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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE BARALINK NODE  
DEVELOPMENT

A Phase 1 Report prepared for SRK Consultants

Professor TN Huffman  
Mr JA Calabrese

Archaeological Resources Management  
Archaeology Department  
University of the Witwatersrand  
Johannesburg

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE BARALINK NODE  
DEVELOPMENT

SYNOPSIS

Most of the development area has already been altered. Two undisturbed kopjies are used for religious services, and the local community needs to be contacted about the future use of these areas. One site may date to the Anglo-Boer War, but it is not significant.

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE BARALINK NODE DEVELOPMENT

## INTRODUCTION

Steffen Robertson and Kirsten Consultants commissioned Archaeological Resources Management (ARM) to survey the proposed Baralink Node Development project area for archaeological sites as part of their Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The proposed development area lies between approximately 26.15.00S to 26.16.55S and 27.53.50E to 27.59.20E. Two ARM staff visited the area on 23 January 1997. Information was recorded on the 1:50,000 2627 BD Grasmere map.

## OBSERVATIONS

The vast majority of the land surface was disturbed by modern housing, informal settlements, and commercial enterprises. Two kopjies were relatively free of disturbance and examined. Due to the recent heavy rains and the long grass, it is possible that some low features may have been missed. ARM staff recorded one site (Site 6) possibly associated with the Anglo-Boer War and seven areas of present-day religious significance (Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8).

Kopjie 1 (26.16.30 S, 27.56.20 E)  
Sites 1 to 4.

These worship centers were all located on the western side of the kopjie on the upper elevational contours (Figure 1). Sites 1, 2, and 4 consisted of artificially cleared areas with the remains of white candles. Site 3, however, was more elaborate, consisting of a circle of stones painted with various white designs

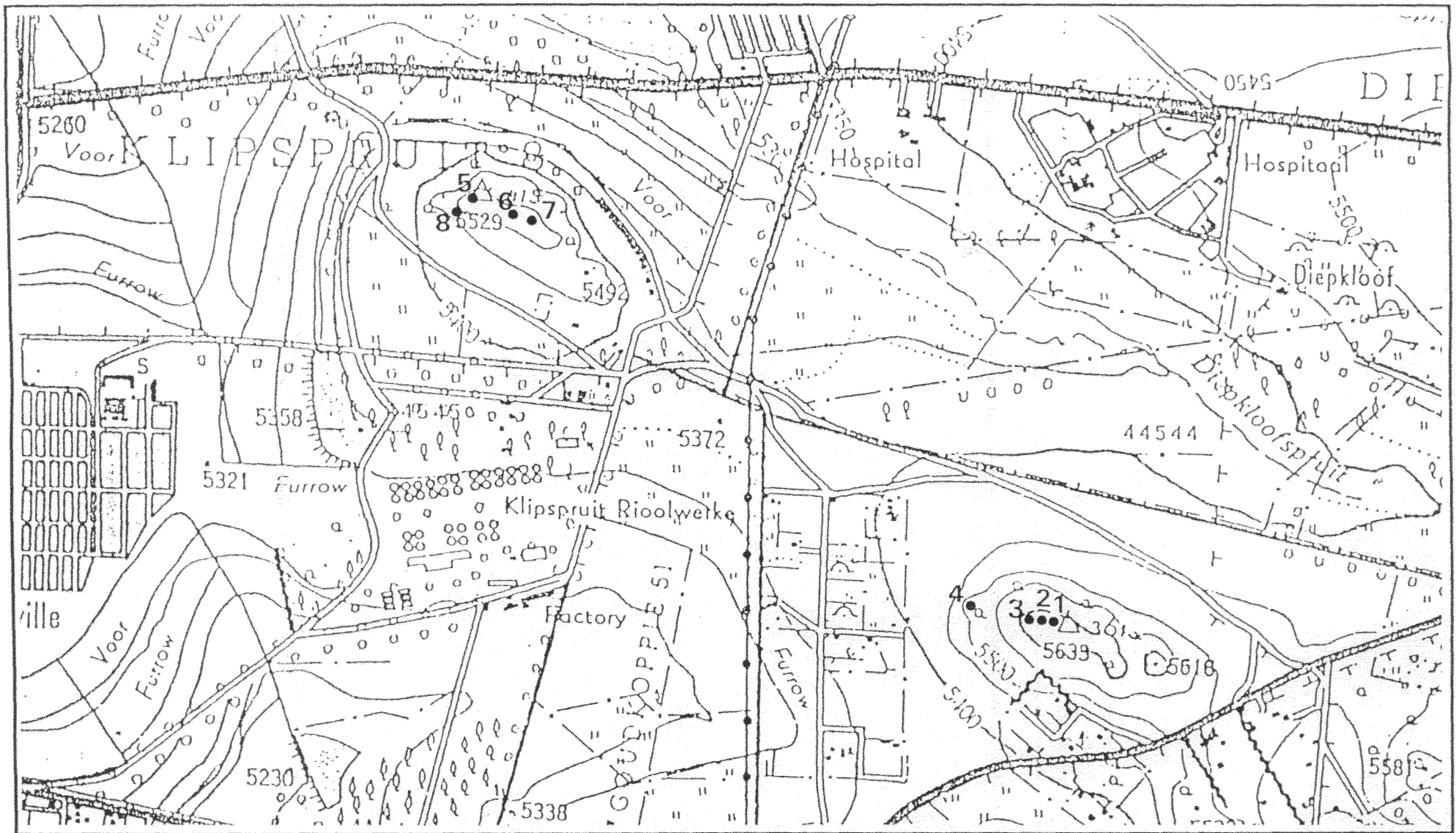


Figure 1. Location of sites identified in the Baralink project area.

such as crosses, sunbursts, and rayed stars. A large upright boulder, which appeared to be a focus, was painted with a box containing images of a Christian cross, rayed stars, and a crescent moon. Flanking the box were what appeared to be a rider on horseback to the left, and a bird to the right.

Kopjie 2 (26.16.00 S, 27.55.15 E)

Sites 5, 7 and 8.

The second kopjie had at least three religious sites marked by cleared areas and candles. Sites 5 and 7 were located on the crest of the hill while Site 8 was placed among the rocks on the west end (see Figure 1). Site 7 was the most elaborate: a low circle of stones bore painted phrases and references to scripture, such as 'HOS 1-1'.

Site 6.

A low stone half-circle about 4 x 2 m in diameter was found on the ridgetop in the centre of the hill. No other cultural material was located, and so it is not possible to place this walling into an exact cultural or chronological framework. The style and lack of candles suggest the walling may date to the Anglo-Boer War.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The possible Anglo-Boer War feature on Kopjie 2 is unlikely to yield important information and is therefore not significant. No further work is recommended.

The seven remaining religious sites, however, are potentially very significant to the local community. The social team should therefore inform the leaders of the community about the Baralink project and discuss with them any necessary mitigation measures.