

Ecological Management Services

9/19/2003/0002



Proposed Blair Atholl Country Estate

Draft Scoping Report

October 2004

*J.K.H. already
commented*

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DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED

BLAIR ATHOLL COUNTRY ESTATE

Prepared by

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For

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October 2004

Trichocephala brincki: No *T. brincki* were observed but once again this could be attributed to seasonal constraints as this species is normally active from October to February. However, while the food plant of this species is not known, the altitude and topography of the site also did not appear to match that of recorded localities for this species and it is hence also unlikely to be present.

Hadogenes gunningi: *H. gunningi* were found along the diabase dyke outcrop, running east of the drainage line and extending towards the south eastern corner of the property. This species was also identified in quartzite outcrops in extreme western area of the proposed development site.

Opisthophthalmus glabrifrons and *O. pugnax*: Both scorpion species were found on the proposed development site, in the south-eastern corner and west of the eastern drainage line, respectively.

Trapdoor spiders: Only one probable trapdoor spider burrow was located in the primary grassland. Much of the soil, on the proposed development site is very stony and hence not suitable for most trapdoor spider species. However, the band of clayey soil associated with the diabase dyke may be suitable for trapdoor species.

3.7. ARCHAEOLOGY

This section has been compiled using extracts from the Heritage Survey undertaken by Dr J van Schalkwyk of the National Cultural History Museum. A complete copy of his report is included in Appendix 4.

3.7.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASPECTS

3.7.1.1. Stone Age

A few stone tools were identified on the surface in the old agricultural fields. One of these was a typical Early Stone Age (2 – 1.5 million years ago) side-struck cleaver made from quartzite and the other was a typical Middle Stone Age (1.5 to 0.3 million years ago) triangular point. As both tools were found out of their primary context (on the surface in the old agricultural fields), they are viewed to have low significance.

Although the study area is located in close proximity of the “Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site”, it is unlikely that similar fossil sites would occur here as there is no dolomite in which caves could form.

3.7.1.2. Iron Age

Two stone walled sites were identified, at sites 4 and 6, the locations of which are indicated on Figure 3.11. Site No 4 falls just outside the study area and would therefore not be impacted on by the proposed development. Site No. 6 has already been impacted on by farm labourers staying on a section of it. From the layout and size of these sites, it

is guessed that they were small cattle posts or *merako*, and are therefore considered to have a low significance.

Tswana-speakers are known to have settled in the larger geographical area for quite a long time prior to the arrival of white settlers. Their towns were quite large and their cattle herds even larger. Therefore, they developed a system where some cattle were kept, under the care of young men, in locations far from town.

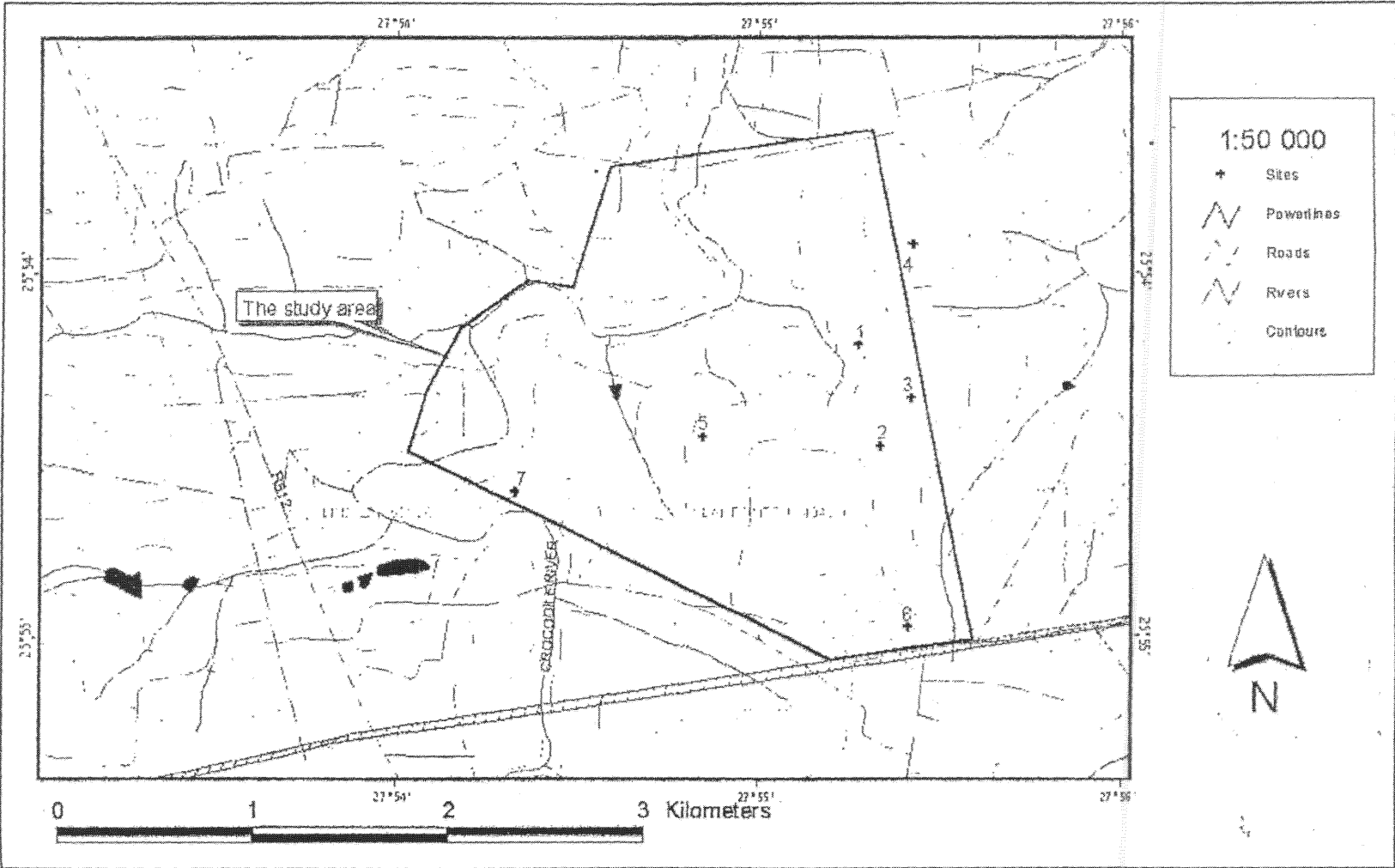


Figure 3.11: Locality of Iron Age sites identified during the site visit and known sites already documented in the ADRC.