

9/2/069/0158



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**PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF PALM  
VALLEY FARM NO 1294, PAARL DISTRICT**

PREPARED FOR Marius Nieuwoudt, Omniplan  
10 September 2002

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## INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Geographical Analysis of the University of Stellenbosch was requested by Marius Nieuwoudt of Omniplan, Bellville to conduct a Phase 1 archaeological assessment of Palm Valley Farm, owned by Mr Warner, PO Box 808, Durbanville. The archaeological survey has to do with an application for rezoning farm no 1294 Palmvalley for development as an aerodrome-gholf resort. The brief was to survey the area (Figure 1) and record the position of the archaeological sites, assess the significance of the sites and the impact of development on them, and recommend mitigatory measures.

## METHOD

The study area \*(see end of paragraph for GPS positions) was searched on foot and any archaeological material located was recorded on the plan (Figure 2) provided by Omniplan. No test excavations were undertaken.

- C: 33°46.34' S; 18°45.15' E
- D: 33°45.40' S 18°45.79' E
- E: 33°45.43' S 18°45.25' E

## BACKGROUND

The districts of Paarl, Stellenbosch and Bellville in the vicinity of Palm Valley are well known for Early Stone Age Acheulian occurrences. The Acheulian dates to between 1.4 million and 350 000 years ago in Africa (Deacon & Deacon 1999), but is estimated to be in the order of between 700 000 to 350 000 years old in the study area. The Stellenbosch area gained international fame in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as the type area of the handaxe in South Africa. Handaxes and associated artefacts, named the Stellenbosch culture, showed that Palaeolithic culture was as old in South Africa as in Europe. Early humans, such as *Homo ergaster* and *Homo heidelbergensis* who lived close to ancient rivers, in this case the Berg River, made these artefacts. Further it is known that Middle Stone Age (350 000 – 22 000 year ago) and Later Stone Age (22 000 – 300 years ago) artefacts occur in the general area. Such artefacts were made by modern peoples.

## FINDINGS

One site, and four ephemeral scatters were located in the study area.

### 4.1 Site PV1

GPS location: 33°46.04' S 18°45.03' E

Middle Stone Age artefacts were located beneath a telephone line (Figure 2). The occurrence measures approximately 25 m<sup>2</sup> and consists of some forty artefacts, including 3 cores, chunks and undiagnostic flakes in siltcrete. There is a siltcrete outcrop close to the site, and as many of the flakes retain cortex, this scatter may originally have been a workshop. However, the scatter occurs in the plough zone and some of the artefacts show plough damage. Thus the context of the site has been destroyed.

Importance: Low to medium

Impacts: Development will disturb and destroy the site further.

Mitigation: None required

### 4.1 Scatter PV2

GPS location: 33°46.08' S 18°45.05' E

One formal MSA II point, two cores and one chunk found in an area of approximately 10m<sup>2</sup>.

Importance: Low

Impact: Development will disturb and destroy the site.

Mitigation: None required

### 4.2 Scatter PV3

GPS location: 33°46.28' S 18°44.98' E

In the immediate vicinity of a koppie, approximately 80 metres from a dirt road, an ephemeral scatter of undiagnostic siltcrete flakes occur in the plough zone. The koppie is densely vegetated with *Renosterveld*, but a weathered handaxe and some weathered Acheulian flakes in sandstone seem to have been dumped there with non-artefactual stone.

Importance: Low  
 Impact: Development will further disturb and destroy the site.  
 Mitigation: None required.

#### 4.3. Scatter PV4

GPS location: 33°45.65' S 18°45.79' E  
 On a ploughed field, in an area of approximately 500 m<sup>2</sup>, one complete and one partial handaxe in weathered sandstone, four siltcrete MSA cores, and two undiagnostic siltcrete flakes were found.  
 Importance: Low  
 Impact: Development will aggravate the disturbance.  
 Mitigation: None required.

#### 4.3 Scatter PV5

GPS location: 33°45.57' S 18°45.96' E  
 In the proposed conservation area, which preserve dense Renosterveld, several weathered Middle Stone Age blade sections in siltcrete and sandstone were found.  
 Importance: Low  
 Impact: None foreseen  
 Mitigation: None required.

### CONCLUSION

Acheulian and Middle Stone Age materials were found in the study area, but all the sites are in the plough zone (apart from PV5) and thus severely disturbed. Therefore they have very little research potential and no mitigation is required.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Parts of the study area are covered with grass and trees that compromise visibility. These areas, in particular the areas where the runway is planned and the conservation area (A & B as marked on Figure 2), should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist at the time of development

### REFERENCES:

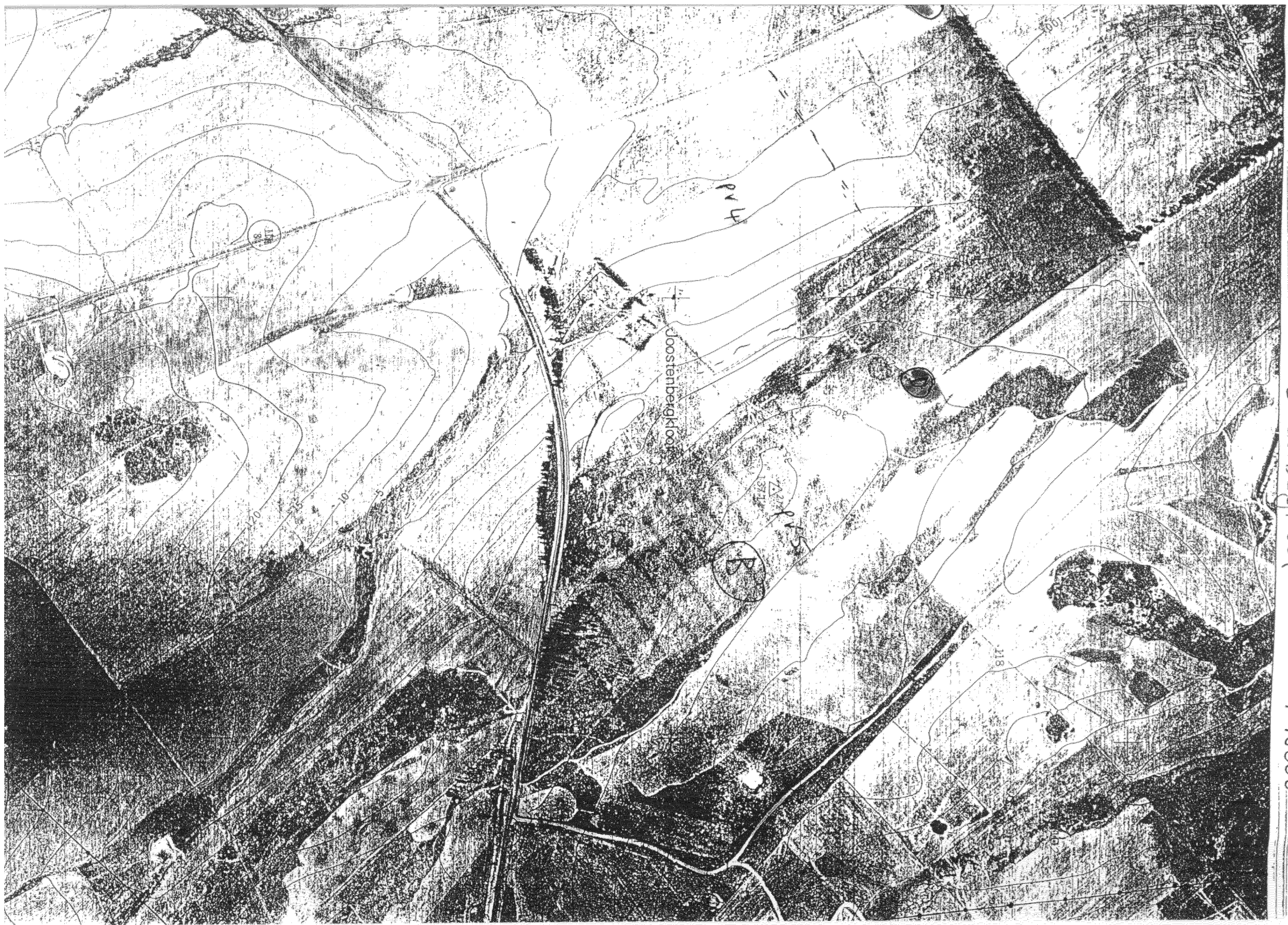
Deacon, H.J. & Deacon, J. 1999. *Human beginnings in South Africa – uncovering the secrets of the Stone Age*. Cape Town: David Philip Publishers.

#### Fieldwork:

Alex Rheeder  
 Liesl van Pletzen-Vos  
 Franci Vosloo  
 Trish Zweig  
 Sarah Wurz

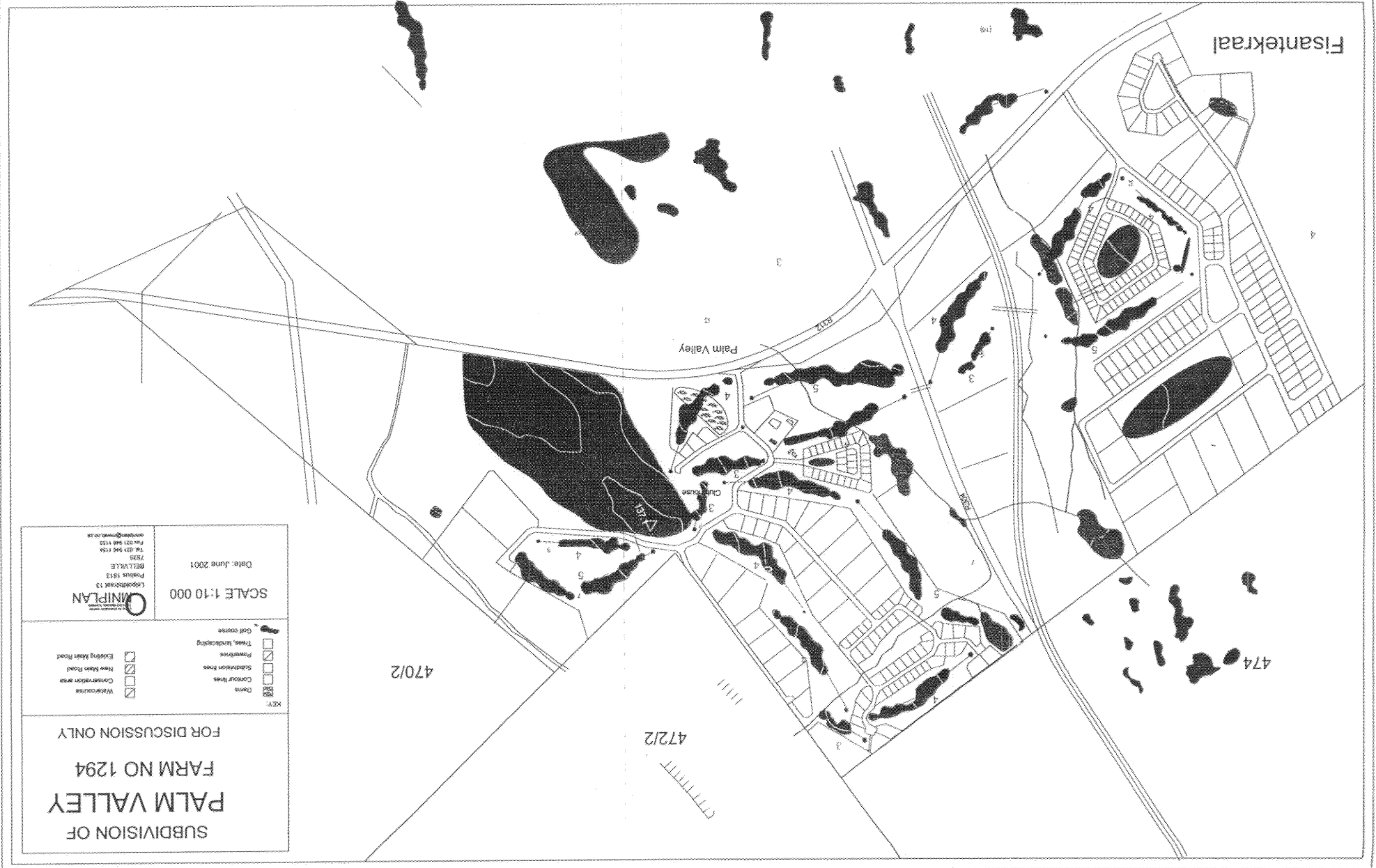
#### Report:

Sarah Wurz



5318 DD1 Joostenbergkloot

1:16000



**SUBDIVISION OF  
PALM VALLEY  
FARM NO 1294  
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

<p><b>KEY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dams</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contour lines</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision lines</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Powerlines</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Trees, landscaping</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Golf course</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Watercourse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Construction area</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New Main Road</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Existing Main Road</li> </ul>	<p><b>MINIPLAN</b> Lepretstraat 13 Pretoria 1813 7525 Tel: 021 948 1154 Fax: 021 948 1154 miniplan@miniplan.co.za</p> <p>Date: June 2001 SCALE 1:10 000</p>
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