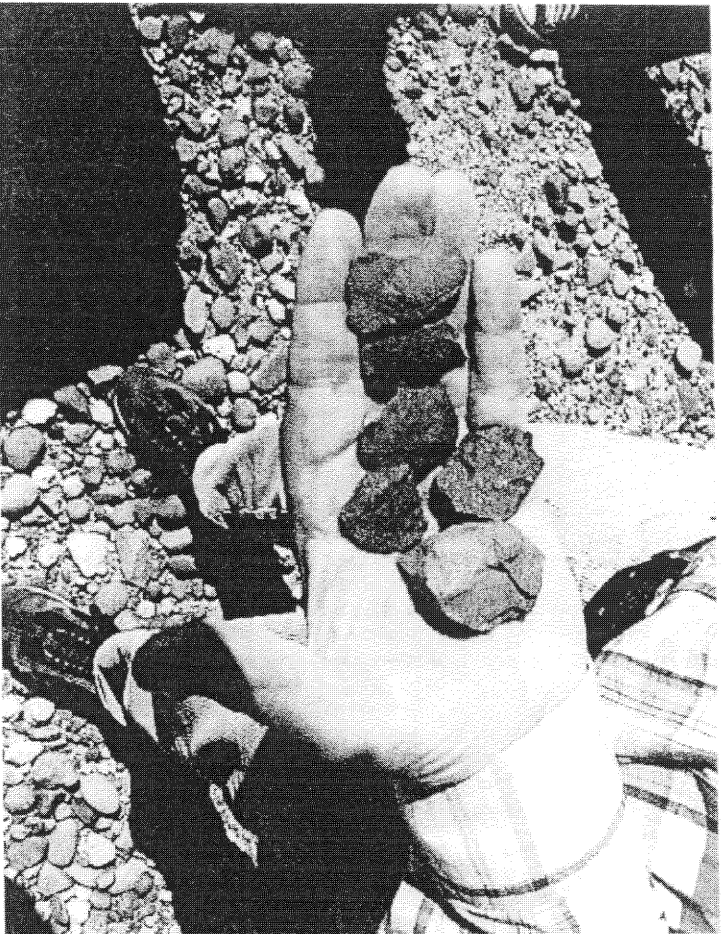


PHOTO 1: Artefacts collected over a relatively wide area within the proposed mining site.