

**FURTHER RECONNAISSANCE FOR THE RHINO ANDALUSITE
MINE, THABAZIMBI, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

A Phase I report for Rhino Minerals
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Foot surveys did not reveal any new archaeological sites. A few new features were noted at Site 2427CB18. This site has already been excavated, and further mitigation is unnecessary.

INTRODUCTION

Rhino Mine is considering further developments on the Farm Buffelsfontein 353 KQ. Depending on the quality of the andalusite, they may extend existing Pit 7 some 400 meters to the northeast. This extension incorporates the Early Iron Age site 2427CB18 that has already been mitigated (Huffman 2006). The Mine required a reconnaissance of the ground between the EIA site and Pit 7. In addition, they wanted to provide ARM with another opportunity to examine the area surrounding CB18.

METHOD

Two ARM staff examined the project area on 23 April 2007. The team traversed the area on foot, following drill lines and then randomly through the bush. Sites or features would be first recorded with a hand-held GPS instrument using the WGS 84 format, and then transferred to the 1 : 50 000 map sheet 2427CB Thabazimbi. In the case of CB18, any new features would be added to the existing site plan.

RESULTS

The EIA site lies on a red colluvial/alluvial deposit suitable for traditional agriculture. The team located the burnt remains of two more grain bins (Fig. 1). These remains formed part of the outer arc of the settlement.

The land to the west, towards the pit, consists of stony slopes covered in *Dichrostachys* bush. This stony area is devoid of archaeological sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The EIA site does not require further mitigation. Thus, there are no archaeological reasons why the proposed mining should not proceed.

REFERENCES

Huffman, T.N. 2006. *Archaeological Mitigation for the Rhino Andalusite Mine, Thabazimbi*. Johannesburg: Archaeological Resources Management.

Thabazimbi
CB 18



Figure 1. Site plan of the Early Iron Age site CB18, showing 2 new grain bin foundations (*).