

# Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment Report

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DESKTOP AND FIELD BASED HERITAGE IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROSPECTING RIGHTS  
APPLICATION FOR PORTION 1 AND 16 OF THE FARM  
JAGERSFONTEIN 14, GHARIEP DISTRICT,  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

PREPARED BY:

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*Disclaimer; Although all possible care is taken to identify all sites of cultural importance during the investigation of study areas, it is always possible that hidden or sub-surface sites could be overlooked during the study. G&A Heritage and its personnel will not be held liable for such oversights or for costs incurred as a result of such oversights.*

## Statement of Independence

As the duly appointed representative of G&A Heritage, I Stephan Gaigher, hereby confirm my independence as a specialist and declare that neither I nor G&A Heritage have any interests, be it business or otherwise, in any proposed activity, application or appeal in respect of which the Environmental Consultant was appointed as Environmental Assessment Practitioner, other than fair remuneration for work performed on this project.

SIGNED OFF BY: STEPHAN GAIGHER



# MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

**Site name and location:** Prospecting Rights Application for the Remainder of Portions 1 and 16 of the Farm Jagersfontein 14, Fauresmith District, Free State

**Municipal Area:** Kopanong Local Municipality

**Developer:** Jagersfontein Developments (Pty) Ltd.

**Consultant:** G&A Heritage, PO Box 522, Louis Trichardt, 0920, South Africa,  
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**Date of Report:** 21 February 2019

The purpose of the management summary is to distil the information contained in the report into a format that can be used to give specific results quickly and facilitate management decisions. It is not the purpose of the management summary to repeat in shortened format all the information contained in the report, but rather to give a statement of results for decision making purposes.

This study focuses on the Prospecting Rights Application for Portions 1 and 16 of the Farm Jagersfontein 14 in the Kopanong Local Municipality of the Free State Province:

- Farm Jagersfontein 14 Portion 1 (Remainder)
- Farm Jagersfontein 14 Portion 16 (Remainder)

This study encompasses the heritage impact investigation. The client indicated that although the whole site as indicated was applied for prospecting rights, only four core areas were earmarked for active mining. It was decided, in collaboration with SAHRA, that the four core areas indicated would be subjected to a field based HIA, while the remainder was to be subjected to only a desktop study. It was agreed that should the focus areas change, the new areas would be subjected to a full field based HIA before any environmental alterations are executed.

## Scope of Work

A desktop and field based Heritage Impact Assessment (including Archaeological, Cultural heritage, Built Heritage and Basic Paleontological Assessment) was performed to determine the impacts on heritage resources within the study area from documented records. The field based HIA would only evaluate the focus areas as indicated by the client.

The following are required to perform the assessment:

- A desk-top investigation of the whole prospecting rights application area;
- A field based full HIA on the identified core areas.
- Identify possible archaeological, cultural, historic and built environment sites within the proposed prospecting area;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed prospecting on archaeological, cultural, historical resources; built and paleontological resources; and
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural, historical and built environment importance.

The purpose of this study is to determine the possible occurrence of sites with cultural heritage significance within the total study area. The study is based on archival and document investigations for the whole prospecting rights application area, while the four core areas were subjected to a full HIA.

## Findings & Recommendations

The study area was found to be rich in heritage sites. The prospecting rights application area has in large part been subjected to previous in depth studies which has identified several sites of heritage significance. Management guidelines has previously been listed in these reports. The only site in imminent danger of

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damage within the four core areas is the Cavalry Site which has also previously been identified. It is noted that Fauresmith Industry Stone Tools could occur along a drainage canal within Area D. This should be monitored during development.

**Fatal Flaws**

No fatal flaws were identified.

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Bp.....	Before Present
EIA.....	Early Iron Age
ESA.....	Early Stone Age
Fm.....	Femtometre ( $10^{-15}$ m)
GPS.....	Geographic Positioning System
HIA.....	Heritage Impact Assessment
I&AP.....	Interested and Affected Parties
KZN.....	KwaZulu Natal
LIA.....	Late Iron Age
LSA.....	Late Stone Age
MYA.....	Million Years Ago
MSA.....	Middle Stone Age
NHRA.....	National Heritage Resources Act no 22 of 1999
PRA.....	Prospecting Rights Application
SAHRA.....	South African Heritage Resource Agency
S&EIR.....	Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting
Um.....	Micrometre ( $10^{-6}$ m)
WGS 84.....	World Geodetic System for 1984

## HERITAGE IMPACT REPORT

DESKTOP HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROSPECTING RIGHTS APPLICATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF PORTIONS 1 AND 16 OF THE FARM JAGERSFONTEIN 14.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### Legislation and methodology

G&A Heritage was appointed by *Turn 180 Environmental Consultants* to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Prospecting Rights Application for the remainders of Portion 1 and 16 of the Farm Jagersfontein 14 in the Free State Province. As part of this study a field based investigation would be done of four core areas within the PRA Area, earmarked for mining activities. The Prospecting Rights Application Area was only subjected to a desktop study while the four core areas were investigated through a full field based HIA. The paleontological sensitivity of the site has previously been evaluated as per the attached Request for Exemption – which was granted by SAHRA in 2013 (L. Rossouw, 2013).

Section 38(1) of the South African Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) requires that a heritage study is undertaken for:

- (a) Construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length;
- (b) Construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length; and
- (c) Any development, or other activity which will change the character of an area of land, or water –
  - (1) Exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> in extent;
  - (2) Involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
  - (3) Involving three or more erven, or subdivisions thereof, which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
- (d) The costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations; or
- (e) Any other category of development provided for in regulations.

While the above describes the parameters of developments that fall under this Act., Section 38 (8) of the NHRA is applicable to this development. This section states that;

- (8) *The provisions of this section do not apply to a development as described in subsection (1) if an evaluation of the impact of such development on heritage resources is required in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989), or the integrated environmental management guidelines issued by the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, or the Minerals Act, 1991 (Act 50 of 1991), or any other legislation: Provided that the consenting authority must ensure that the evaluation fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority in terms of subsection (3), and any comments and recommendations of the relevant heritage resources authority with regard to such development have been taken into account prior to the granting of the consent.*

In regards to a development such as this that falls under Section 38 (8) of the NHRA, the requirements of Section 38 (3) applies to the subsequent reporting, stating that;

- (3) *The responsible heritage resources authority must specify the information to be provided in a report required in terms of subsection (2) (a): Provided that the following must be included:*
- (a) *The identification and mapping of all heritage resources in the area affected;*
  - (b) *An assessment of the significance of such resources in terms of the heritage assessment criteria set out in section 6 (2) or prescribed under section 7;*
  - (c) *An assessment of the impact of the development on such heritage resources;*
  - (d) *An evaluation of the impact of the development on heritage resources relative to the sustainable social and economic benefits to be derived from the development;*
  - (e) *The results of consultation with communities affected by the proposed development and other interested parties regarding the impact of the development on heritage resources;*
  - (f) *If heritage resources will be adversely affected by the proposed development, the consideration of alternatives; and*
  - (g) *Plans for mitigation of any adverse effects during and after the completion of the proposed development.*
    - (1) Ancestral graves,
    - (2) Royal graves and graves of traditional leaders,
    - (3) Graves of victims of conflict (iv) graves of important individuals,
    - (4) Historical graves and cemeteries older than 60 years, and
    - (5) Other human remains which are not covered under the Human Tissues Act, 1983 (Act No.65 of 1983 as amended);
  - (h) *Movable objects, including ;*
    - (1) *Objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;*
    - (2) *Ethnographic art and objects;*
    - (3) *Military objects;*
    - (4) *Objects of decorative art;*
    - (5) *Objects of fine art;*
    - (6) *Objects of scientific or technological interest;*
    - (7) *Books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings; and*
    - (8) *Any other prescribed categories, but excluding any object made by a living person;*
  - (i) *Battlefields;*
  - (j) *Traditional building techniques.*

A **'place'** is defined as:

- (a) A site, area or region;
- (b) A building or other structure (which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such building or other structure);
- (c) A group of buildings or other structures (which may include equipment, furniture, fittings and articles associated with or connected with such group of buildings or other structures); and (d) an open space, including a public square, street or park; and in relation to the management of a place, includes the immediate surroundings of a place.

**'Structures'** means any building, works, device, or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land and any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith older than 60 years.

**'Archaeological'** means:

- (a) Material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and are older than 100 years, including artefacts, human and hominid remains and artificial features and structures;
- (b) Rock art, being a form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and is older than 100 years including any area within 10 m of such representation; and
- (c) Wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land or in the maritime cultural zone referred to in section 5 of the Maritime Zones Act 1994 (Act 15 of 1994), and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which are older than 60 years or which in terms of national legislation are considered to be worthy of conservation;

(d) Features, structures and artefacts associated with military history which are older than 75 years and the sites on which they are found.

'Paleontological' means any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace.

'Grave' means a place of interment and includes the contents, headstone or other marker of and any other structures on or associated with such place. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) will only issue a permit for the alteration of a grave if it is satisfied that every reasonable effort has been made to contact and obtain permission from the families concerned.

The removal of graves is subject to the following procedures as outlined by the SAHRA:

- Notification of the impending removals (using English, Afrikaans and local language media and notices at the grave site);
- Consultation with individuals or communities related or known to the deceased;
- Satisfactory arrangements for the curation of human remains and / or headstones in a museum, where applicable;
- Procurement of a permit from the SAHRA;
- Appropriate arrangements for the exhumation (preferably by a suitably trained archaeologist) and re-interment (sometimes by a registered undertaker, in a formally proclaimed cemetery);
- Observation of rituals or ceremonies required by the families.

The limitations and assumptions associated with this heritage impact assessment are as follows:

- Field investigations were performed on foot and by vehicle where access was readily available.
- Sites were evaluated by means of description of the cultural landscape, direct observations and analysis of written sources and available databases.
- It was assumed that the site layout as provided by *Turn 180 Environmental Consultants* is accurate.
- We assumed that the public participation process performed as part of the Basic Assessment process was sufficiently encompassing not to be repeated in the Heritage Assessment Phase.

Table 1. Impacts on the NHRA Sections Table 1. Impacts on the NHRA Sections

Act	Section	Description	Possible Impact	Action
National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA)	34	Preservation of buildings older than 60 years	Yes	Recommendations
	35	Archaeological, paleontological and meteor sites	Yes	Recommendations
	36	Graves and burial sites	Yes	Recommendations
	37	Protection of public monuments	Yes	Recommendations
	38	Does activity trigger a HIA?	Yes	HIA

Table 2. NHRA Triggers

Action Trigger	Yes/No	Description
Construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other linear form of development or barrier exceeding 300m in length.	Yes	Prospecting Rights Application (PRA)
Construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50m in length.	No	N/A
Development exceeding 5000 m <sup>2</sup>	Yes	PRA
Development involving more than 3 erven or sub divisions	No	N/A

Development involving more than 3 erven or sub divisions that have been consolidated in the past 5 years	Yes	PRA
Re-zoning of site exceeding 10 000 m <sup>2</sup>	Yes	PRA
Any other development category, public open space, squares, parks or recreational grounds	No	N/A

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 2.1 PROJECT SCOPE AND LOCATION

This study entails the Prospecting Rights Application (PRA) for The Remainder of Portions 1 and 16 of the Farm Jagersfontein 14 in the Free State Province. The study is focussed on an area around the town of Jagersfontein. Jagersfontein lies approximately 110km southwest of Bloemfontein in the Free State Province within the Kopanong Local Municipality.

The PRA is for an area of roughly 4300ha. The client has however agreed that only four core areas would be impacted within this area and SAHRA agreed that only these areas would need to be subjected to a full field based study while the rest of the site would undergo a Desktop Study. Should the focus areas change, the new sites will have to be subjected to a full HIA as per the agreement with SAHRA.

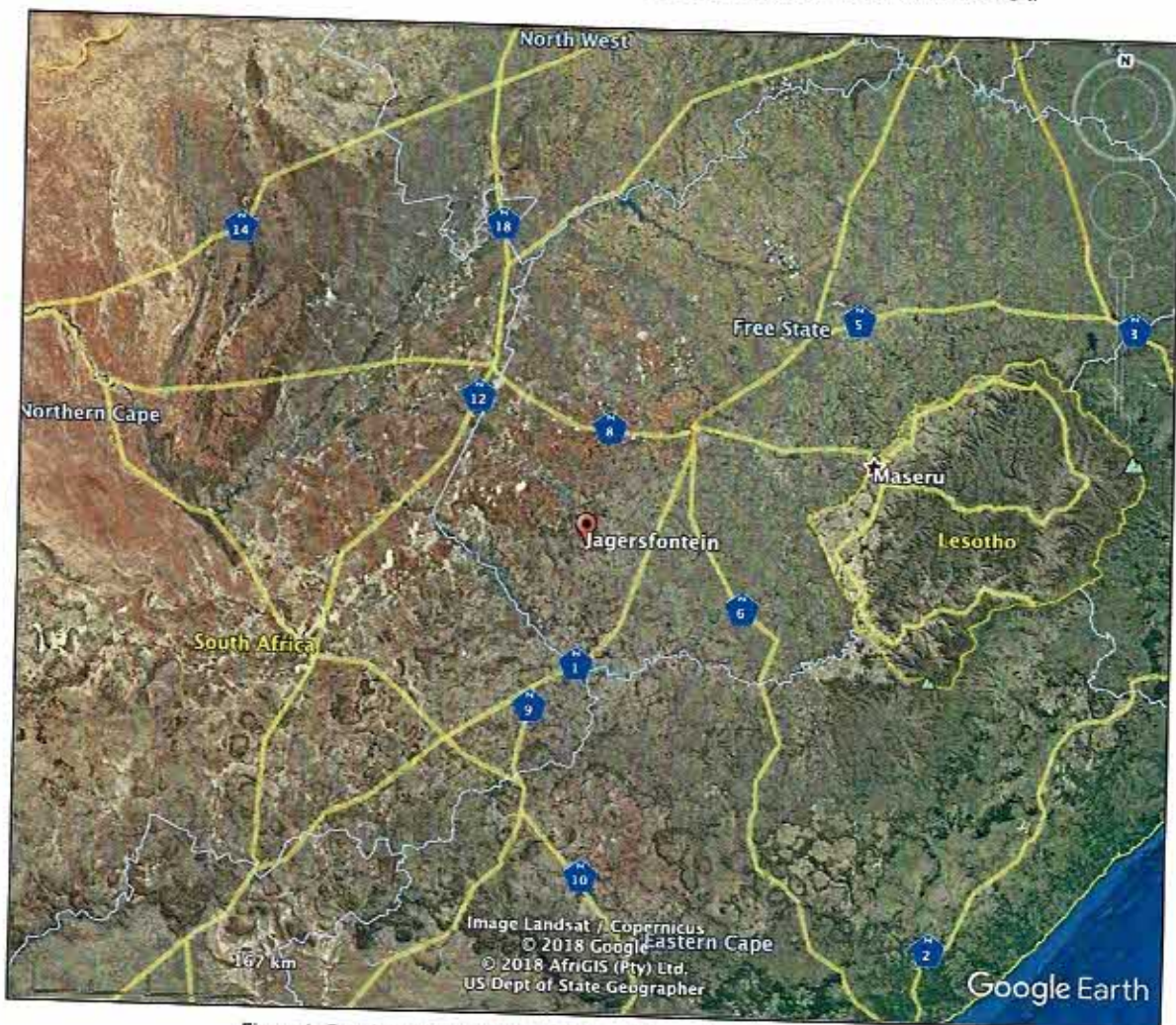


Figure 1. Google Earth © Image – Location of Jagersfontein



Figure 2. Google Earth © Image – PRA Area for Jagersfontein

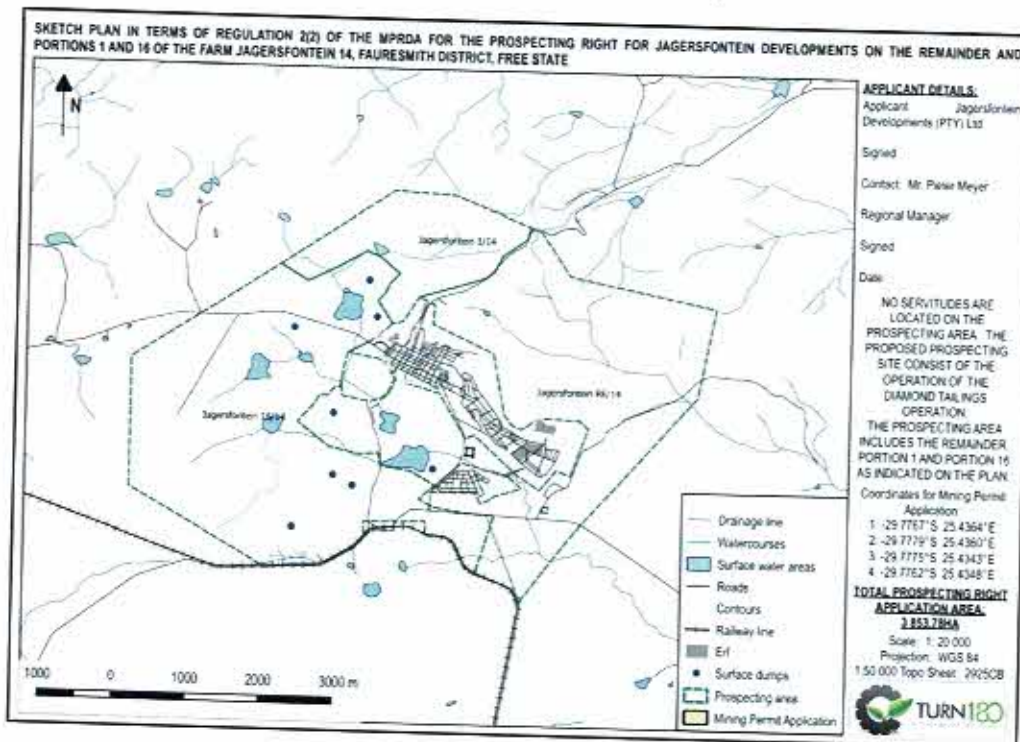


Figure 3. Proposed PRA Area





Figure 4. Google Earth © Image – Core Prospecting Areas

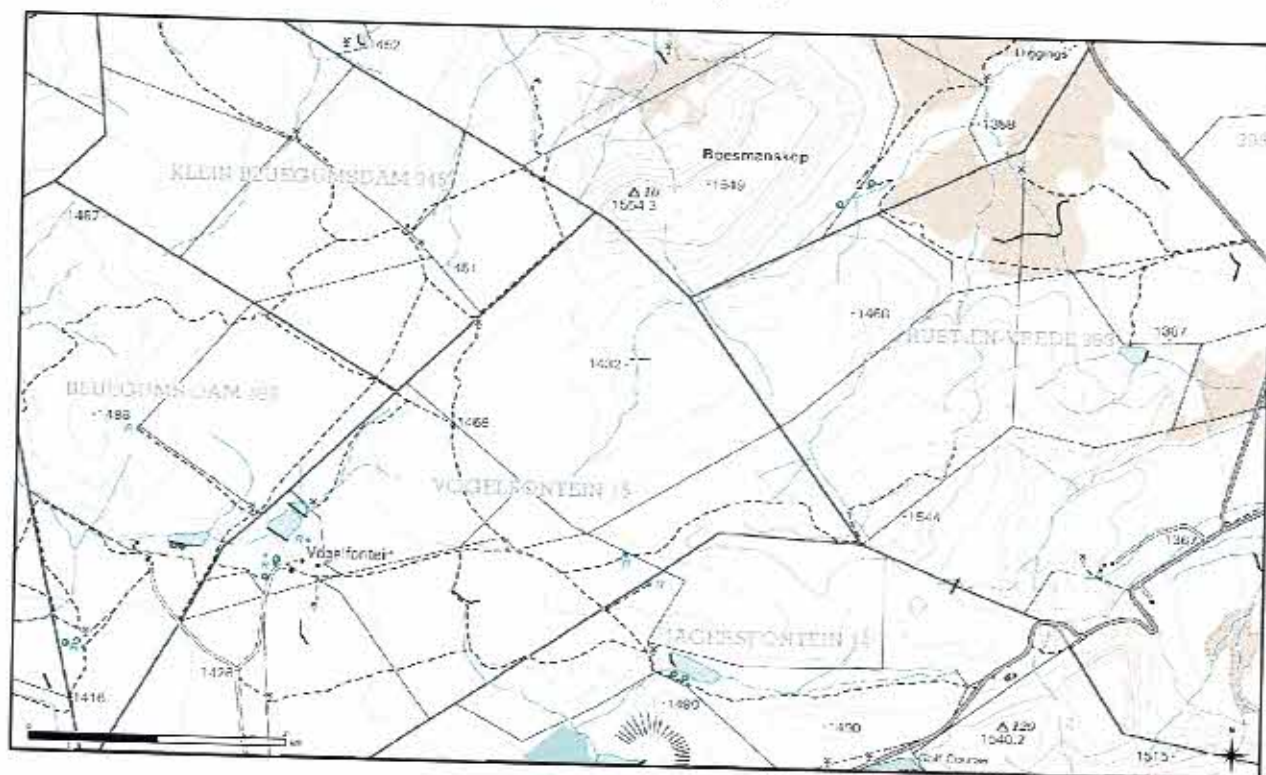


Figure 5. Topographical Map 2925 CB 2005

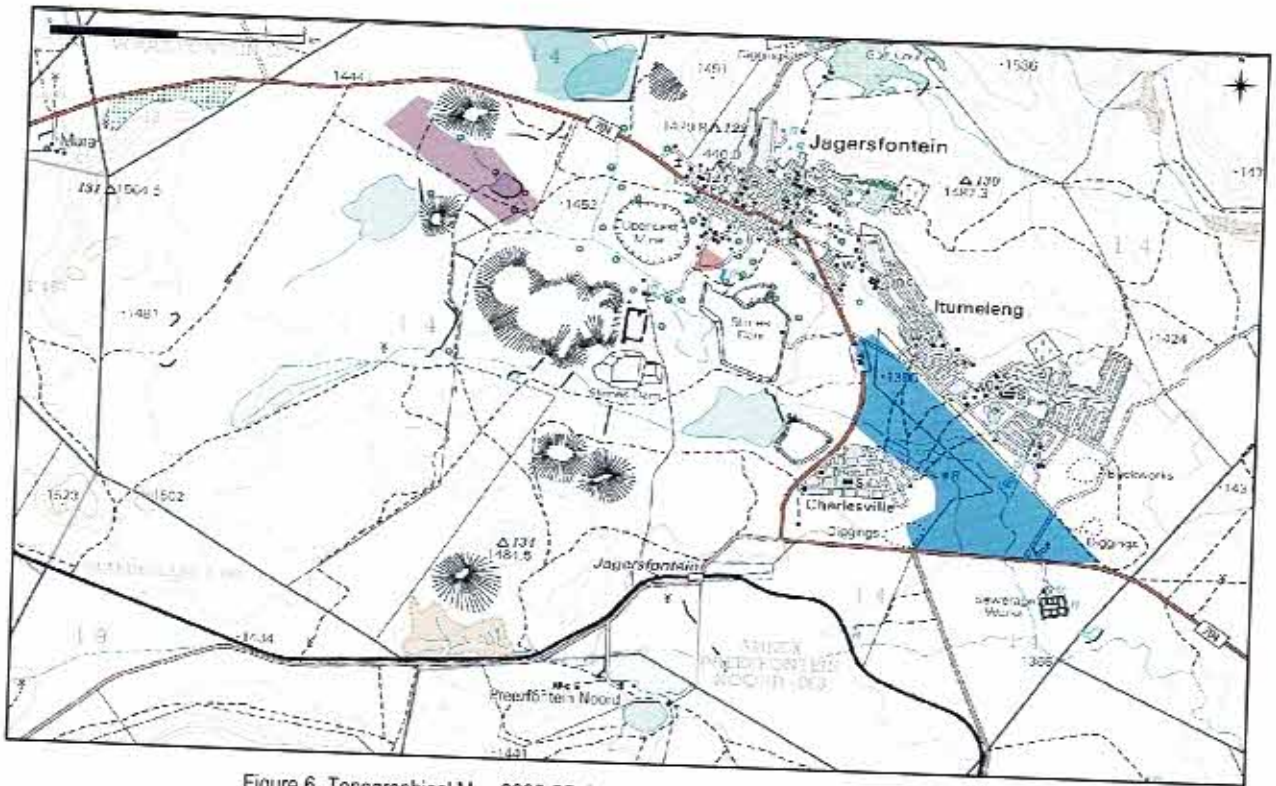


Figure 6. Topographical Map 2925 CD 2005

## HERITAGE INDICATORS WITHIN THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

### 3. REGIONAL CULTURAL CONTEXT

#### 3.1 PALEONTOLOGY

Bedrock geology along the proposed route is characterized by argillaceous rocks of the Tierberg Formation. The formation represents the uppermost unit of the Eccca Group (Karoo Supergroup) and primarily comprises well-laminated, dark shales with abundant carbonate concretions, interbedded by siltstones and fine-grained sandstones. Fish scales and sponge spicules have previously been found in some of the carbonate concretions and trace fossils commonly occur throughout the sequence, but terrestrial vertebrates and plant remains are generally absent from the Tierberg Formation. Geologically recent sediments overlying the Tierberg Formation are made of Quaternary-aged channel fills and sheet-wash deposits, including unconsolidated wind-blown sands and limited alluvium from the nearby Prossespruit. Overbank deposits and alluvial terraces of large river courses such as the nearby Riet River have previously yielded numerous Quaternary vertebrate fossil remains. Unfortunately, vertebrate fossils are usually not well-preserved in shallow alluvial deposits along small river courses and stream beds in this region. (L. Rossouw, 2013).

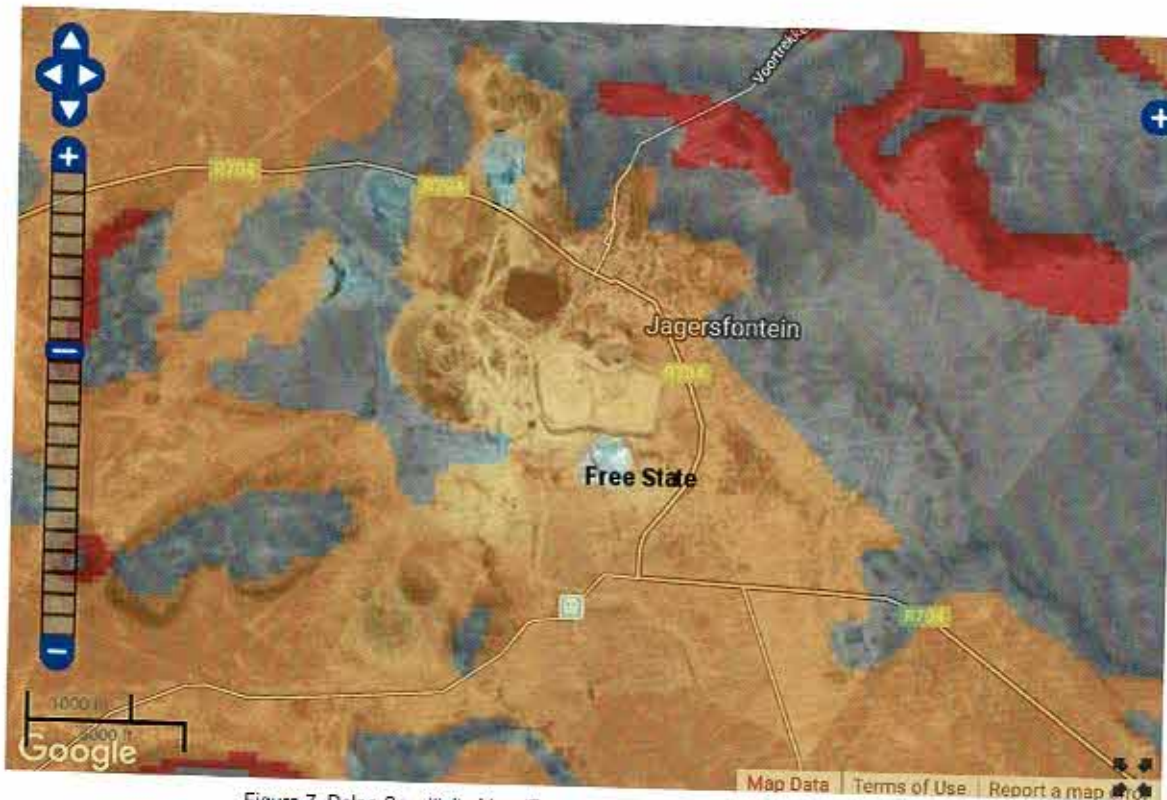


Figure 7. Paleo Sensitivity Map (Exemption study area in Blue and current areas in Purple)

Colour	Sensitivity	Required Action
RED	VERY HIGH	field assessment and protocol for finds is required
ORANGE/YELLOW	HIGH	desktop study is required and based on the outcome of the desktop study, a field assessment is likely
GREEN	MODERATE	desktop study is required
BLUE	LOW	no palaeontological studies are required however a protocol for finds is required
GREY	INSIGNIFICANT/ZERO	no palaeontological studies are required
WHITE/CLEAR	UNKNOWN	these areas will require a minimum of a desktop study. As more information comes to light, SAHRA will continue to populate the map.

Figure 8. PalaeoSensitivity Map Legend

From the above it can be seen that the current study areas fall within the same sensitivity zone as the area exempted by SAHRA in 2013 (L. Rossouw, 2013). The Geological Map also indicates the same formations underlying these study areas.

It is recommended that should the core areas change or expand that they be subjected to a full PIA.

### 3.2 STONE AGE

Extensive research on the Stone Age in this area comes from Goodwin, Van Riet Lowe and Humphreys. Humphreys compiled a map of Fauresmith manufacture sites from 1928, 1929 & 1937 published research of Goodwin and Van Riet Lowe. The map illustrates Fauresmith (circle) and "Stellenbosch" (black dot) manufacturing sites although most of these sites also contain both Smithfield A and B material but in particular Smithfield A with Fauresmith-related sites. It also does not indicate the surface finds of the Fauresmith tradition that are not manufacturing sites. The most important fact to take from this is that the subject area falls within a known area of the Fauresmith-tradition.

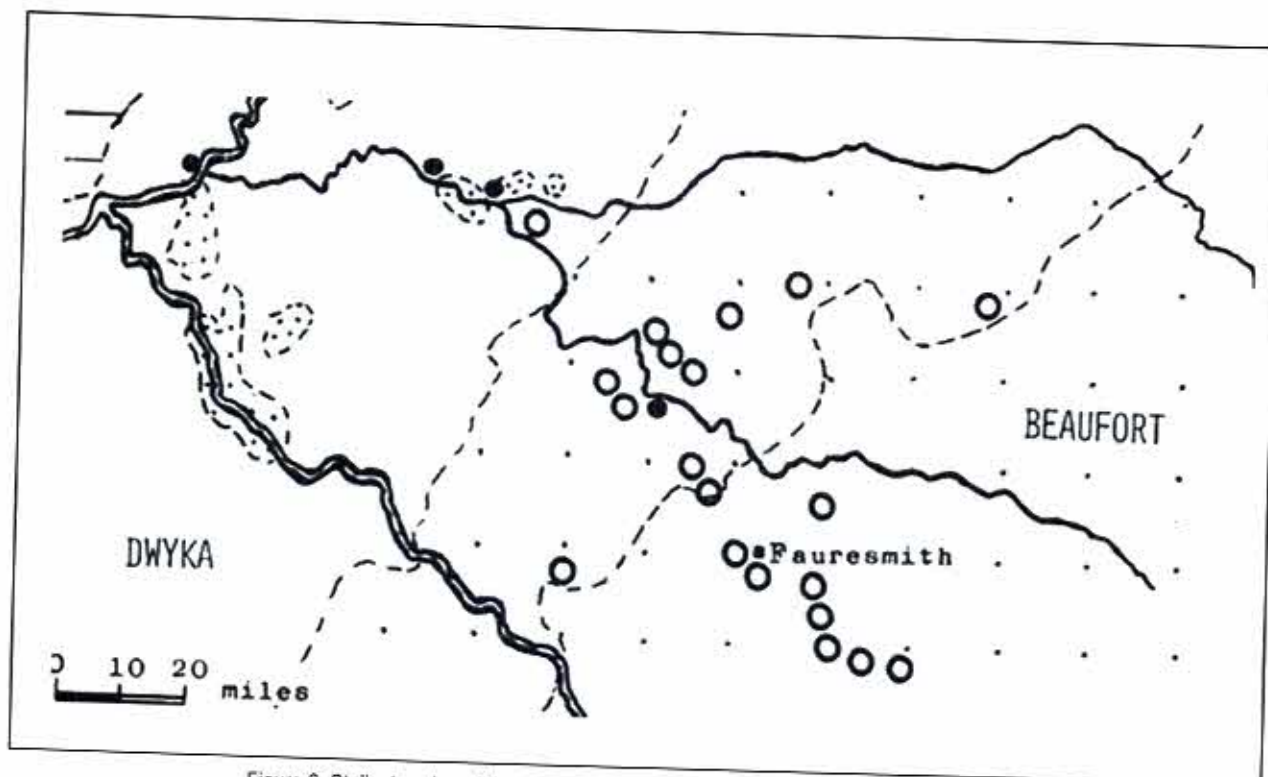


Figure 9. Stellenbosch and Fauresmith sites as per Humphreys (1971)

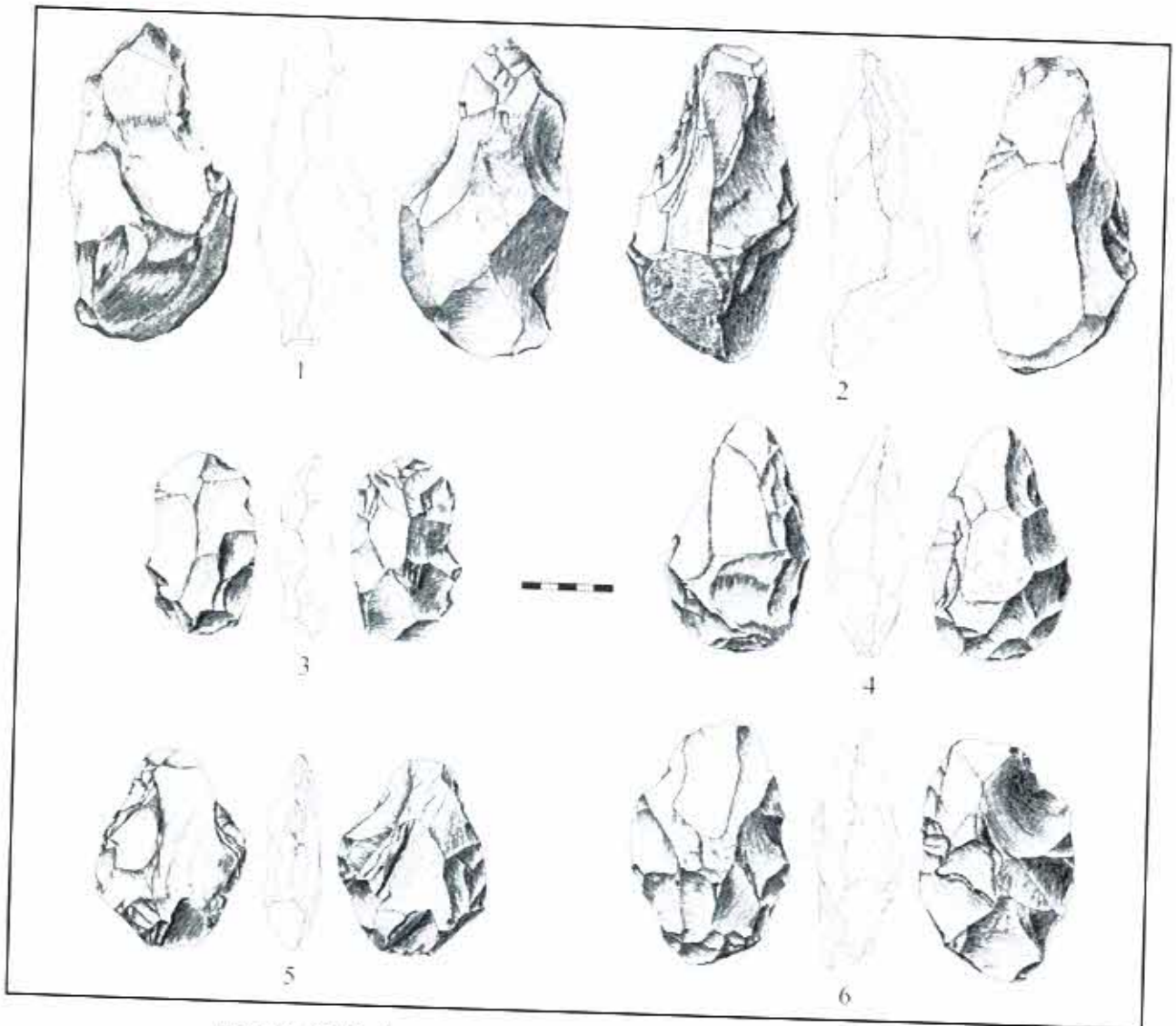


Figure 10. (1,2) Handaxes with large side removal; (3-6) handaxes (Pollarolo, Susino, Kuman, Bruxelles, 2010)

Samson (1974) states that the stratigraphic evidence from three different areas in South Africa demonstrates that the industry following the late Acheulian is not the so-called "Fauresmith", but a complex without any of the characteristics of the Acheulian samples such as hand-axes, cleavers and picks. He furthermore indicate that secondary working of tools is virtually absent in these areas.

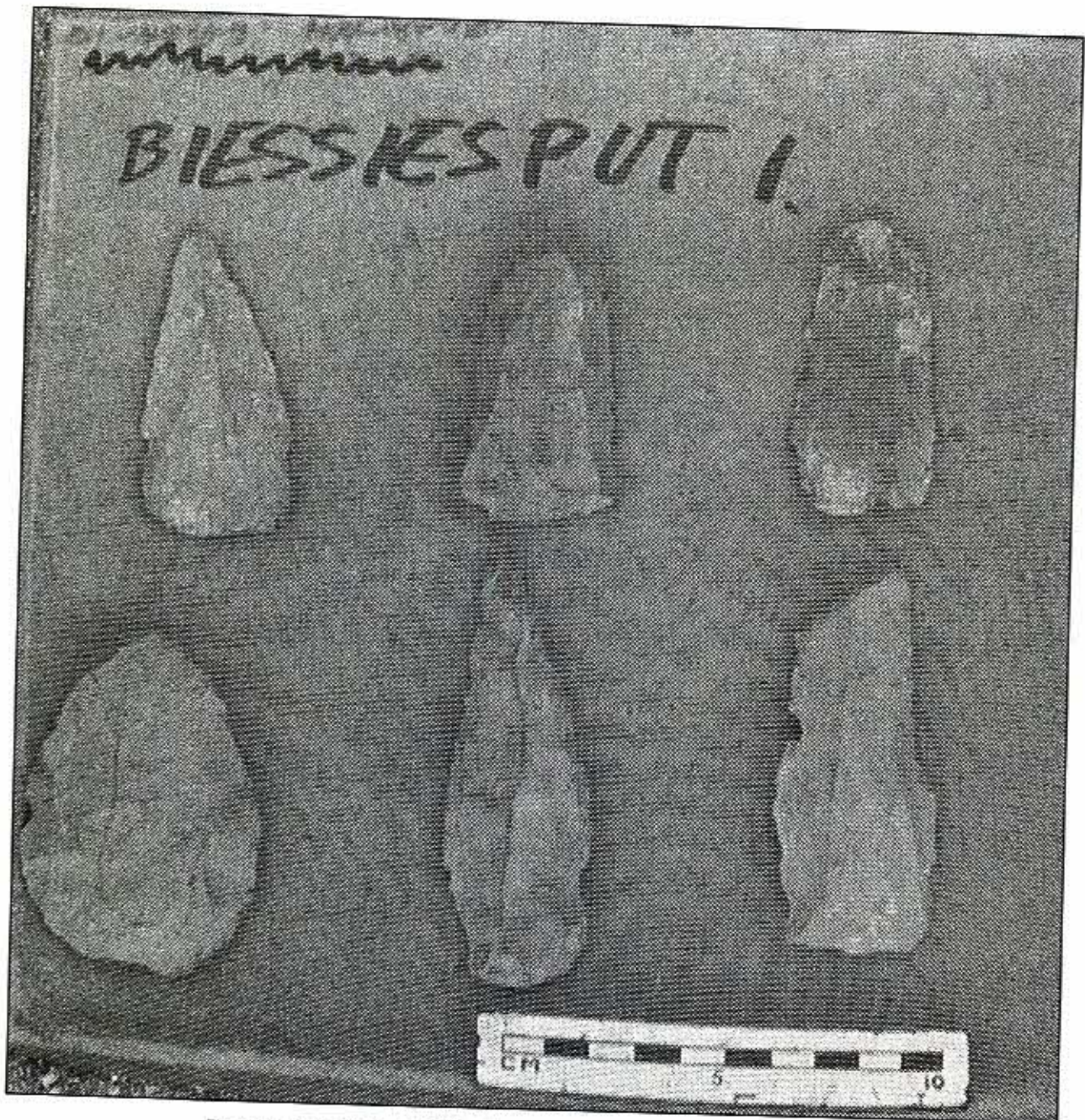


Figure 11. Fauresmith Tools (P. Mitchell, 2002)

Fauresmith Industry manufacturing sites are found on the following farms in the Xhariep District;

- Blaauwheuwel site along the Van Zyl Spruit, a tributary of the Proses Spruit
- Brakfontein (Fauresmith-tradition type site situated 19 km outside Koffiefontein on the road between Koffiefontein and Fauresmith)
- Dwarsvlei-Erfdeel-Fauresmith Townlands
- Koffiefontein
- Leeuwarden
- Petrusberg
- Rorich's Hoop
- Rooidraai
- Spitzkop I and Spitzkop II
- Valschfontein

- Zuurfontein (also along the Van Zyl Spruit)

Material catalogued as Fauresmith-tradition at the National Museum, Bloemfontein, mainly relates to the Orange River area, collected by Sampson during the rescue operation for the new Orange River Scheme (construction of the Gariep Dam).

Goodwin and Van Riet Lowe (1929, pp. 91-92) describe the finding place of the Fauresmith-tradition material at the Fauresmith Town Spruit as "...in the immediate vicinity of the village, exposed in a bed of water-borne gravel that contains vast quantities of Fauresmith Industry remains." The characteristic artefact of the Fauresmith-tradition are handaxes, described as "a neat almond, sometimes ovate.....generally small [size], and the implements are of a length and weight which make them eminently suitable for use in the hand" and are noted as in general being found in dense concentrations.

The subject area falls within the boundary of the Smithfield A distribution area as delineated by Goodwin and Van Riet Lowe (1929) in a map of the Orange Free State Smithfield Industry sites.

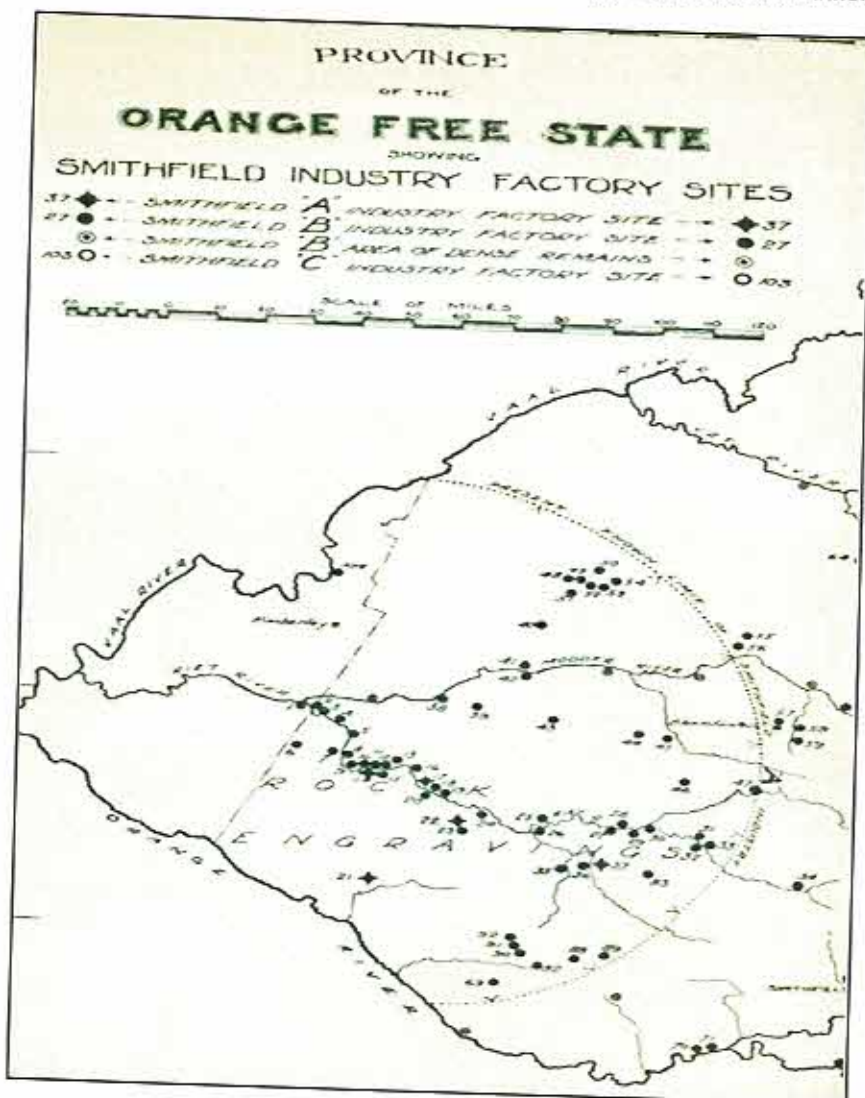


Figure 12. Smithfield A,B & C sites as per van Riet Lowe and Goodwin

- A typical factory-site assemblage is described from the Lockshoek site and include:
- Concavo-convex scrapers (restricted to Smithfield A)
  - Large circular scrapers (restricted to Smithfield A)
  - Duckbill end-scrapers

- Side-scrapers
- Trimmed points
- Stone borers
- Bored Stones
- Grooved Stones
- Grindstones
- Pounders and grinders
- Fabricators: cores; detaching-hammers; trimming-stones; anvils

According to them no notched scrapers are associated with the Smithfield A industry, while re-used Fauresmith hand axes and re-trimmed flakes are found in association with Smithfield industries (Goodwin & Van Riet Lowe, 1929, p. 153).

List of Smithfield sites in vicinity of the study area:

- Smithfield A:
  - Blaauwheuwel 425 (also a Fauresmith industry site)
  - Brakfontein No 231 (typesite for Fauresmith industry – 15 km from Fauresmith on road to Koffiefontein)
  - Lockshoek 191 (also a Fauresmith site) – 27 km north of Jagersfontein
- Smithfield B:
  - Blaauwheuwel
  - Lockshoek
- Smithfield C: None recorded in close proximity of the subject area

### 3.3 IRON AGE

No Iron Age Sites is known from the direct area associated with the study area.

### 3.4 THE HISTORIC ERA

In November 1869 diamonds were discovered on the farm Jagersfontein. The farm belonged to the widowed Mrs Visser and was situated in the District of Fauresmith in the Orange Free State. At this stage the alluvial finds on the banks of the Orange River enjoyed far more attention and Jagersfontein remained fairly unnoticed except amongst those in the immediate neighbourhood. The main reason for this was that up to that point diamonds were known only to be found in alluvial deposits. Jagersfontein was the first so-called "dry mine" to be discovered.

For a monthly licence fee of £2 family and neighbours were allowed to dig in allotted patches. In spite of the fact that progress was slow and finds few and far between the digging population grew to such a degree that the Government found it necessary to proclaim the farm as a Public Diggings in 1871. Mr Charles Hutton of the nearby town Fauresmith was appointed as the first Inspector. Wonderful finds on the Vaal River once again deferred attention from Jagersfontein as thousands swarmed there to try their luck at instant riches.

Subsequent discovery of diamonds at Du Toitspan, Bultfontein and Colesberg Kopje (Kimberley), however, once again brought attention to Jagersfontein and the illusion of finding diamonds in alluvial beds alone was finally dispelled. Primitive methods, scarcity of water and lack of sufficient capital, however, made for little success at Jagersfontein during its early years of existence.

#### **The first organized efforts:**

Towards the end of 1878 efforts at systematic working were made by a number of Fauresmith people, some of whom had gained the necessary experience in diamond digging in the Griqualand West mines. Among these were names like Beddy, Chas, Wiebe, Reid, Wertheim, Dowsett, etc. They formed the "Fauresmith Diamond Mining Company" with Mr C Bannau as manager. Their equipment, however, was primitive and not very effective. An apparatus known as the "whim", drawn by a couple of horses, formed the motive power for washing the diamondiferous soil and the ground was hauled from the mine by



Fauresmith is located 14km north-west of Jagersfontein – see Locality Map – means of Scotch carts running on roadways constructed at comparatively easy angles.

It was during that same year that the real pioneers arrived in the form of experienced Australian gold miners. Among these were the well-known Kerr brothers (renowned for having tested and laid the real foundation of the mining industry at Jagersfontein), William Miller, Thomas McCrea, Tom Dunn, Forster, Garrett Harrington and Richard Smith. At this stage the government appointed Mr J.W. Lotz as Inspector and steps were taken to have the mine surveyed and chartered. The latter was done by Mr G.C. Brand and the mine plan showed 1,244 claims, each 30 X 30 feet (9.144 X 9.144 meters).

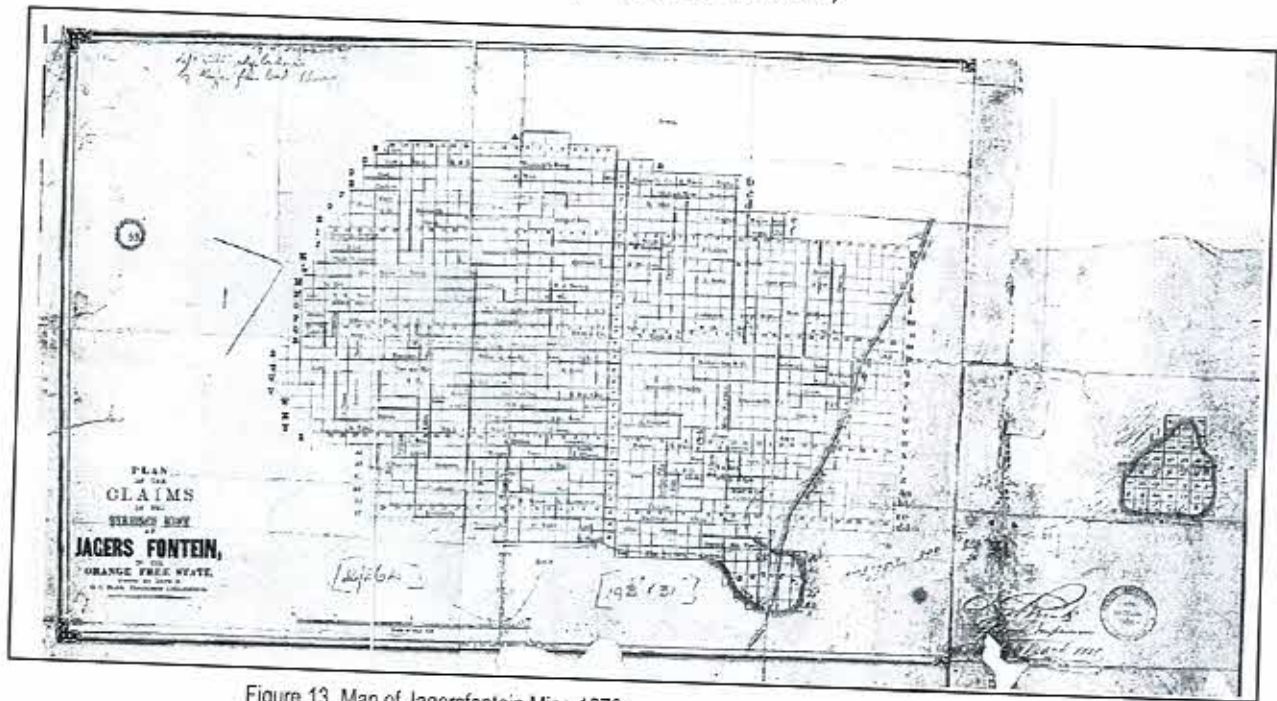


Figure 13. Map of Jagersfontein Mine 1870

At the same time the township was laid out. Although buildings shot up like mushrooms it was mostly constructed of sun-dried bricks and corrugated iron due to the uncertainty that existed as to the profitability and therefore long-term probability of the mine. In 1879 Mr. M.G. Keyter took up the position of Government Inspector with the combined function of trialing petty offences. A Management Committee was formed with Mr. Keyter as Chairman (ex officio) and Mr. J.G. Brink the Secretary. The Government offices was housed in the old farmstead situated immediately west of the mine. An old blue-gum tree in front of the house served as "goal". The prisoners were detained by being hand-cuffed together, forming a ring around the tree and in this peculiar manner served their time. In 1881 the new Government Offices (in the township) was completed and the farmhouse evacuated.

#### **Jagersfontein directly responsible for new laws:**

Illegal diamond trafficking brought Jagersfontein to the attention of the Volksraad. In March 1882 a special session of the Volksraad was convened and the President in his opening speech stated that the affairs of Jagersfontein were of such an urgent matter that he would have felt justified in calling a special session of the "Raad" for them alone. That this view was fully shared by the Volksraad was shown by the large number of laws passed – all directly affecting the welfare of Jagersfontein. They were as follow:

1. A most drastic ordinance for the suppression of the illicit traffic in diamonds;
2. An ordinance establishing a Special Court exclusively for the trial of I.D.B. (Illegal Diamond Buying) cases;
3. An ordinance providing for the appointment of an Assistant Landdrost at Jagersfontein;
4. A law for the establishment of an efficient police force;
5. A law by which Jagersfontein was proclaimed a town, and
6. An effective searching law.

Mr. J.J. Wilson was appointed as the Assistant Landdrost and Mr. J.G. Brink Landdrost Clerk and Public Prosecutor to the Special Court. The Special Court was composed of the Landdrost of Fauresmith as chairman and the Assistant Landdrost and Government Inspector of Jagersfontein as members. Major Maxwell received the appointment of Commissioner of Police and as such directed the trapping system which was now set in motion and carried on with relentless vigor during the time that he remained at head of the police.

**A community divided:**

It was the latter that turned Jagersfontein in a seething cauldron of discontent and anger. Public meetings were of daily occurrence, petitions to the Government and letters to the press seemed endless, and the community was divided into two distinctly hostile camps which continued with much bitterness for several years. One of the principal demands was the want of representation by the town on the Mining Board. It was only in 1884 that the Government appointed a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the matter. The evidence given before the Commission brought out clearly the extreme tension which existed between the mining community and a portion of townspeople. The enquiry, which was very exhaustive, lasted ten days and embraced the following subjects:-

1. Management of the mine
2. The searching system
3. The trapping system
4. Sanitary measures, and
5. General

**The town of Jagersfontein established:**

The following year, 1885, the report of the Commission came before the Volksraad with the result that the Special Court was abolished and the offices of the Government Inspector and Assistant Landdrost combined in one official, Mr. J.G. Brink. A *Dorpsbestuur* for the management of the affairs of the town was also established at this time. This division of authority promised well for the peaceful advancement of the community as a whole, and from this time forward the hatchet of discontent may be said to have been buried.

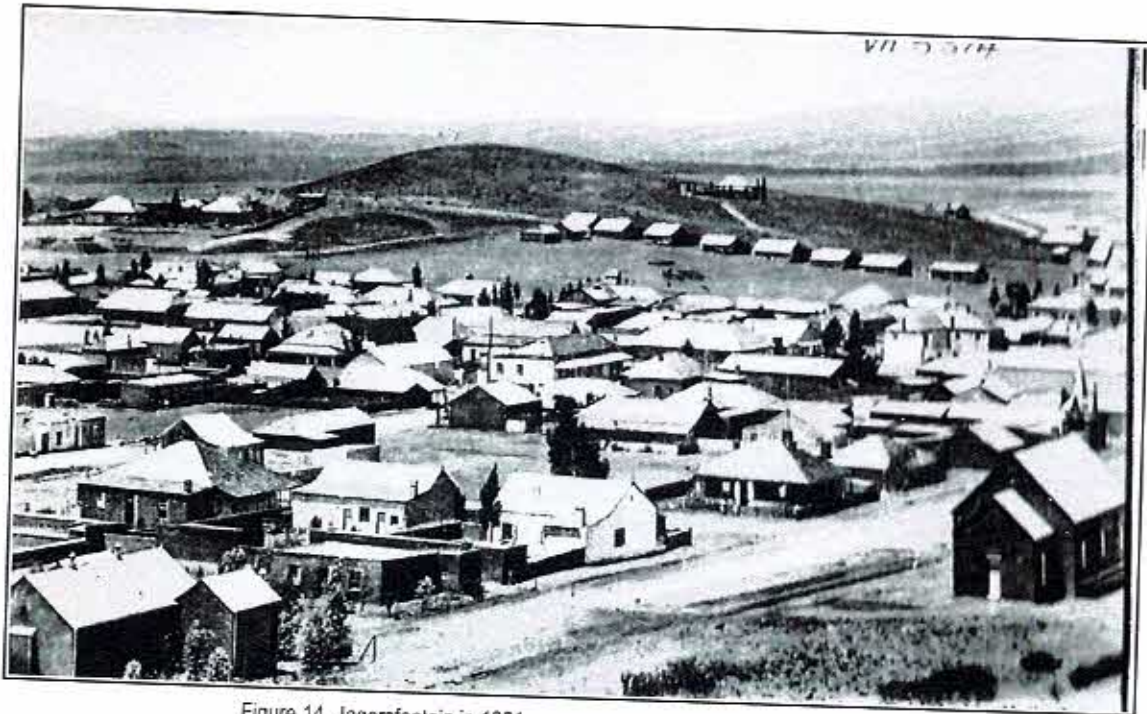


Figure 14. Jagersfontein in 1881

**More amalgamations in the mining business:**

In general, however, Jagersfontein was still far from prosperous. About one third of the number of claims in the mine lay abandoned.

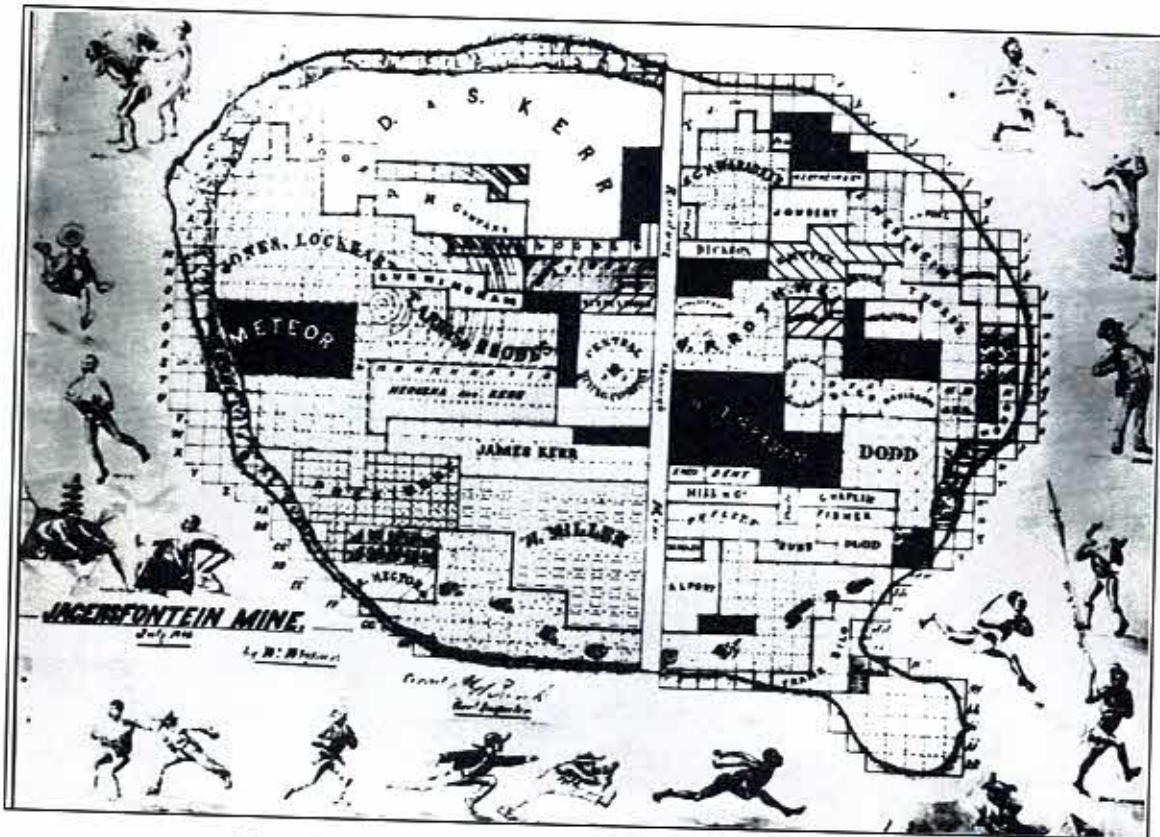


Figure 15. Mining claims in 1886 (DBMC Archives)

A change came about when a number of people, mostly from Kimberley, applied for and obtained these claims (mainly for speculation). On 1 January 1887 the New Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration Company Limited was incorporated with the object of gradually effecting the amalgamation of all the claims. They started with 220 claims, two hauling and two washing machines, 52,000 loads of blue ground (formerly the property of C.J. Rhodes and his associates), and a capital of £131,000. By February 1888 the New Jagersfontein Mining & Exploration Company acquired the holdings of four other companies and an individual viz:

- Kohinoor company: 46 claims
- President Company: 44 claims
- Kerr Diamond Mining Co: 382 claims (including machinery, plant and blue ground on their floors)
- East End Company: 164 claims
- Mr. A Wertheim: 9 claims

In 1889 the Visser family sold their farm by public auction to the Jagersfontein Mine & Estate Company Ltd for £89,000. The estate company owned the farm on which the mine was situated and it also drew licenses from all the stands in the township, and in addition was entitled to 50% of the claim licenses collected by the Orange Free State Government. The Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration Company purchased 68,486 claims out of a capital of 98,500 shares in the Estate Company, thus holding nearly three quarters of the shares.

By March 1890 the Jagersfontein & South African Mining Association amalgamated their 26 claims and machinery with the New Jagersfontein Mining & Exploration Company.

In July 1891 the United Diamond Mining Company accepted 17,000 fully paid up shares in New Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration Company in exchange for their 277 claims In Jagersfontein mine 25,223 shares in the Jagersfontein Mine & Estate Company Machinery, plant, cash and diamonds on hand This amalgamation in 1891 secured total ownership of the mine for the New Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration Company with the exception of 4 shares of £1 each.

On account of this amalgamation the mining board fell away and the Government appointed a Mine Inspector. One of the directors of the newly amalgamated company became the managing director and under his able management the beneficial effects of the amalgamation were soon apparent. Steps were taken at once to enclose the area with a barbed wire fence and to further safeguard the company from illicit traffic in diamonds large compounds were erected for their native employees.

In June 1893 one of the world's largest diamonds was discovered at Jagersfontein mine. It was found by a native mine worker who received £500 as reward as well as a horse complete with saddle and bridle. The "Excelsior", a blue-white diamond, weighed  $971 \frac{3}{4}$  carats and was eventually cut into 21 big diamonds with a total weight of 364 carats. (Until 1905 when the "Cullinan" was discovered at Premier mine in the Transvaal, weighing 3,106 metric carats, the "Excelsior" remained the world's largest diamond discovered.)

Two years later in November 1895 another big diamond weighing 634 carats was found at Jagersfontein. From it was obtained a faultless brilliant of 239 carats. It was initially named the "Reitz" after the then President of the Orange Free State but later renamed the "Jubilee" diamond in honour of Queen Victoria's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.