

**PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON
PORTION 459/49 OF THE FARM BESTWOOD 459 AT KATHU,
KGALAGADI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE
PROVINCE.**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to determine if any archaeological or other heritage sites were present on Portion 459/49 of the farm Bestwood 459, close to Kathu in the Kgalagadi District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province. This 12 ha piece of flat natural veld is mantled by red Hutton Sands that supports a fairly dense cover of grass, vaalbos and some acacia trees, including, at its north end, a few *Acacia erioloba*. A foot survey of that property on Wednesday 14 May 2008 yielded 4 jaspilite artefacts, but nowhere were there any sites, fossil bones, or old structures / graves. These findings lead me to conclude that the inspected area has no heritage potential and that its proposed subdivision for business premises will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This report is part of an EIA that is being compiled by Marquerite Geldenhuys of MEG Environmental Impact Studies on behalf of the property owner, Mr Hannes Marx. He wants to have this piece of unused farmland re-zoned for business purposes, for which there is currently a great demand in Kathu. My terms of reference were to detail observations based on a field survey of the terrain and to assess the significance of heritage impacts, should the development go ahead. Such a report is required by the National Heritage Resources Act (no. 25 of 1999), which states that no development may take place without heritage assessment and approval.

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Portion 459/49 lies on a calcrete strip separating the Acheulean – aged Kathu Townlands quarry site, close by to the south – west, from another such locality, namely Uitkoms 1, on the Kathu hill a short way to the north – east (Fig. 1). Also on the east side of the N14 is the recently – discovered Kobus Dreyer / Uitkoms 4 site that dips below Hutton Sands to the south, with it being deemed likely that the still hidden portion could be massive and extend well into Bestwood (Fig. 1). And further to the north, just east of the road to Dibeng, is Kathu Pan, where there is a stratified succession ranging back from superficial Ceramic LSA and Late Iron Age. Below those, at various localities, there is Wilton, Oakhurst, ELSA, Howieson's Poort, two prior MSA phases, Middle Fauresmith and basal Middle Acheulean (Beaumont & Morris 1990; Beaumont & Vogel 2006).

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The inspected Portion 459/49 of the farm Bestwood 459 lies on the west side of the N14, close to the main turnoff to Kathu, in the Kgalagadi District Municipality of the Northern Cape (Figs. 1 - 3). This 12 ha piece of flat natural veld at ~1230 m altitude is covered by red Hutton Sands that support a cover of grass, vaalbos and some *Acacia karoo* and *A. erioloba* trees, particularly at the northern end (Figs. 4 – 7).

Wednesday 14 May 2008 was spent, in the company of Marquerite Geldenhuys and botanist Noel van Rooyen, walking over its full extent, taking, when needed, coordinates with a Garmin GPS.

SUPERFICIAL SEDIMENTS

Natural exposures revealed that bedrock over most of the terrain was Tertiary – aged Kalahari Group calcrete (Kent 1980), that is mantled by unconsolidated red Hutton Sands, 0 – 20 cm deep to the south, but thickening northwards. However, debris that probably resulted from the emplacement of the corner pole at the northern extremity of the area was seen to include jaspilite fragments, which suggests that the calcrete lenses out a few metres south of that point.

HERITAGE FINDINGS

My foot survey yielded only four artefacts, namely two irregular cores and two flakes, the one very sidestruck, that are all based on jaspilite (Fig. 8). These probably reflect a thin discard scatter from the nearby Kathu Townlands site, later buried by Hutton Sands, that have since been brought to the surface via bioturbation. Nowhere within the examined area were there any archaeological sites, palaeontological bones or structures / graves sixty or more years old.

CONCLUSIONS

My conclusion is therefore that the inspected property contains no significant heritage material and that its proposed use for business premises will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape Province.

REFERENCES

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

Beaumont, P.B. & Vogel, J.C. 2006. On a timescale for the past million years of human history in central South Africa. *S. Afr. J. Sci.* **102**, 217 - 228.

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



FIG 1. 2723 CA KATHU

Air Photography 1972 (Job No 700/72) Surveyed in 1974 and drawn in 1975 by the Director-General of Surveys
 Lugfotografie 1972 (Taak No 700/72) Oongemets in 1974 en geteken in 1975 deur die Direkteur-generaal van Oormetings

T.S.O. 200/6992

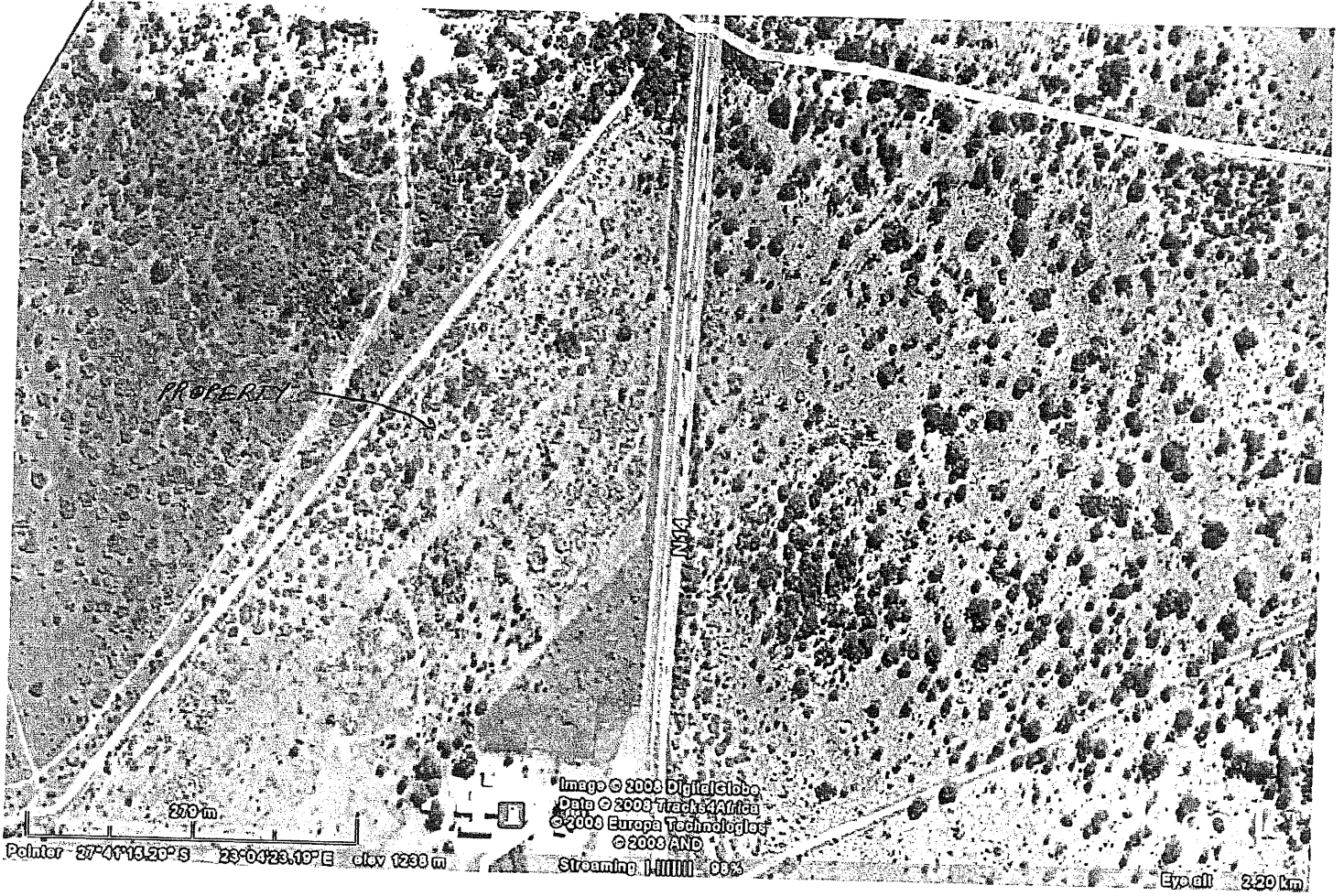
Metres 1 000

REFERENCE VERKLARING

International Boundaries Internasionale Grense
 Provincial Boundaries

English Feet 5 000

Statute Miles 1



Bestwood 459/49

FIG 2.

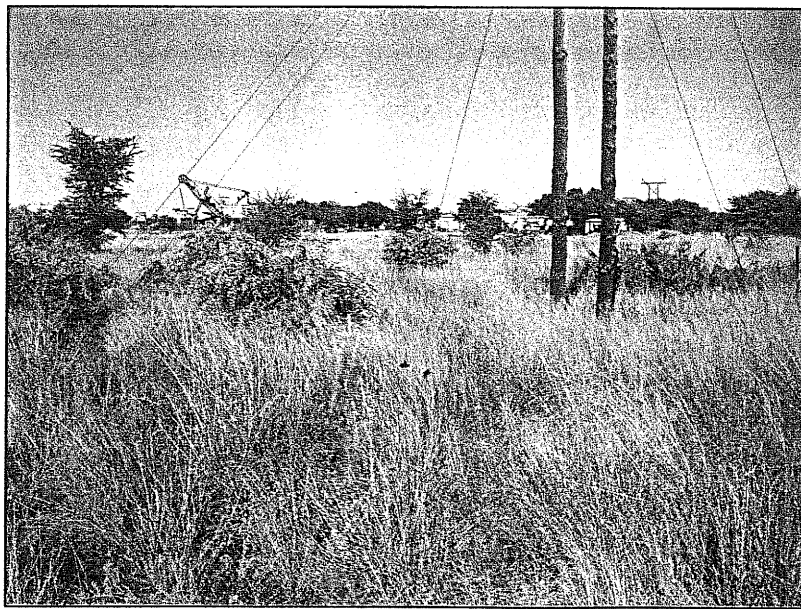


FIG 4. VIEW SHOWING GIANT EXCAVATOR PARKED AT TURNOFF TO KATHU

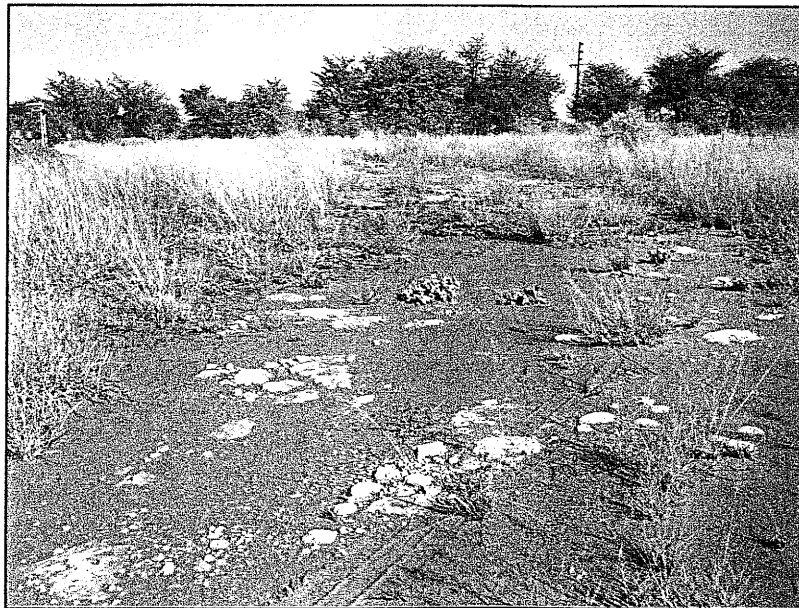


FIG 5. VIEW AT SOUTH SIDE OF PORTION, WHERE CALCRETE BEDROCK IS OFTEN EXPOSED



FIG 6. VIEW AT NORTH SIDE OF PORTION, WHERE SURFACE SAND IS THICKER



FIG 7. VIEW AT SW SIDE OF PORTION, NOT FAR FROM RATHO TOWNLANDS SITE



FIG 8. THE 4 JASPILITE-BASED ARTEFACTS FOUND DURING MY SURVEY.