

HERITAGE INDICATORS WITHIN THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL CULTURAL CONTEXT

PALEONTOLOGY

Several paleontological studies have been performed in this general area. The SAHRIS Paleo Sensitivity Map places this area within the Moderate range of Paleontological Importance.

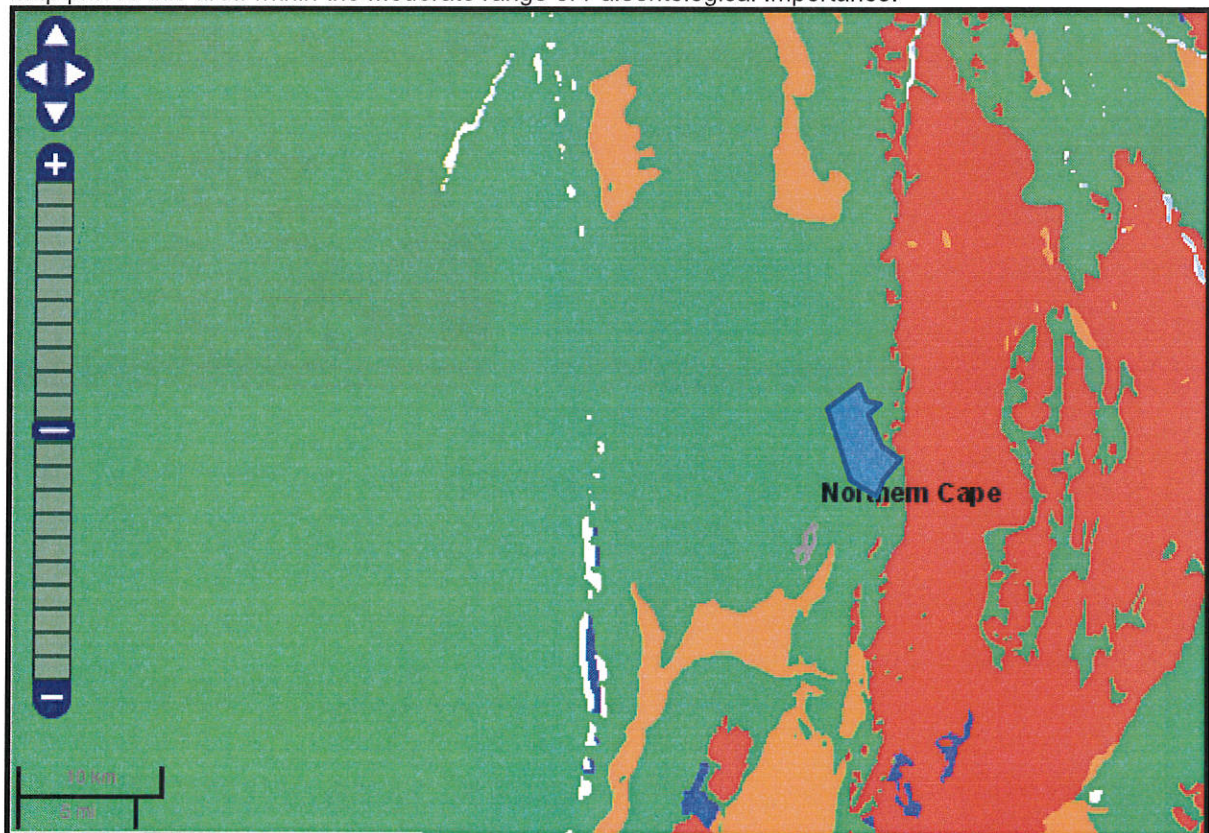


Figure 4. Study area (Blue Polygon) relative to the Paleo Sensitivity of the Area

Most of the Glosam area are underlain by Early Precambrian (2.6-2.5-billion-year-old) marine carbonate rocks of the Campbell Rand Subgroup (Ghaap Group, Transvaal Supergroup) that are known for their prolific fossil record (Red area on map) of stromatolites, i.e. laminated microbial reefs constructed by cyanobacteria, in some cases associated with well-preserved microfossils. However, the study area lies in totality within a Kalahari Group area to the east of these deposits. The Precambrian bedrocks are therefore overlain by a range of late Cenozoic superficial sediments including aeolian sands of the

Gordonia Formation (Kalahari Group), calcrete hardpans, colluvium (e.g. surface rubble, scree), river alluvium and pan deposits.

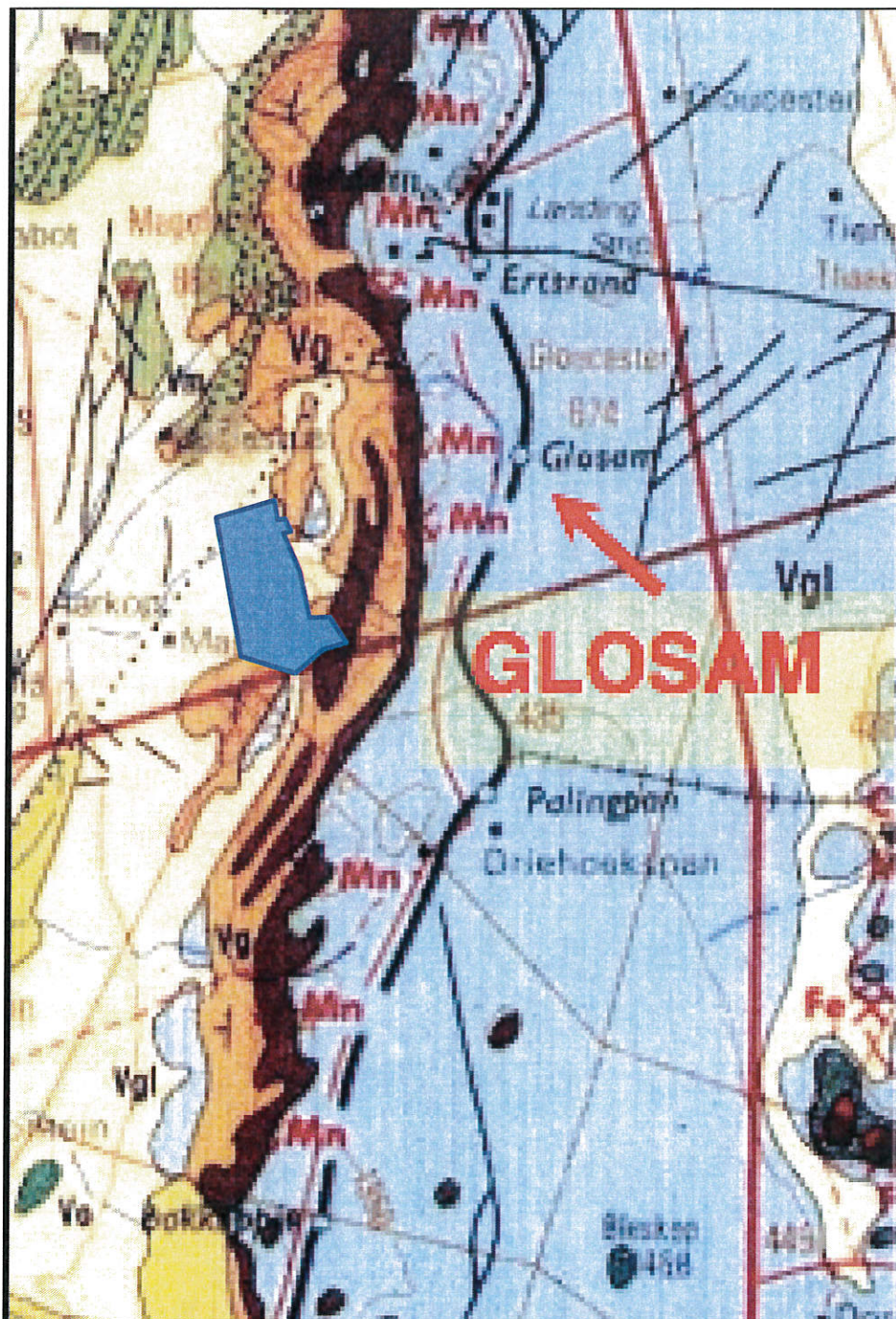


Figure 5. 1: 250 000 Geological Map showing location of site (blue polygon)

The fossil record of the Kalahari Group is generally sparse and low in diversity. The Gordonia Formation dune sands were mainly active during cold, drier intervals of the Pleistocene Epoch that were inimical to most forms of life, apart from hardy, desert-adapted species. Porous dune sands are not generally conducive to fossil preservation.

STONE AGE

This area is home to all three of the known phases of the Stone Age, namely: The Early- (2.5 million – 250 000 years ago), Middle- (250 000 – 22 000 years ago) and Late Stone Age (22 000 – 200 years ago). The Late Stone Age in this area also contains sites with rock art from the San and Khoi San cultural groups. Early to Middle Stone Age sites are less common in this area, however rock-art sites and Late Stone Age sites are much better known (Clark 1959).

During the Middle Stone Age, 200 000 years ago, modern man or Homo sapiens emerged, manufacturing a wider range of tools, with technologies more advanced than those from earlier periods (Deacon 1984). This enabled skilled hunter-gatherer bands to adapt to different environments. From this time onwards, rock shelters and caves were used for occupation and reoccupation over very long periods of time.

The Late Stone Age, considered to have started some 20 000 years ago, is associated with the predecessors of the San and Khoi Khoi. Stone Age hunter-gatherers lived well into the 19th century in some places in SA. Stone Age sites may occur all over the area where an unknown number may have been obliterated by mining activities, urbanisation, industrialisation, agriculture and other development activities during the past decades.

Specifically, The Wonderwerk Cave in the Kururman hills has provided much Stone Age information (Beaumont 1984, 2006).

Specularite mining is noted by Beaumont and Bashier (1974) at Doornfontein and Blinkklipkop between 800AD – 820AD.

A limited number of Rock-Art sites are located in this area, mostly due to the lack of suitable shelter sites.

IRON AGE

Although there is documentary evidence of a large Iron Age Tswana village – Dithakong, located in the general area of the site the occurrence of this is still hotly contested and the findings of Cobbing have been largely discredited (Cobbing 1988, SAHRA ARC pers. comm).

More recent research by Jacobs shows occupational Tswana sites to occur during the later “Bantu Expansion” and “Proto-Difiqane between c1750 and 1830 in the study area. Specifically, the Tlhaping and Tlharo chiefdoms are referred to here (N. J. Jacobs, 199). It is even suggested that some Sotho-Tswana people might have preceded the Tlhaping and Tlharo in this region. This is however not a recent postulation since Ellenberger and MacGregor already proposed earlier Iron Age communities in these areas as early as 1912 (Ellenberger & MacGregor, 1912).

Tswana Industry groups might have continued the specularite mining noted in the Stone Age during the Iron Age in this area from 1600 on.

According to Breutz (1963) Iron Age settlements could be found as far south as Gatlhose and Majeng, which are both within 25km of the study area. Such sites have also been identified at Danielskuil (Snyman, 1986). These groups were eventually driven from the area by the Kora (Snyman, 1986).

THE HISTORIC ERA

The area of Postmasburg was originally known only for the site of Blinkklipkop where the pre-colonial specularite mines were located. The site at Blinkklipkop was successively occupied by vagrants to explorers (often the same category during this time) and Carl Lichtenstein gives colourful descriptions of this site during his visit of 1805 (Lichtenstein 1930).

The Blinkklipkop (Blinkklip) site researched by Thackeray and Beaumont in the 1980's, could also be identified from sketches and descriptions by Burchell documented during his 1813 expedition through the area (Thackeray, 1983).

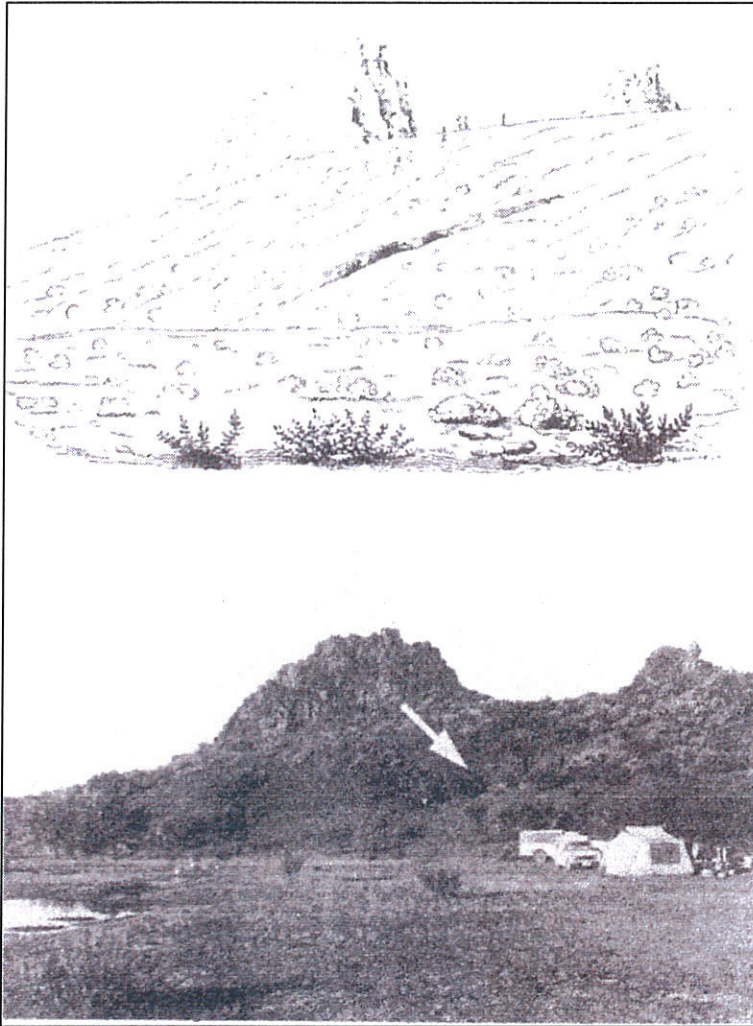


Figure 6. Sketch by Burchell compared by Thakeray (Thakeray, Tjackera & Beaumont, 1983)

By 1820 the Griqua was settling in the Blinkklipkop area (Legassick, 2010) to be followed by the Thlaro group under Isaak Thupane who settled close to present day Postmasburg (Breutz 1963). During the 1860's diamonds were discovered in the area leading to the British annexation of Griqualand in 1871 and the renaming as *Griqua Land West* (Legassick, 2010).

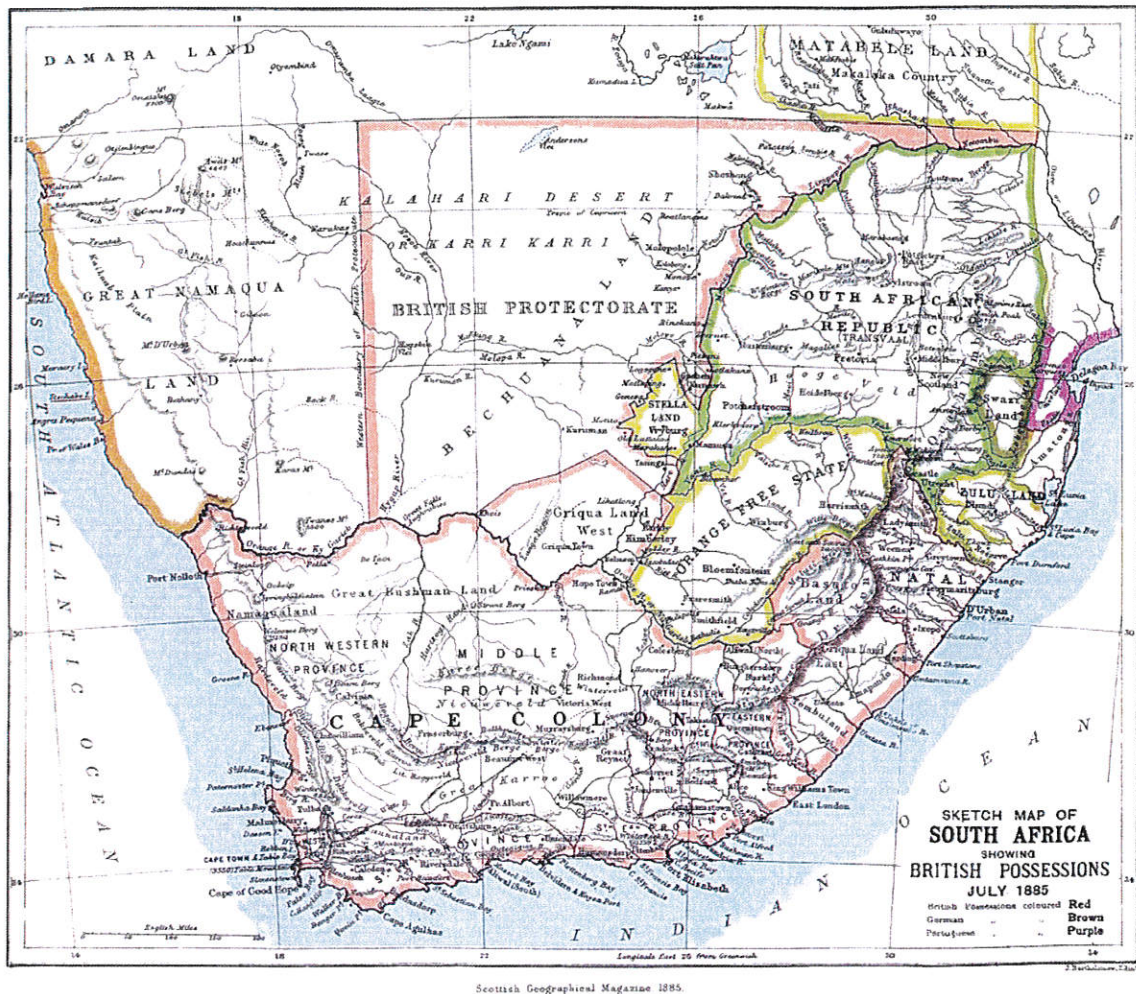


Figure 7. Historic Map showing Griqua Land West (Scottish Geographical Magazine, 1885)

After 1800 the Cape Government sent scouting parties out to the area. The Griqua Leader, Willem Visser settled on Blinkklipkop and it became a permanent Griqua outpost. The London Mission Society started a mission station, named Sibling, on Blinkklip in 1833.

The British government took over Griqualand West in 1871 and on 14 April 1892 the name of the town was changed to Postmasburg in honour of Reverend Dirk Postma, one of the founding members of the Dutch Reformed Church. The town was officially founded in 1893.

The Gouws family acquired the farm Kameelhoek (study area) in the Postmasburg region on 21 February 1885 and built the first farmhouse in 1890. The building still remains and is still lived in. (See figure 12: original Farmhouse). The same family remains on the farm to this day, stretching over 5 generations, although they are now named Erasmus (passing from father to daughter).

With the outbreak of war between the British and the Boer Republics on 11 October 1899, this area was annexed by Boer Commandoes and was held for the next eight months. By March 1900 the whole Griqua Land West was under the control of Boer Commander P J de Villiers.



Figure 8. Cmdr. P.J. de Villiers

On the 30th of March 1900 E.M. Warden was appointed as the Magistrate of Postmasburg, with G.H.J. van der Walt as his assistant.

The Postmasburg Boer soldiers stationed themselves at Campbell to secure the position against an attack by the British. Sir Alfred Miller anticipated the danger from these soldiers and gave Sir Charles Warren an order to besiege Griqualand-West. On the 30th of May 1900 the Boer soldiers attacked Warren's troops. The attack was unsuccessful and after fifteen British soldiers and 30 Boer soldiers were killed, the Boer troops retreated.

After this battle, Colonel S. Hughes marched up against all the towns in Griqualand West, including Postmasburg and conquered the area. G.H.J. van der Walt handed over the keys to the government offices to J.D. Aucamp and turned himself in. After a failed petition attempt to escape persecution, all Boer soldiers who held a rank were put in prison in Griquatad.

For nearly a year there were no military operations and most of the Boer soldiers were set free with parole and were allowed to return to their farms.

In June 1901 the Boer commandos would rise up again and intercepted a post-cart between Postmasburg and Floradale. Within a few weeks of this incident, General De Villiers invaded the area a second time to serve as a link between General De La Rey in the Western Transvaal and General J.C. Smit in the Northern Cape. Postmasburg was once again under the Boer's control when Commandant Edwin Conroy occupied the Government Offices, Police Station and Post Office on the 10th of August 1901.

During the battle of Rooikoppies, on 24 August 1901, twelve British soldiers were killed.

When the Boer Republics surrendered in May 1902, control of Griqua Land West was returned to the British (Strydom 1937).

Postmasburg achieved municipal status in 1936.

From 1918 onwards the area was known for diamond mines focussed on kimberlite pipes. Until its closure in 1930, the West End Diamond Mine near Postmasburg produced more than 180 000 carats of diamonds (Snyman, 1977).

The Beeshoek Mine was originally a manganese mine that started operating in 1935. The scope of the iron-ore deposits in the area was realized in the 1940's. Exploration followed and in the late 1950's the mine switched its operations to produce iron-ore. The mine continued its operations (primitively hand sorting) until when in 1975 a full washing and screening plant was installed. Beeshoek was closed in 1981, but reopened in 1985 and graduated their operations with new extensions in 1999.

Sources:

www.southafrica.org.za/south-africa-travel-postmasburg.html

www.greenkalahari.co.za/index.php/postmasburg

www.sa.venues.com/attractionsnv/postmasburg.php

www.minigweekly.com/article/beeshoek-ironore-mine-2005-08-05

www.samilitaryhistory.org/vol066ps.html

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The whole study area is characterised by dense concentrations of iron ore, with the exception of several sandy stream beds in the lower lying areas that have typical Kalahari Red Sand. The property is currently being used for livestock farming.



Figure 9. Landscape



Figure 10. Landscape



Figure 11. Landscape

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Three main sources of information regarding the heritage sensitivity of this area could be identified. These were;

- Scientific publications on heritage related research in the area
- Previous heritage studies in the area as per the SAHRIS database
- Historic maps and figures as available in the National Archive

Scientific publications

Several publications on heritage related work in this area could be sourced. These include, but are not limited to;

- ✓ Beaumont, P.B. and Boshier A.K. (1974). *Report on Test Excavations in a Prehistoric Pigment Mine near Postmasburg, Northern Cape*. The South African Archaeological Bulletin, Vol.29, No 113/114 (Jun., 1974), pp. 41 – 59.
- ✓ Humphreys, A.J.B. *Note on the Southern Limits of Iron Age Settlement in the Northern Cape*. The South African Archaeological Bulletin, Vol 31, No. 121/122 (jun., 1976), pp. 54-57.
- ✓ Thackeray, A.I., Thackeray J.F., Beaumont, P.B. *Excavations at the Blinkklikop Specularite Mine near Postmasburg, Northern Cape*. The South African Archaeological Bulletin, Vol. 38, No. 137 (Jun., 1983), pp. 17-25.
- ✓ Forssman, T.R., Kuman, K, Leader, G.M., Gibbon, R.J. *A Later Stone Age Assemblage from Canteen Kopje, Northern Cape*. The South African Archaeological Bulletin, Vol. 65, No. 192 (December 2010), pp. 204-214.
- ✓ Couzens, R., Sadr, K. *Rippled Ware at Blinklipkop, Northern Cape*. The South African Archaeological Bulletin, Vol. 65, No. 192 (December 2010), pp. 196 – 203.
- ✓ Rudner, J., Rudner, I. *Rock-Art in the Thirstland Areas*. The South African Archaeological Bulletin, Vol.23, No. 91 (Dec., 1968), pp. 75-89.
- ✓ Humphreys, A.J.B., *Cultural Material from Burials on the Farm St. Cair, Douglas Area, Northern Cape*. The South African Archaeological Bulletin, Vol 37, No. 136 (Dec., 1982), pp. 68-70.

The literature study of the above publications resulted in several findings that guided investigations regarding the site at Kameelhoek 477 & 478; The main points are;

- The identification of five pre-colonial specularite mines in the immediate vicinity of Postmasburg as identified by P.B. Beaumont and A.K. Boshier. These are as follows;
 1. Doornfontein – This is a site with a maximum length of 100m consisting of four chambers from which at least an estimated 45 000 metric tons of specularite was removed (Beaumont & Boshier, 1974). Although the specularite mining is discussed in detail there is however no discussion on the reasons for these large scale excavation. It is clear that the workings were that of Stone Age peoples and since specularite does not deliver good material for stone tool manufacture it begs the question why these extensive excavations exist in the first place.

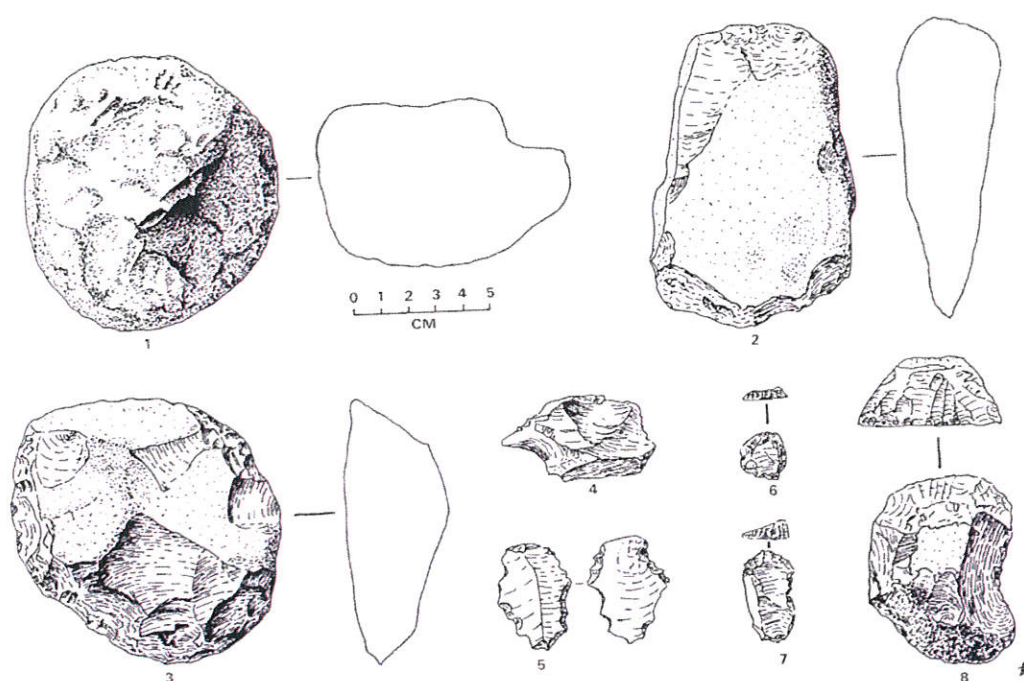


Figure 12. Stone Tools from Doornfontein (Beaumont & Boshier, 1974)

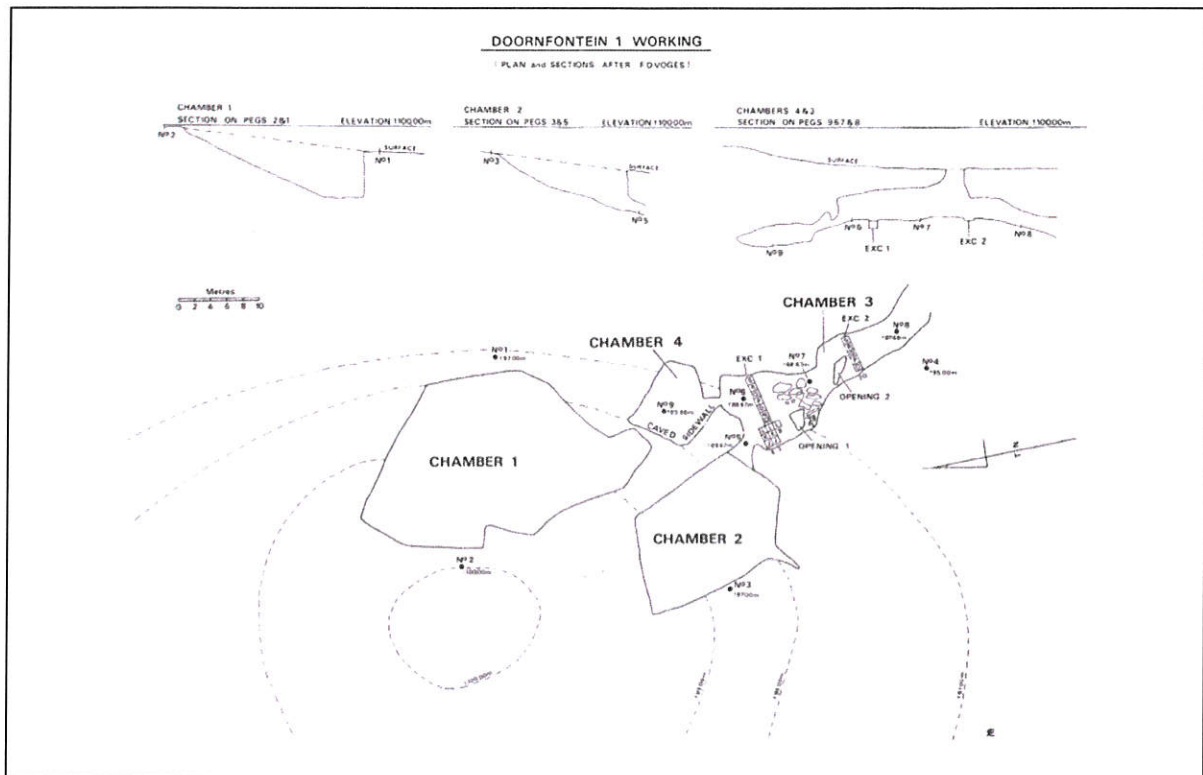


Figure 13. Layout figure for Doornfontein (Beaumont & Boshier, 1974)

2. Blinkklikop – This is another pre-colonial specularite mine on a hill known as Blinkklipkop or Gatkoppies, 5km north-east of Postmasburg. In this analysis the authors gives a much more detailed description of the use of specularite as a decorative element for body decoration or even pottery decoration. Further examples of specularite use is also described in Burchell (1822-4), Cumming (1850 I:232), Livingstone (1858), Borchers (1861 : 73-4) and Stow (1905 : 436) (Thackeray, Thackeray & Beaumont, 1983). The size and extent of deposits at Blinkklipkop makes this probably the most important of the five sites.

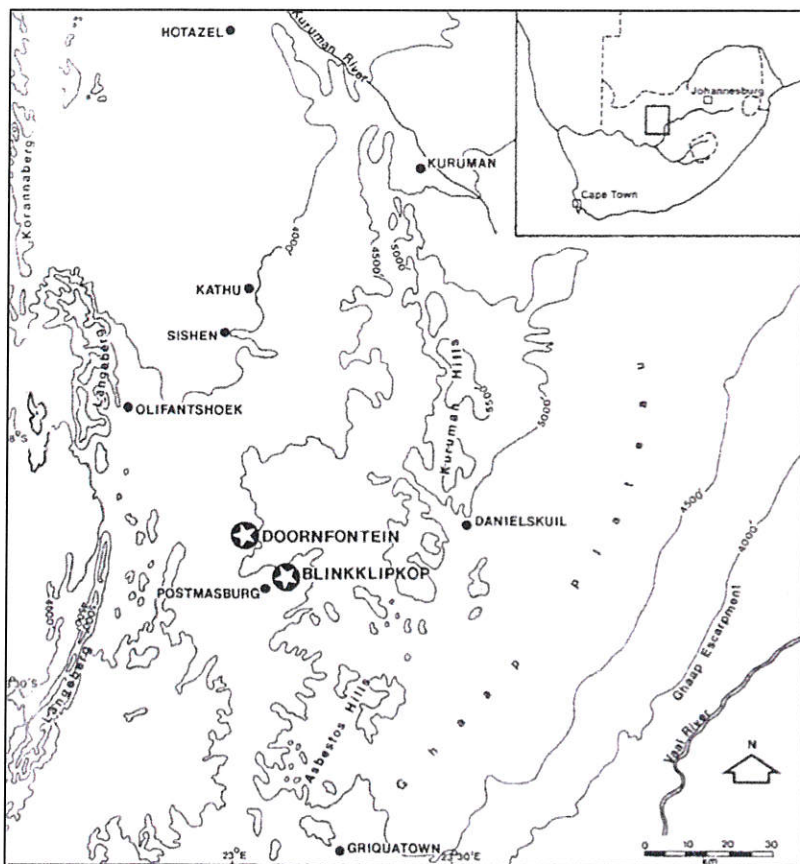


Figure 14. Location of Pre-Colonial Specularite Mines (Thackeray, Thackeray & Beaumont, 1983)

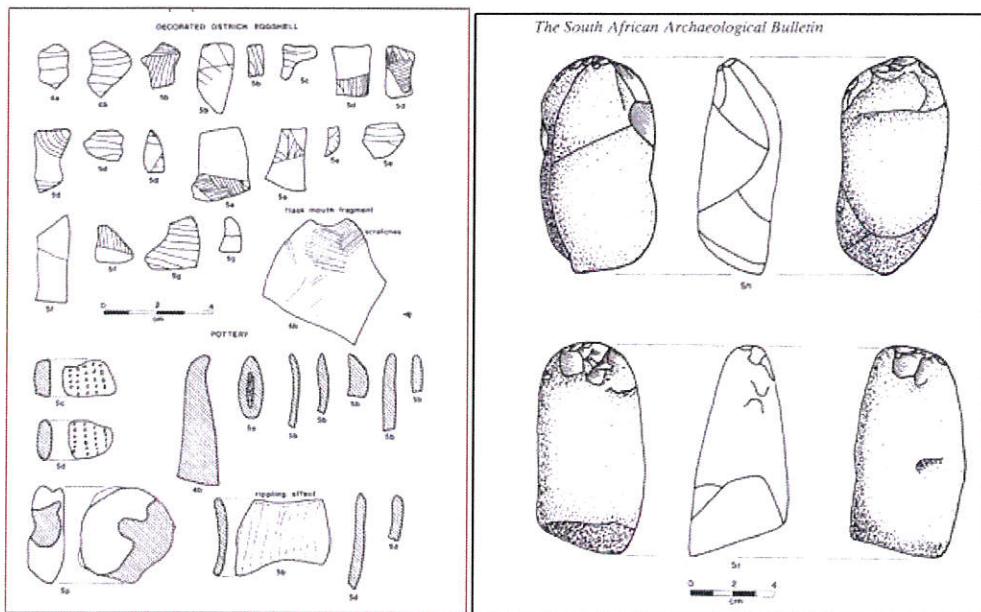


Figure 15. Decorated OEG and Mining Tools from Blinkklipkop (Thackeray, Thackeray & Beaumont, 1983)

3. Paling – Another large concentration of specularite is located on the farm Paling M87, 16km northwest of Postmasburg. The author does not indicate the extent of pre-colonial mining that

actually took place here (Thackeray, Thackeray & Beaumont, 1983) .

4. Gloucester – A pre-colonial specularite mine is found on the farm Gloucester, 13,24km north of Postmasburg. Only mining pits are observed here (Thackeray, Thackeray & Beaumont, 1983).
 5. Huxley – The final documented occurrence of specularite mining is on the farm Huxley, 15,30km north of Postmasburg. Only mining pits located at this site (Thackeray, Thackeray & Beaumont, 1983).
- The identification of petroglyphs of elephant, kudu, ostrich, etc. on the farm Beeshoek. Some geometric symbols similar to *Late Red Art* is also identified here by Judner in 1968 (Judner & Judner, 1969).
 - Petroglyphs are also identified at Koegrabie on the farm Eindgoed (Rudner & Rudner, 1968).

SAHRIS DATABASE STUDIES

An extensive research into the SAHRIS database resulted in the identification of the following heritage related studies that have been performed over the last decade in the study area. Only studies within a radius of 50km from the study area were considered.

- Beaumont P.B., 2012. CONSULTATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 40 OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT 2002, (ACT 28 OF 2002) IN RESPECT OF SAND FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR A MINING PERMIT ON A PORTION OF THE FARM FULLER NO.578, SITUATED IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF SIYANDA, NORTHERN CAPE REGION.
- Beaumont, P.B., 2007. PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE FARM PORTIONS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY A PROPOSED DIRECT RAIL LINK BETWEEN THE SISHEN SOUTH MINE NEAR POSTMASBURG AND THE SISHEN-SALDHANA LINE, SIYANDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.
- Fourie, W., 2013. Heritage Impact Assessment for the Humansrus Solar Thermal Energy Power Plant, Postmasburg.
- Pelsler, A., 2012. A REPORT ON A ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AIA) FOR THE PROPOSED BOICHOKO TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT ON PORTIONS 11 & 12 OF PENS FONTEIN 449, POSTMASBURG, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.
- Fourie, W., 2012. 132 kV Power line connection to the Humasrus Solar Thermal Energy Power plant, Postmasburg.
- Orton, J., 2014. SCOPING HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED PROSPECTING ON FARMS 53, 56, 566 AND 567, HAY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE.
- Morris, D., 2013. Archaeological and heritage phase 1 predictive impact assessment for prospecting on Magoloring portions 4 and 5 (Japies Rust), near Glosam, Northern Cape Province.
- Morris, D., 2013. Archaeological and Heritage Phase 1 predictive impact assessment for prospecting on Magoloring Portions 4 and 6 (Japies Rust), near Glosam, Northern Cape Province.
- Morris, D., 2010. Archaeological and Heritage Phase 1 Impact Assessment for the Portions Boskop on Macarthy 559, north of Postmasburg, Northern Cape.
- Becker, E., 2012. Proposed Skeifontein PV power plant and power lines, near Postmasburg, Northern Cape.
- Beaumont, P.B., 2008. Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report on Three Portions of the Farm Lohattha 673 North of Postmasburg, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.
- Beaumont, P.B., 2011. Baseline Archaeological Reconnaissance Report on the Farm Lomoteng 669, North of Postmasburg in the Siyanda District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province.
- Kusel, U., 2011. Heritage Management Plan for Kolomela Mine In the Postmasburg District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province.
- Birkholtz, P.D., 2014. Coza Iron Ore Project: Heritage Impact Assessment on sections of Portion 1 of the farm Doornpan 445, north of Postmasburg, Northern Cape Province.

- Pelsler, A., 2012. A 2ND REPORT ON A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE UPGRADE OF TRANSNET'S GLOSAM SIDING FOR PMG'S BISHOP MINE (LOADING BAY) ON PORTION 2 AND THE REMAINDER OF GLOUCESTER 674 NEAR POSTMASBURG, TSANTSABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE.
- Beaumont, P.B., 2007. Phase 1 Heritage Assessment Report on the Farm Makganyene 667, Between Postmasburg and Olifantshoek, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.
- Beaumont, P.B., 1998. Action Plan: Engraving Site on the Farm Beeshoek 448, Postmasburg District, Northern Cape.
- Van Vollenhoven, A., 2012. A REPORT ON THE HERITAGE RELATING TO THE CLOSURE EMP OF THE ASSMANG GLOSUM MINE CLOSE TO POSTMASBURG, NORTHERN CAPE.
- Webley, L. & Halkett, D., 2012. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED PROSPECTING ON THE FARM DRIEHOEKSPAN 435, POSTMASBURG, NORTHERN CAPE.
- Webley, L. & Halkett, D., 2010. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED PROSPECTING ON THE FARM JENKINS 562 (EAST), POSTMASBURG, NORTHERN CAPE.
- Webley, L., & Halkett, D., 2010. ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED PROSPECTING ON THE KOPJE BLESKOP, FARM DOORNPAN 445, POSTMASBURG, NORTHERN CAPE.
- Becker, E., 2011. Proposed Skeifontein PV power plant and power lines, near Postmasburg, Northern Cape.
- Van Vollenhoven, A., 2011. A REPORT ON A HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE UPGRADE OF TRANSNET'S GLOSAM SIDING FOR PMG'S BISHOP MINE (LOADING BAY) ON PORTION 2 AND THE REMAINDER OF GLOUCESTER 674 NEAR POSTMASBURG, TSANTSABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE.
- Van der Ryst, M., 2011. Specialist report on the Stone Age and other heritage resources at Kolomela, Postmasburg, Northern Cape.
- Kusel, U., 2013. Phase I AIA report on archaeological contexts and heritage resources on the farms Heuningkranz 364 and Langverwacht 432 in the Postmasburg District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province.
- Van Vollenhoven, A., A Report on a Heritage Impact Assessment Study for Proposed Mining Development on the Remaining Extent and Portions 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Kapstewel, Kuruman Registration District, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.
- Van Vollenhoven, A.C., 2009. AIA for the Proposed Mining Activities at Kareepan.

Relevance of Listed Heritage Studies for the Study Area

From the above it is obvious that the area around Postmasburg has been subject to extensive heritage investigations in the recent past. Although not all the reports were deemed to fulfil the minimum standards for heritage reports as outlined by SAHRA, the following guidelines could be extracted from them;

- Petroglyph sites seemed to be found primarily south and west of Postmasburg. There is a distinct lack of these sites to the north and this only changes once the area around Kathu is reached.
- Most specularite sites in the area around Postmasburg seemed to have been subjected to some sort of pre-colonial mining in the past. It is therefore imperative that any specularite deposits be investigated for such sites.
- The areas with high concentrations of magnetite and manganese does not seem to contain any Stone Age deposits with the exception of banded iron stone tools.
- Pans and rocky outcrops are high significance areas for finding heritage sites in this area.
- Some Stone Age shelters are found on rocky hills in the area.
- Anderson (2011) performed a heritage study on Portion 477 of Kameelhoek.

Historic Maps

Especially during the evaluation of historic structures, the use of archived historic maps is very handy. They give a direct chronological reference for such sites and also lead the investigation on the ground.

The following historic map sets are relevant for this study (in chronological order);

- Cape of Good Hope Reconnaissance Series – *Griquatown Sheet* (1914)
- Postmasburg Manganese Deposits, Geology Maps (1927 – 28)
- 2822 BD Topographic Sheet, First Edition Cadastral Survey (1982)

Significance of Scientific Information for the Study Area

The above information when analysed in detail forms a matrix within which the study area at Kameelhoek 477 can be analysed, it furthermore also gives guidance to investigators to ensure that fieldwork is focussed on the possible occurrence of sites and features as outlined in these studies. The main points that have been derived from these studies are the possible occurrence of the following features within the study area;

- Possible pre-colonial specularite mining activities.
- Sites with petroglyph rock art.
- Sites with mining implements from the Stone Age
- Stone tool manufacturing sites

FINDINGS

Fieldwork Results

Several small microliths of the Late Stone Age is found scattered over the higher lying regions of the property. Large areas of the study area are covered in red Kalahari sand. Some LSA tools of banded iron stone was also identified. None of these stone tool scatters can be considered a stone age site. Very few cores and no reworking flakes were observed. Some of the small tools were manufactured from volcanic glass (obsidian) – type stone, the exact type could not be determined, however it was obvious that these materials were brought into the study area from an unknown source.

Furthermore, two modern burial sites were identified as well as abandoned mining activities and agricultural structures.

GRAVESITE 1

Description:

This is a family cemetery located within a valley on the north-eastern side of the farm. Some of the marble gravestones are marked with the surname Claassens. According to local informants the previous owners of the farm was Claassens. Some of the gravestones were manufactured from white marble while others were basic black Rustenburg granite. It is expected than at least ten graves are located within the fenced off area of the cemetery, however there could be more unmarked or poorly marked graves.

GPS S28° 06' 15.58''
E23° 01' 31.42''

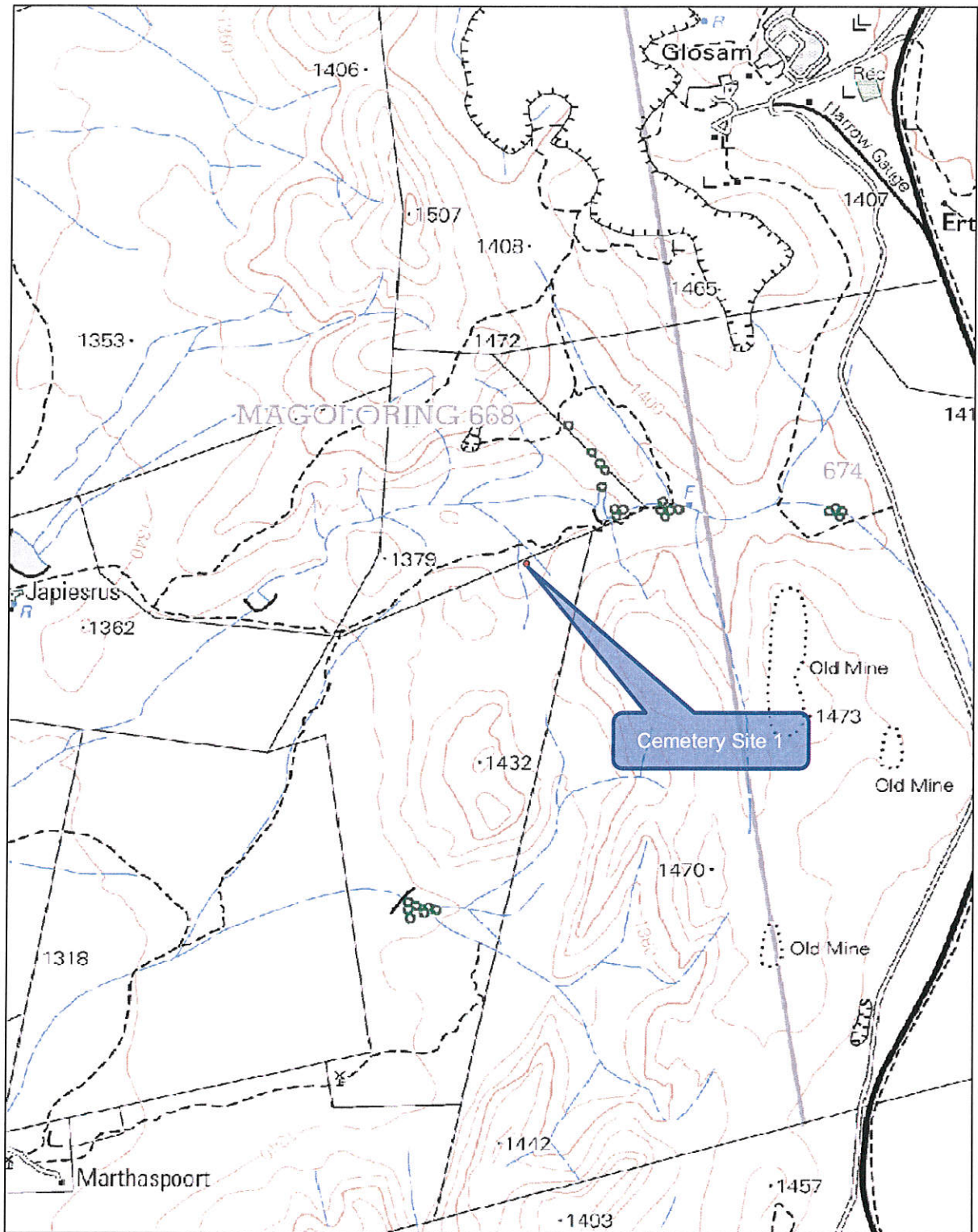


Figure 16. Location of Cemetery Site1

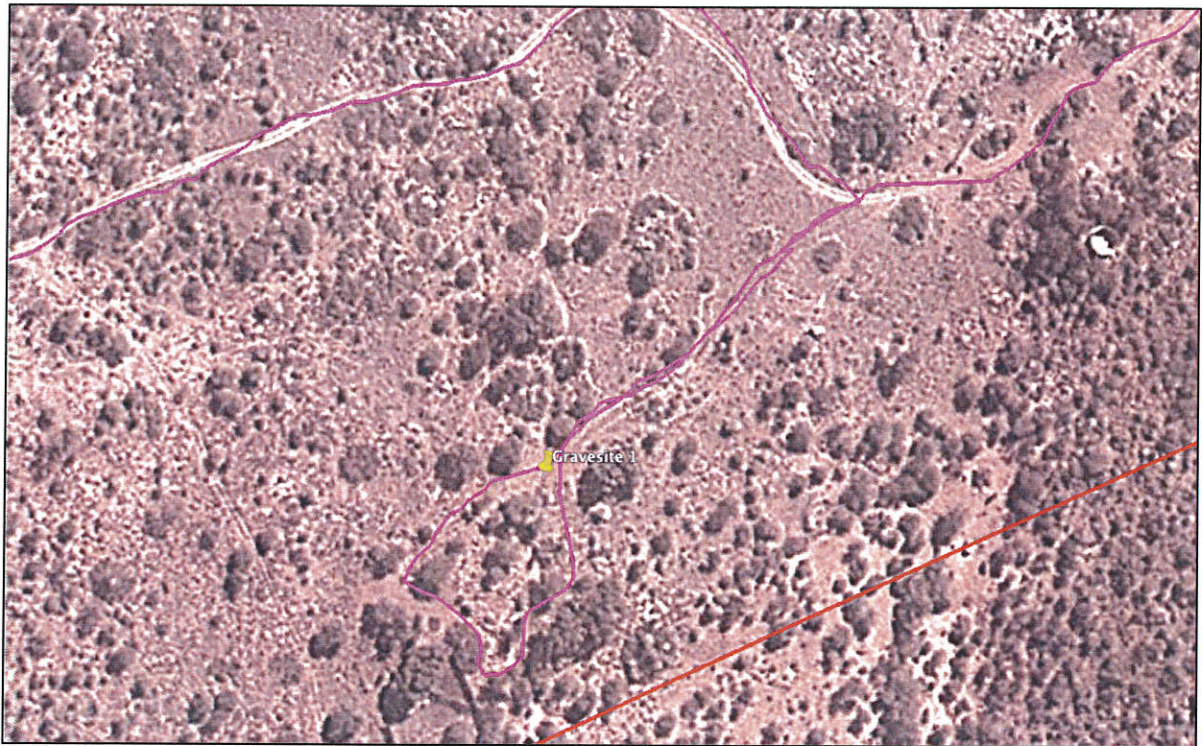


Figure 17. Google Earth Image of the Location of Gravesite 1



Figure 18. Fenced Cemetery



Figure 19. Gravesite 1



Figure 20. Grave of Martha Magdalena Le Roux 1842 - 1908



Figure 21. Grave of Christina Catariena Claasens 1884 - 1917



Figure 22. Grave, inscription not clear.