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22 AUGUST 2005

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED MINING DEVELOPMENTS ON THE FARM SLYPKLIP NORTH 32, KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed mining activities is located on a Portion of the Remainder of Portion 1 of the farm Slypklip North 32, in the administrative district of Kimberley (Map 1). The site was visited and inspected on 19 August 2005. Prof Gerhard Olivier, of Bloemfontein, the owner of the farm took us to the site and indicated the area of the proposed developments.

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**

The site for the proposed mining activities is located on the farm Slypklip North 32, Kimberley (Map 2). The farm lies between Windsorton and Riverton to the west of the N12 main road north of Kimberley (Map 1).

The land contains a thick layer of red blown sand on the surface with scattered lava outcrops (Figs.3&4). There is a grass and shrub cover on the surface (Figs.1&2).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape) were taken:

Ventersdorp Lava Outcrop  $28^{\circ}22'51''\text{S}$ .  $024^{\circ}43'15''\text{E}$  Altitude 1122m (Fig.3).

Survey peg  $28^{\circ}22'50''\text{S}$ .  $024^{\circ}43'12''\text{E}$  Altitude 1123m.

The area covers about 1,50ha, which represents a total of 67 claims. The measurements of the piece of land are given below (Diagram 1).

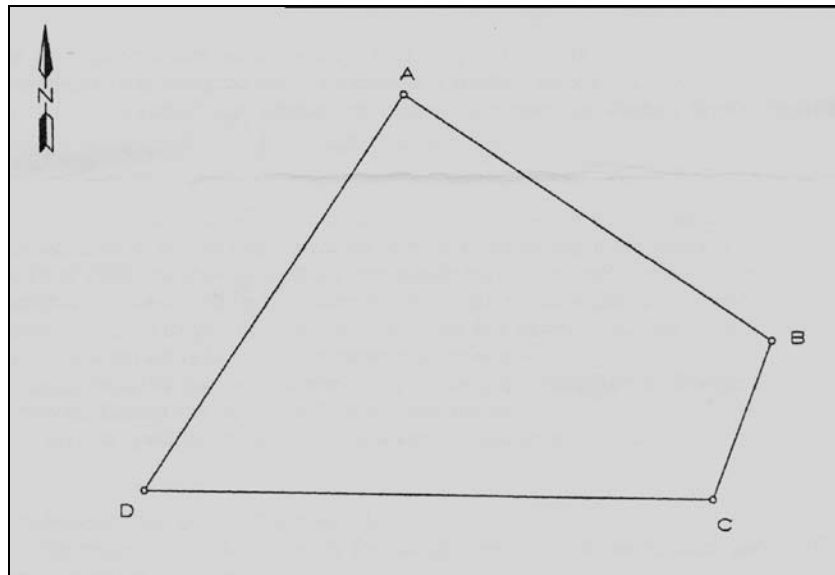


Diagram 1 Layout of the inspected area on the farm Slypklip North 32, Kimberley.

Measurements	A – B	139,5m
	B – C	53,7m
	C – D	180,0m
	D – A	150,0m

The line A - D lies along the gravel access road, while A – B borders on the adjacent farm Eilandshoek 33.

A	$28^{\circ}22'48''\text{S}$ . $024^{\circ}43'13''\text{E}$	Altitude 1119m (Fig.1).
B	$28^{\circ}22'49''\text{S}$ . $024^{\circ}43'17''\text{E}$	Altitude 1127m
C	$28^{\circ}22'52''\text{S}$ . $024^{\circ}43'16''\text{E}$	Altitude 1122m
D	$28^{\circ}22'51''\text{S}$ . $024^{\circ}43'10''\text{E}$	Altitude 1122m

## **FINDS**

Scattered quartzite flakes, which date from the Later Stone Age (LSA), occurred on the surface. The collection was very small and did not support any indication of its origin or purpose.

A circular stone structure of unknown origin was found on the surface (28°22'49"S. 024°43'15"E Altitude 1125m). The area near the structure did not produce any cultural material such as potsherds or an ash heap to indicate its origin or use.

No indication of any other archaeological or historical material or any engravings was found in the inspected area.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The scattered stone flakes on the surface appear to be an insignificant archaeological occurrence. The circular stone structure is without any cultural material on the surface and likewise does not appear to be of cultural importance.

No obvious reasons could, therefore, be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

After examination by the archaeologist, it is recommended that the proposed developments may proceed.

Every archaeological and historical site is unique and should be treated as a non-renewable commodity. All efforts should be made to avoid any unnecessary disturbance or destruction of the area. It is stressed that in case of the discovery of any stone tools, pottery and archaeological or historical material of significance during the course of the work, all activities should temporarily be stopped in the specific area for inspection by an archaeologist or other specialists from the McGregor Museum, Kimberley.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed development, no mitigation measures are needed.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Prof Gerhard Olivier for taking us to the site.

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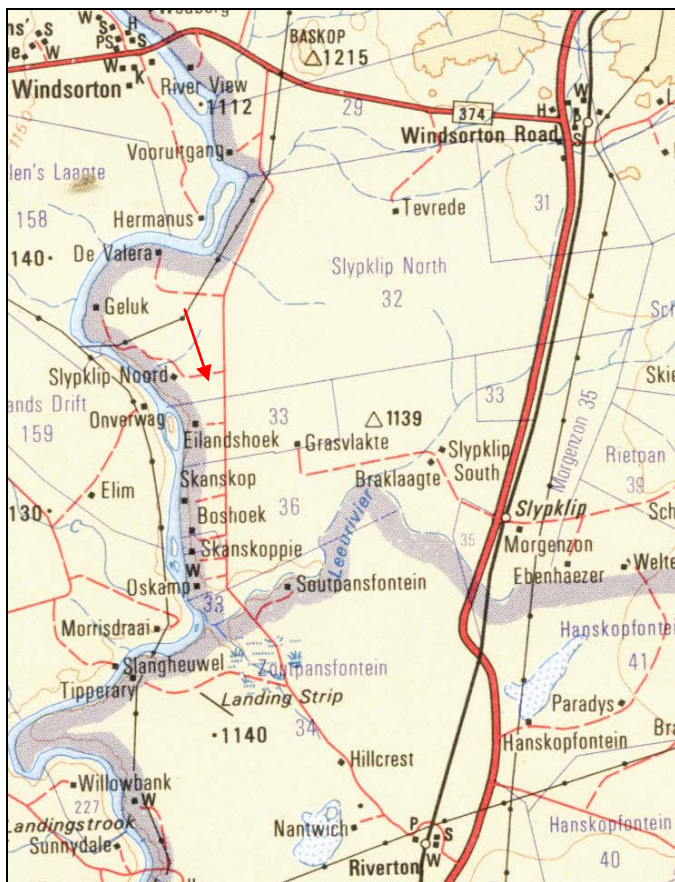
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Map 1 Locality of Windsorton and Riverton west of the N12 main road.



Map 2. The farm Slypklip North 32 situated on the Vaal River near Windsorton Road (2824 Kimberley).



Fig.1 General view of the site facing towards A.



Fig.2 View across the site facing line C - D.



Fig.3 Venterdorp lava outcrop on the surface.



Fig.4 Venterdorp lava outcrop visible in the profile of a test trench.



Fig.5 The area contains a thick layer of red blown sand on top of the "Rooikoppie" deposit.