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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED MINING ACTIVITIES AT THE FARM ROSSLYN, LIME ACRES, NORTHERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Extensions to the existing lime quarry at Lime Acres are planned at the farm Rosslyn near Lime Acres, Northern Cape.

The area has already been damaged by existing quarry activities and no cultural or historical material of importance was found.

I recommend that the proposed developments may continue.

I recommend that the two existing cemeteries should not be affected by the extensions. It is likewise important that in the case of the discovery of any further burials or human remains, the work should be stopped at once, the finds should be stabilised and protected and the archaeologist should be alerted without delay.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The portion of land on the farm Rosslyn near Lime Acres, Northern Cape, was visited on 23 October 2006. At the site I was received and taken around by Mr Banie Lubbe, the geologist.

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 town of Lime Acres is reached from the R31 main road to Kuruman (Map 1). The farm Rosslyn is part of the area which is exploited for lime production near Lime Acres and the Finch Diamond Mine in the Northern Cape (Map 1). Different coordinates were taken at random to indicate the outskirts of the proposed development area (Map 2).

Part of the area shows signs of disturbances by previous developments and rehabilitation of worked out quarries (Fig.11).

The land designated for the proposed lime quarry was investigated (Maps) and the following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

SUB-STATION 28°21'11"S. 023°31'12"E. Altitude 1447m (Fig.1).

GRAVE SITE 1 (G1) 28°20'58"S. 023°30'55"E. Altitude 1447m (Figs.2-8).

QUARRY 5 (Q5) 28°21'57"S. 023°29'49"E. Altitude 1437m (Figs.9-11).

GRAVE SITE 2 (G2) 28°22'06"S. 023°28'56"E. Altitude 1450m (Figs.12-14).

QUARRY 4 28°22'43"S. 023°29'17"E. Altitude 1443m (Fig.15).

A 28°23'19"S. 023°30'51"E. Altitude 1443m (Fig.16).

BMQ 28°21'21"S. 023°29'59"E. Altitude 1445m (Fig.17).

C 28°20'51"S. 023°29'50"E. Altitude 1447m (Figs.18-19).

FINDS

Many remnants of quarries and rehabilitated quarries indicate that serious mining activities had been going on during the past.

Two graveyards are located on the farm. Grave Site 1 consists of about 60 graves, while Grave Site 2 contains about 16 graves.

Archaeological material appears in the form of a small scatter of stone flakes on the surface (Fig.20).

Due to other disturbances caused by earlier mining activities it seems unlikely that any remains of early human occupation could have survived in this area.

MITIGATION

The scattered lithic finds are considered of minor significance.

Concerning the area for the proposed development, no mitigation measures are needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

I recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

It must be kept in mind that every archaeological and historical site is unique and should be treated as a non-renewable commodity. All efforts should be made to avoid any unnecessary disturbance or destruction of the area. It is important, however, that the field team should be attentive for the presence of human skeletal remains or other archaeological material of significance during the course of the work. In the case of the discovery of any burial or human relics, all excavation activities should temporarily be stopped in the specific area and the finds should be stabilised and protected and the archaeologist should be alerted without delay.

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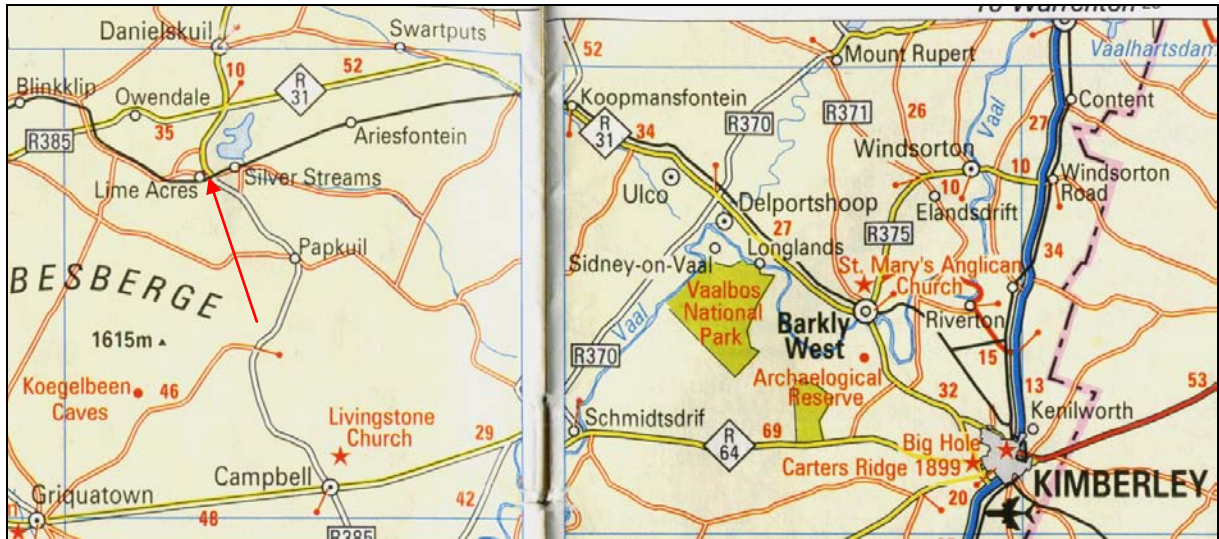
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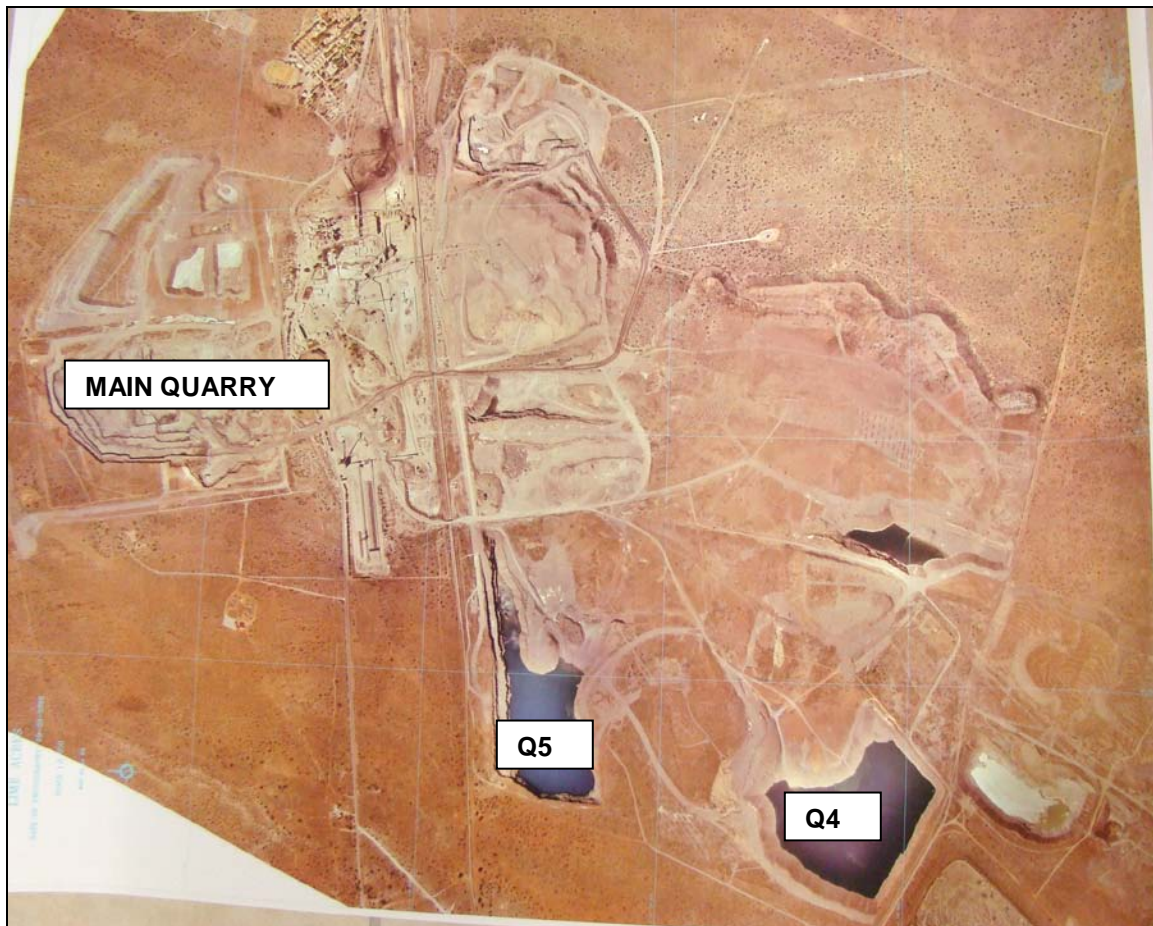
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



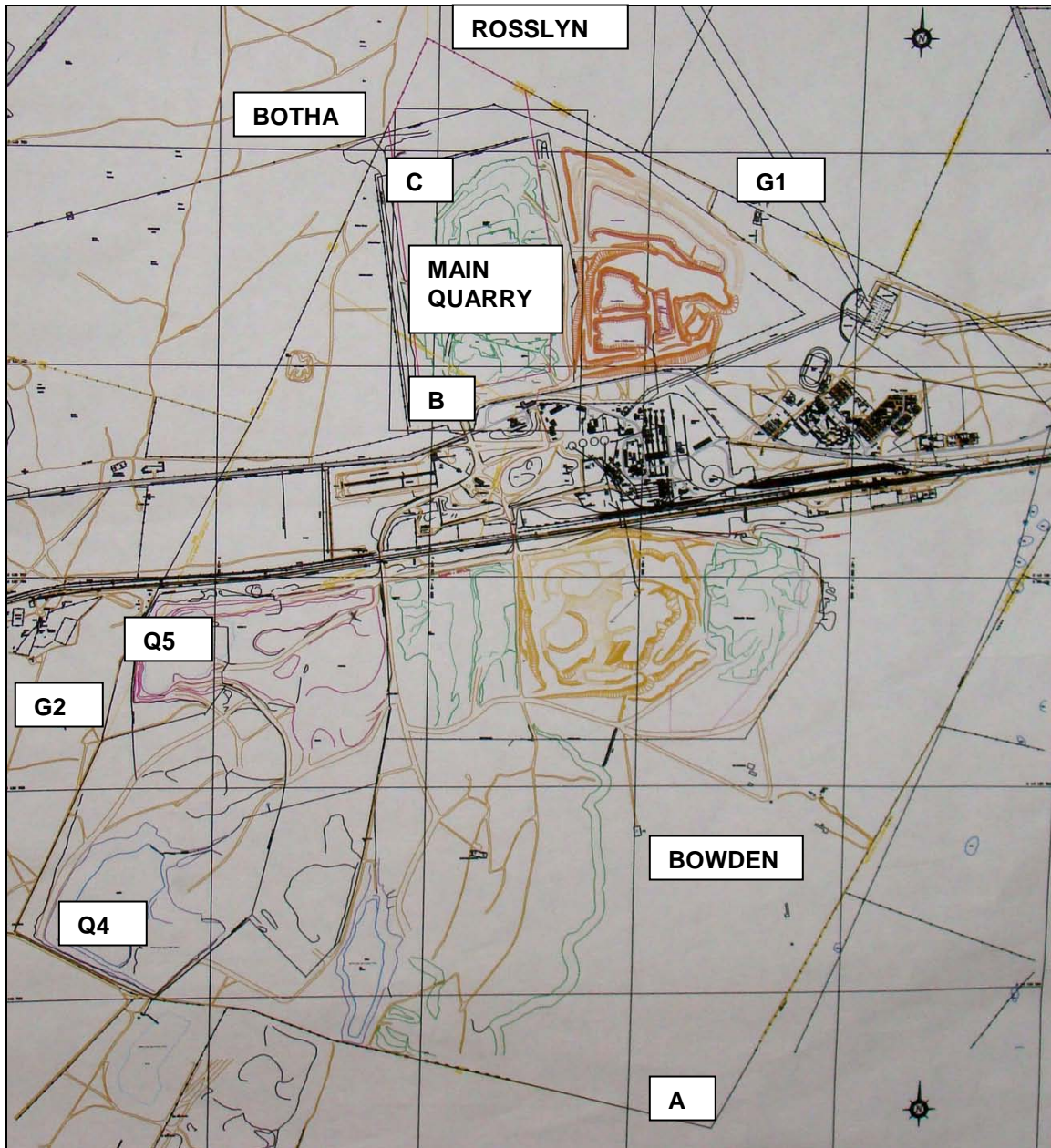
Map 1 Lime Acres in relation to Griquatown, Barkly West and Kimberley.



Map 2 Aerial photograph of the Lime Acres PPC mine.



Map 3 The different farms located around the main lime quarry at Rosslyn.



Map 4 Placing of main quarry is indicated in relation to other quarries and the human graves at Lime Acres.



Fig.1 The Eskom sub-station at Lime Acres.



Fig.2 Unmarked graves at Grave Site 1.



Fig.3 Grave Site 1.



Fig.4 Grave Site 1, marked grave of Montshame Germina Makhamba *12/6/1969 †16/10/1981.



Fig.5 Grave Site 1, with grave of Anna Mockgotho



Fig.6 Unmarked grave at Grave Site 1.



Fig.7 Unmarked grave at Grave Site 1.



Fig.8 Unmarked graves at Grave Site 1.



Fig.9 View of Quarry 5 (Q5).



Fig.10 Q5 with exposed Kimberlite pipe in centre back ground.



Fig.11 View of Q5.



Fig.12 Unmarked grave at Grave site 2 on Smuts farm.



Fig.13 Unmarked grave at Grave site 2 on Smuts farm.



Fig.14 Unmarked grave at Grave site 2 on Smuts farm.



Fig.15 Quarry 4 (Q4).



Fig.16 Point A.



Fig.17 Point B at Main Quarry.



Fig.18 Point C.



Fig.19 Point C.



Fig.20 Chert flakes found near Grave Site 2. (Pocket knife = 83mm).