

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY
PORTION 1 & 2 AND THE REMAINDER OF
THE FARM LUIPERSKOP NO. 211
VANRHYNSDORP DISTRICT
WESTERN CAPE**

Prepared for

CREATIVE PROFILE

By

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Executive summary

Archaeological remains, as well as historical remains dating to the time of Griekwa leader Andrew Abraham Stokkenstroom Le Fleur's period of residence at Luiperskop (Ratelgat) were located during a Phase 1 archaeological study of portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop No. 211, near Vanrhynsdorp in the Western Cape.

The proposed development, known as the Griekwa Ratelgat Development Project consists of three nodes and includes:

- a tourist centre at the entrance to the farm, including a museum, curio shop, restaurant, offices and a nursery (Node 1);
- 12 chalets at an existing gathering point (Node 2)
- a parking area, conference centre and ablution and water storage facilities in the vicinity of the existing Griekwa cultural monument (Node 3).

No archaeological remains were located in Node 1 of the proposed development.

A handful of Later Stone Age (LSA) tools, including flakes and chunks were located on the white quartz covered slope in Node 2. The archaeological remains in Node 2 have been given a low conservation and significance rating.

A series of small overhangs and shelters were located on a hilltop near a small stream about 175 metres east of Node 2. Relatively large amounts of ostrich eggshell and one hornfels chunk were found in the overhang directly overlooking the stream. Most of the archaeological deposit in this shelter has been washed out as a result of flooding. The other shelters were not inspected, but most likely contain archaeological material. Stone tools were also found on the river terrace.

Large numbers of LSA tools including flakes, chunks, cores, hammerstones and formal tools, as well as exceptionally large numbers of ostrich eggshell pieces were located on and at the base of a steep eroded slope about 250 metres north of Node 2 alongside the gravel road. Scatters of tools and ostrich eggshell was also located in a series of shallow overhangs above the steep slope, overlooking the road.

A series of domestic middens (refuse pits) were located in Node 3, close to the cultural monument. According to Mr B. Cloete of the Griekwa Ratelgat Development Trust, the middens date to the time of Griekwa leader Andrew Abraham Stokkenstroom Le Fleur and his follower's period of residence at the farm.

Glass, ceramics, ostrich eggshell, a quartz crystal, rusted metal, stone, bone and ash deposits were found on the rubbish dumps, which are largely undisturbed. The midden remains have been given a medium to high significance and conservation rating.

Relatively small numbers of LSA tools including chunks, flakes, and a scraper were also located among an extensive scatter of white quartz pebbles on the west facing slope of the low hill overlooking Node 3. The archaeological remains here have been given a low significance and conservation rating.

According to Mr B. Cloete, the remains of a lime quarry and lime oven is also located on the farm, as are fresh water pits, and the numerous graves of Griekwa leaders and community members.

The impact of the proposed project on archaeological remains in Nodes 2 and 3 are considered to be low to negligible.

The impact of the proposed development on the historical midden remains in Node 3 is considered to be high.

With regard to the proposed development of portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop (Ratelgat) No. 211, Vanrhynsdorp District, the following recommendations are made.

- No archaeological mitigation is required in Nodes 1 and 2.
- In consultation with the Griekwa Ratelgat Development Trust, some excavation of the refuse middens in Node 3 could be undertaken.

The cultural material generated from the excavation could, alongside other historical material and documents, be used for display purposes in the proposed conference centre, or in the proposed museum at the entrance to the farm (Node 1).

- A more focused archaeological study of selected portions of the farm such as kranztes, kloofs, rocky outcrops and river banks could be undertaken, in order to locate additional sites for possible tourism purposes. The presence of more sites on the farm could create possible job opportunities in the form of guided archaeological and historical trails.
- The presence of a lime quarry and historical lime-burning oven on the farm should also be included in the tourism development of the farm
- The collection of slate for cladding on buildings should not be utilised until these sites/deposits have been assessed for their archaeological significance.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency Plans Committee.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

Creative Profile has requested that the Agency for Cultural Resource Management undertake a Phase 1 archaeological study of portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop (Ratelgat) No. 211, in the Vanrhynsdorp District.

The proposed development, known as the Griekwa Ratelgat Development Project, consists of three nodes and includes:

- a tourist centre at the entrance to the farm, including a live museum, curio shop, administrative offices and a nursery (Node 1)
- 12 chalets at the existing gathering point (Node 2)
- a parking area, conference centre, an amphitheatre and ablution and water storage facilities in the vicinity of the existing Griekwa cultural monument (Node 3).

The aim of the study is to locate archaeological and historical remains that may be negatively impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the project and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological and historical study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological and historical sites of significance;
2. to identify any sites of archaeological and historical significance;
3. to assess the sensitivity and conservation significance of archaeological and historical sites;
4. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
5. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological and historical sites that may exist.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site is illustrated in Figure 1. The farm Luiperskop (Ratelgat) No. 211 is located within the Vanrhynsdorp District of the Western Cape. The farm is situated approximately 35 kms north of Vanrhynsdorp on either side of the N7 that runs between Cape Town and Namibia. The property is approximately 7000 ha in extent.

Figure 2 illustrates the approximate location of the three nodes of development.

4. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Node 1

Node 1 is situated alongside the N7 and covers an area of 1.2 ha.

No archaeological material was located in Node 1.

Node 2

Node 2 is located about 3.5 km west of Node 1, against a hillside with existing access along a gravel road. The area covered for this node is 0.6 ha.

A handful of Later Stone Age¹ (LSA) tools, including flakes, chunks and cores were located on the quartz-covered slope in Node 2.

Significance of finds: **low**

Conservation rating: **low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

A series shallow overhangs and shelters were also located near a small stream about 175 metres east of Node 2 (Figure 3). Relatively large amounts of ostrich eggshell and one hornfels chunk were found in the overhang overlooking the stream. Most of the archaeological deposit in the shelter has been washed out as a result of flooding. The other shelters were not inspected, but most likely contain archaeological material. Stone tools were also found on the river terrace.

Large numbers of LSA tools, including modified and unmodified flakes, chunks, cores, hammerstones and retouched tools, in silcrete, quartzite, hornfels and quartz, as well as exceptionally large numbers of ostrich eggshell pieces were also located on and at the base of a steep eroded slope, about 250 metres north of Node 2 along the gravel road (Figure 4). Scatters of tools and ostrich eggshell was also located in a series of heavily eroded shallow overhangs above the slope overlooking the road.

Node 3

Node 3 is determined by the existing monument and is accessed via an existing gravel road. The area covered for this node is 0.6 ha.

A series of domestic middens (refuse pits) were located in Node 3, about 20 metres east of the Griekwa cultural monument (Figures 5). According to Mr B. Cloete of the Griekwa Ratelgat Development Trust, the middens date to the period of residence at Ratelgat of the Griekwa community leader, Mr Andrew Abraham Stokkenstroom Le Fleur, and his followers, who lived on the site between 1933-1941.

¹ A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

6. LEGISLATION

Archaeological sites are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999). The Act came into effect on 01 April 2000, and replaces the National Monuments Act (No. 28 of 1969).

It is an offence to destroy, damage, excavate, alter, or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object, without a permit issued by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop (Ratelgat) No. 211, Vanrhynsdorp District, the following recommendations are made.

1. No archaeological mitigation is required in Nodes 1 and 2.
2. In consultation with the Griekwa Ratelgat Development Trust, some excavation and sampling of the middens in Node 3 could be undertaken. The material generated from the excavation could be used, alongside other historical material and documents, for display purposes in the proposed conference centre, or in the proposed museum at the entrance to the farm (Node 1).
3. A more focused archaeological study of selected portions of the farm such as krantzes, kloofs, rocky outcrops and river banks could be undertaken, in order to locate additional sites for possible tourism purposes. The presence of more sites on the farm could create possible job opportunities in the form of guided archaeological and historical trails.
4. The presence of a lime quarry and lime-burning oven on the farm should also be included in the tourism-related development of the farm.
5. The collection of slate for cladding on buildings should not be utilised until these sites/deposits have been assessed for their archaeological significance.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the South African Heritage Resources Agency Plans Committee.

The monument (Figure 5) to Mr Le Fleur, which is of considerable cultural significance to the South African Griekwa community, is also located directly on the site where the Griekwa leader and his follower's *maaintjie* houses once stood. According to Mr Cloete (pers. comm.), the houses were constructed with branches and covered with *biesiesriet* mats, similar to the *matjieshuise* (reed huts) built by the Lilliefontein community in the Kamiesberg Mountains.

Glass, pieces of ceramics, ostrich eggshell, a quartz crystal, rusted metal, bone, stone and ash deposits were found on the dumps, which are largely undisturbed.

Significance of finds: **medium-high**

Conservation rating: **medium-high**

Suggested mitigation: **In consultation with the Griekwa Ratelgat Development Trust, some excavation of the refuse middens in Node 3 could be undertaken.**

The cultural remains generated from the excavation could, alongside existing historical material and documents, be used for display purposes in the proposed conference centre, or in the proposed museum at the entrance to the farm (Node 1).

A small number of LSA tools including chunks, flakes, and a quartz scraper were also located among an extensive scatter of white quartz pebbles on the west facing slope of the hill overlooking Node 3 (Figure 6). The archaeological remains have been given a low significance and conservation rating.

According to Mr Cloete (pers. comm.), the remains of a lime quarry and lime oven is also located on the farm, as are fresh water pits, and numerous graves of Griekwa leaders and community members.

4. IMPACT STATEMENT

The impact of the proposed project on archaeological remains in Nodes 1 and 2 is considered to be low to negligible. The impact of the proposed project on cultural-historical remains in Node 3 is considered to be high.

5. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

No significant archaeological remains were located in Nodes 1 and 2 of the proposed development. Midden remains dating to the time of the residence of Mr A.A.S Le Fleur and his followers at Ratelgat, were located in refuse pits in Node 3.

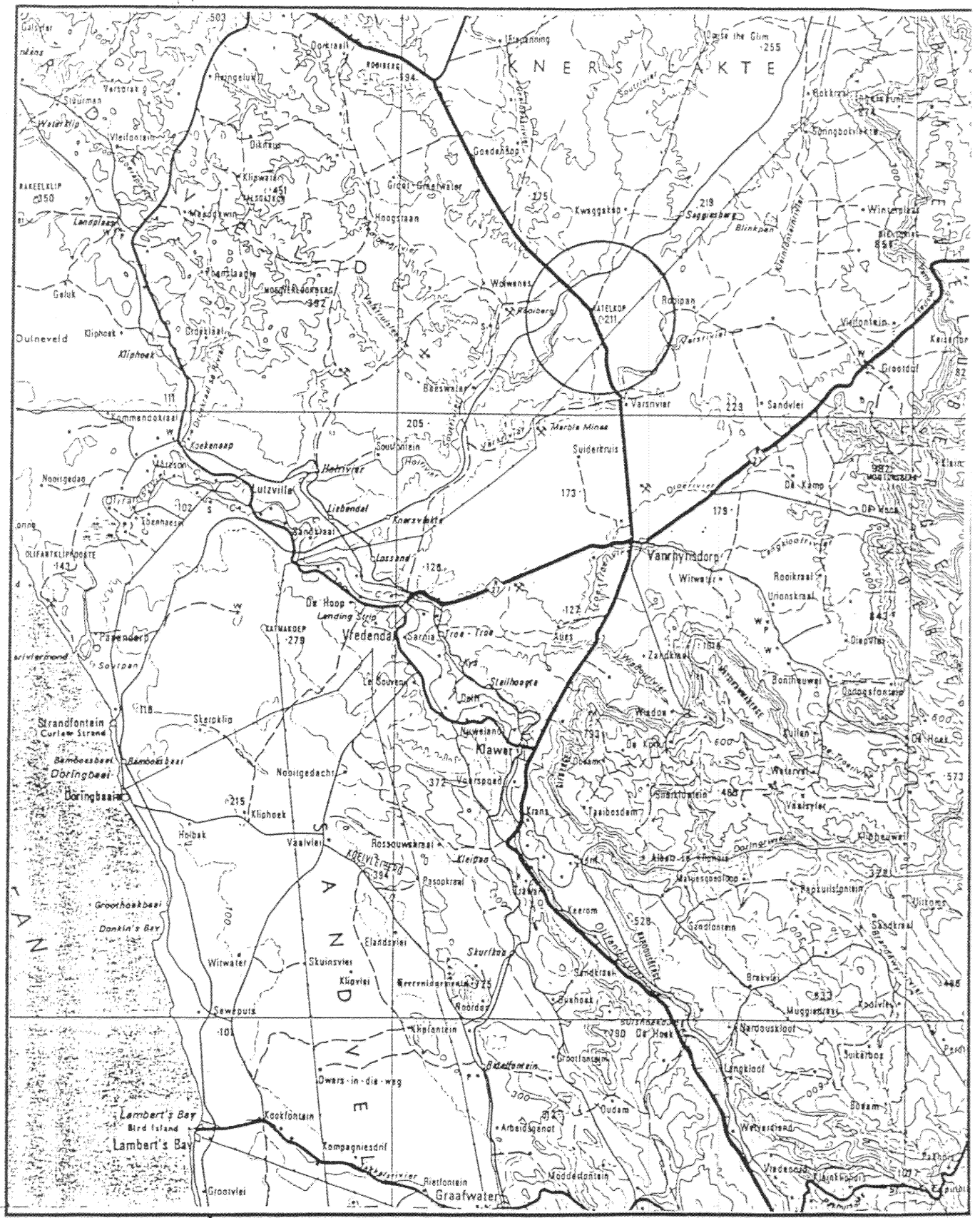


Figure 1. Archaeological and historical study, portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop No. 211, Vanrhynsdorp: study site.

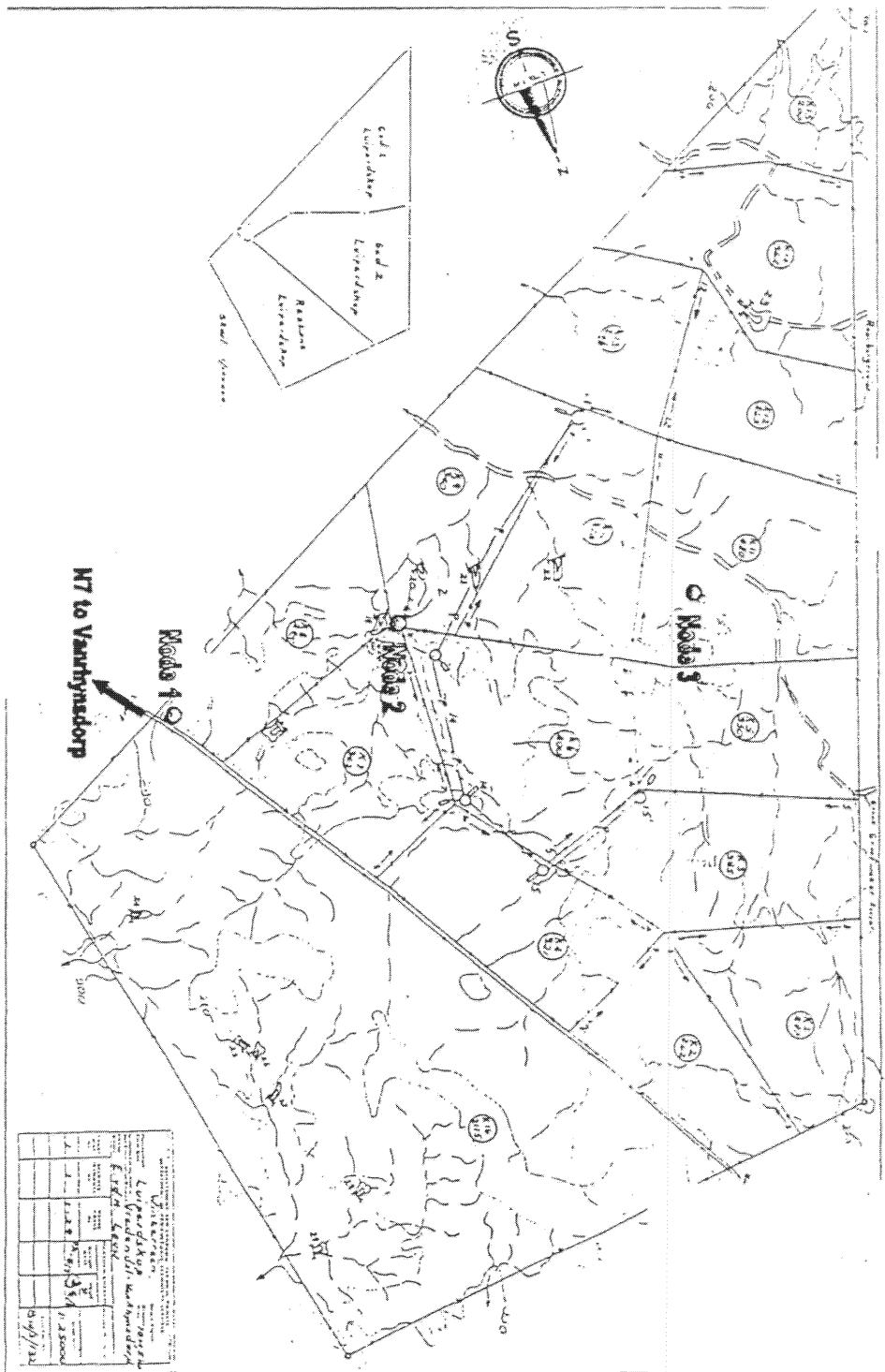


Figure 2. Archaeological and historical study, portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop No. 211, Vantrhynsdorp: approximate location of the three nodes of development.

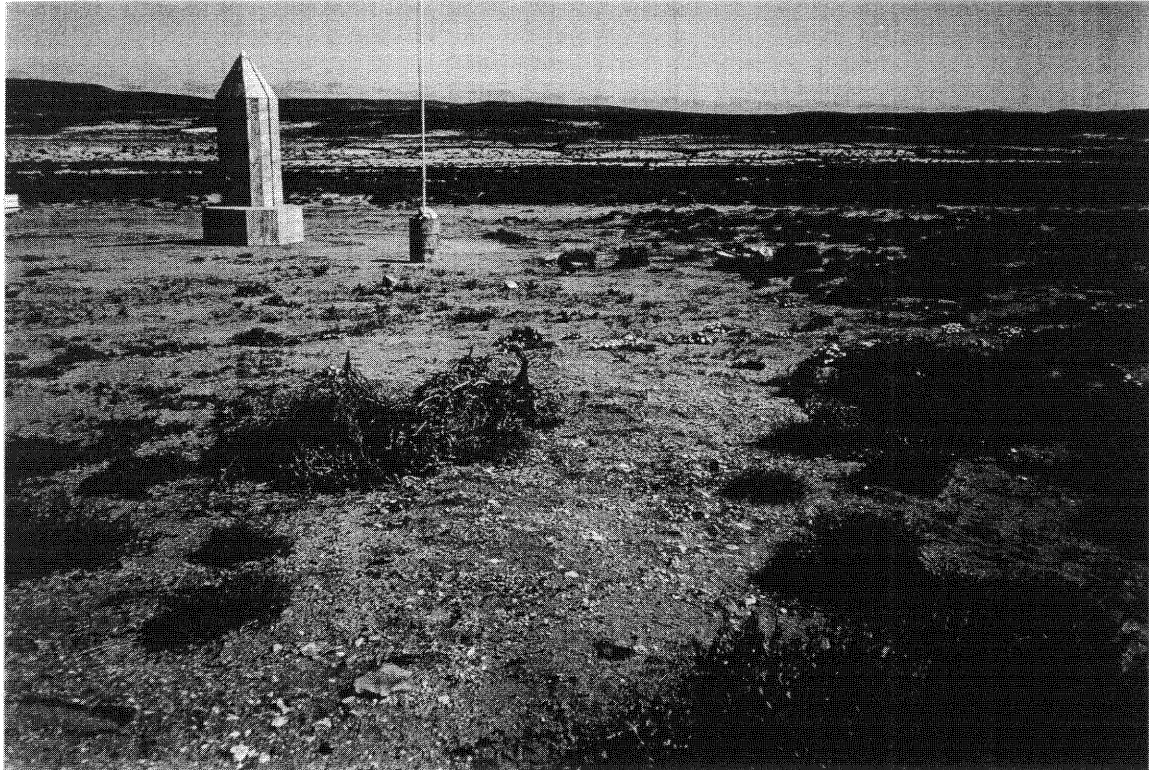


Figure 5. Archaeological and historical study, portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop No. 211, Vanrhynsdorp: domestic middens remains in Node 3.

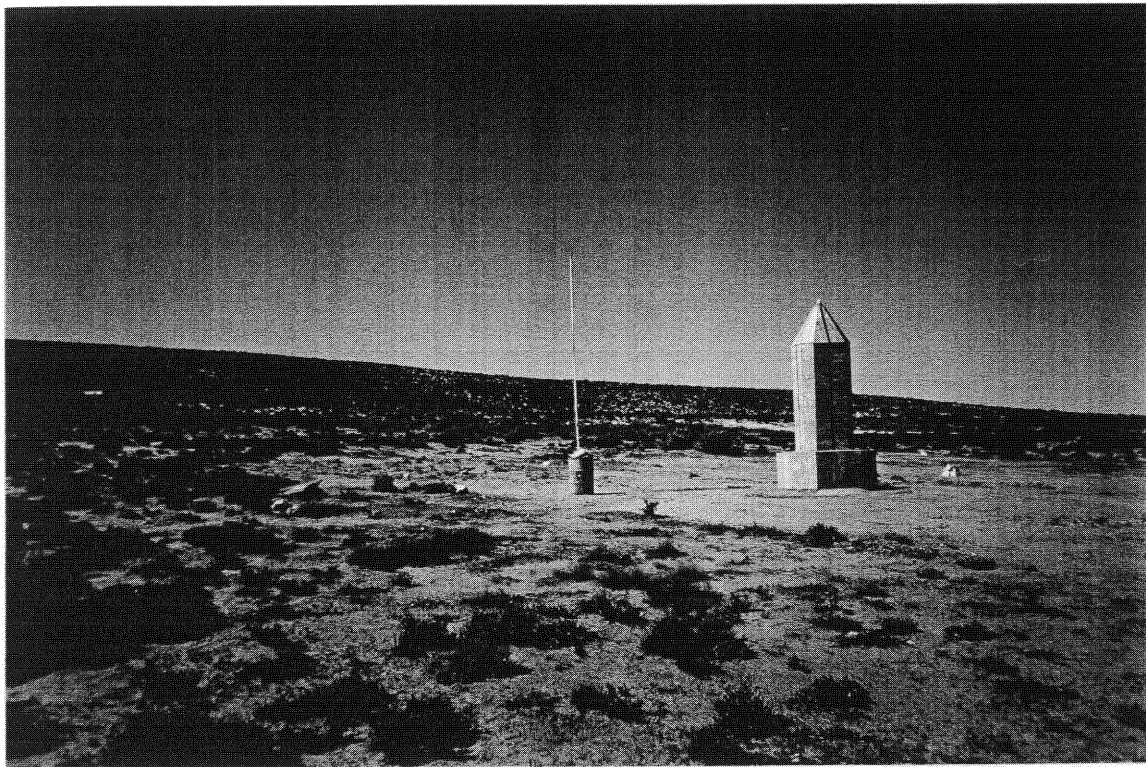


Figure 6. Archaeological and historical study, portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop No. 211, Vanrhynsdorp: existing cultural monument in Node 3. Arrow indicates LSA site on quartz covered slope.

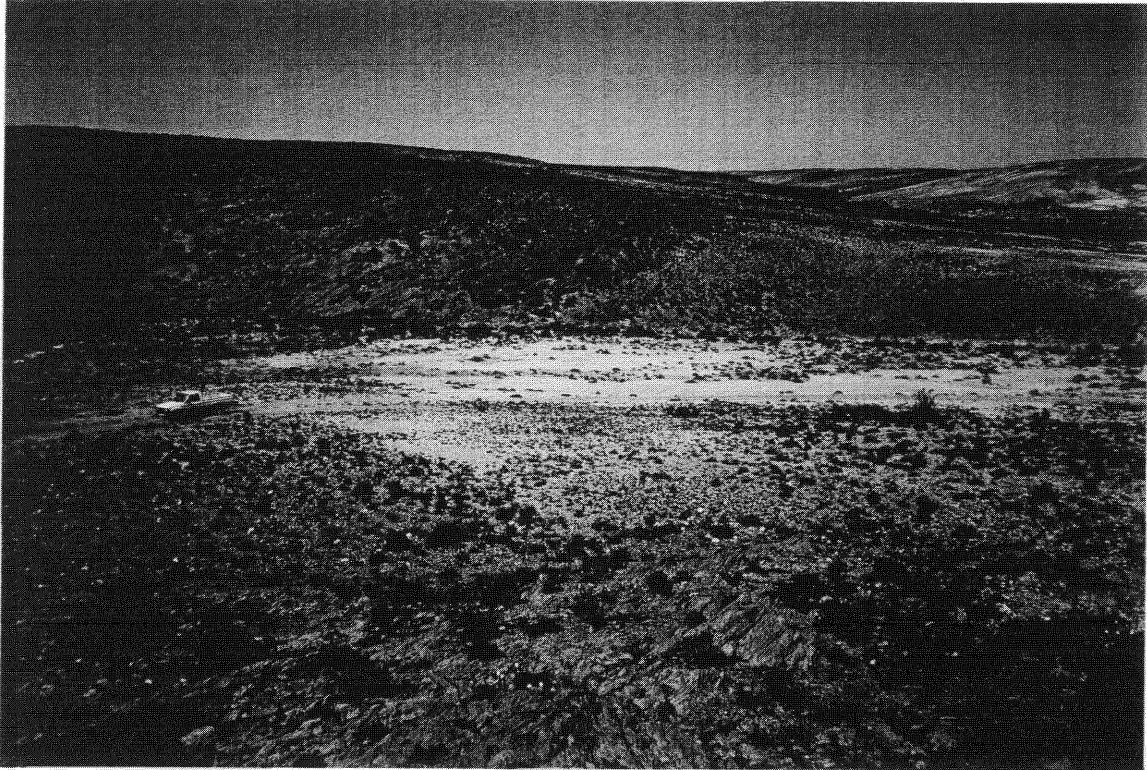


Figure 3. Archaeological and historical study, portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop No. 211, Vanrhynsdorp: arrows indicate series of shelters about 175 metres east of Node 2.



Figure 4. Archaeological and historical study, portion 1 & 2 and the remainder of the farm Luiperskop No. 211, Vanrhynsdorp: large scatter of artefacts on steep slope overlooking gravel road about 250 metres north of Node 2.