

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF AN AREA OF THE SISHEM IRON ORE MINE THAT MAY BE COVERED BY THE VILIEGVELDT WASTE DUMP

On Wednesday 12 October I travelled to the Sishem Iron Ore Mine and was taken by Gert Bosch to an area between the Dingleton road and Eskom powerlines west of it, that would be covered if the Viliegveldt Waste Dump was extended in that direction. Innumerable exposures show that bedrock there is largely dolomite, thinly covered by rich brown sand, with the exception of two spots where circular depressions some 5 – 10 m across indicate ancient subsistence and deeper sand infill. A random foot search covering the east – west and north – south extents of the area produced sporadic pieces of glass and rusted iron, but not a single potsherd or stone flake, let alone an unbroken formal tool. This dearth of artifacts contrasts with slopes flanking the Gamagara River a few km away, where there are scatters of Late Acheulean (bifaces and blades), from which collections were made by G & S Collins in the mid-60's.

CONCLUSION

My examination indicates that the examined area has no heritage potential and that a waste dump there would have no impact on the archaeological resources of the Northern Cape.



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Note: A locality map of the area is to be attached.

Locality Map



