

**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON A
PORTION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM SEKGAME 461,
KATHU, GAMAGARA MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE
PROVINCE.**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to establish if any heritage sites were present on the 286 ha extent of a Portion of the Remainder of the farm Sekgame 461, that lies just south – east of central Kathu in the Gamagara Municipality of the Northern Cape Province. The entire property was seen to be underlain by flat Tertiary – aged calcrete covered by a modest depth of reddish Kalahari sand that sustains a fairly close cover of grass, patches of bush (mainly vaalbos), as also a few camel thorn, on its north – east side. A morning spent walking over its full extent produced 11 fresh – abraded artefacts that all come from thin localized patches of rounded pebbles and grit lying directly on the calcrete along the eastern and southern sides of a dirt road around the property. No sites, fossil bones, or graves of any age were found, leading me to conclude that this terrain has no heritage significance, and that its proposed use for formal housing will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A massive expansion of iron ore mining – related activities in the Postmasburg – Kathu region has resulted in the ongoing construction of hundreds of houses for staff and support personnel, both there and at nearby places like Dibeng and Olifantshoek. The property of present concern adjoins the 138 ha portion of the farm Bestwood 459 that was reported on in May 2006, and represents one of the last portions of land for potential urban development that remain in the present town limits of Kathu.

This report is part of an EIA that is being prepared by Marquerite Geldenhuys of MEG Environmental Impact Studies at the request of the Gamagara Municipality.

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The geologist G Collins, in the early 1970's, made small collections, now housed at the McGregor Museum, from a number of specularite workings and lithic scatters flanking the Gamagara River to the south – west of Kathu. Subsequent fieldwork by the author in this region has been largely centred on a number of Iron Age – ESA localities around Kathu Pan, located ~5 km north – west of Kathu, on the road to Dibeng (Beaumont & Morris 1990).

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The 286 ha Portion of the remainder of Sekgame 461 that was examined lies west of the N14 and south – east of central Kathu in the Gamagara Municipality of the Northern Cape (Figs. 1 & 2). This flat terrain, with a mean elevation of 1 235 m, has a surface of red Hutton Sands, thickening northwards, that supports a fairly dense cover of grass, patches of vaalbos, and a scattering of camel thorns on its north – eastern side (Figs. 3 – 5). I spent a morning walking over the full extent of this ground on 22 January 2008, in the company of Marquerite Geldenhuys.

SUPERFICIAL GEOLOGY

Bedrock over the entire property was Tertiary – aged Kalahari Group calcrete (Kent 1980) with a weathered surface that was occasionally exposed, but usually covered by northward thickening and up to 1.0 m deep red Hutton Sands. Near its north – east edge, close to an adjoining rifle range and other sports facilities, there is a *ca* 50 m wide semi – circular shallow depression with flanking slopes of grey sand that may represent a pan or a since – infilled sinkhole in the calcrete, as at Kathu Pan 1.

HERITAGE FINDINGS

My search over areas where the surface sand was intact produced no cultural material, but the eastern and southern stretches of a deeply – graded sand road around the property produced eleven stone artefacts (Figs. 6 – 8). These have surfaces ranging from fresh to lightly abraded, are largely based on jasper, but with a few on quartzite and chert, and are all undiagnostic flakes and cores, bar one possible end – scraper on a chert flake. These specimens were associated with some localized patches of small (marble – sized) rounded pebbles lying directly on the calcrete, as confirmed by one occurrence where they were adhering to it. It remains to be established just how and when the pebble patches accumulated and precisely how they relate to associated artefacts of varying abrasion state. Nowhere did I see any actual site, fossil bones, or graves of any age.

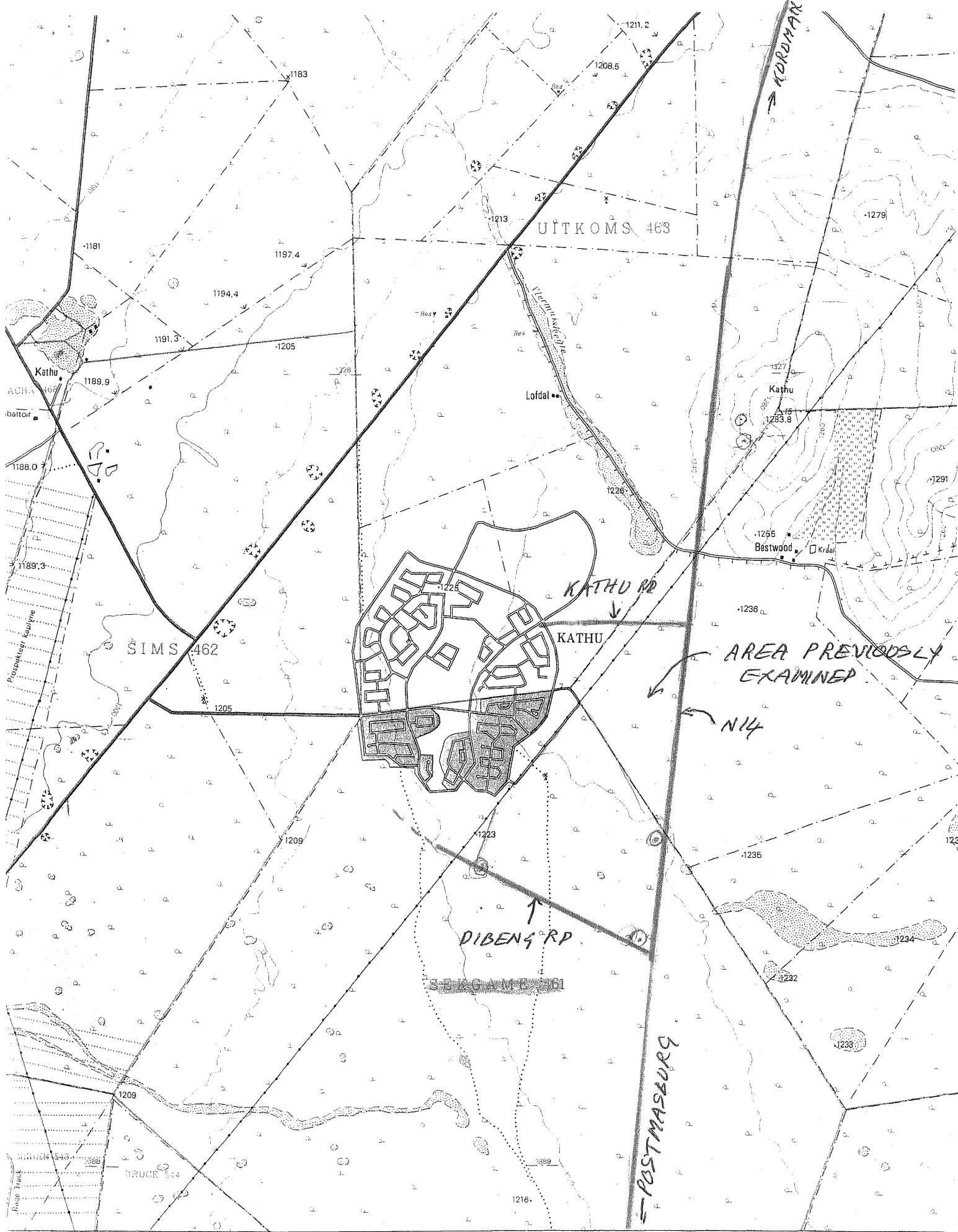
CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded that this farm portion contains no significant heritage material and that its use for housing will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape Province.

REFERENCES

Beaumont, P. and Morris, D. 1990. *Guide to the archaeological sites in the Northern Cape*. Kimberley: McGregor Museum.

Kent, L.E. (ed.) 1980. Stratigraphy of South Africa. Part 1. *Geol. Survey of S. Afr. Handbook 8*, 1 – 690.



0' 05' -1Y

FIG 1. 2723CA KATHU.

Photography 1972 (Job No. 700/72) Surveyed in 1974 and drawn in 1975 by the Director - General of Surveys.
 Fotografie 1972 (Taak No. 700/72). Opgemeten in 1974 en getekend in 1975 deur die Direkteur - generaal van Opmetings.

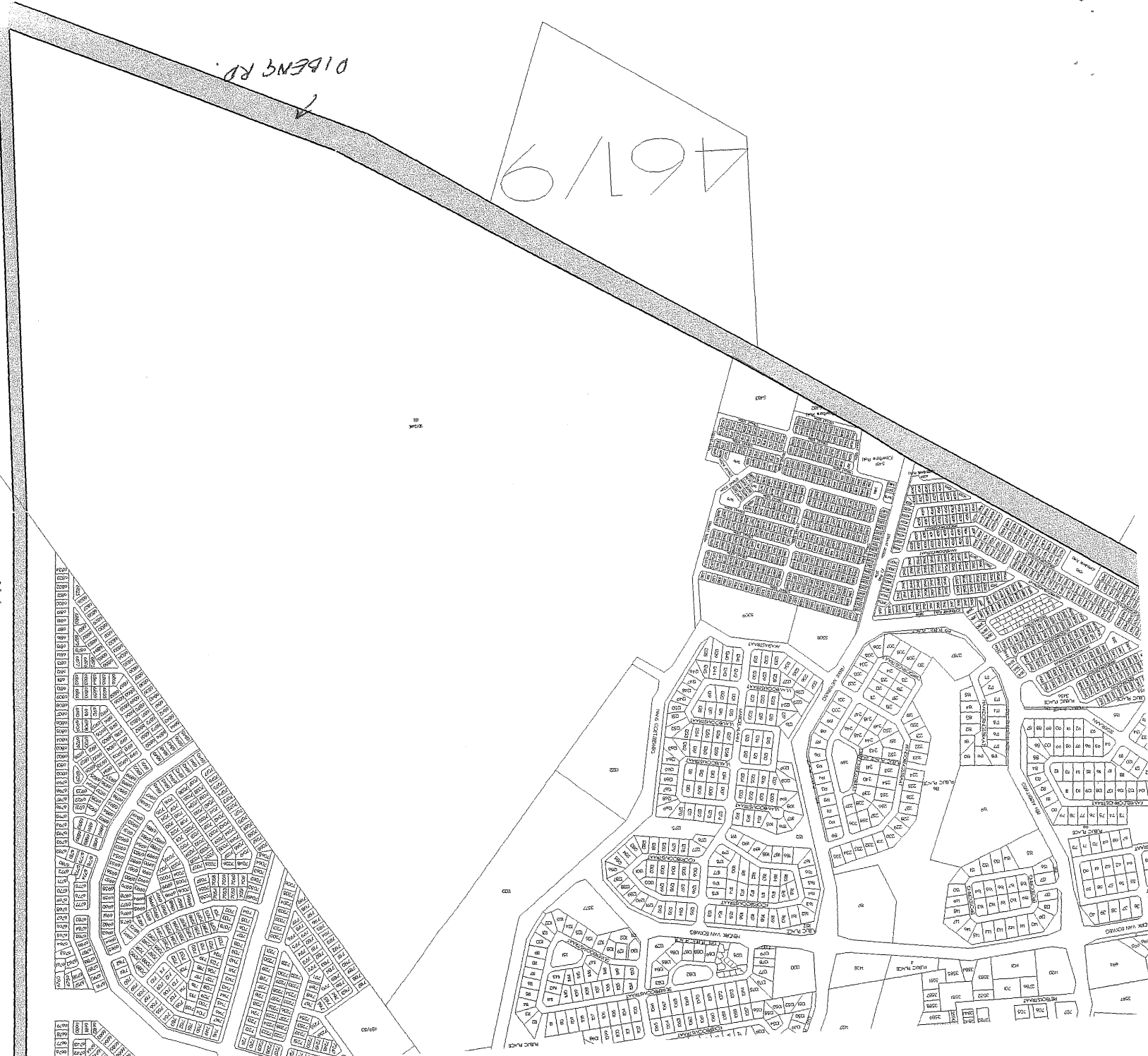
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 METRES
 10 METRE SUB CONTOURS



Gebäude von Selbstort von
 Seligone 461
 286 ha

→ 2

N14



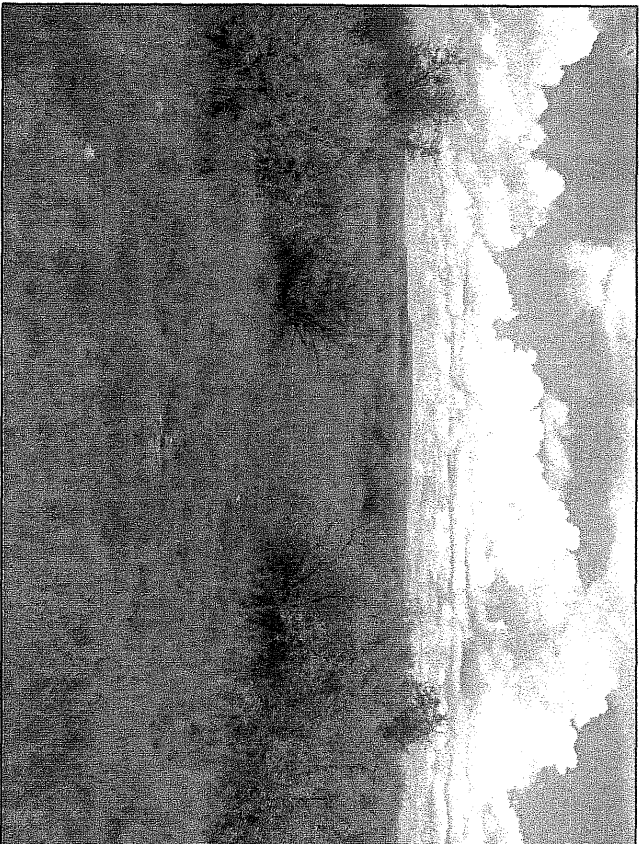


FIG 3. VIEW TO W

FIG 4. VIEW TO SE



FIG 5. Infrastructure for new
suburb on NW side being replaced.



Fig 8



Fig 7.



Fig 6.