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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DIAMOND PROSPECTING
DEVELOPMENTS AT THE FARM KAMEELDRIFT 40,
DOUGLAS, NORTHERN CAPE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Diamond prospecting is planned at the farm Kameeldrift 40, Douglas, Northern Cape. The site is located along the Orange River to the south east of town.

The land consists of an alluvial sand deposit along the river where high-density centre-pivot irrigation is taking place.

There is an abundance of raw lithic material, consisting of stone flakes and broken river worn pebbles and cores. In contrast, a vague scatter of crude stone flakes occurs on the higher rocky areas above the river. The small sample of worked flakes lacks secondary retouch and cannot be considered as tools.

The flaked stone artefacts are limited to the higher ground outside the planned area of development. It is accepted that the prospecting work will have no significant influence on the cultural remains in this area away from the alluvial beds.

Other archaeological and cultural remains occur in the form of a dilapidated stone-wall, of which the purpose and origin is not known. A single upper grinding stone was found near the wall remains.

I recommend that the prospecting work could continue on the lower areas along the river.

I anticipate that human burials could be discovered on the riverbanks during the excavation work. In the case of the discovery of any burial or human remains, the work should be stopped and the finds should be stabilised and protected and the archaeologist should be alerted immediately.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The farm Kameeldrift 40 in the district of Douglas (Map 1) was visited on 1 October 2008. Selwyn, one of the staff members of Manhattan Mining Company accompanied me to the sites.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

Diamond prospecting is planned on the farm Kameeldrift 40 (Map 2) near Douglas, Northern Cape.

The area along the Orange River consists of a deep alluvial sand deposit, which was disturbed by active centre-pivot irrigation and other agricultural activities in the past.

Low trees and thorny shrubs such as Witgat or Shepherd's trees (*Boscia albitrunca*) and Swarthaak or Black thorn bushes (*Acacia mellifera*) cover higher ground near the river (Figs.8&9).

There is no evidence of recent human occupation.

GPS coordinates (Cape scale) to plot the localities of the different permit areas (Map 2):

Coordinate points were taken at random (Map 2).

- | | |
|---|--|
| A | 29°19'52"S. 023°52'38"E Altitude 1022m (Figs.1-3). |
| B | 29°19'18"S. 023°52'56"E Altitude 1010m (Figs.4&5). |
| C | 29°19'22"S. 023°52'17"E Altitude 1060m (Figs.8&9). |
| D | 29°19'19"S. 023°52'22"E Altitude 1057m (Figs.10&11). |

RESULTS

FINDS

A vague scatter of stone flakes occurs on the higher rocky areas above the river. There is an abundance of raw lithic material, which consists of stone flakes and broken river worn pebbles and cores. The small sample of worked flakes does not show signs of any secondary retouch and cannot be considered as tools.

The flaked stone artefacts are limited to the higher ground outside the planned area of development. It is accepted that the prospecting work will have no significant influence on the cultural remains in this area away from the alluvial beds.

Other archaeological and cultural remains occur in the form of a dilapidated stone-wall (Fig.6), of which the purpose and origin is not known. A single upper grinding stone (Fig.7) was found near the wall remains.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The lithic scatter seems to be a general distribution of unutilised flakes. Flaked stone artefacts are limited to the higher ground, which falls outside the planned area of development.

The impact on the cultural heritage remains of the proposed site at Kameeldrift 40, Douglas, is considered to be of minor significance.

No indication about origin and purpose of the stone-wall is known and the single upper grinding stone near the wall remains cannot be explained.

No other cultural, historical or palaeontological components were found during the investigation, nor were there any existing buildings, graves or burial grounds in the area.

The proposed diamond prospecting developments at Kameeldrift 40, Douglas, will have an insignificant impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

From previous experience, I anticipate that human burials and skeletal remains could be discovered during the excavation work on the riverbanks (Brink, Dreyer & Loubser 1992, Dreyer 1996).

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the proposed developments at Kameeldrift 40, Douglas, may proceed.

It is important, however, that the field team should be on the lookout for the presence of human skeletal material in the area near the river. In the case of the discovery of any burial or human remains, the work should be stopped, the finds should be stabilised and protected and the archaeologist should be alerted immediately.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, mitigation measures will be required in the case of the discovery of any human skeletal material.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

John Stratiotis supplied maps of the area and Selwyn from Manhattan Mining Corporation, Douglas, accompanied me on the farm.

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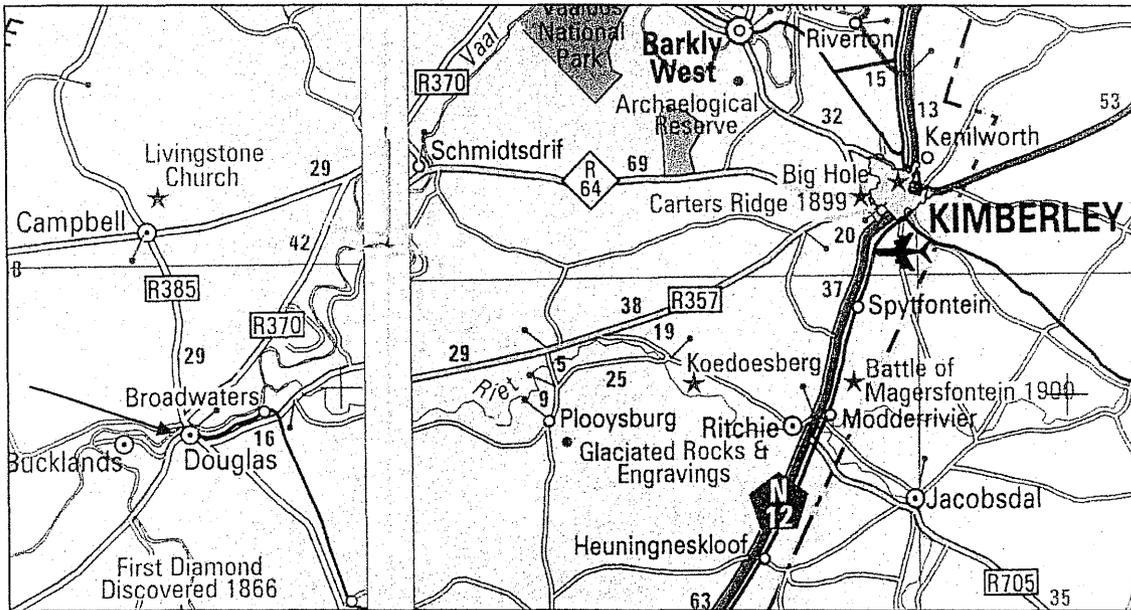
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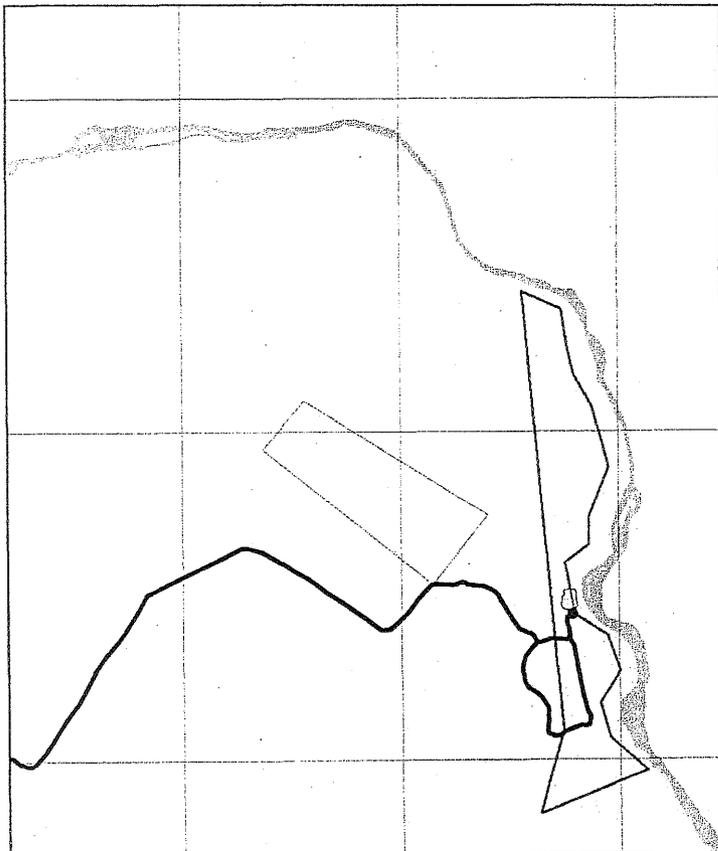
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Douglas in relation to Kimberley with other towns along the Orange River.



Map 2 Kameeldrift 40, Douglas indicating the permit areas along the Orange River.



Fig.2 View at Point A.

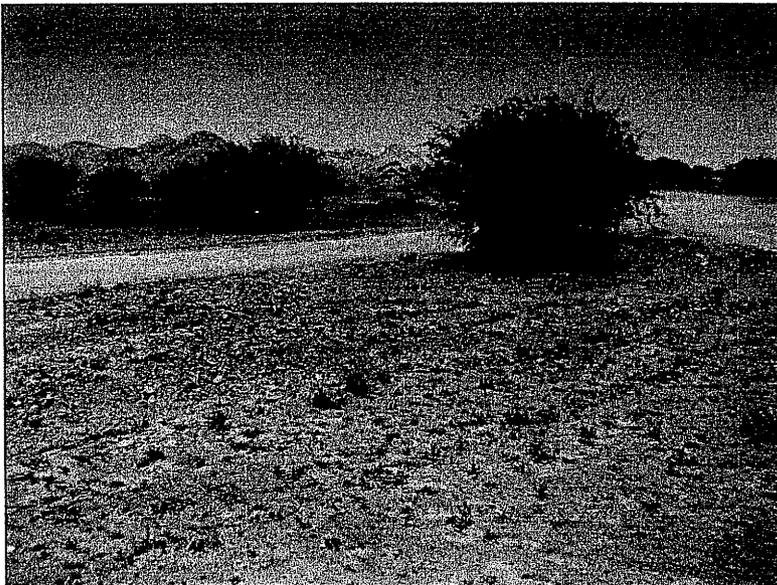


Fig.3 Point A.

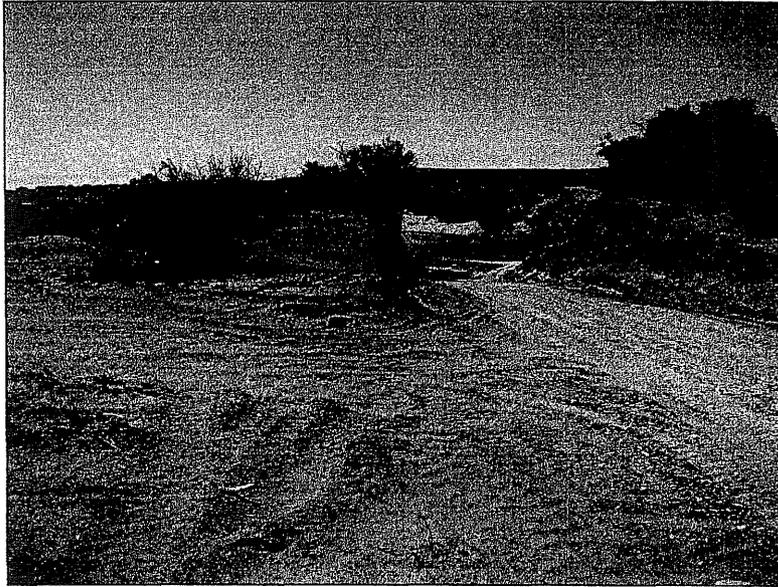


Fig.4 Point B facing the river.



Fig.5 Point B facing west towards the high ground.



Fig.6 Collapsed stone-wall at Point C.

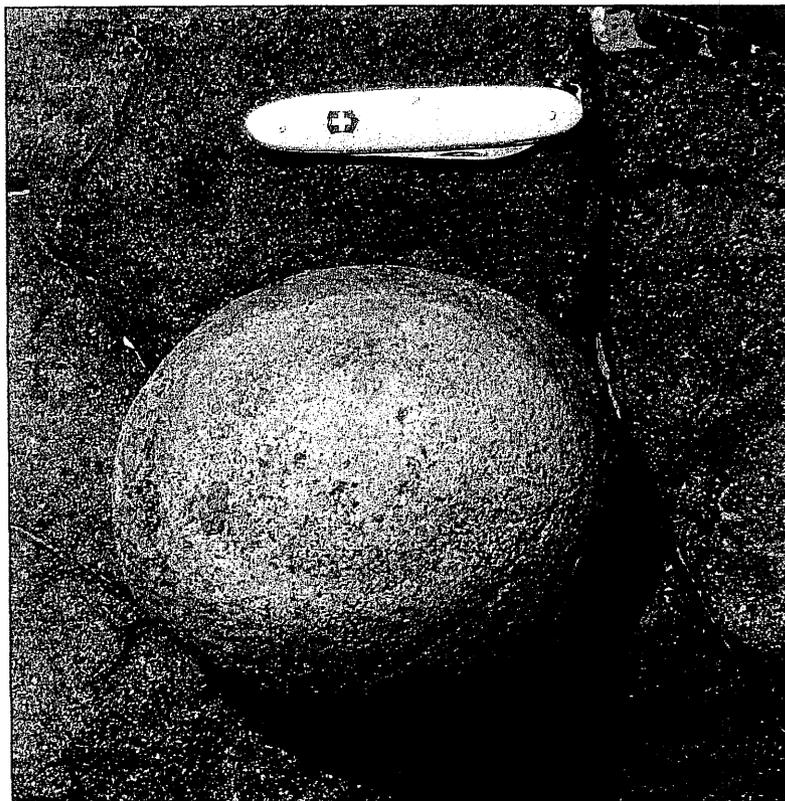


Fig.7 Upper grinding stone found near stone-wall at Point C (Pocket knife = 83 mm).

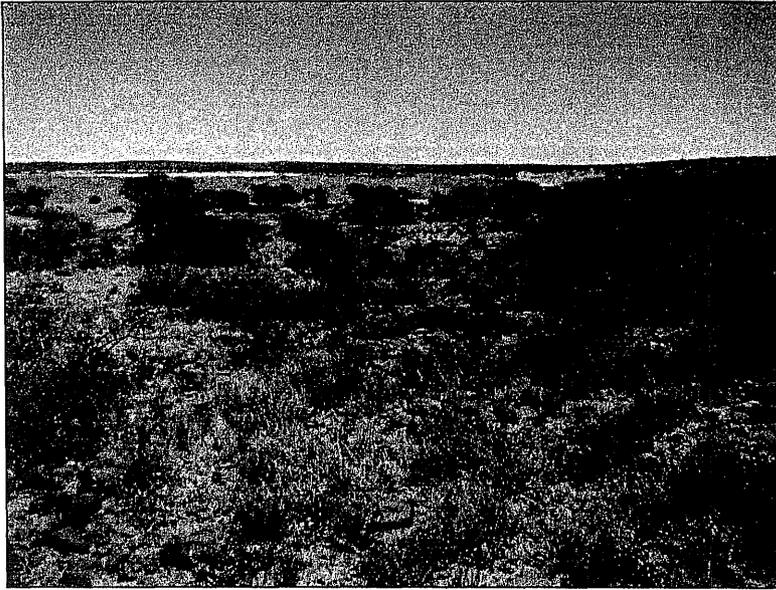


Fig.8 Point C facing east from the hill.

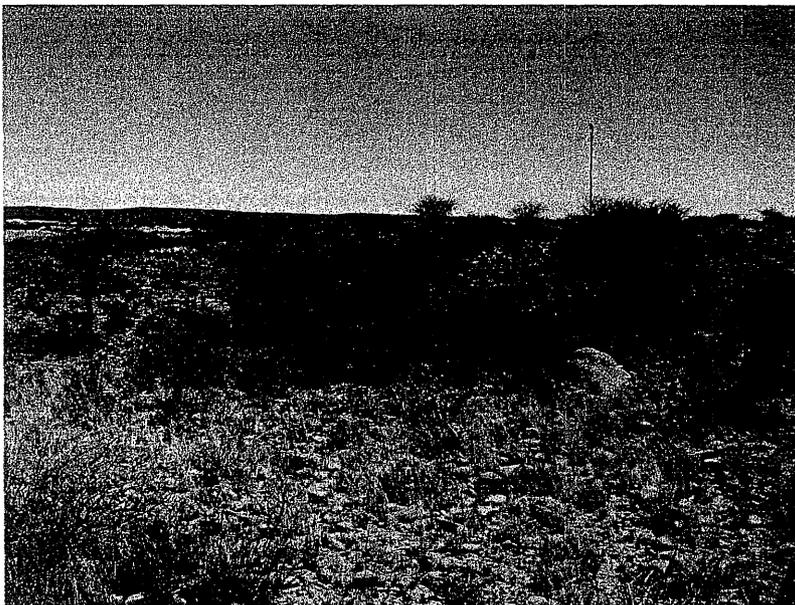


Fig.9 Stones and brush on the hill at Point C.



Fig.10 Point D.



Fig.11 Point D.