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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED CHROME MINING DEVELOPMENTS AT
ZWARTKOP 369KQ, HARTBEESTKOPJE 367KQ,
SCHILPADNEST 385KQ, MODDERGAT 389KQ, NORTHAM
DISTRICT, NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chrome and magnetite mining activities are planned at several sections of the farms Zwartkop 369KQ, Hartbeestkopje 367KQ, Schilpadnest 385KQ and Moddergat 389KQ, in the Northam District, North West Province.

Existing mines are active in the region. Remains of prospecting and minor mining operations are visible on the proposed new sites.

No archaeological material was found on any of the sites visited. Historical material in the form of metal objects, porcelain, glass, potsherds, enamel bowls and plates, buckles, pieces of a Dutch oven and spoons, occurred at Zwartkop 369KQ.

Several clusters of marked and unmarked graves were located at a number of places on the farms.

In view of certain limitations and shortcomings during the fieldwork, I am cautious to make final recommendations.

If the proposed mining developments are allowed to proceed, great care should be applied to avoid other concentrations of human graves.

Mitigation measures will be essential in the case of the graves and other discoveries of human skeletal remains that may be discovered during the mining operations.

INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION

A survey of the history of the four Northern provinces presented an account of the early European and Black settlement of the area north of the Pilansberg (Bergh 1999). White farms were established from about 1841 and expansion took place to such an extent that the first *landdrost* was appointed at Rustenburg in 1851 (Bergh 1999:130).

Settlement to the north came when Andries Hendrik Potgieter left the Orighstad area in the east and moved to the Soutpansberg region, where Zoutpansbergdorp (later Schoemandal) had already been established in 1848. By 1858, the population of the little town counted to about 40 to 50 families, which gradually extended to about 70 households by 1871. At the time, the wider Soutpansberg region contained about 1800 European inhabitants. Clashes with black tribes in the area resulted in the evacuation of Schoemansdal in 1867.

In 1856, a treaty for the supply of farm labourers was made between the Bakgatla бага Motsha of Moepi and a number of white farmers of the Waterberg region. According to this agreement, the Bakgatla tribesmen were given occupation rights on the farms Boschplaas and portions of Wijnandskraal and Witgatboom, in exchange for the supply of labourers. After the death of Moepi, a succession quarrel broke out between different factions of his followers. The dispute later involved the ZAR-government and eventually the peaceful relations in the area terminated in 1873 (Bergh 1999:173).

With the assistance of the Reverend Otto Sachse of the Berlin Missionary Society, the Bakgatla бага Motsha tribe had bought farms in the Waterberg area. These farms were Schilpadfontein, Middelkop, Klippan and Paayzynpan in a part of the Pretoria District (Bergh 1999:140). Further smaller adjustments to the borders of the Waterberg District came in 1909, when the Ndebele people of Kekana moved from the Soutpansberg into the Waterberg area.

Mention is made of the Phalane tribe under their leader Ramokoka, who had been awarded an official reserve from the ZAR-government in 1887 consisting of the farms Ramakokskraal 307 and Geluk 179 (Bergh 1999:219). The district is not mentioned, but according to the source, the area is located near the confluence of the Crocodile River and the Pienaars River, north of Rustenburg (Bergh 1999: Map 7.1). During the present investigation, a specific informal housing settlement on neighbouring land was identified by a local informant as "Smachablok" that belongs to the Ramakoka-tribe. It is uncertain if the abovementioned official reserve and the informal settlement encountered during the present survey have anything in common.

Independent white settlement took place in the Waterberg region from as early as 1839 and although the Waterberg region was declared a separate District in 1866, *malaria* fever prevented rapid settlement in the area, with the result that

certain parts were only exploited by elephant hunters during the winter months (Bergh 1999).

Scope and Limitations of the present project

The present first phase heritage investigation provided an opportunity to examine the land earmarked for developments near Northam.

Due to various restricting factors, the present survey was hampered by several shortcomings and limitations.

- No maps were available during the fieldwork and neither the applicants nor the environmental consultants were familiar with the layout of the land. GPS coordinates were plotted through GIS methods afterwards. Only at Zwartkop, the landowner guided us on his farm. In the case of Schilpadsnest 385, the operational mining company denied us access to the property.
- The heavy thorn veld vegetation and dense grass cover limited movement and restricted visibility. Largely, we had to rely on information from local people to find graves and other cultural and historical features. It cannot be certain that all the graves were recorded.
- Within the scope of the investigation, it is always desirable to build a good rapport with the relevant landowners. In this case, a certain attitude of aloofness was sensed on the farms, which could have influenced the result of the survey. It is possible that the mining applications by outsiders could be a source of aggravation or a form of intimidation to the local landowners, resulting in a negative approach towards any person associated with the environmental impact assessment process.

Methodology

Standard archaeological survey and recording methods were applied.

1. Where possible the land was investigated on foot and by vehicle.
2. Different points were plotted by GPS and recorded on camera.

INVESTIGATION

Chrome and magnetite mining activities are planned at sections of the farms Zwartkop 369KQ, Hartbeestkopje 367KQ, Schilpadnest 385KQ and Moddergat 389KQ, in the Northam District, North West Province.

The area was examined on 25 and 26 July 2011. An official from Geo-Rock Environmental Consultants at Kimberley accompanied us during the survey. Mr Johan van Wyk, the owner of the farm Zwartkop took us around his farm.

The study aims to locate and evaluate the significance of cultural heritage sites, archaeological material, manmade structures older than 60 years, and sites associated with oral histories and graves that might be affected by the proposed development.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

The farms Zwartkop 369KQ, Hartbeestkopje 367KQ, Schilpadnest 385KQ and Moddergat 389KQ, are located in the Northam District, North West Province (Map 2).

The farms are situated to the north of Northam along the R510 road to Thabazimbi (Map 1). Moddergat farm is reached by following the D869 road in a westerly direction to Dwaalboom.

The vegetation of the area is described as thorny Bushveld with heavy thorn veld vegetation and a dense grass cover (Figs.4-6).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2427):

ZWARTKOP 369/9/12 (Map 3)

A 24°45'49"S. 027°19'14"E. Altitude 941m (Fig.1).

B	24°45'54"S. 027°18'58"E. Altitude 933m (Fig.2).
A2	24°46'08"S. 027°19'00"E. Altitude 940m (Fig.3).
C	24°45'37"S. 027°19'32"E. Altitude 948m (Fig.4).
D	24°45'32"S. 027°18'58"E. Altitude 924m (Fig.5).
E	24°45'35"S. 027°18'58"E. Altitude 935m (Figs.6-10).
F	24°45'39"S. 027°18'57"E. Altitude 934m (Fig.11).
G	24°45'31"S. 027°18'44"E. Altitude 935m (Figs.14-16).
G2(±30)	24°45'50"S. 027°17'20"E. Altitude 943m (Fig.17).
G3(2)	24°46'09"S. 027°18'24"E. Altitude 917m (Fig.18).

HARTEBEEST KOPJE 367 KQ (Map 4)

A	24°45'16"S. 027°16'45"E. Altitude 970m (Fig.20).
B	24°46'42"S. 027°16'29"E. Altitude 987m (Fig.21).
C	24°46'45"S. 027°14'24"E. Altitude 1021m (Fig.22).
D	24°46'11"S. 027°14'47"E. Altitude 1011m (Fig.23).
E	24°45'55"S. 027°14'52"E. Altitude 1016m (Figs.24-26).
F	24°45'12"S. 027°16'08"E. Altitude 987m (Fig.27).
G	24°42'27"S. 027°17'15"E. Altitude 962m (Fig.28).
H	24°43'03"S. 027°16'05"E. Altitude 1008m (Fig.29).
G1(±40)	24°45'29"S. 027°18'45"E. Altitude 925m (Figs.30-34).
G2(2)	24°46'01"S. 027°14'47"E. Altitude 1011m (Fig.35).

SKILPADSNES 385KQ (Map 5)

A	24°48'23"S. 027°18'48"E. Altitude 961m (Fig.36).
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- B 24°48'23"S. 027°16'17"E. Altitude 971m (Figs.37&38).
 C 24°48'21"S. 027°16'54"E. Altitude 970m (Fig.39).
 D 24°47'26"S. 027°17'52"E. Altitude 939m (Figs.40&41).

MODDERGAT / 1 389KQ (Map 6)

- A 24°50'56"S. 027°14'05"E. Altitude 978m (Figs.42&43).
 B 24°52'34"S. 027°15'03"E. Altitude 962m (Fig.44).
 C 24°52'57"S. 027°15'14"E. Altitude 964m (Fig.45).
 D 24°52'17"S. 027°15'22"E. Altitude 953m (Fig.46).
 E 24°51'30"S. 027°15'04"E. Altitude 971m (Figs.47&48).
 F 24°51'56"S. 027°14'39"E. Altitude 968m (Figs.49&50).
 G 24°50'45"S. 027°15'38"E. Altitude 978m (Figs.51&52).

RESULTS

FINDS

No archaeological material could be found on any of the four farms.

ZWARTKOP 369/9/12

Remnants of rectangular house foundations with surrounding courtyard enclosures were pointed out by the landowner (Figs.6-10). An investigation showed a cluster of a considerable number of house foundations in the area. Several ash heaps were observed spread out amongst the ruins. Remains of household debris and discarded kitchen utensils in the form of metal objects, porcelain, glass, bottles, potsherds, enamel bowls and plates, buckles, pieces of a three-legged cast iron pot (Dutch Oven) and lid and nickel silver plated spoons, were collected on the middens at Zwartkop 369KQ (Fig.11).

The origin and purpose of these dwellings is uncertain. Some of the family members recall that their grandparents used to live at Zwartkop, but the origin of the cluster of ruins could not be explained.

Rectangular buildings are generally connected with white people, but the possibility is not ruled out that the buildings could have been occupied by farm labourers or mineworkers later on.

A single mineral water bottle was found at the site (Fig.12). Embossing on the bottle gave the following information:

The Property of W Glatthaar
Mineral Water Manufacturer
Box 14 Rustenburg (Fig.12).

To find a date for the ash heaps of the settlement the origin of the glass bottle was investigated. The authoritative reference books on bottles in South Africa (Lastovica 1982, 2000) gave some information on the Glatthaar mineral water company. According to a directory of 1923, this specific mineral water manufacturing company started c.1904. After some alterations and upgrading through the years, including the installation of electric power after 1929, the factory was sold to the Coca-Cola company in about 1955 (Lastovica 2000:32).

The following base markings are embossed on the bottle:

TLN WG 42 (Fig.13).

From previous experience I argued that the markings could indicate:

TLN = Talana Glass Company, Dundee, Natal (1918-1954).
WG = W Glatthaar
42 = 1942.

In a recent communication with Ethleen Lastovica, an authority on bottles and mineral water containers, she rendered a word of caution on this matter. Bottle bottom codes are not always basic sources of information as in the case of rifle cartridge head stamps, for instance.

28 July 2011 The Glatthaar mineral water bottle was a good find. The Glatthaar history in the ginger beer book is all the information I have on the Company. You could be right about the marking on the base of the bottle, but one needs caution when deciphering numbers in bottle marks because they were often mould or item identifiers to facilitate ordering (e.g. Please supply 10 gross of bottle no. 42). In the past we were asked to identify a bottle with "Talana 402" on the base. Unfortunately Talana does not have any listing of base markings used on Talana bottles before Consol took over in 1954.

Ethleen Lastovica
31 Silverlea Road
Wynberg, 7800

Enquiries to get more information on the Glatthaar mineral water factory did not produce much. Dr Bets Conradie from Potchefstroom, a close relative of the farm owner related that she went to school at Rustenburg with some of the Glatthaar descendants. Unfortunately, she lost track of the family and some of their classmates who could have known them, have already passed away.

To determine a date for the closing of the mineral water factory, Dr Conradie recounts that she finished school at the end of 1956. After school, she left Rustenburg and she can now only speculate that the mineral water factory could have been out of operation at that stage.

Based on the vague circumstantial evidence only, it is not certain when the mineral water bottle could have landed on the ash heap.

Chunks of magnetite were found near the foundation stones at Point F (Fig.19).

Three clusters of graves were identified on the farm.

The grave group at Point G1 consists of about 30 marked and unmarked graves. The graves show a church influence and have an elongated plan form. Some of the graves are rough stone covered and others are neatly finished with inscriptions on the head stones (Figs.14-16). According to the names on some of the head stones and the rough finishing of others, these graves clearly belong to mine workers and farm labourers.

At Point G2, the graves are all elongated and stone covered without any names (Fig.17).

The inscription on the gravestone at Point G3 indicate the name of Elsje Fransina Roets, born Du Plessis (*19/7/1840 †10/9/1878) (Fig.18).

HARTEBEESTKOPJE 367 KQ

The land is operated as a game ranch at present. The landowner was not available to receive us without prior arrangement, but offered some of the game rangers to take us to the gravesites.

Two clusters of marked and unmarked graves were located at the farm Hartebeestkopje (Figs.30-35).

At Point G1, there are about 40 marked and unmarked graves. As in the first case, the graves show church influence and have an elongated plan form. Some of the graves are rough stone covered and others are neatly finished with inscriptions on the head stones (Figs.30-34). According to the names on some of

the head stones and the rough finishing of others, these graves belong to mine workers and farm labourers.

Point G2 consists of two extended stone covered graves without any names (Fig.17).

A substantial informal settlement is located on the adjacent farm. According to an unofficial informant at the site, the place is called "Smatchablok", which is possibly occupied by members of the Ramokoka tribe. The meaning of the place name could not be ascertained.

SKILPADSNES 385KQ

In the case of Skilpadsnes, an operational mining company denied us access to the land.

Mining activities are performed by another company. A number of GPS coordinates were taken, despite the fact that we could not investigate the land (Figs.36-41).

MODDERGAT / 1 389KQ

Coordinate point were taken at the farm (Figs.42-52).

A polished stone was spotted at Moddergat (Fig.53).

No graves or any other cultural material could be found.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The land is part of the total mining region in the area around Northam.

No archaeological material was found on any of the sites visited. Historical material in the form of metal objects, porcelain, glass, potsherds, enamel bowls and plates, buckles, pieces of a Dutch oven and spoons, occurred at Zwartkop 369KQ.

At least five clusters of marked and unmarked graves were located at the farms.

Except for the human graveyards, the other finds are inconclusive and of minor significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the limitations and shortcomings described above, I am reluctant to make final recommendations on the proposed mining projects.

If the mining developments are allowed to proceed despite the limitations of the survey, great caution should be applied to avoid any damage to other concentrations of human graves.

Mitigation measures will be essential in the case of the graves and other discoveries of human skeletal remains that might be found during the mining operations.

Finally, the fieldwork in the Northam region presented a pleasant and rewarding experience of this exceptional and unique part of the country. It is sad though, that the tranquil atmosphere and unspoilt character of the bushveld landscape will ultimately be ruined by the mining developments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Richard Loots from Geo-Rock Consultants, Kimberley, took me to the sites and Mr Johan van Wyk (083 306 6350), the owner of Zwartkop, accompanied us on his farm.

I thank Dawie Maree (012-643 3400) and Analise Crosbey (082 388 0017) from AgriSA for information on the present status of mineral rights and landownership in South Africa.

I also owe gratitude to Dr Bets Conradie from Potchefstroom (018-294 8828, 082 824 1964) for information on the Glatthaar Mineral Water Works at Rustenburg.

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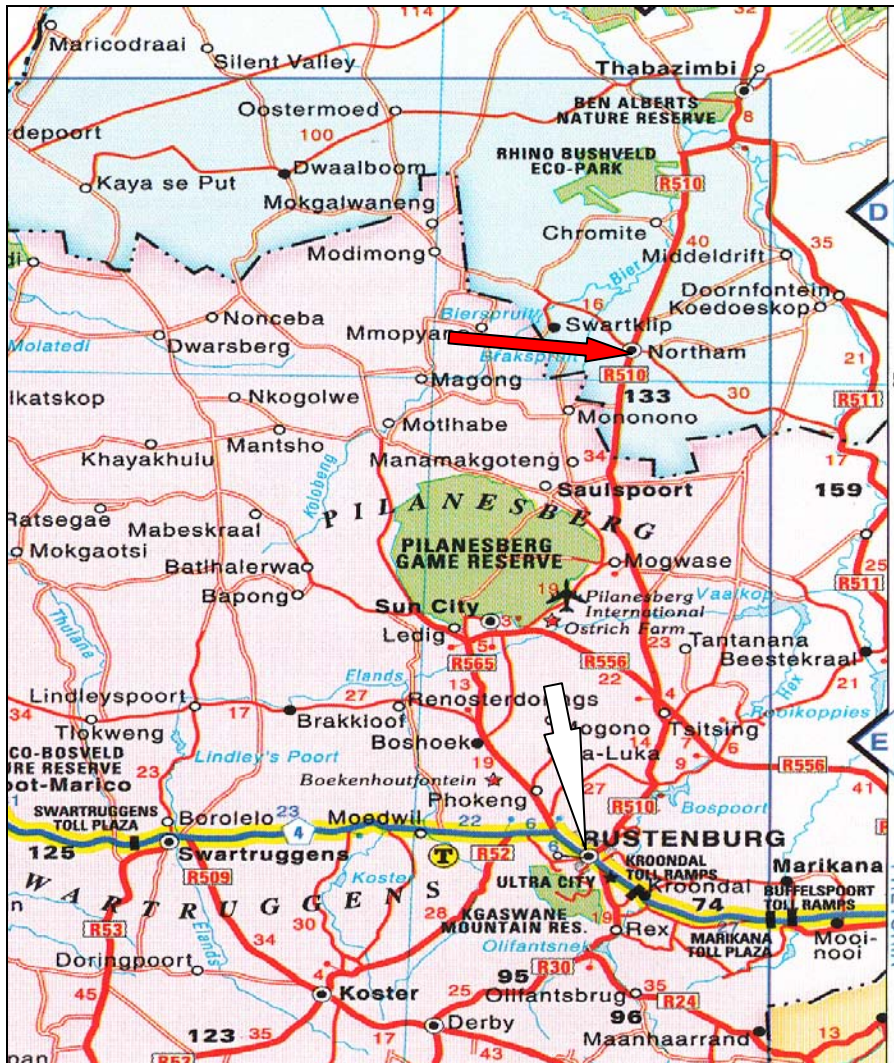
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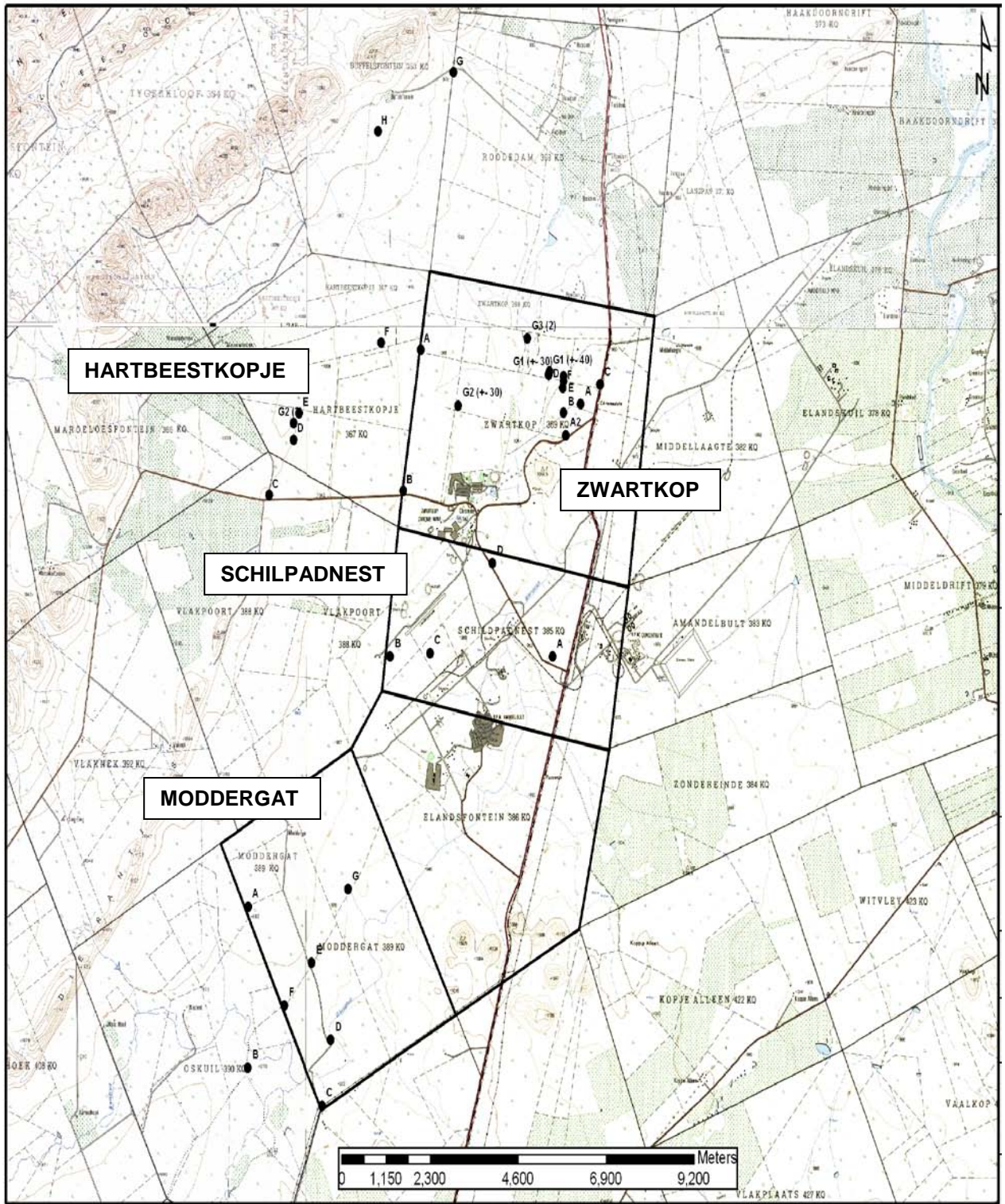
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



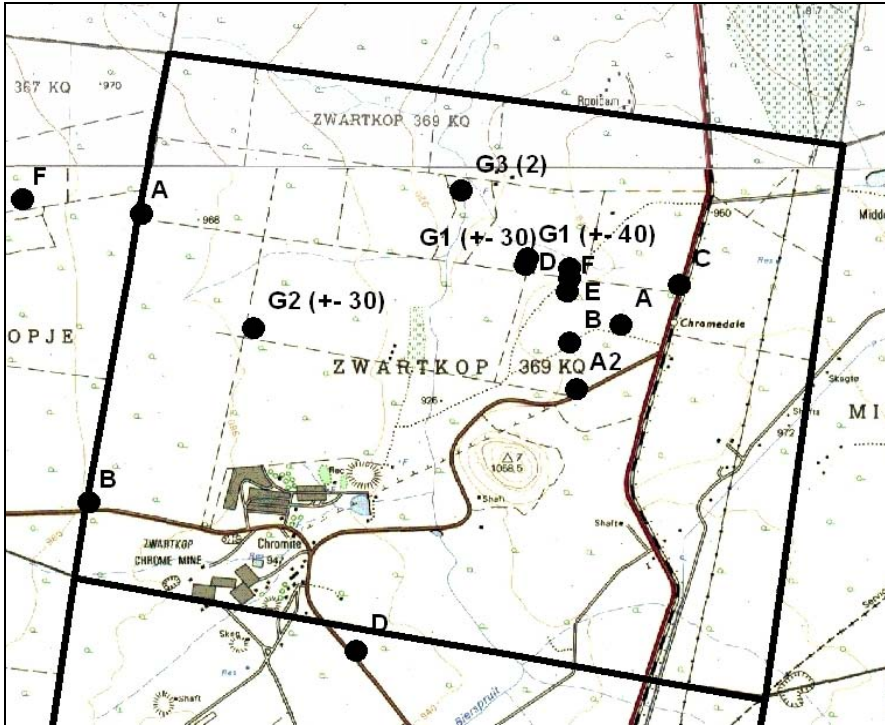
Map 1 Locality of Northam in relation to Rustenburg in the North West Province.



Fig.1 Chrome prospecting quarry at Point A, Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Map 2 Locality of Zwartkop, Hartbeestkopje, Schilpadnest & Moddergat near Northam (2427).



Map 3 GPS Coordinates at Zwartkop, near Northam.



Fig. 2 Rehabilitated chrome prospecting track at Point B, Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.3 Point A2 at Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.4 Point C at Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.5 Point D at Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.6 Remains of rectangular foundations, Point E at Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.7 Rectangular foundations, Point E at at Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.8 Rectangular foundations, Point E at Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.9 Rectangular foundations, Point E at at Zwartkop 369, Northam..



Fig.10 Rectangular foundations, Point E at at Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.11 Household debris and discarded kitchen utensils at Point F Zwartkop 369, Northam.
Pocketknife in the centre = 84mm.



Fig.12 W Glatthaar Mineral water bottle found at Point E, Zwartkop, Northam.
(Pocketknife = 84mm).



Fig.13 TLN WG 42 embossed bottle bottom from Point E, Zwartkop, Northam.



Fig.14 Grave at Point G1, Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.15 Grave at Point G1, Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.16 Stone covered grave at Point G1, Zwartkop 369, Northam.



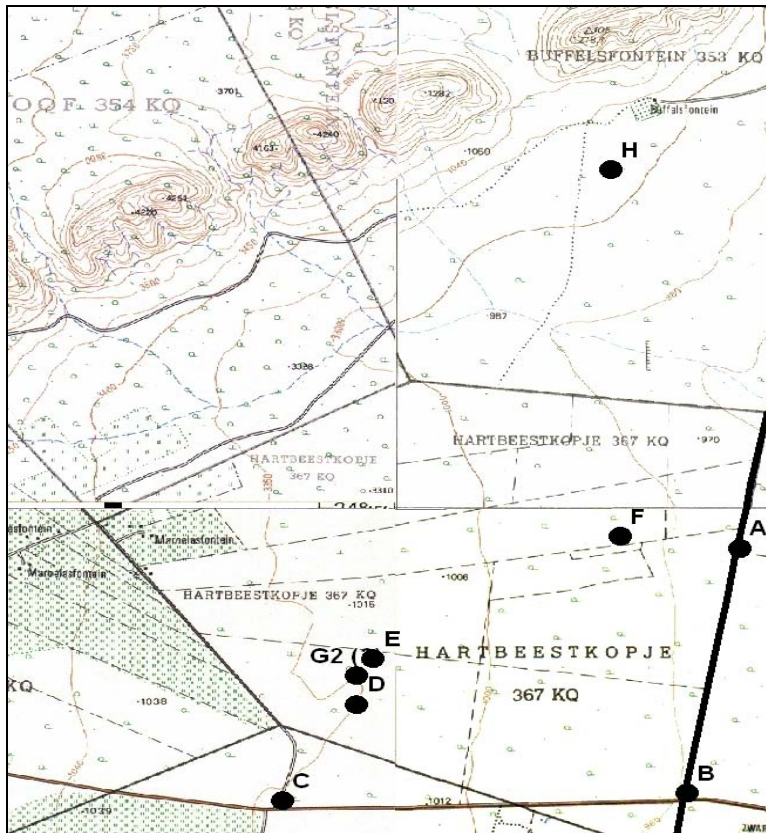
Fig.17 One of about 30 elongated stone covered graves at Point G2, Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.18 Grave of Elsje Fransina Roets born Du Plessis *19/7/1840 †10/9/1878
Point G3, Zwartkop 369, Northam.



Fig.19 Chunks of Magnetite at Point F near the house foundations, Zwartkop, Northam.



Map 4 GPS Coordinate points at Hartbeestkopje, Northam.



Fig.20 Point A at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.21 Point B at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.22 Point C at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.23 Point D at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.24 Foundations of old farm yard buildings Point E at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.25 Foundations of old farm yard buildings at Point E at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.26 Foundations of old farm yard buildings at Point E at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.27 Point F at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.28 Point G at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.29 Point H at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.30 Marked grave at Point G1 at Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.31 Unmarked grave at Point G1, Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.32 Another marked grave at Point G1, Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



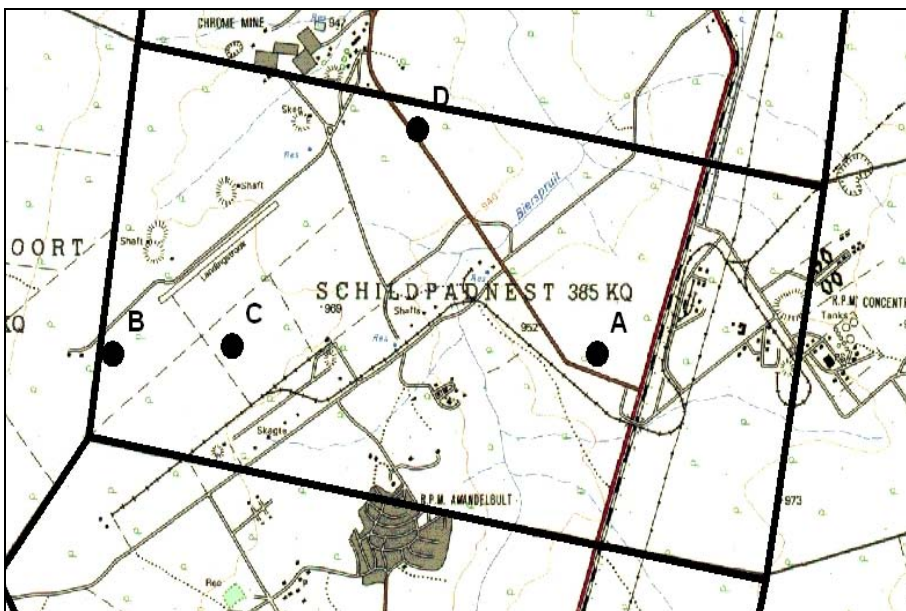
Fig.33 Crudely marked stone grave at Point G1, Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.34 Unmarked grave at Point G1, Hartebeestkopje 367, Northam.



Fig.35 Unmarked grave at Point G2, Hartbeestkopje 367, Northam.



Map 5 GPS Coordinate points at Schilpadnest 385KQ, Northam.



Fig.36 Existing mine at Point A, Schilpadnest 385KQ, Northam.



Fig.37 Point B, Schilpadnest 385KQ, Northam.



Fig.38 Point B, Schilpadnest 385KQ, Northam.



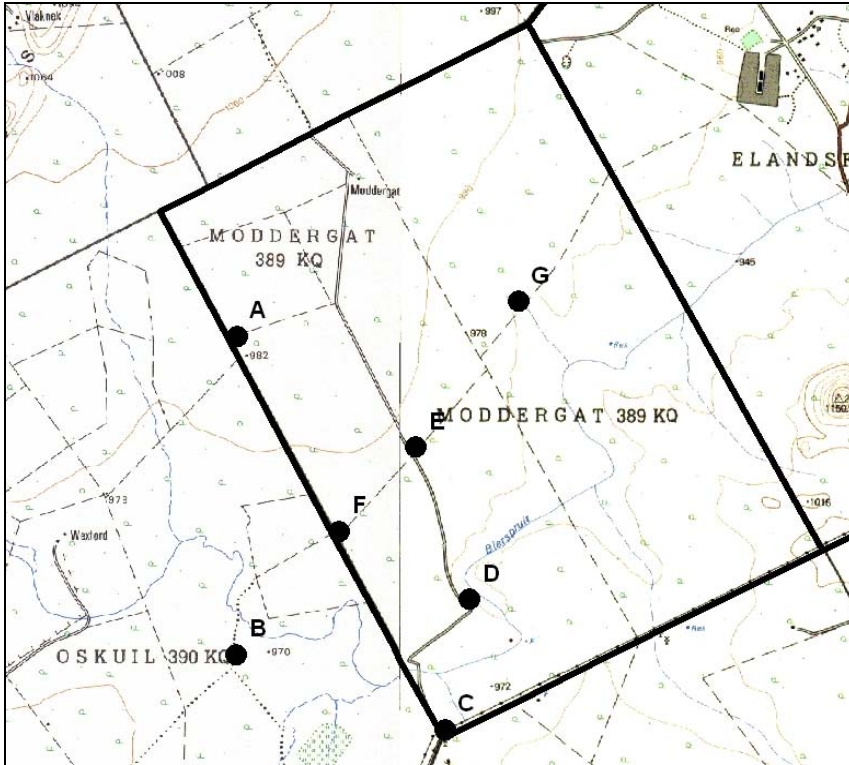
Fig.39 Point C, Schilpadnest 385KQ, Northam.



Fig.40 Point D, Schilpadnest 385KQ, Northam.



Fig.41 Point D, Schilpadnest 385KQ, Northam.



Map 6 Coordinate points at Moddergat 389KQ.



Fig.42 Point A at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.43 Point A at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.44 Point B at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.45 Point C at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.46 Point D at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.47 Point E at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.48 Point E at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.49 Point F at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.50 Point F at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.51 Point G at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.52 Point G at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.



Fig.53 Polished stone at Moddergat 389KQ, Northam.