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**EAGLE QUARRIES**

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**A PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PORTIONS 1177, 1178,  
1179, 1180, 1181 and 1182 OF THE FARM HARTEBEEPOORT B 410  
JQ IN THE BRITS DISTRICT OF THE NORTH WEST: ADDENDUM TO  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME DONE FOR  
EAGLE QUARRIES**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the result of a Phase I archaeological survey done for Eagle Quarries on the farm Harlebeespoort B 410 JQ in the Brits district of the Central Bankenveld of South Africa. The Bankenveld is located, ecologically speaking, between the Bushveld (to the north) and the Highveld (to the south). For the purposes of this report, this ecozone is divided into the Western Bankenveld, the Central Bankenveld and the Eastern Bankenveld.

The Western Bankenveld is the area around Zeerust, Marico and Swarttruggens in the far north-west. The Central Bankenveld includes the areas around Rustenburg, Marikana and Brits. The Eastern Bankenveld refers to the area to the east of Pretoria and includes the Middelburg district as far east as Belfast and Roossenekal, both granite mining areas. The Central Bankenveld is the focus of this report, which covers a Phase I archaeological survey conducted for Eagle Quarry, operating in the Brits district.

The Western Bankenveld is largely unexplored in terms of its archaeology, compared to the Eastern Bankenveld. However, it is known that the Western Bankenveld, like the Eastern Bankenveld, was once home to numerous Batswana chiefdoms. The remains of stone walled villages which were left behind by these chiefdoms can therefore still be found in this part of the Bankenveld. These chiefdoms emerged five hundred years ago and were destroyed during the *difagane* in the early 19th century. Stone walled villages in the Eastern Bankenveld date from the last five hundred years and are largely associated with the Manala-Ndebele and with the Ndzundza-Ndebele.

The stone walled villages of both the Central Bankenveld (Rustenburg, Marikana, Brits) and the Eastern Bankenveld (Roossenekal, Belfast) are currently endangered by granite mining activities.

The Bankenveld as a whole has a rich archaeological heritage comprised of remains dating from the prehistoric and the historical (or colonial) periods of South Africa. Prehistoric and historical remains in the Bankenveld form a record of the cultural heritage of most groups living in South Africa today. These remains include:

- lime stone caves and underground dwelling sites of the earliest homonoids (ape-man creatures) who lived in South Africa two to three million years ago;

- Stone Age sites which may be associated with the San people and which date back hundreds of thousands of years;
- rock engraving sites located along diabase outcrops and dating from the last 20 000 years;
- rock painting sites in the Magaliesberg and in the Plianesberg Mountains which date from the last 10 000 years;
- Early Iron Age sites occupied by the first Bantu-Negroid agriculturists and possibly cattle herders which date back 1 500 years;
- Late Iron Age sites dating from the last 500 years;
- remains dating from the previous century when the first immigrant Boers settled in various places to the north and the west of the Magaliesberg from the 1840's onwards;
- blockhouses built by British troops during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1900) on the Magaliesberg and other mountain ranges;
- graves and graveyard sites dating from historic and prehistoric times; and
- numerous other formal historical features (the Voortrekker Monument, the Willem Prinsloo agricultural museum, the Pioneers' Open Air Museum, Melrose House, the Sammy Marks Museum, the Paul Kruger house museum in Pretoria and Paul Kruger's farm Boekenhoutfontein to the north of Rustenburg, the Rustenburg and Zeerust museums, etc.).

The implementation of the new National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999), which replaced the old National Monuments Act (Act No 28 of 1969) on 1 April 2000, has dramatically altered the *status quo* and the future of South Africa's cultural heritage. This law, as well as other laws relevant to the cultural heritage of South Africa, are briefly outlined in this report.

## 2 AIMS OF THIS REPORT

Eagle Quarries is currently mining granite on Portions 1177, 1178 and 1179 of the farm Hartebeespoort B 410 JQ. A Phase I archaeological survey was completed for Eagle Quarries on these portions (see Bibliography).

Eagle Quarries, however, intends to extend granite mining operations to include Portions 1180, 1181 and 1182 of the farm Hartebeespoort B 410 JQ. Consequently, Eagle Quarries now has to establish whether any cultural resources occur on these portions and, if so, what the nature, the extent and the significance of these remains are. Eagle Quarries therefore commissioned me to undertake a Phase I archaeological survey of Portions 1180, 1181 and 1181 of the farm Hartebeespoort B 410JQ. The aim of the survey was to:

- establish whether any cultural resources do occur on Portions 1180, 1181 and 1182 of the farm Hartebeespoort B 410 JQ, and if so, what the nature, the extent and the significance of these remains are;
- determine whether such remains will be affected by mining activities; and
- evaluate what appropriate actions could be taken to reduce the impact of mining activities on such remains.

This report provides a synthesis of the results obtained during the Phase I survey of Portions 1177, 1178 and 1179 and the Phase I survey done for Portions 1180, 1181 and 1182.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND LEGISLATION

Eagle Quarries study areas are located on the farm Hartebeespoort B 410 JQ and are therefore situated in the archaeologically sensitive Central Barkeveld. All settlements older than a hundred years and all structures or parts of structures older than 60 years located in this region are protected by legislation. A synopsis of the relevant legislation is provided below. It must serve as a guideline to be considered before any development project is undertaken.

#### 3.1 The Environment Conservation Act (Act No 73 of 1989)

The Environment Conservation Act (Act No 73 of 1989) makes provision for the drawing up of reports concerning the impact on the environment of activities identified and prohibited in terms of Sections 21 and 22 respectively. These reports must evaluate the impact that development may have on the natural and man-made environment, and this includes archaeological sites.

Local and regional authorities (Town Councils, Regional Governments and Regional Services Councils) also have regulations requiring evaluation of the possible effects that rezoning and development schemes may have on the environment, including the cultural environment. These regulations must be studied to ensure that they are implemented correctly.

#### 3.2 The Minerals Act (Act No 50 of 1991)

The Minerals Act (Act No 50 of 1991) and the Minerals Amendment Act (Act No 103 of 1993) require plans for the conservation of the environment at or in the vicinity of any mine or works to be detailed in an environmental management programme (EMP). The EMP must indicate how the natural and the 'man-made' environment will be protected and rehabilitated during and after the mining.

#### 3.3 The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999) requires all developers (including engineers, farmers [agriculturists] and mines, previously excluded from the bill) to undertake impact assessment studies whenever any development activities are undertaken. The law also provides guidelines for impact assessment studies to be done whenever cultural resources may be destroyed by development activities. Permits have to be acquired from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

before a heritage site can be affected or destroyed during the course of development activities.

Archaeological impact assessment studies have therefore become a common procedure for all development activities, even if such development may be exempted in terms of the Environment Conservation Act.

The new law stipulates the types of remains which qualify as cultural resources (heritage). These cultural resources are graded into national, provincial and other cultural heritage resources. The law stipulates general principles for heritage resources management and involves all three levels of government in the management of the country's cultural heritage. The law also requires community participation in the protection of living heritage resources.

SAHRA establishes and maintains a national policy, strategy plans and standards for heritage resources management and will monitor the system as a whole. Heritage authorities assist and co-operate with individuals and organisations concerned with the study, the conservation and the promotion and utilisation of national heritage resources. A newly established National Heritage Resources Fund provides financial assistance for heritage projects.



#### 4 THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE EAGLE QUARRIES STUDY AREA

##### 4.1 The Eagle Quarries study area

Eagle Quarries intends to mine granite on six portions of the Kareepoort Mountain on the farm Hartebeespoort B 410 JQ in the Brits district of the North West. The Kareepoort Mountain forms part of the series and chains of granite hills north of the Magaliesberg which are spread from the Plianesberg in the north-west to Onderstepoort in the south-east. Prominent natural landmarks close to the Kareepoort Mountains are Rooikoppies and Elandsrand to the east, the Langeberge to the north-east and the Crocodile River and the Karree Spruit located to the east and to the west of the mountain respectively.

Along the bases of the Kareepoort Mountains and the granite hills between the Plianesberg and Onderstepoort there are hundreds of stone walled settlements built and occupied by numerous Batswana and Ndebele chiefdoms during the last five hundred years. The Eagle Quarries study area, from an archaeological and historical perspective, was therefore part of the sphere of influence of Batswana groups such as the Bakwena Bamôgôpa and the Bakwena Bamogale. The area to the east of Hartebeespoort was once the domain of the Bakgatla Bammakau/Bamotša and the area to the west of the Kareepoort Mountains was the domain of the Bapô. These Batswana clans occupied the Bankeveld for the last half millennium. The first white settlers arrived in this part of what is today the North West during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Most of the Bakwena Bamôgôpa today occupy towns such as Berseba, Hebron and Bethanië. During the second decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the capital of one section of the Bakwena Bamôgôpa was located on what is today the farm Mamogaleskraal, to the north-east of Brits. When the Matabele of Mzilikazi arrived in the Bankeveld around 1827, they subjected the Bakwena Bamôgôpa and established several residential villages (*imisi*) and military villages (*amakhanda*) adjacent to the Bamôgôpa capital. This Matabele village complex was known as Emhlalandlela. Its remains, as well as those of a part of the Bamôgôpa village, were recently discovered during an archaeological survey of the area to the north-east of Brits.

#### 4.2 Contextualising the Eagle Quarries study area

The Bankeveld is a narrow strip of land between the northern part of South Africa and the centrally situated Highveld. This area is roughly demarcated by Krugersdorp in the south, the Pienaars River to the north, Bronkhorstspuit in the east and the Plianesberg to the west. This region can be divided into three parallel ecozones, running from east to west, namely the grassveld of the southern Highveld and the northerly Bushveld, with the Magaliesberg valley forming a central ecozone.

The central ecozone of the Bankeveld is covered by older grabbo penetrated by younger vulcanic magma which formed a series and chains of pyramid-shaped granite hills from the Plianesberg in the north-west to Onderstepoort near Pretoria in the east. These hills, as part of the Magaliesberg valley, form a unique ecozone characterised by grassveld, savanna veld and near wooded valleys. The region has abundant surface water supplies, because the local Pienaar, the Moretele, the Hex and the Apies Rivers all drain their waters into the Crocodile River.

The interaction in this part of the former Transvaal, over millions of years, between the climate, geology, topography, and the fauna and flora in the Bankeveld has established a milieu in which the first Batswana, who practised herding, agriculture, metal working and trading, found a suitable living environment. It was here that their chiefdoms flourished.

The settlements of these early Batswana chiefdoms are characterised by an impressive and elaborate stone-built tradition. Thousands of sites were built along the bases of the granite hills. These chiefdoms emerged, according to oral history, from the start of the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Small vanguards of these agro-pastoralists may, however, have been present in this area as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century. One of the earliest known ancestors was Mogale, from whose name the Magaliesberg derives its name.

These archaeological remains have provisionally been termed the Mabyanamatswana complex. This arbitrary identity is derived from oral history which describes a diaspora of Sotho-Tswana clans from two particular localities (there must have been more) in the former Transvaal area. One of these centres was Mabyanamatswana (or Swartkoppies) which is situated to the north-east of Brits. Rathateng, situated at the confluence of the Crocodile and Marico Rivers, was a second centre of dispersal.

Bakwena clans dispersed from Rathateng to settle primarily in the north-western parts of the Transvaal (e.g. the Bamodimosana, Bahurutshé, Baphalane, Bamôgôpa). Bakgatia clans spread from Mabyanamatshwana to settle in the Plianesberg and, from there, they migrated to Botswana (Bagakgatêla), to the Springbok flats and to Sekhukhuneiland (Bamotša and BaMmakau). Some Bafokeng and Bakwena clans who departed from Mabyanamatshwana, probably during an earlier period, settled further south near Heidelberg and in the Orange Free State.

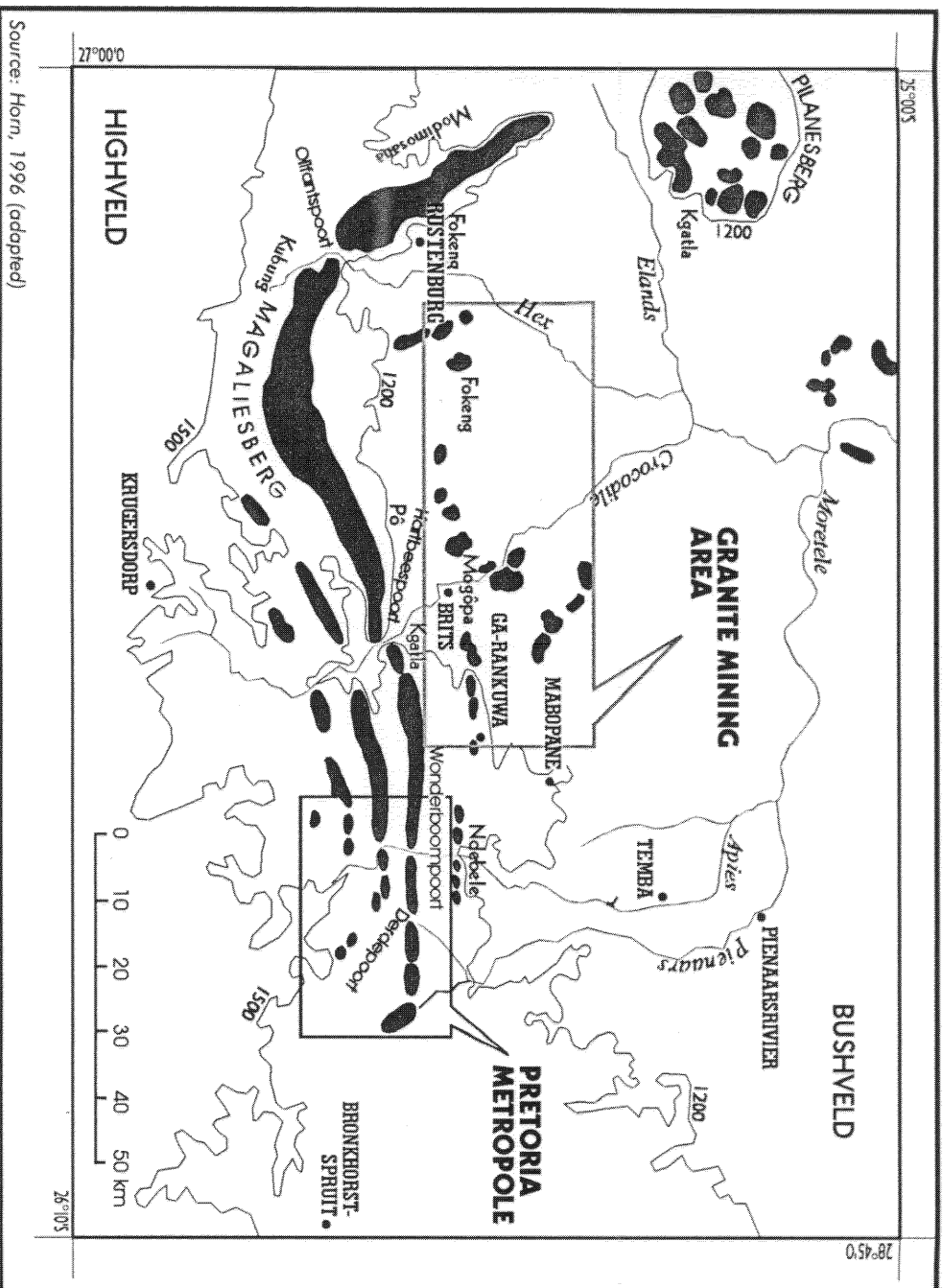
Numerous pre-*difaqane* and *difaqane* wars took place in the Central Bankeveld during the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the first three decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These wars led to the displacement of large numbers of Batswana in the Bankeveld. Refugee sites occupied by *dislocados* became a common sight. The Matabele of Mzilikazi caused chaos and havoc in the Bankeveld. The Matabele established several settlement complexes in this region from whence they maintained their hold on the indigenous population. Several of these Zulu/Nguni residences (*imisi*) and military kraals (*amakhanda*) have been discovered during the last two years during archaeological surveys in the Bankeveld.

Complex historical events occurred over a period of two centuries (AD1600-1800) and some of these are very briefly outlined above. The causes underlying the movements of these clans were political and ecological: an increasing number of groups competed for grazing, agricultural land, minerals such as iron and copper and trade routes to convey various commodities.

Trade developed rapidly between mega-centres (or dominant spheres of influence) in the Bankeveld, but also between Batswana domains and emerging chiefdoms elsewhere in the Transvaal, e.g. those of the Bapedi (in Sekhukhuneiland), the Bahurutshé (in the Zeerus/Marico districts) and the Barolong/Bathlaping (in the Northern Cape and in the far south of the North West on the route to the Cape Colony). During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, trade took on formidable proportions as the Cape Colony (through middlemen such as Griqua traders) bartered with the Batswana chiefdoms of the interior.

These historical events were complex and are not fully recorded in oral traditions or in any other records. They can therefore only be unravelled by means of the methods and theory associated with archaeological research.

Figure 1 - The context of the farm Hartbeespoort B 410 JQ in the Central Bankveld of the North West. Note the different Batswana spheres of influence which existed from the 16th century onwards in this part of the country.



Source: Horn, 1996 (adapted)

Eagle Quarries' granite mine located against the northern slope of the Kareepoort Mountains

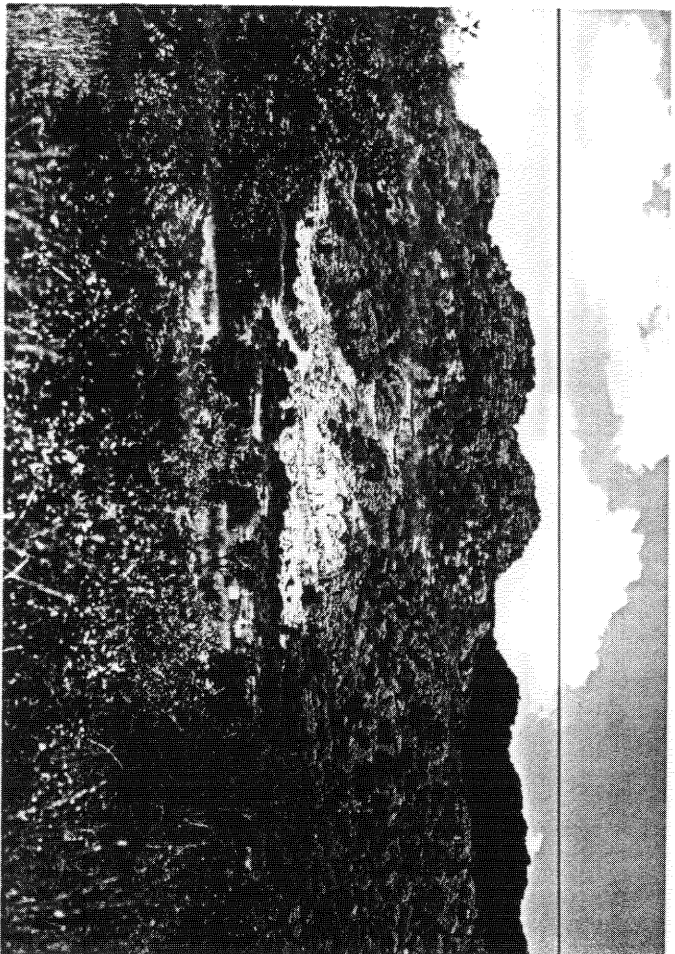
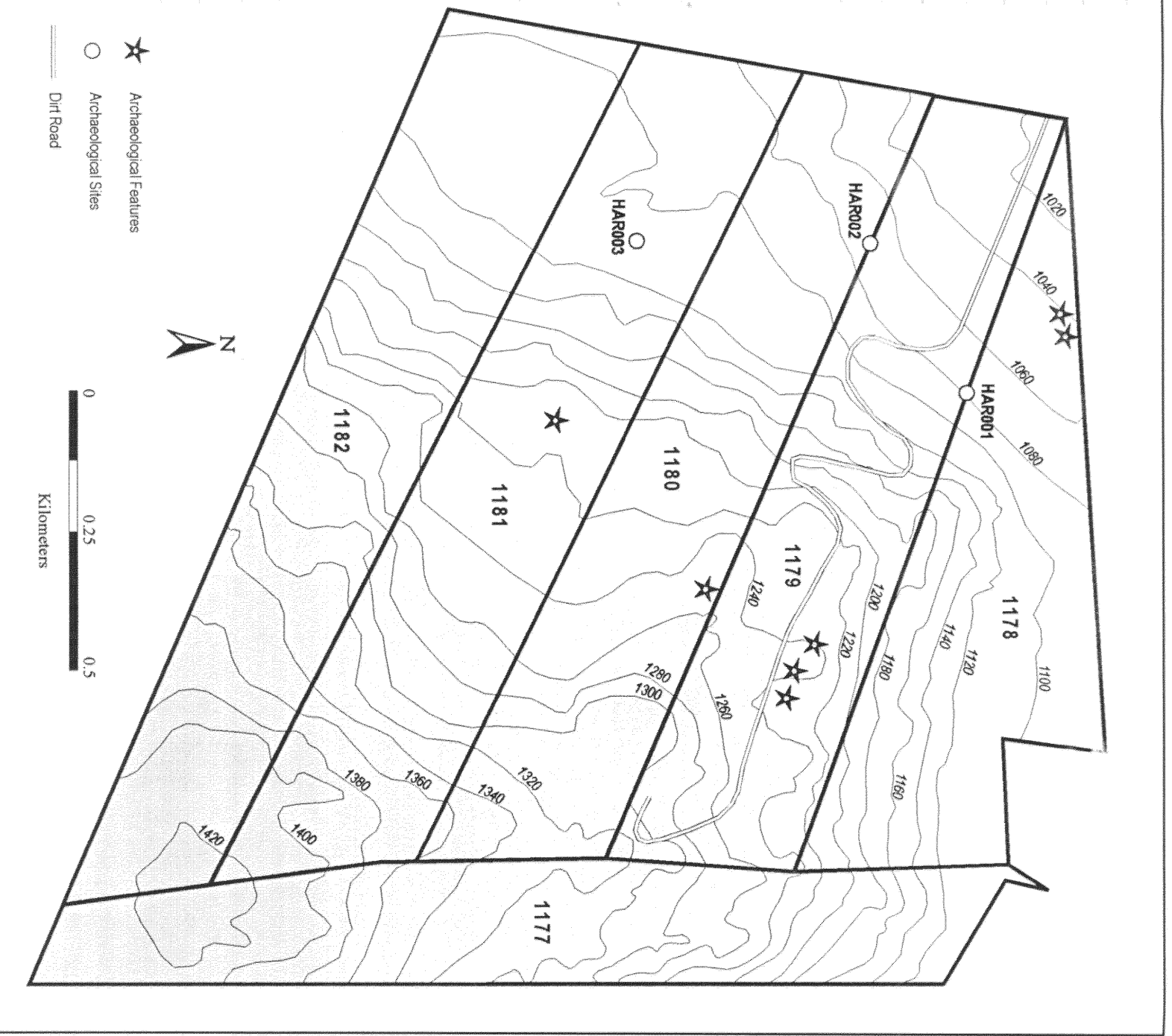


Figure 2 - Eagle Quarries's study areas on the farm Hartbeespoort B 410 JQ



## 5 METHODOLOGY

Portions 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181 and 1182 of the farm Hartebeeshoek B 410 JQ was subjected to a Phase I archaeological survey from August to September 2000. The aim of the survey was to identify the possible presence of any of the cultural resources listed in the Introduction to this report.

The Phase I survey was conducted on foot.

Lush vegetation is not conducive to the detection of cultural resources. Therefore, the larger part of the Phase I survey was completed during August to September 2000 when the grass cover had receded somewhat due to winter conditions. However, the exceptionally high summer rainfall during the summer of 1999 and the early part of 2000, had resulted in exceptionally luxuriant winter veld cover that was not conducive to field work. The lush veld cover made foot patrols extremely difficult, time-consuming and, in some places, impossible.

A study of aerial photographs provided by Photographmesura and the Department of Surveying and Mapping (scale 1:50 000, 1:10 000 and 1:5 000) of the Kareepoort Mountain proved to be of limited use in identifying sites with low stone walls such as those that were discovered on the western foot of the Kareepoort Mountain. From such photographs, it, however, appear that sites with high stone walls occur in reasonably large numbers in the south-eastern corner of the Kareepoort Mountains.

## 6 TYPES OF STONE WALLED SITES IN THE CENTRAL BANKEVELD AND ON HARTEBEESSPOORT B 410 JQ

### 6.1 The range of cultural resources in the Central Bankeveld

Two archaeological surveys to be done during March 2000 for two granite mines to be established to the west of the Kareepoort Mountain (in the Tshopje Mountain) could not be done due to the high rainfall and the lush vegetation. Spokespersons, however, indicated that the only cultural resources they knew of in this part of the Central Bankeveld were:

- Stone Age sites associated with the San people and which may date back hundreds of thousands of years;
- Late Iron Age sites dating from the last 500 years;
- remains dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the first immigrant Boers settled in places such as Mooirooi, Marikana, Rustenburg and Schaapkraal, to the north of the Magaliesberg from the 1840's onwards; and
- graves and graveyard sites dating from pre-historical and historical times as well as from the relatively recent past.

It would appear from interviews with the spokespeople and from surveys done in the granite hills between Onderstepoort and the Plianesberg that stone walled settlements are the most common type of cultural resources to be expected in the Tshopje and the Kareepoort Mountains. The Phase I survey of Portions 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181 and 1182 revealed only stone walled sites. These sites were probably occupied by Batswana groups .

The Batswana chiefdoms of the Bankeveld, during and before the *difagane* wars, must have been characterised by various types of specialised settlements and not only by common residential villages (*metse*). Specialised types of settlements probably included:

- ceremonial centres such as rain-making sites;



- initiation sites for boys and girls situated some distance from residential sites; and sites where traders rested during long journeys;
- settlements occupied by disrupted or uprooted groups of people (also referred to as *dislocados*)
- metal working (smelting and forging) sites;
- military or regimental villages; and
- cattle stations.

This Phase I survey done for Eagle Quarries, as well as a survey done in 1997 for Nyala Granite on Portions 1152 and 1153 of Hartebeespoort B 410 JQ, proved that several types of settlements can be distinguished in this part of the Central Bankveld. The most common types of settlement to be found are 'traditional' Batswana residential villages.

## 6.2 'Traditional' Batswana residential sites

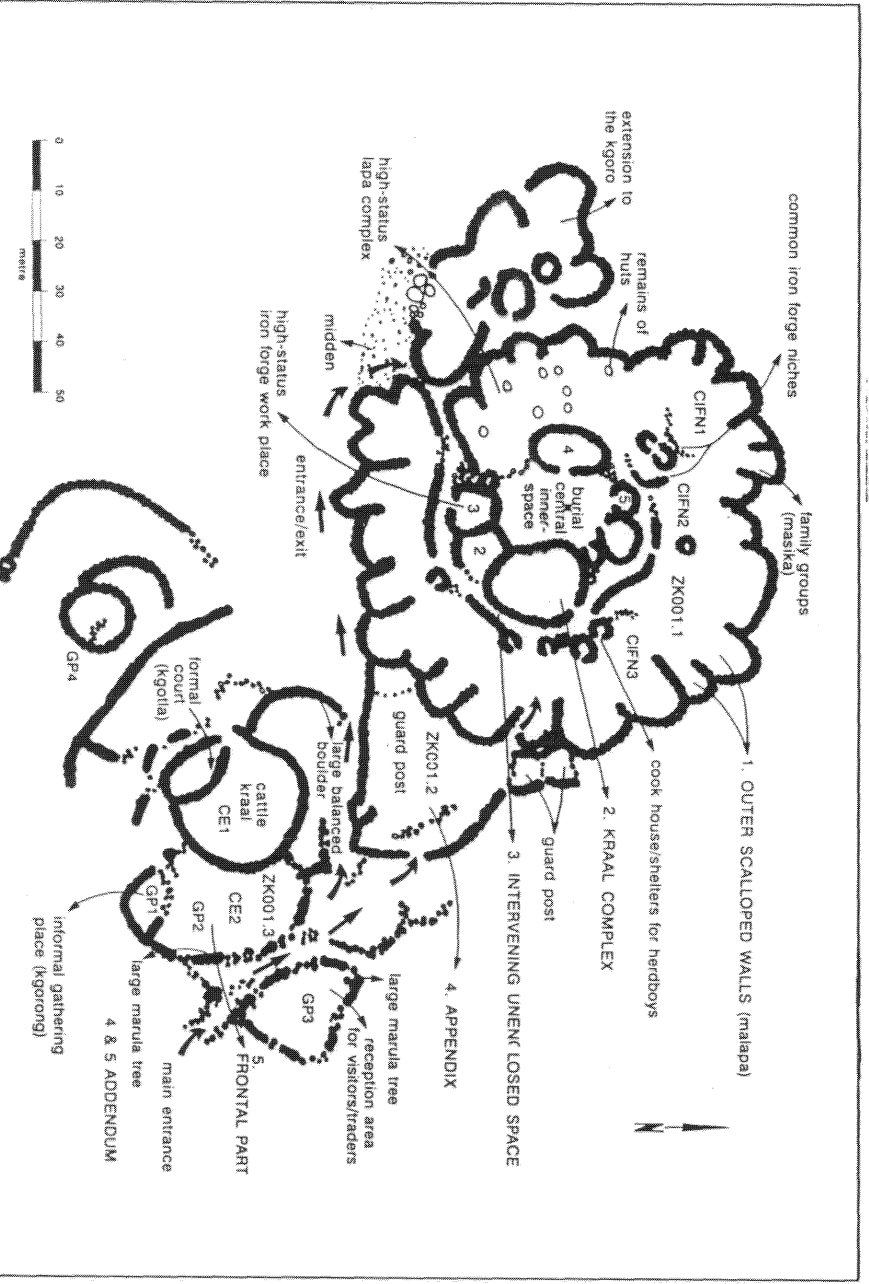
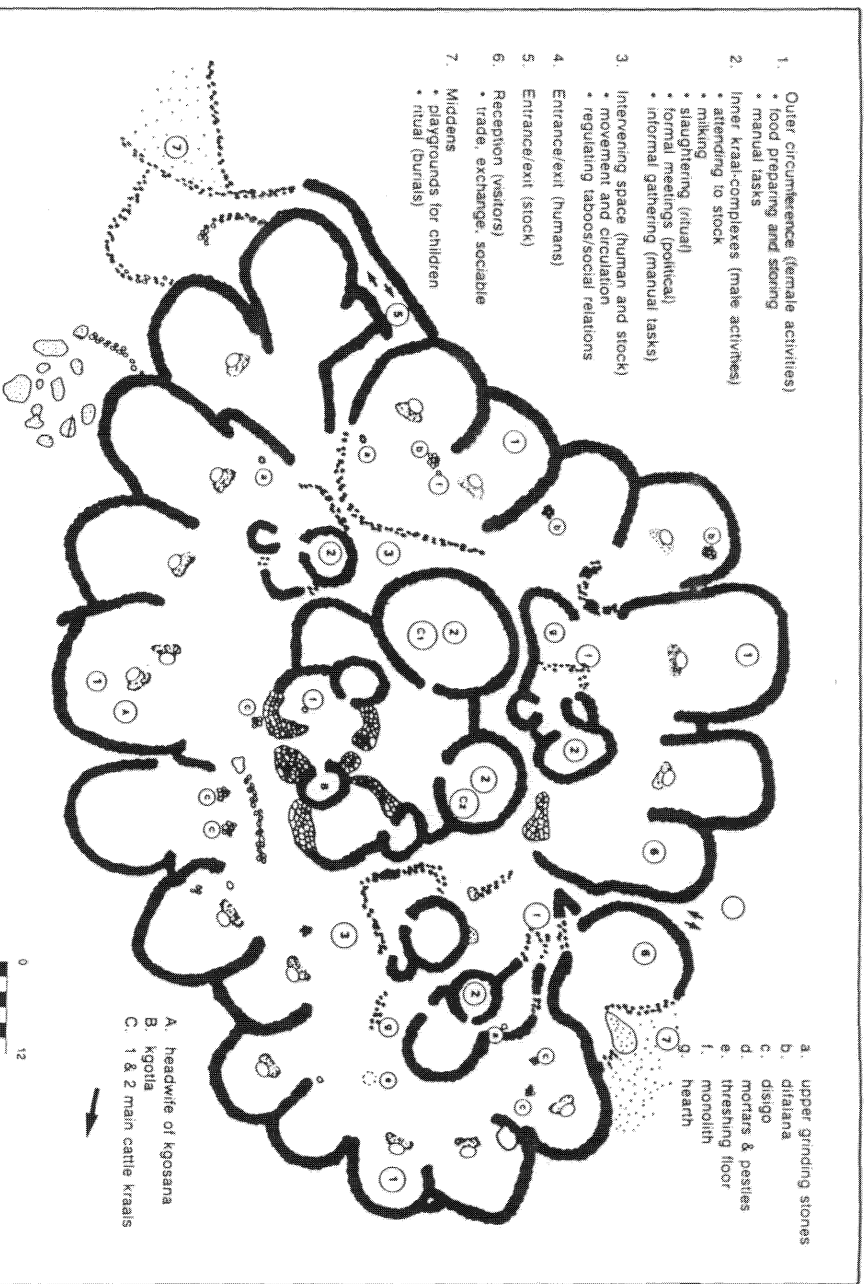
The spatial features and composition of 'traditional' Batswana settlements amongst the Bakgatla and the Bakwena are briefly reviewed below in order to illuminate the meaning and the significance of these sites.

The macro settlement patterns of Bakwena villages were characterised by a tripartite division, namely the *kgosing* or central part of the village occupied by the *kgosi*, and two other divisions located on both sides of the *fa gare* (central part), namely the *nthla ya godimo* and the *nthla ya thlase* occupied by the paternal relatives of the chief. These Bakwena residential villages (*metse*) were built on level ground due to the large surfaces they covered. It seems that the macro settlement patterns of Bakgatla villages did not have the same cohesive nature that Bakwena villages had. Bakgatla villages were, in some instances, located on higher ground, but still against the lower contour lines and against the softer slopes of hills.

The micro settlement patterns of both Bakwena and Bakgatla villages were marked by outer scalloped walls that housed numerous related family groups (*masika*) and which encircled a varying number of kraal complexes. Bakwena *dikgoro* were characterised by 'the Bakwena spatial nexus' which refers to the spatial relation between a main dwelling, a principal cattle kraal and a courtyard. Bakgatla (or Bapedi) *dikgoro*, however, were characterised by the *letlatswa* which consisted of a main entrance, a

court (*kgotla*), a *kgorong* and a cattle kraal. Both Bakwena and Bakgatla villages therefore had clear, interpretable spatial features and compositions which could be related to Bakwena and Bakgatla ethnography.

The spatial composition of a traditional Batswana (Bakwena) village is illustrated below and that of a Bakgatla residential village at the bottom of the page.



## 7 THE PHASE I SURVEY

### 7.1 General

Most of Portions 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181 and 1182 of the farm Hartebeespoort B 410 JQ were surveyed on foot. These portions cover the north-western corner of the Kareepoort Mountain. Plateaus on the mountain are covered with dense grass and the slopes and foot of the mountain are overgrown with trees and shrubbery. It is therefore possible that sites may have been missed during the survey.

The survey only revealed the presence of stone walled sites. No other categories of cultural resources, such as those mentioned in the Introduction to this report or by spokespersons, were observed on Portions 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181 and 1182.

The stone walled sites and features discovered in the study area can be divided into the following types:

- sites located against the western foot of the Kareepoort Mountain.
- features located against low granite knolls.
- sites and features located on flat areas (plateaux) of the Kareepoort Mountain.

### 7.2 Sites located against the western foot of the Kareepoort Mountain

Several stone walled sites are located against the western slope of the Kareepoort Mountains. At least three large villages composed of low stone walls were discovered on Portions 1177 and 1178, on Portion 1179 and Portion 1180 and on Portion 1181. These sites are designated Site HAR001, HAR002 and HAR003 in this report.

#### **Site HAR001**

(This site was designated Site KAR001 in an earlier report).

Site HAR001 covers a large surface on both Portions 1178 and 1179. It is not clear whether this site was composed of one individual settlement or whether it was comprised of a cluster of individual sites grouped together.

The spatial features and composition of this site could not be studied in detail as the site was covered by low bushes and with tall grass at the time when the survey was done.

The features that could be observed, however, suggest that this site differs in its spatial composition and general features from those of 'traditional' Bakgatla and Bakwena residential villages, as well as from settlements used by *discocados* who sometimes occupied settlements on high parts of mountains.

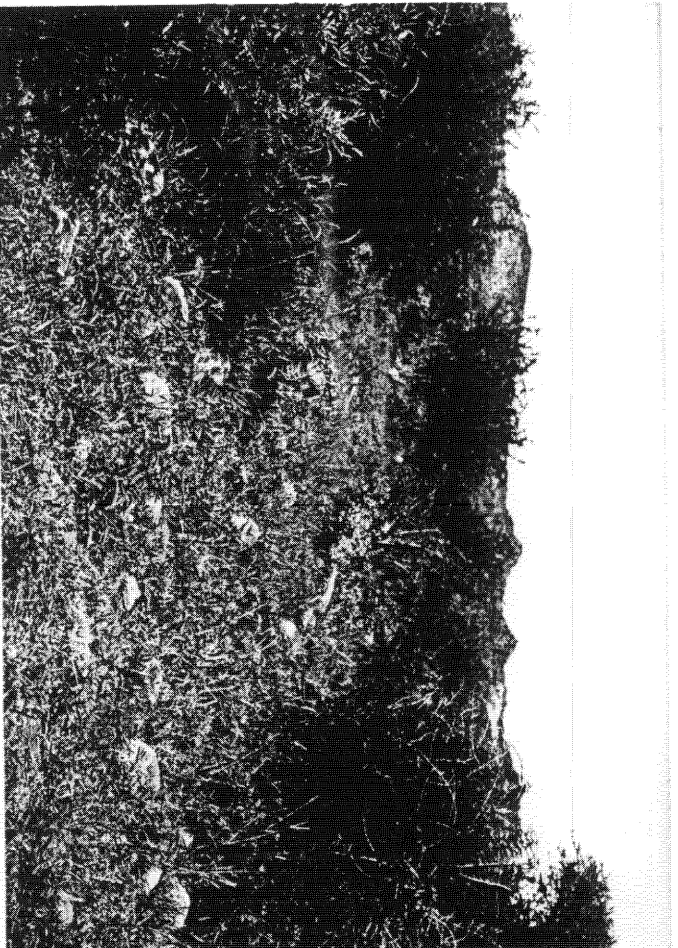
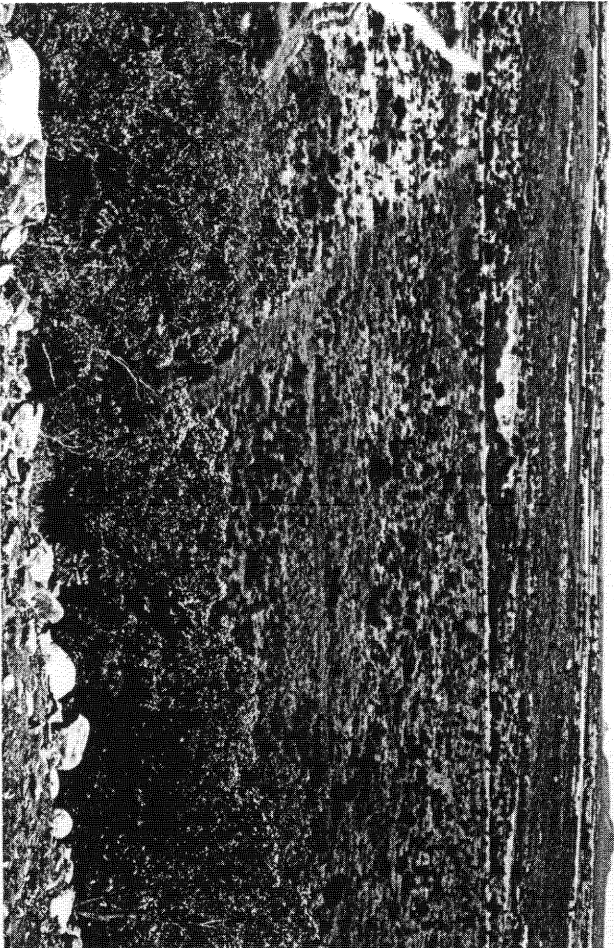
A substantial part of Site HAR001 has been destroyed by granite mining activities. Eagle Quarries' predecessors caused this destruction at a time when the National Monuments Act (Act No 28 of 1969) was still in place.

Site HAR001 once covered more than one hectare. If size is one of the criteria used to judge the significance of settlements on the Kareepoort Mountain, Site HAR001 can be considered to be significant.

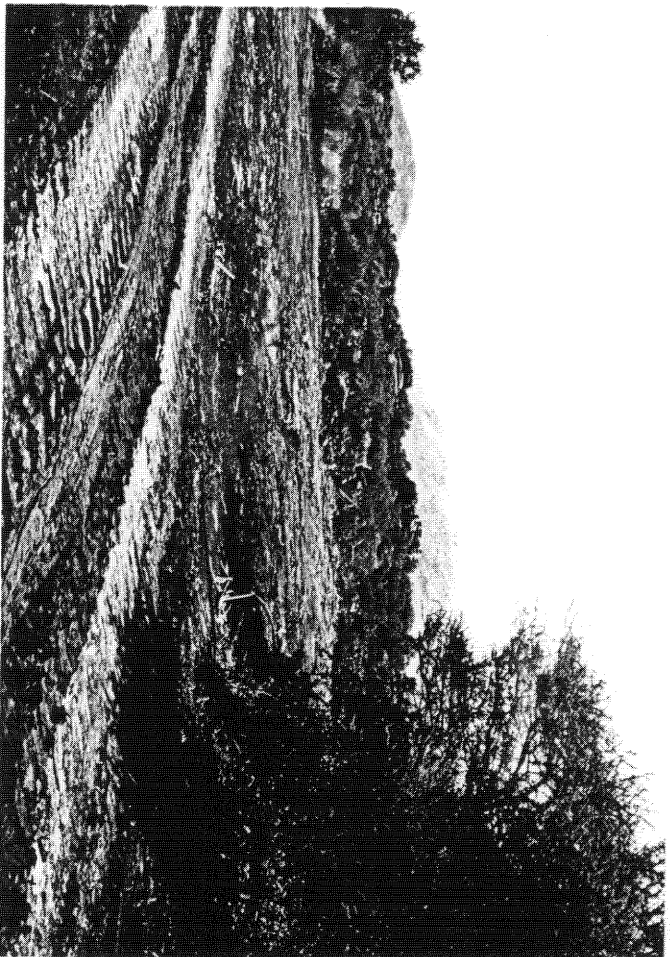
Some of the features of this site are illustrated with photographs.

The border fence between Portion 1178 and Portion 1179 can be seen to the right (east) of the dirt road. Site HAR001 is located on both these portions at the foot of the Kareepoort Mountains (foreground).

Site HAR001 is overgrown with vegetation. Low stone walls barely visible above the ground and between the vegetation, indicate the presence of this site which covers a substantial surface on Portions 1178 and Portion 1179 of the farm Hartebeespoort B 410 JQ (above and below).



A part of Site HAR001 on Portion 1179 was destroyed when a block yard was prepared to store granite blocks on a flat piece of land.



A lower grinding stone on the surface of Site HAR001.

## **Site HAR002**

Site HAR002 is located in a thicket of trees on the border of Portions 1179 and 1180. This site is characterised by low stone walls and cannot be recognised at first glance because its stone walls are so low.

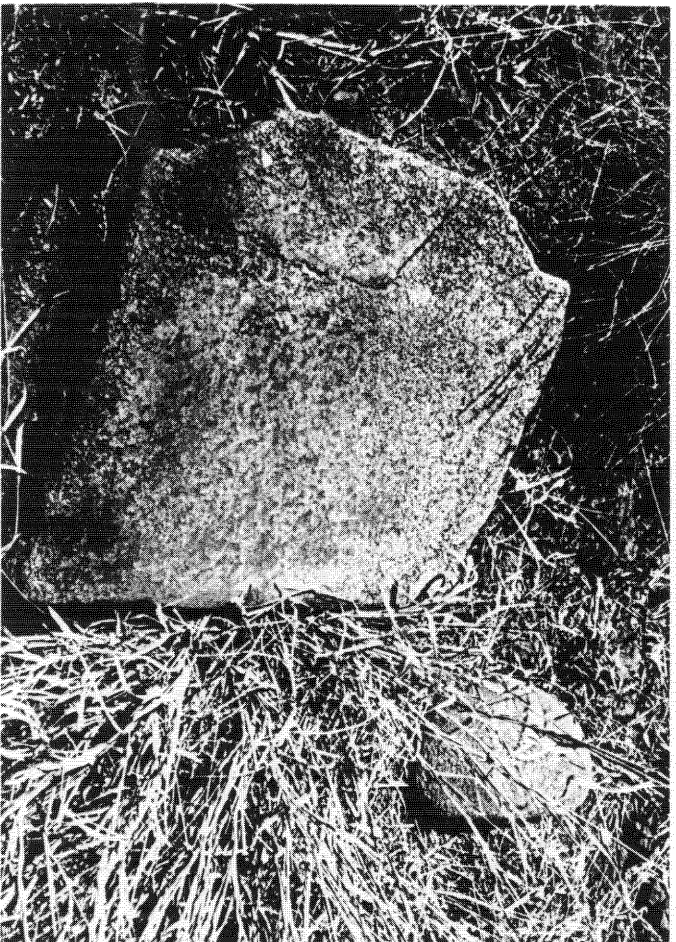
The site covers a considerable surface, perhaps as much as one hectare. Several dirt roads have been bulldozed through this site. The larger part of the site, however, is still intact.

Pottery fragments, a lower grinding stone and clay nodules from huts were observed on the surface of the site.

Some of the features of this site are illustrated with photographs.



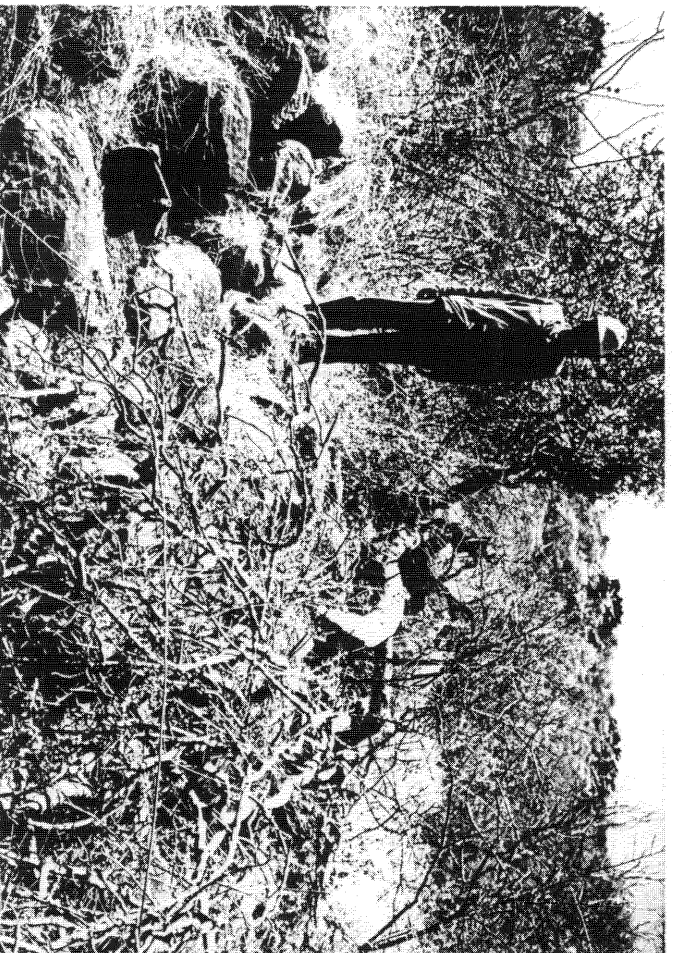
Clay nodules were exposed when huts were bulldozed.



A lower grinding stone uncovered by bulldozing activities.

### **Site HAR003**

Site HAR003 is located to the north of a ravine on the western slope of the Kareepoort Mountain. This site is located on Portion 1181. Site HAR003 extends from near the foot of the Kareepoort Mountain up the lower slope of the mountain. The site is overgrown with sickle-bush, which prevented a proper investigation of its ground plan and spatial composition.



Site HAR003 is overgrown by sickle-bush. The site stretches up the slope from the western foot of the Kareepoort Mountain.

### **7.3 Features located against low granite knolls on Portion 1178**

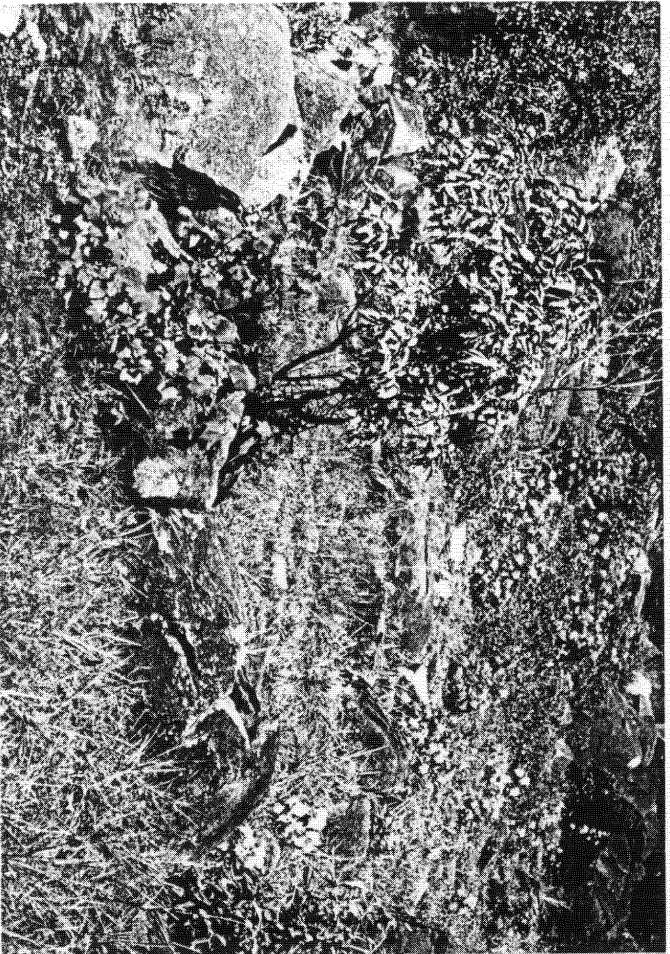
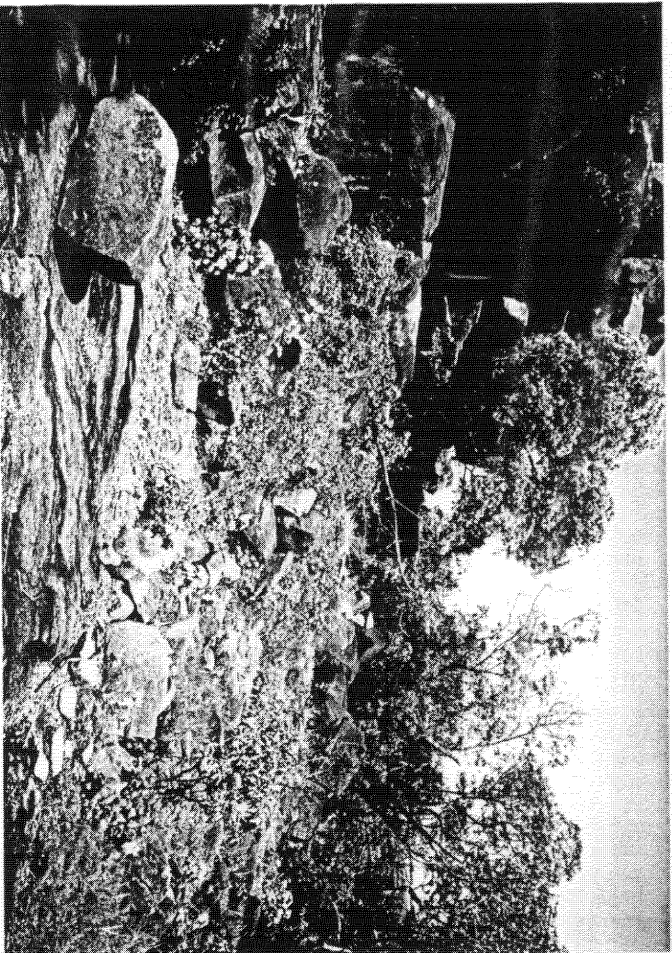
(These features were designated Features KAR002 in an earlier report).

Features consisting of possible hut foundations and short stretches of stone walls were observed in association with the granite knolls located to the north of the Kareepoort Mountain on Portion 1178 of the Eagle Quarries premises. The meaning and significance of these features are not clear.

These features have little or no significance when considered in isolation. It is most likely that they are part of Site HAR001 located against the western foot of the Kareepoort Mountain.

Some of the features of this site are illustrated with photographs.

Rudimentary stone walls noticeable against the granite knolls on Portion 1178 of Hartbeespoort B 410JQ. These features are probably part of Site HAR001.



The remains of what seem like hut foundations at the base of granite knolls on Portion 1178 of Hartbeespoort B 410 JQ. These features are part of Site HAR001.

#### **7.4 Sites and features located on the Kareepoort Mountain**

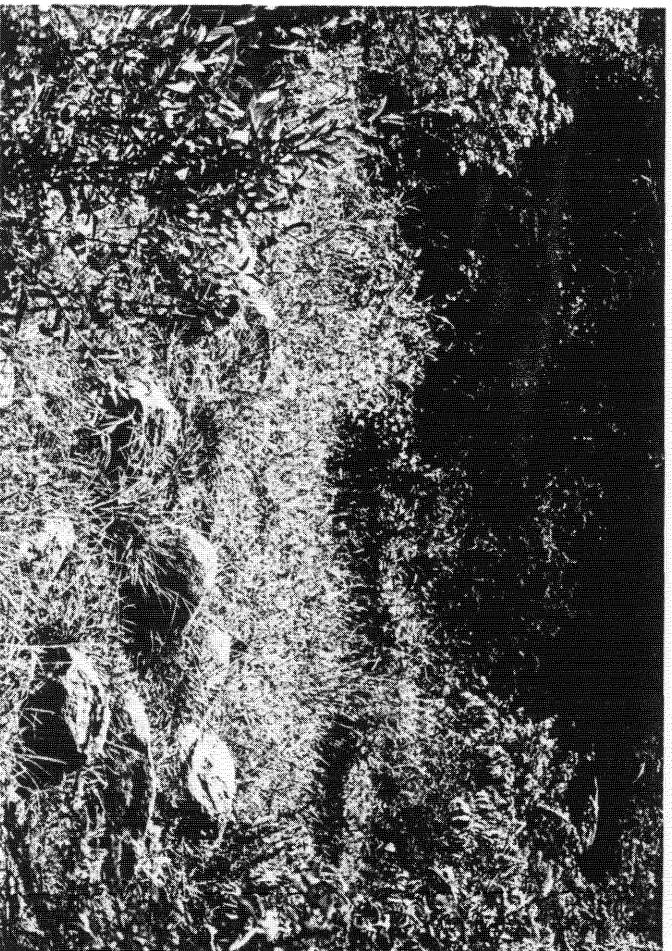
Stone walls are visible on the Kareepoort Mountain where this Phase I survey was done for Eagle Quarries. These stone walls, however, are not parts of what can be described as the type of Batswana settlement outlined in Part 6 of this report.

Stone walls were observed in at least four localities on Portion 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181 and 1182. These stone walls seldom exceed five metres in length and are no higher than 1 metre in height. These stone walls occur as isolated entities and were not part of any site or site(s).

It is possible that more about the nature and significance of some of these stone walls can be established when the grass cover on the mountain has burnt.

These stone walls have little significance and meaning particularly when viewed in isolation.

Short series of stone walls not clearly visible in the tall grass were observed in the Eagle Mining premises (above). These walls, however, are not part of (large) Batswana villages and therefore have little archaeological significance (also see below).



## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Central Bankenveld is a nuclear area with regard to the origins, the development of the Sotho-Tswana, one of the larger population groups in Southern Africa, during the last four to five centuries. The Central Bankenveld was probably the most heavily populated region in South Africa south of the Limpopo River from as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. This region therefore has a rich archaeological heritage, but it is also characterised by intense development. Attempts should therefore be made to protect this heritage by means of appropriate methods, such as pro-active research projects and reactive impact studies. This report represents the results of one such study commissioned by Eagle Quarries.

Eagle Quarries' mining area is located more or less in the middle of the Central Bankenveld and clearly it lies in an area which falls between the domains of different Batswana groups. Stone walled sites dating from the Late Iron Age do occur on Portions 1177 and 1178 and on Portions 1181 and 1182 of Hartebeespoort B 410 JQ. At least two settlements, Site HAR001 and HAR002, have already been partly destroyed by granite mining activities. It seems that these destructive activities occurred when the old National Monuments Council's Act (Act No 28 of 1969) was still in place.

Eagle Quarries has to comply with the requirements of new cultural heritage legislation. Consequently, it is recommended that:

- an archaeologist applies for a permit from SAHRA to conduct Phase II investigations of the remaining parts of Site HAR001 and Site HAR002 (which were affected by granite mining activities before the National Heritage Resources Act became law);
- Eagle Quarries supports a cultural heritage management programme in the Kareepoort Mountains and in the Tshopje Mountains together with other role players involved in granite mining in these two mountains in the Brits district.

The objectives of a cultural heritage management programme are outlined in the addenda to this report



**DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS**  
August to September 2000

9                    **BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT  
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**ADDENDUM:**

**PROPOSAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A  
CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE  
GRANITE MINES OPERATING IN THE BRITS AREA**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

This report is aimed at the granite fraternity working in the Brits area requesting that a cultural heritage management programme, similar to that being maintained for the Marikana area since 1996, is implemented for the granite mines currently operating in the Kareepoort and the Tshopje Mountains in the Central Bankenveld. The series of granite hills which stretches over the Central Bankenveld is renowned, from an archaeological and historical perspective, for hundreds of stone walled sites located along the bases of this range of hills. All settlements older than hundred years and all structures or parts of structures older than sixty years located in this region are protected by legislation.

## **2 POSSIBLE CULTURAL RESOURCES ON THE KAREEPOORT AND THE TSHOPJE MOUNTAINS**

The Introduction to this report listed a broad range of cultural resources one may find in the Central Bankenveld. This range can be narrowed down to five categories for the granite hills north of the Magaliesberg. These five categories could well apply to the Kareepoort and the Tshopje Mountains where granite mining has commenced during the past few years. These five categories include:

- Stone Age sites associated with the San people which may date back hundreds of thousands of years;
- rock art sites
- Late Iron Age sites dating from the last 500 years;
- remains dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the first immigrant Boers settled in places such as Mooiooi, Marikana, Rustenburg, Schaapkraal and Brits to the north of the Magaliesberg from the 1840's onwards; and
- graves and graveyard sites dating from pre-historical and historical times as well as from the relatively recent past or the present.

The presence or absence of these five categories of cultural resources in or near the Kareepoort and the Tshopje Mountains is now briefly considered.

## **2.1 Stone Age sites**

Stone Age sites are numerous all over South Africa and tend to crop up even where the presence of humans in the past was not remotely expected. Some of these settlements date back millennia and existed when the climate and environment of the region differed from those found there today.

Stone Age communities well-adapted to such climates and ecological niches proliferated into skilled hunter-gatherer bands and may have established themselves in the Central Bankveld. Stone Age sites do occur in rock shelters and in cave sites in the Magaliesberg. A few scatterings of stone tools may occur in association with the Kareepoort and the Tshopje Mountains. My experience, gained from numerous field surveys in Marikana, further to the west of the Kareepoort Mountains suggests, however, that Stone Age sites from all time periods are very scarce among the granite hills. Rock shelters and caves, which were usually used as seasonal campsites by Middle and Later Stone Age hunter-gatherer bands, are, to my knowledge not a common feature in these hills.

## **2.2 Late Iron Age sites**

The chain of granite hills in which the Kareepoort and the Tshopje Mountains are located contains large numbers of stone walled sites dating from the Late Iron Age. These sites are located along the bases of the granite hills and also against the slopes and higher up on these hills. Spokespersons confirmed the presence of stone walled villages among the smaller foothills north of the Tshopje Mountains. Sites are also visible along the southern foot of the Tshopje Mountain. A large concentration of sites also occurs at the south-eastern corner of the Kareepoort Mountains. No archaeological survey, however, has as yet been done on the Kareepoort or the Tshopje Mountains.

## **2.3 Remains from the colonial period**

The first immigrant Boers who settled north of the Magaliesberg established the town of Rustenburg in the 1840's. The farm Schaapkraal 292 JQ, located to the north of Marikana, was another early point of settlement in the Central Bankveld. The Marikana, Mooiwooi and Brits areas were also occupied by colonists during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Farmers and farm workers therefore occupied the Brits area (including the Hartbeespoort area on which the Kareepoort and the Tshopje Mountains occur), without interruption, for the last hundred and fifty years.

Several farmsteads built by early colonists in Geluk, Losperfontein, Wolwekraal and Kareepoort west of Brits are older than 60 years and would qualify as historical remains. Other historical places may include battle sites where the Boers and the British fought during the Anglo-Boer War. Such military historical significant sites, with the exception of military graveyards, however, seldom contain any permanent remains which can be damaged by development activities.

Towns such as Bethanië, Makolokwe and Segwalane near the Kareepoort and the Tshopje Mountains contain historical structures and features. These towns are mostly located some distance from the granite hills where they cannot be affected by granite mining activities.

#### **2.4 Rock art sites**

To my knowledge only one rock art site has ever been found in the granite hills between Pretoria and the Plianesberg. This site is located to the east of Brits (near Mmakau) and consists of a single painting which is not considered to be of great archaeological significance.

#### **2.5 Summary: types of cultural resources**

The main type of cultural resource associated with the granite hills to the north of the Magaliesberg is stone walled sites dating from the Late Iron Age. The Batswana chiefdoms of the Central Bankeveld, during and before the *difaqane* wars, occupied various types of settlements and not only residential villages (*metse*).

The most common type of settlements found in the Central Bankeveld are 'traditional' Batswana residential villages. It is also possible that stone walled sites occupied by Ndebele clans may occur in the Kareepoort and in the Tshopje Mountains. At least one of Mzilikazi's Matabele (Ndebele) villages was discovered to the east of Brits.

### **3 IMPLEMENTING CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES**

According to the new National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999), some form of symbiosis should exist between any development activities and the conservation of cultural remains. Implementing and maintaining a cultural heritage management programme endorsed by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) is the best way to do this. Such a programme recognises three phases of archaeological

enquiry whenever archaeological impact assessment studies are undertaken. These levels of enquiry consist of:

- Phase I archaeological surveys of development areas (such as mining areas). The results of these surveys are included as addenda in mines' Environmental Management Programme Reports or as addenda to Town Development schemes and must be acknowledged in all environmental impact studies;
- Phase II investigations, which include salvage work and therefore detailed archaeological work. Such investigations can only be done with permits from SAHRA. The reports compiled during these investigations must be sent to SAHRA.
- Phase III studies which consist of management plans to ensure the sustainable existence of archaeological and historical sites and remains. These programmes provide for the utilisation, development, *in situ* protection, etc. of archaeological and historical sites older than 100 years and 60 years respectively.

Cultural heritage management programmes are maintained by Kelgran Granite and by Marlin Granite for their granite quarries near Marikana. These management programmes include:

- **Reactive Phase II investigations** of sites which have been affected by development activities during the last 50 years in mining areas;
- **Pro-active Phase II investigations** of sites which may be affected or destroyed by development activities in the immediate future in mining areas; and
- **Phase III studies** which consider the indefinite survival and sustainable utilisation (where necessary) of cultural remains in mining areas.

These programmes enable environmental managers from Kelgran Granite and Marlin Granite, in conjunction with the author (an archaeologist) of this report, to formulate, on a continuous basis, strategies with regard to the future management of the remaining archaeological sites in mining areas.

#### 4 THE AIMS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES IN GRANITE MINING AREAS IN MARIKANA IN THE CENTRAL BANKVELD

The archaeological and historical remains of the Bankeveld as a whole are non-renewable cultural resources. Archaeological sites and features which have been affected or destroyed by development activities, or by vandals, can never be restored or replaced. Granite mining has already destroyed a part of the Batswana's cultural heritage. The cultural remains in the Bankeveld, however, are also endangered by other types of development activities. Measures to document and to conserve a part of this cultural heritage have to be adopted. Kelgran Granite and Marlin Granite, together with the author of this report, have started with the implementation of a cultural heritage management programme for the granite mining areas near Marikana since 1996. The cultural heritage of the granite mining areas is currently managed as part of the environmental programmes of Kelgran Granite and Marlin Granite Mines. The aims of these programmes include the following:

#### **4.1 Phase I investigations:**

- conducting extensive archaeological surveys of all the granite mining areas managed by Kelgran and Marlin Granite in Marikana in order to establish the presence, nature and extent of archaeological remains in this part of the Central Bankeveld;
- documenting and mapping all the archaeological and historical remains which may be found during this survey in the mining areas;

#### **4.2 Reactive and pro-active Phase II investigations:**

- investigating all archaeological sites and remains which have been affected by development activities during the last fifty years;
- conducting archaeological investigations (surveying, documenting and excavating) of all settlements which may be affected or destroyed by future development activities;

#### **4.3 Phase III investigations:**

- collecting a fully representative archaeological collection of the material culture of the Batswana and other groups who occupied the Central Bankeveld;
- conserving and utilising this museum collection (e.g. in displays);

- publishing the results of research efforts in the Central Bankeveld in scientific journals and in popular magazines, acknowledging participants' involvement in this programme;
- declaring settlements of outstanding historical significance national monuments in collaboration with SAHRA; and
- collaborating with the Batswana or other living relatives of the inhabitants of the historical and archaeological settlements in the Central Bankeveld.

#### **4.4 Progress with the cultural heritage management programme**

Since 1996 the archaeological team has conducted Phase I surveys of nearly all the granite mining areas managed by Kelgran Granite and Marlin Granite mines. The results of these surveys have been presented in various reports. Re-active Phase II archaeological investigations of settlements in the granite mining areas have also commenced. The results of Phase II investigations are continually published in scientific magazines. Very important discoveries have been made in the Central Bankeveld since 1996. Settlements occupied by Mzilikazi's Matabele, from around 1827 to 1832 were discovered during archaeological surveys. Moordkoppie, the place where Mzilikazi's Matabele warriors overtook and killed a large number of Griquas in July 1832, was discovered north of the granite mining areas (see Bibliographies).

## **5 A CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE GRANITE MINES OPERATING IN THE BRITS AREA**

### **5.1 Aims of the cultural heritage management programme**

The aims of the cultural heritage management programme would be the same as those outlined for the granite mining areas in Marikana (see Part 5 above).

### **5.2 The role players**

The programme will involve all the granite mines which, according to cultural heritage legislation, have to conduct archaeological impact assessment studies.

### **5.3 Duration**



The implementation and maintenance of Phase I, Phase II and Phase III archaeological studies require that the cultural heritage management programme be conducted over a period of at least three to four years.

**5.4 Proposed annual budget for the implementation and maintenance of a cultural heritage management programme per year (maintained for at least three years)**

**Fieldwork**

25 days archaeologist @ R600/day	R 15 000-	
25 days 2 assistants @ R200/day	5 000-	
5 days administration, meetings, liaising with SAHRA and I&A parties @ R600-/day	3 000-	<b>R 23 000-</b>

**Fuel**

25 trips between Pta and Study area approximately 25 X 150km @ R 2/km	R 7 500-	
5 trips between PTA and study area 5 X 150km @ R2/km	1 500-	<b>R 9 000-</b>

**Data Processing**

Mapping of archaeological sites Arch View and cartographic work Cartographer 5 days @ R600/day	R 3 000-	
Report writing and administration 5 days @ R 600/day	R 3000-	<b>R 6 000-</b>

**General administration**

Stationary, typing, language editing photo copies, film development, cataloguing of slides	R 3 000-	<b>R 3 000-</b>
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**TOTAL (divided between granite mines) R 41 000-**

**Annual increase 10% p. a. to absorb  
inflation, wage increases and general price hikes**

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The norite hills to the north of the Magaliesberg in the Central Bankenveld are a critical area with regard to the origins, the development and the unfolding of the Batswana, one of the larger population groups in Southern Africa, during the last four to five centuries. The Central Bankenveld was probably the most heavily populated region in South Africa south of the Limpopo River from as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. This region therefore has a rich archaeological heritage, but it is also characterised by intense development.

Attempts should be made to protect a part of this heritage by means of appropriate methods, such as the cultural heritage management programmes implemented in the granite mining areas of Kelgran Granite and Marlin Granite operating in Marikana. Preliminary discussions between the granite fraternity working in Brits and interested and affected parties have indicated that Kelgran Granite, Eagle Quarries and DLA Investments would support the implementation of a cultural heritage management programme for their granite mining areas in Brits.

  
**DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS**