

Bridge over No 2 Drain



Figure 181: Bridge in encircled area

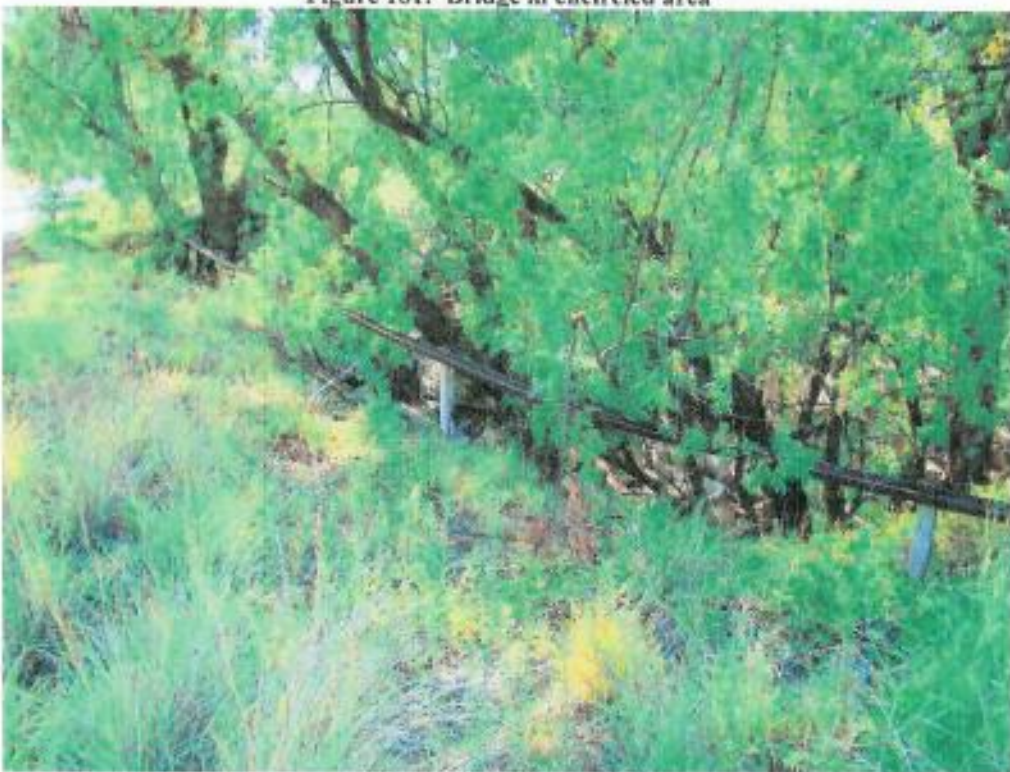
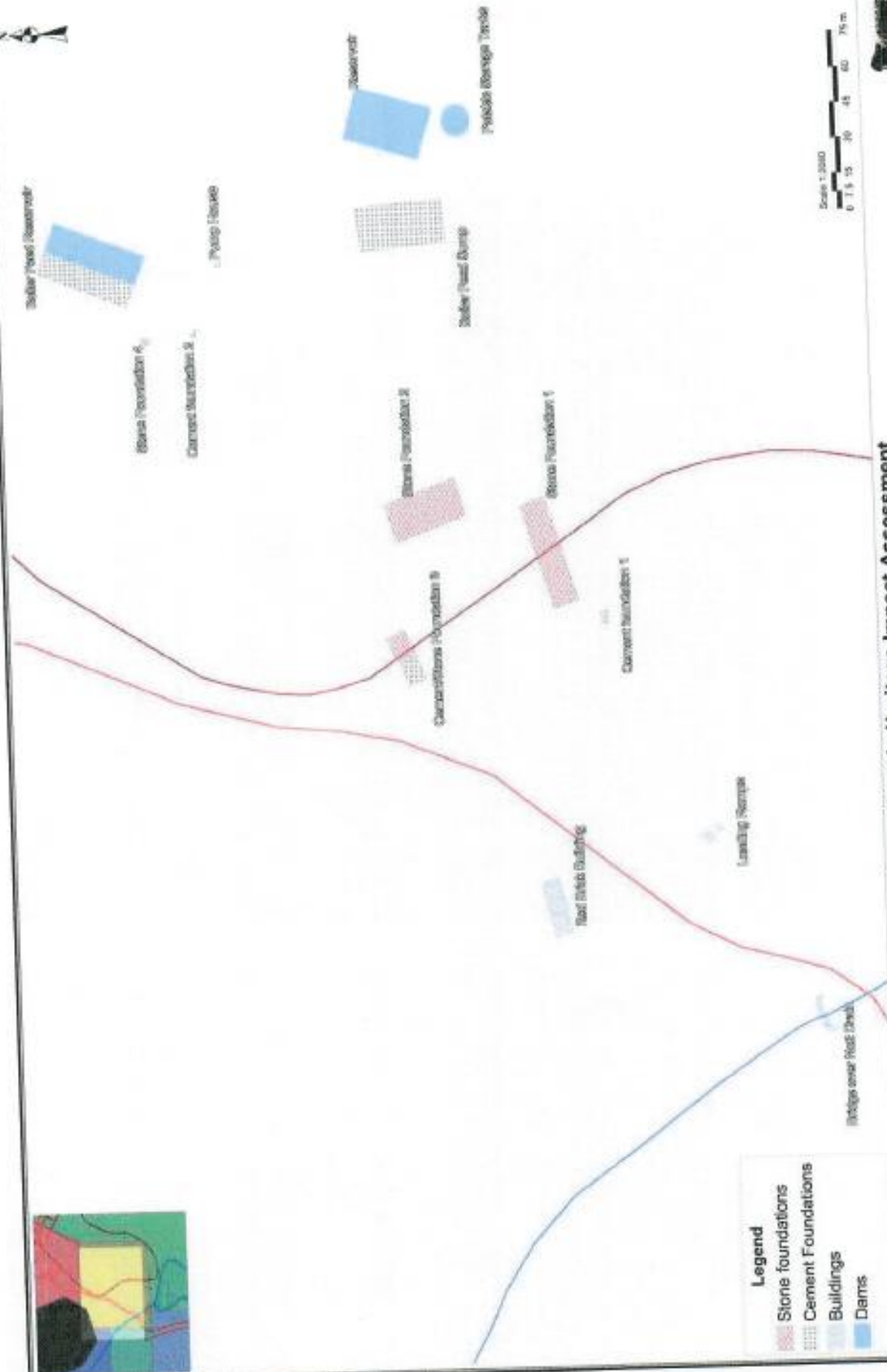


Figure 182: Bridge rail



Legend

- Stone foundations
- Cement Foundations
- Buildings
- Dams



**Jagersfontein Heritage Impact Assessment
Structures: Mine Area b
31/03/2009**

5.3.2.3 Central Section

Dam & Retainer Walls

The dam wall (refer to map on page 153) seems to follow the same contour line of that on which the retainer wall in the southern section is built (for the latter refer to the map on page 33). Since both these walls have flat surfaces on top – approximately the width of a narrow dirt road – it is possible that this could have served as an earlier road but that a section of the road has subsequently been demolished. It is not clear where the origin of this wall is but it ends at the northern section of the dam. At the same time it also runs along a charted river-line so could have served as both road and means to channel the water to the dam. In the early days of the mine's existence lack of water was very problematic since diamond mining requires a good measure of water to wash the crushed diamondiferous soil and the original farm's fountain was not sufficient. This might, therefore, have been a means to overcome this to some extent.



Figure 183: Retainer wall at dam area

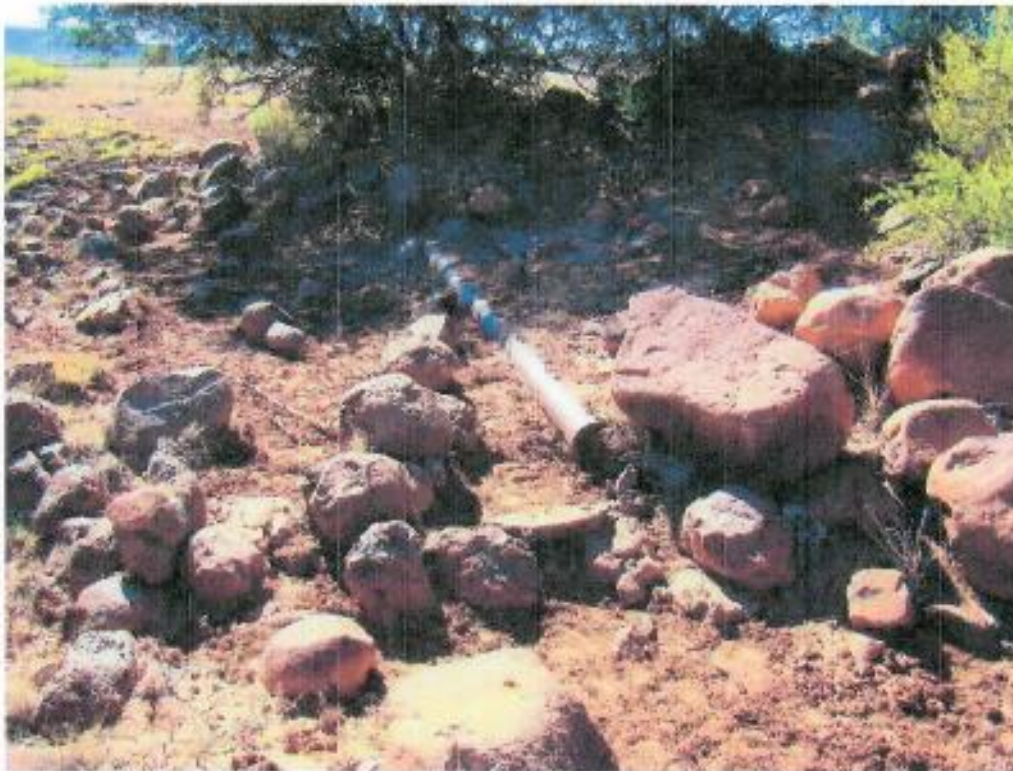


Figure 184: Demolished section in the middle of the dam retainer wall exposes a water pipe

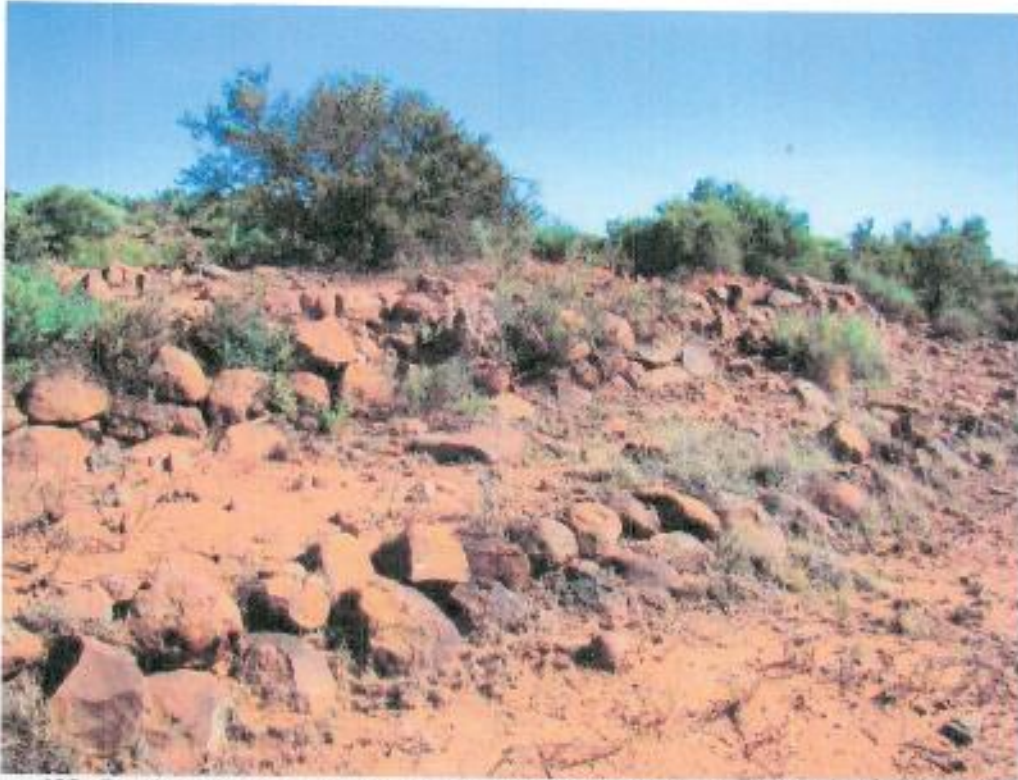


Figure 185: Retainer wall at dam – constructed in terraces with flat surface on top (see photograph below)

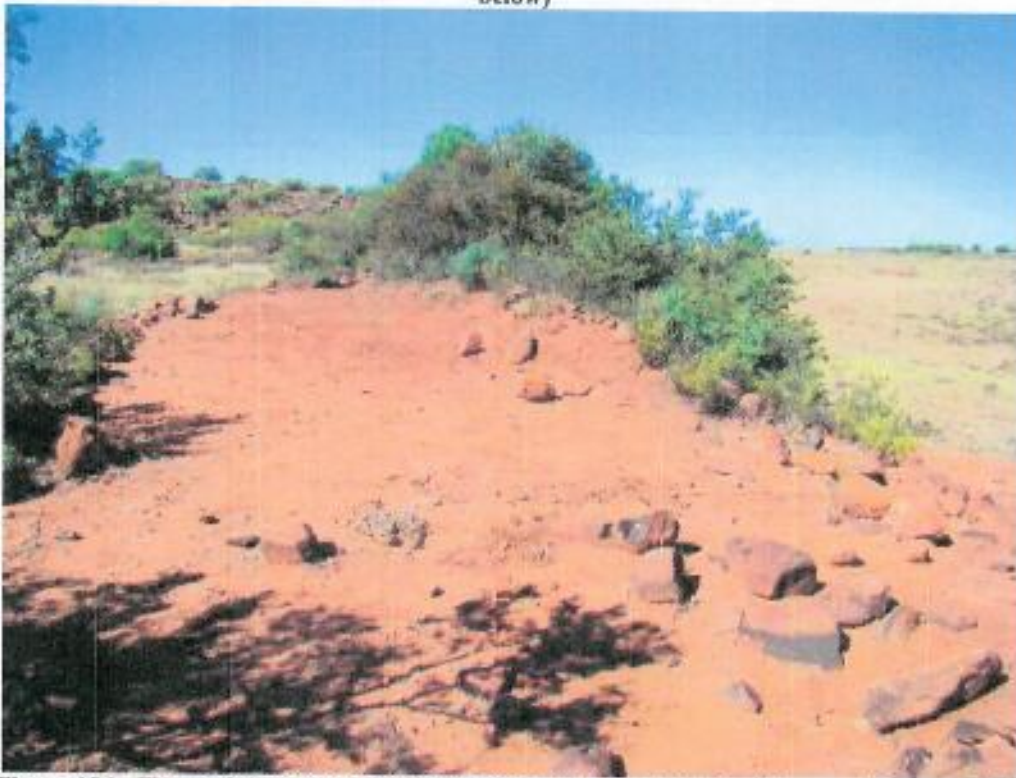


Figure 186: Flat surface on top of terraced retainer wall for dam is wide enough for a vehicle



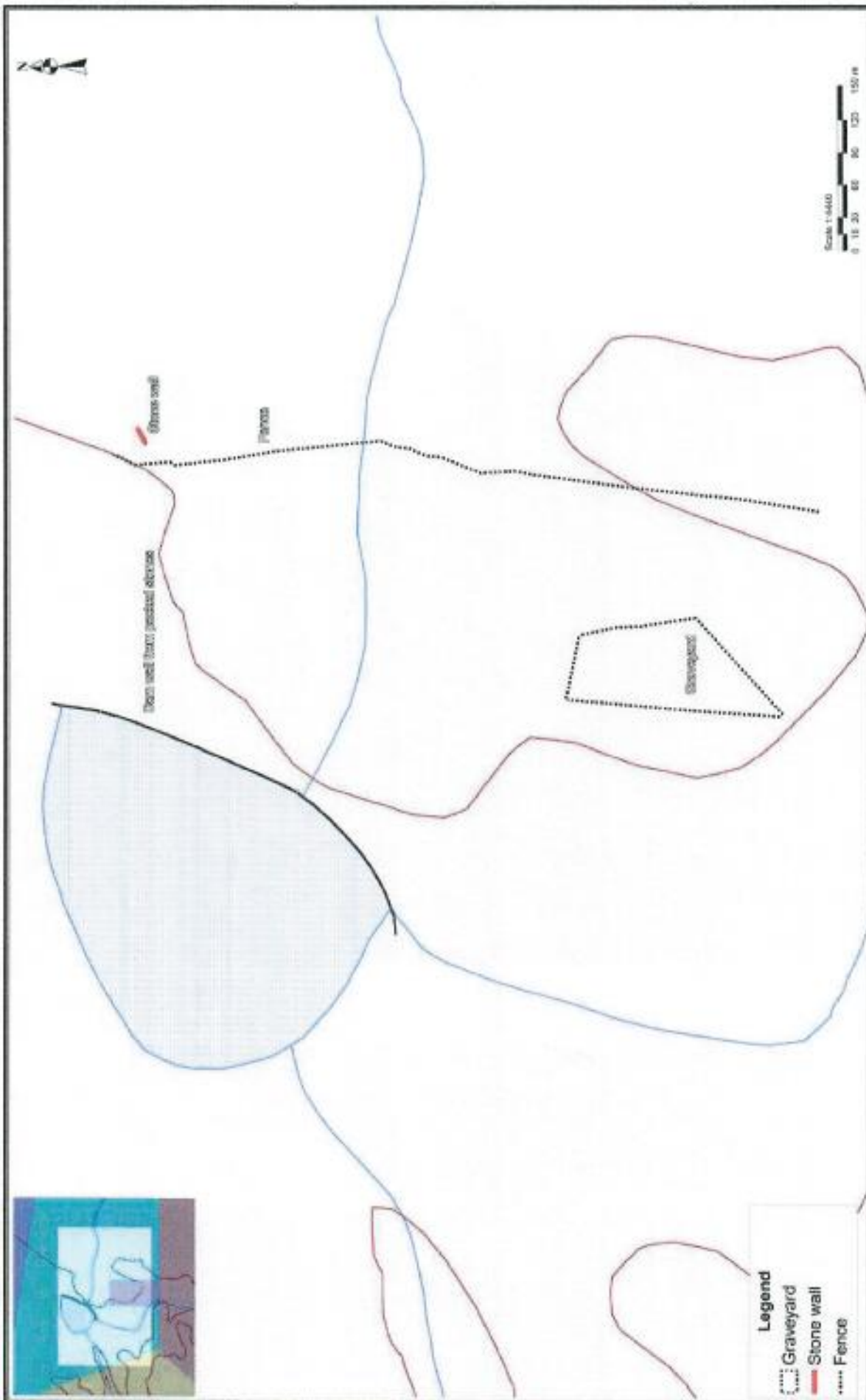
Figure 187: Retainer wall in southern section of surveyed area - see map on page 33



Figure 188: This wall in the southern section has a similar flat surface to that of the retainer wall at the dam in the central section. Both these walls run on the same contour line and could possibly have been connected



Figure 189 (group): Various items found in hill between dam and graveyard



**Jagersfontein Heritage Impact Assessment
Structures: Central Section
31/03/2009**

- Legend**
- Graveyard
 - Stone wall
 - Fence



Burial Area

In the central section (refer to section map on page 1a) a burial area was found. Although an attempt has been made to fence off the area it is not sufficient to keep out animals. Immediately adjacent this burial area on the northern side is a cattle pen. Stones packed in a T-shape form a passage through the larger area that leads to a smaller section with more "formal" type graves (refer to map of graveyard on page 162). For the purpose of this report the large section will be referred to as the "informal" section and the smaller section the "formal" part.

In the formal section 32 graves were counted. Five of these graves have stones piled on top, 15 have iron crosses similar to those found on British Anglo-Boer War graves except it differs in that the vertical leg of the cross does not run through the circle but only extends above and below the circle with only the horizontal leg of the cross running through the circle. The remainder of the graves has a clearly distinguishable head- and footstone with the former bigger than the latter. From two of these graves corrugated iron sheets are protruding from the ground. This is normally used to cover the body or coffin before it is covered with soil. It is, therefore, possible that the graves are not very deep. None of the graves have any indication of the person buried there and the iron crosses are not of the thick cast iron variety found in most formal graveyards but fashioned from a thinner cast iron. All these crosses are coated in a layer of rust but it might have been painted at some stage. The graves in this section seems to be laid out in two more or less straight rows running from north to south with the head stones on the western side and footstones on the eastern side (i.e. the body would be facing east).

The "informal" section is more problematic because there seems to be no order to the lay-out of the graves. All of these graves are on the southern side of the "footpath" that runs east to west and the eastern side of the row of stones that separates these graves from the "formal" section. If it is assumed that each grave would have both a head- and footstone then there might be well over 300 graves in this section. Two graves seem to have had a single layer of packed stones on top and from the orientation of the headstone it is assumed the bodies in these graves might also be facing east as is custom with most indigenous cultures.

Some of our informants were of the opinion that these graves *might* be from mine workers (more specifically natives who lived in the compound) but no-one knew with certainty. No record was found in the De Beers archives of where the natives were buried although an exhaustive search was not undertaken in this regard.

In one specific place in the informal section human bones were lying on the surface at an area where animal burrowing took place. Similar to the formal section these graves might also not be very deep.

This entire burial area is in need of maintenance and repair and requires urgent attention.



Figure 190: Cross on grave in "formal" section



Figure 191: Condition of fence



Figure 192: Close proximity of cattle pen to graves (note condition of fence)



Figure 193: Path running north to south



Figure 194: Path running east to west



Figure 195: Formal section of burial area (orientation south)



Figure 196: Informal section of burial area (orientation north)



Figure197: Grave with packed stones (formal area)



Figure 198: Grave with packed stones (informal area)



Figure 199: Exposed corrugated iron sheets from grave in formal area (1)

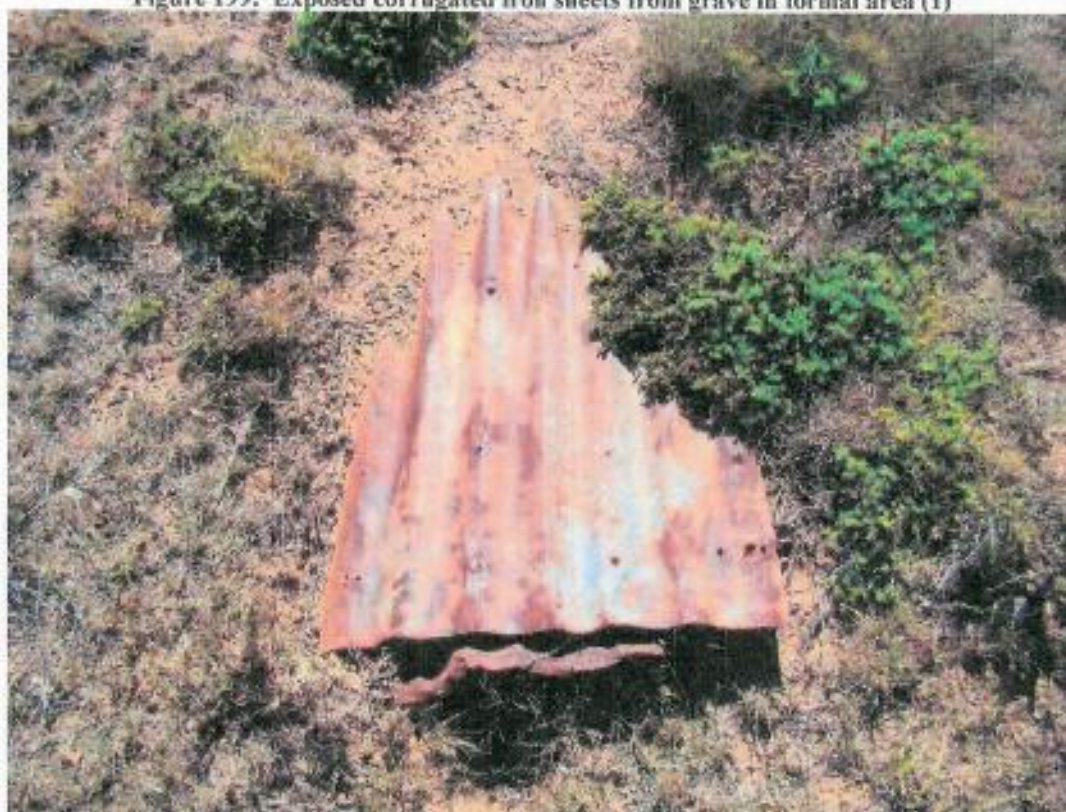


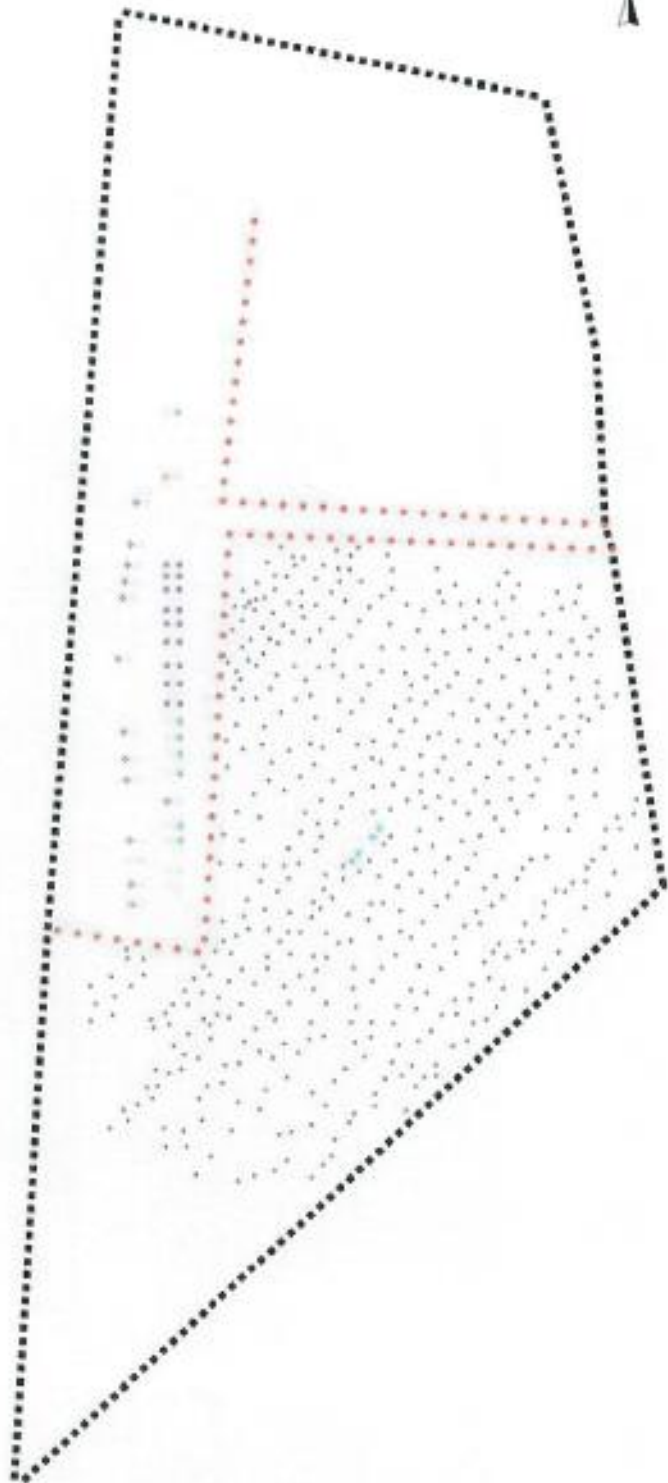
Figure 200: Exposed corrugated iron sheets from grave in formal area (2)



Figure 201: Exposed human bones at grave in informal section



Figure 202: Close-up of exposed human bone



Legend

Graveyard

- ▣ Graveyard fence
- Packed stones
- Grave with cross
- Grave stones
- Grave: Footstone
- Grave: Head and Footstone
- Grave: Headstone
- Packed Grave



Jagersfontein Heritage Impact Assessment
Graveyard
31/03/2009



5.3.2.4 EAST SECTION

Power Station

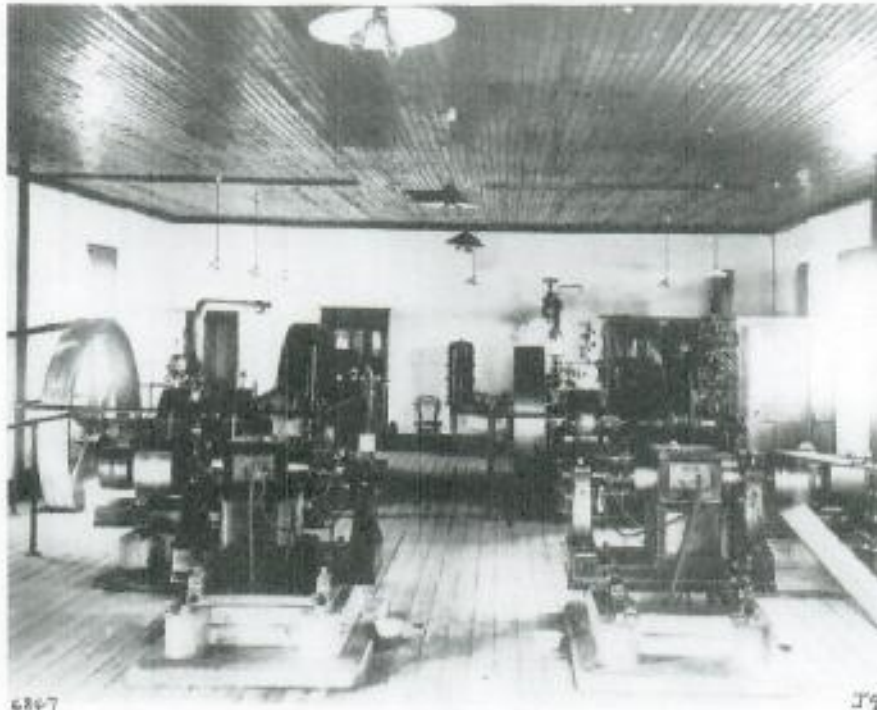


Figure 203: DBMC Archive photograph of the interior of the power station

In 1921 the "New Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration Company Ltd" installed 40 street lights in Jagersfontein town at own cost. Electricity was provided free of charge via the mine's power station. In 1926 the mine had a new power station erected and started providing more extensive services to the local municipality, to include improved street lights that the mine once again installed at own cost. Churches, libraries, and houses that belonged to the mine received electricity free of charge and certain important public institutions paid a reduced tariff. Apparently the power was disconnected at 10 every night and switched on again in the morning. By 1966 when closure of the mine was considered, the mine provided electricity not only to the town of Jagersfontein but also the nearby Fauresmith. This, however, was discontinued after the closure of the mine since Escom came into operation in this area in 1971.



Figure 204: Remaining foundations of power station (1)



Figure 205: Remaining foundation of Power Station (2)



Figure 206: Remaining foundation of Power Station (3)



Figure 207: Remains of Power Station (remains of mine stores in background)

Mine Stores

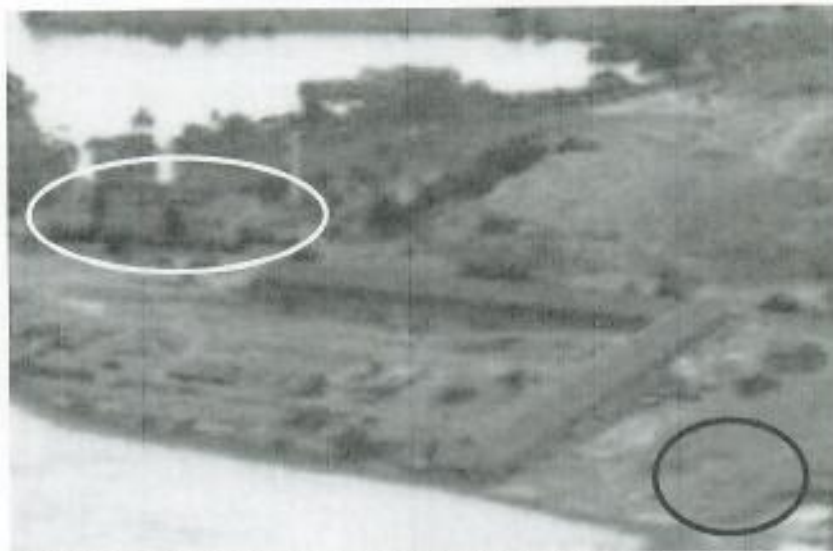


Figure 208: Mine Stores (L-shaped building) with Power Plant (white encircled) at the back to the left of it and the rubbish dump to the right (black encircled).



Figure 209: Remains of Mine Stores (1)



Figure 210: Remains of Mine Stores (2)



Figure 211: Remains of Mine Stores (3)



Figure 212: Remains of Mine Stores (4)



Figure 213: Remains of Mine Stores (5)



Figure 214: Remains of Mine Stores (6)

Rubbish Dump

On the southern side of the remains of the Mine Stores is a rubbish dump that could possibly be related to the compound which is on the northern side of the Mine Stores. It is, however, possible that illegal dumping took place at this site since the mine's closure in 1971 as the upper layer contains both items dating to that period as well as a few items dating to a more recent period.



Noludar was used for treating insomnia, but is now rarely used as it has been replaced by newer drugs with fewer side effects, such as benzodiazepines. Noludar was withdrawn from the US market in June 1965.

Figure 215: Container of "Noludar" found on rubbish dump.



Figure 216: Ceramic sherd from rubbish dump



Figure 217: Rubbish dump south of Mine Stores (1)



Figure 218: Close-up view of surface of rubbish dump south of Mine Stores (2)

Railway Bridge



Figure 219: Opening of railway line 31 January 1905

The records show that Jagersfontein already as early as 1890 started requesting a railway line be built to Jagersfontein as an extension from the main railway line that ran from the South to the North. It was, however, only after the Free State government purchased the railway line and it started showing a considerable profit that this request was considered. A start was made on laying down the tracks but when it was approximately 9 miles from Jagersfontein construction was stopped on account of the Anglo-Boer War. After the war the mine first had to guarantee a loan of £100,000 to the "Inter-Colonial Council" before work could commence. On 31 January 1905 the new line was officially opened by the His Excellency, Sir Hamilton John Gould-Adams, lieutenant-governor of the Orange River Colony. The mine had a sideline from this railway line and it is on this section that the old bridge in the following pictures was situated.



Figure 220: Remains of sideline railway bridge (1)

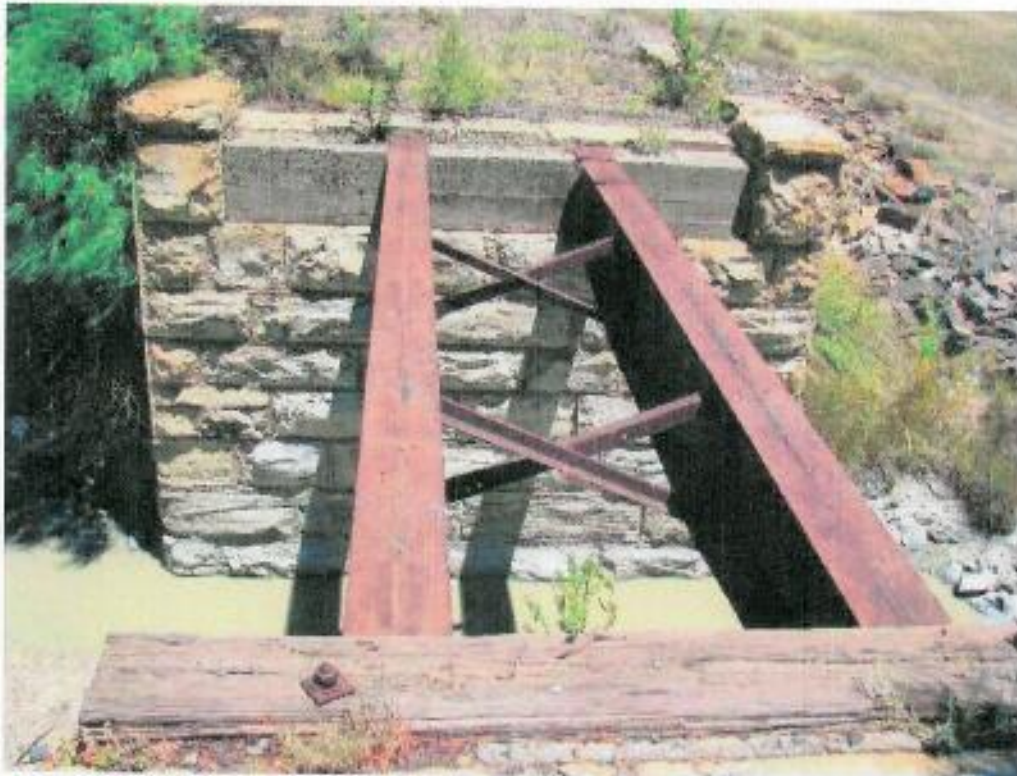


Figure 221: Remains of sideline Railway Bridge (tracks removed)

Unidentified Cement Foundation



Figure 222: None of the mine maps identifies this structure (refer to map on page 182 for its location)

Dam in mound

Further south from the train bridge is a large dam constructed by hollowing out a section in what seems to be machine dump waste, lined with a layer of mesh wire and a thin cement layer on top to form a deep receptacle shaped like a cone. No records were found to explain this structure.



Figure 223: side view of the hollowed out structure (partially dismantled or collapsed)



Figure 224: viewed from top of broken lip



Figure 225: Inside of "dam" (now overgrown with vegetation)



Figure 226: Close-up view shows the mesh with thin layer of cement on top

Coal Depot



Figure 227: 1960's aerial photograph - encircled area is the "coal depot"

This structure was pointed out to us as "Mr Du Preez' coal depot". It seems to have served as animal shelter at a later stage because some of the cubicles contained feeding troughs.



Figure 228: Cubicles or rooms for coal storage (orientation west)



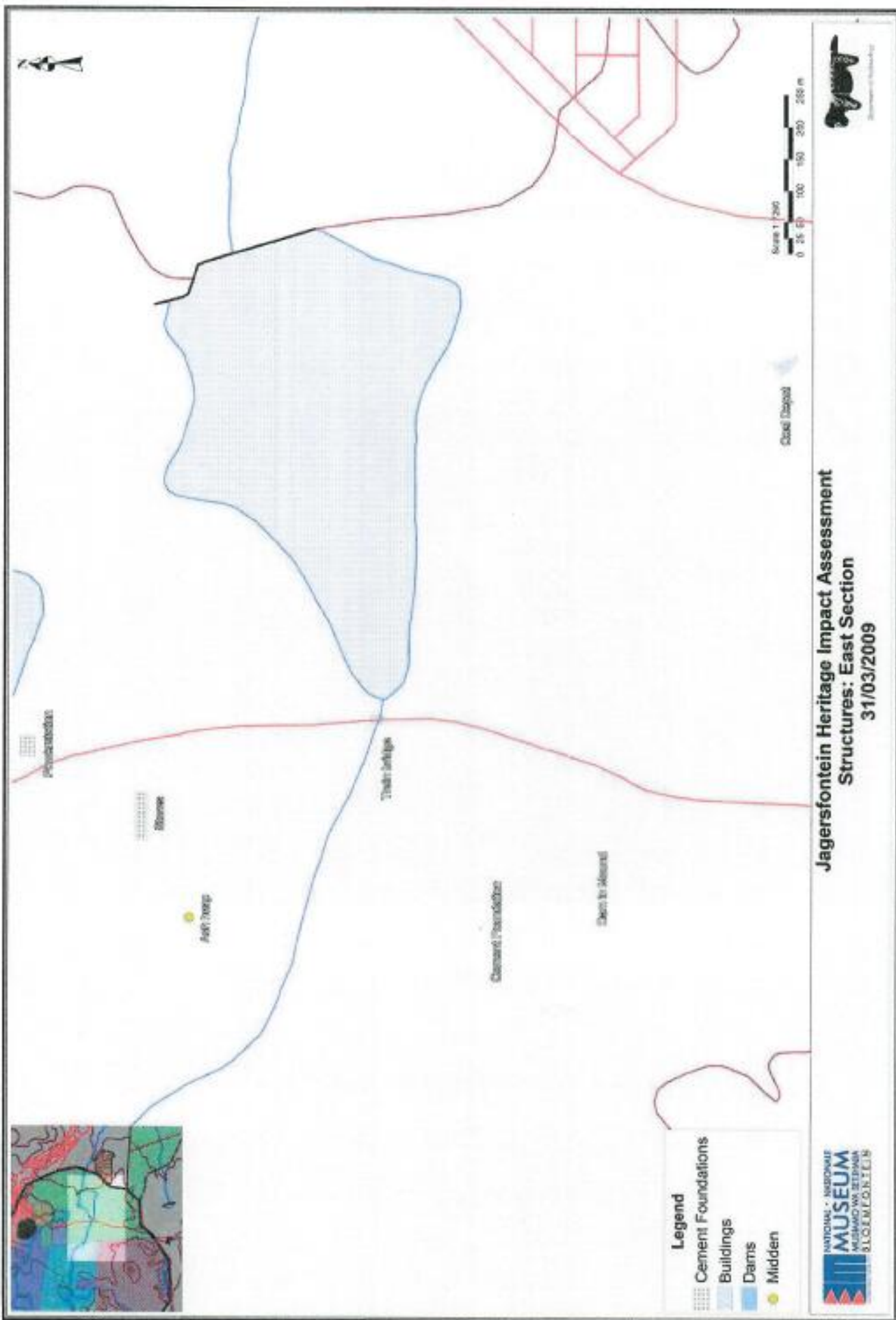
Figure 229: Demolished section (orientation south-west)



Figure 230: Building rubble



Figure 231: Loading ramp with cubicles on right hand side (orientation south)



5.3.2.5 Western Section

The western section (refer to Sections Map on page 1a) of the original mining area is bounded on the southern and western side by ridges with the open space on the northern side of the southern ridge having been utilized as gravel airfield strip for small aircraft during the time the mine was still in operation. This area is now part of farming land which is mainly used for grazing (game and cattle). This area no longer forms part of the mining area and any Stone Age elements present should not be in danger of being disturbed by future possible mining activities (e.g. reworking of the mine dumps). Stone Age artefacts were mainly found on the ridges and those found on the plains seem to not be *in situ* since they were either single finds or found in dried up water pans.

The ridges on the western side form several depressions which seem to have been used as natural cattle pens. No remains of any mining activities were found on top of the ridges apart from several piles of stones that acted as anchorage for thick wires. These might, however, be remains of old Escom lines.

A single possible grave on the south-eastern side of the airfield strip might date to a much earlier period and not have any relation to the mine. Apart from evidence that cattle was kept on top of the ridges on the western side, a small animal pen from more recent type fencing was found on the ridges on the southern side.

On account of the free-roaming ostriches (with two aggressive male ostriches), however, the plains section was not extensively surveyed on foot but rather by quad bike for more visible remains such as structures or foundations. Should this area therefore be earmarked for development, a proper foot survey should be undertaken to ensure there are no Stone Age sites of importance.

Airfield Strip



Figure 232: Small corrugated iron structure and windsock at intersection of two runways of the airfield



Figure 233: Close-up view of the corrugated iron structure - the interior suggests this to have been used as bathroom (toilets)



Figure 234: Remains of a building with cement foundation on opposite side to the toilet of the intersection (Possibly a hanger for a small aircraft)



Figure 235: Runway running west to east (orientation west)

The stone tools in figures 236 and 237 were found in the water pan area adjacent the airfield and show severe weathering

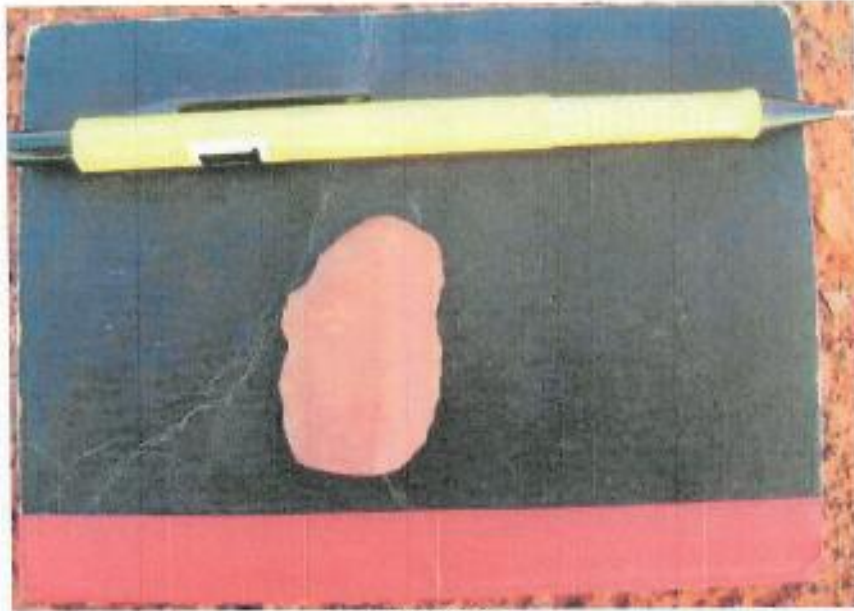


Figure 236



Figure 237

Southern Ridge



Figure 238: Small fenced off area - possibly an animal pen



Figure 239: Close-up of fencing material



Figure 240: A variety of horseshoes

Possible grave



Figure 241 (group): Single grave photographed from different sides

Western Ridge



Figure 242: This particularly rocky patch on top of the western ridge could possibly be a source site for raw material for stone tools. The following photographs are all from this particular concentration of rocks.



Figure 243: Core and flake

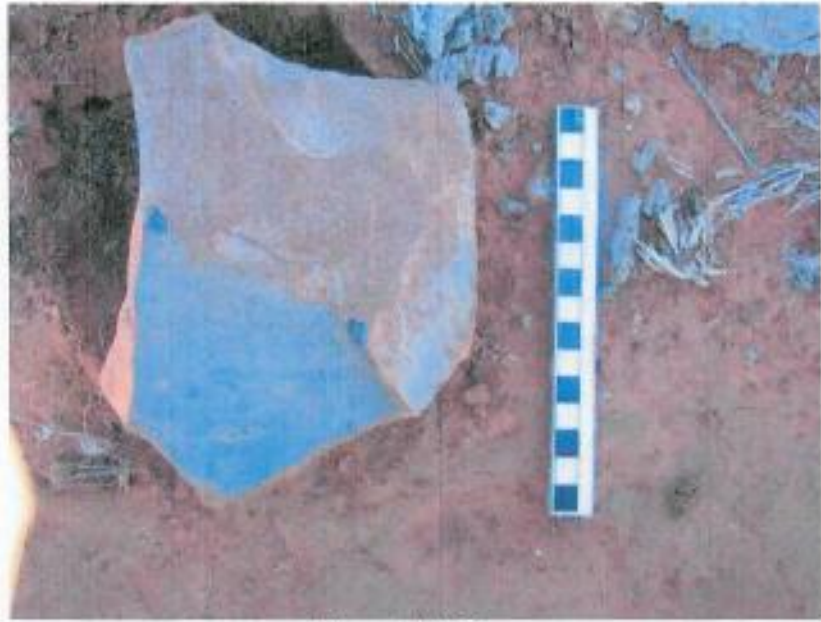


Figure 244: Core



Figure 245: Core flake

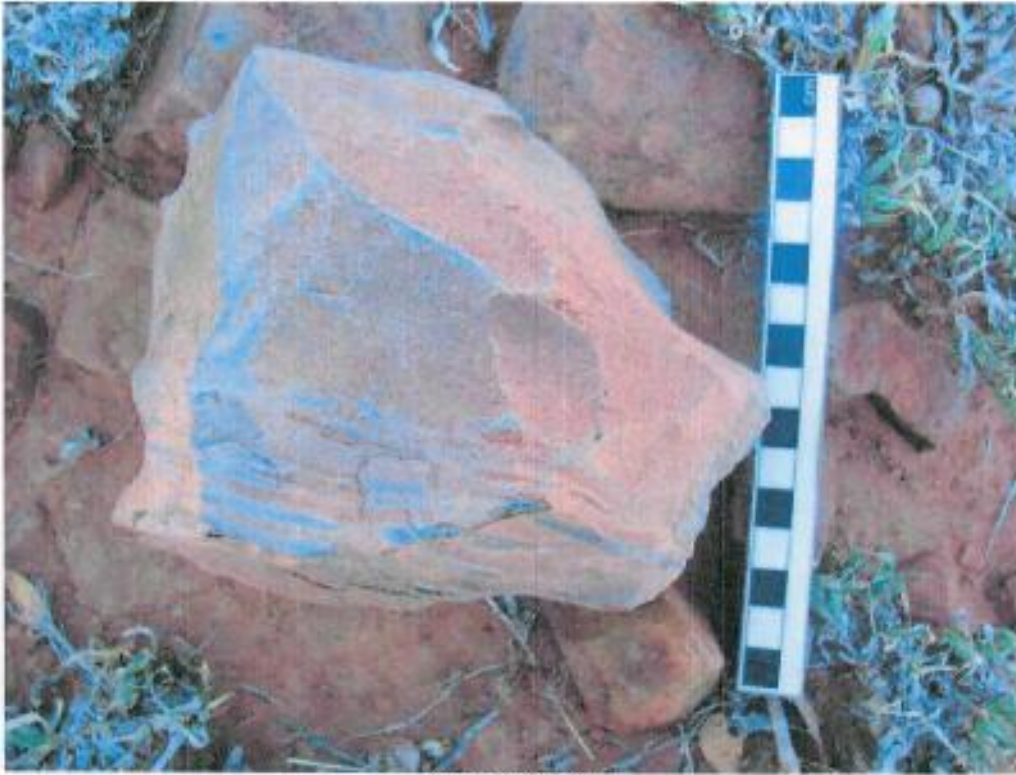


Figure 246: Core



Figure 247: Core



Figure 248: Cores



Figure 249: Cores



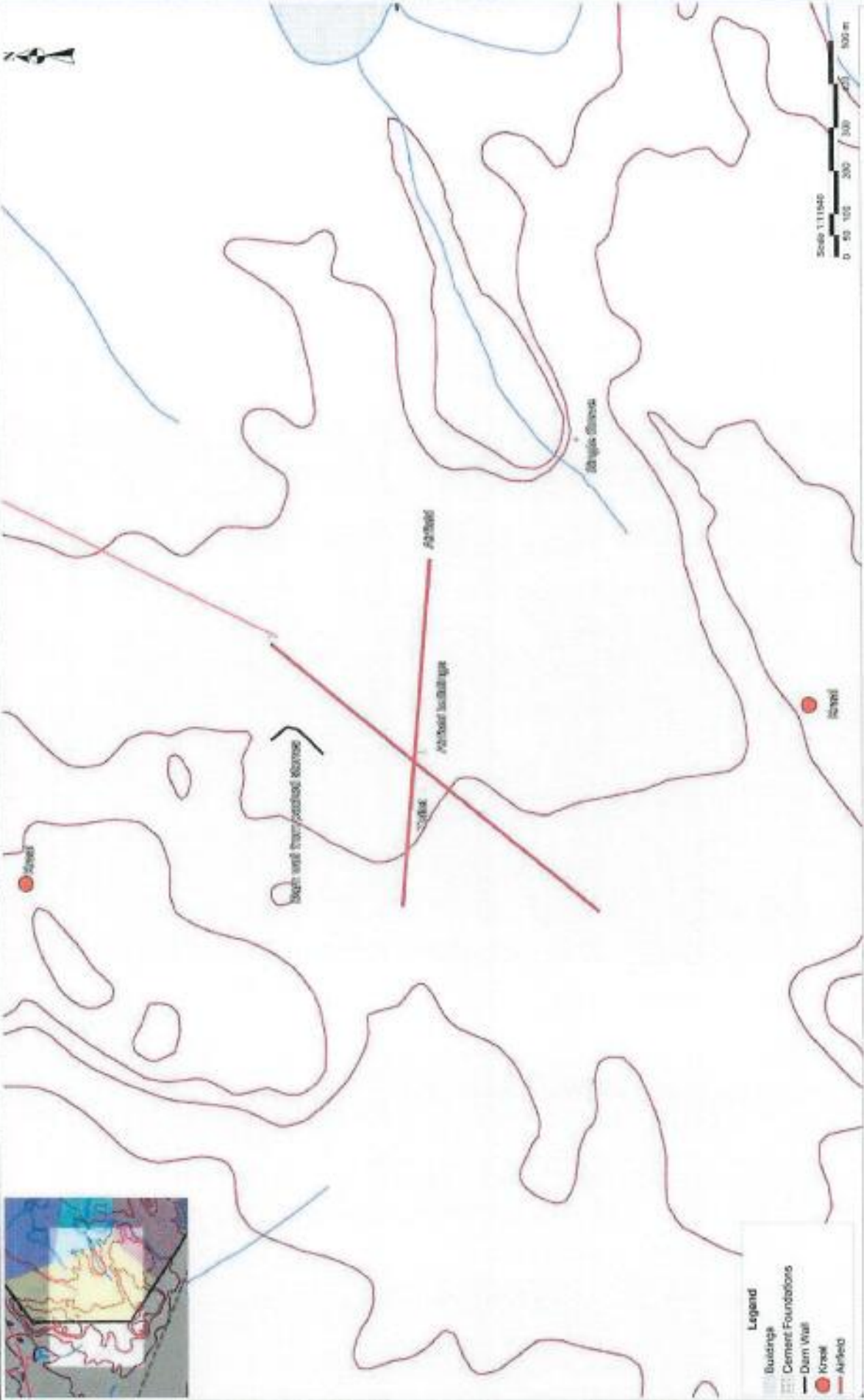
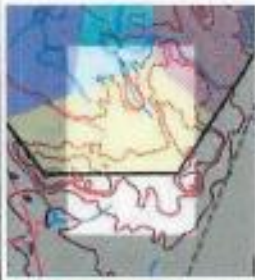
Figure 250: Core and flakes with one showing signs of retouch



Figure 251: Several stone piles similar to the one in this photograph were found on top of this western ridge. All of them have either a length of cable anchored in it or a portion of it lying nearby



Figure 252: Several depressions (or small flat area approximately the size of a soccer field) similar to the one in this photograph can be found along this ridge and judged by the amount of cattle dung could possibly have served as natural cattle kraal



- Legend**
- Buildings
 - Cement Foundations
 - Dam Wall
 - Rock
 - Air-Field



**Jagersfontein Heritage Impact Assessment
Structures: West Section
31/03/2009**