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21 JULY 2010

FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE BORROW PITS FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF THE ROAD FROM THE MISSION GATE TO RIEMVASMAAK, NORTHERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The road from the Mission Gate to Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape, will be upgraded in the near future.

Two existing borrow pits will be exploited for material for the road building.

No archaeological or historical material was found at the proposed sites.

The developments will not require any mitigation measures and I recommend that the planning of the road may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The investigation provided an opportunity to examine the borrow pit sites.

No limitations or obstacles were experienced during site visit.

Methodology

1. The different sites were inspected on foot.
2. GPS points were taken and the surrounding area and features were recorded on camera.

INVESTIGATION

Two existing borrow pits were selected for the supply of road building material at Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape. The sites were visited on 20 July 2010. Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions Incorporated Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, accompanied me to the site.

The site was examined for any possible traces of cultural and historical remains to establish the potential impact of the developments on any archaeological and cultural historical material. 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).

The report aims to locate and evaluate the significance of cultural heritage sites, archaeological material, manmade structures older than 60 years, and sites associated with oral histories and graves that might be affected by the proposed developments.

Geological and palaeontological deposits are not included as a subject of this report.

LOCALITY

The two borrow pits are located along the road from the Mission Gate to Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape (Map 2).

Riemvasmaak lies on the Molopo River, about 11km north east of its confluence with the Orange River. The village is situated between the Augrabies National Park and the southern Kalahari and is reached by road over a 56km distance from Kakamas on the N14 between Upington and Pofadder (Map 1).

The soil surface is covered with lumps of quartz and rose quartz in abundance (Figs.4&9). *Acacia erioloba* (Kameeldoring) trees (Fig.13) are indigenous to this region and a significant number of individual trees grow right in the road reserve.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (Map 2):

BP1	28°27'56"S	020°19'28"E	Altitude 665m	(Figs.1-4).
BP2	28°27'04"S	019°59'21"E	Altitude 640m	(Figs.5-9).
GATE	28°30'20"S	020°20'19"E	Altitude 641m	(Fig.10).
END	28°26'59"S	020°18'29"E	Altitude 660m	(Figs.11&12).

RESULTS

FINDS

The sites consist of a deep sandy gritty soil deposit with veins of quartz and rose quartz and boulders in clusters (Figs.2&3).

No archaeological material was found at the sites, nor were there any engravings or other relics or historical material discovered at the different sites.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

I am convinced that the proposed developments will have no impact on any cultural and historical heritage remains of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the planning and upgrading of the road at Riemvasmaak may proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, no mitigation measures will be required.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions International Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Riemvasmaak near Augrabies National Park, Northern Cape.

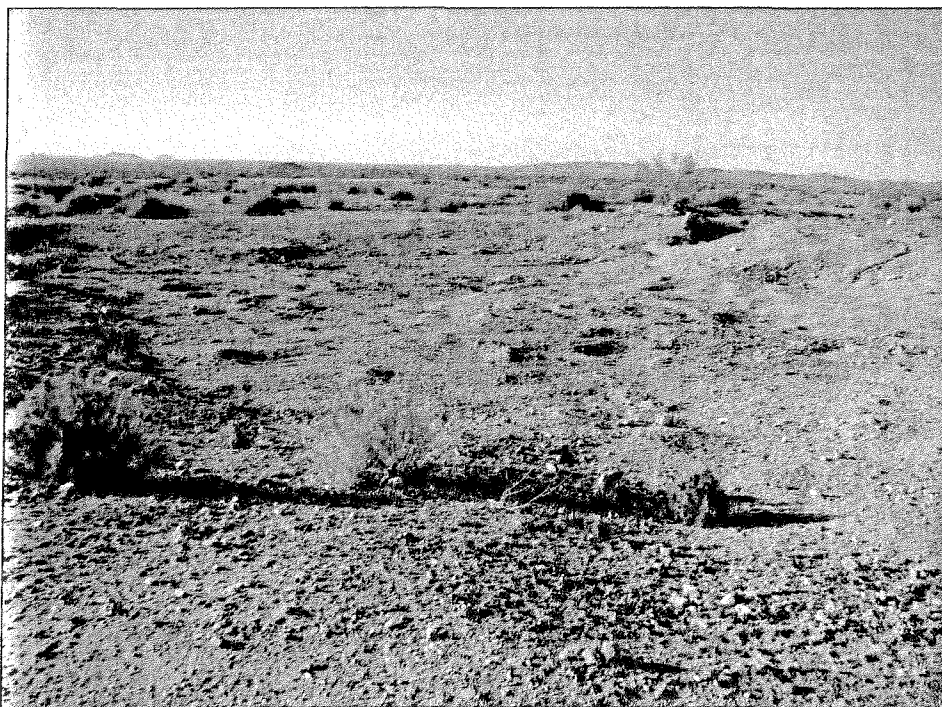
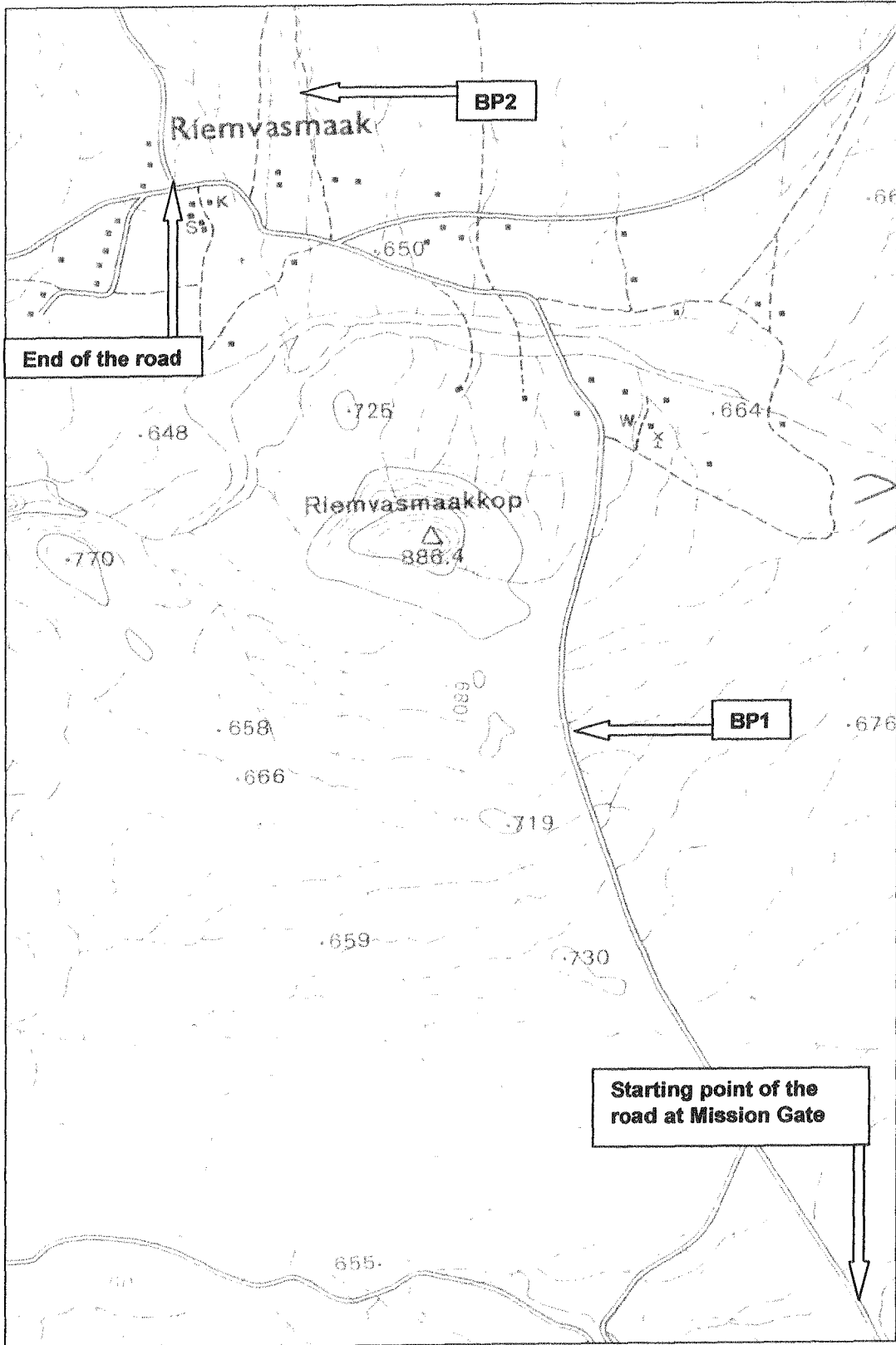


Fig.1 BP1 along the road from the Mission Gate to Riemvasmaak.



Map 2 Locality of Riemvasmaak (2820AD).

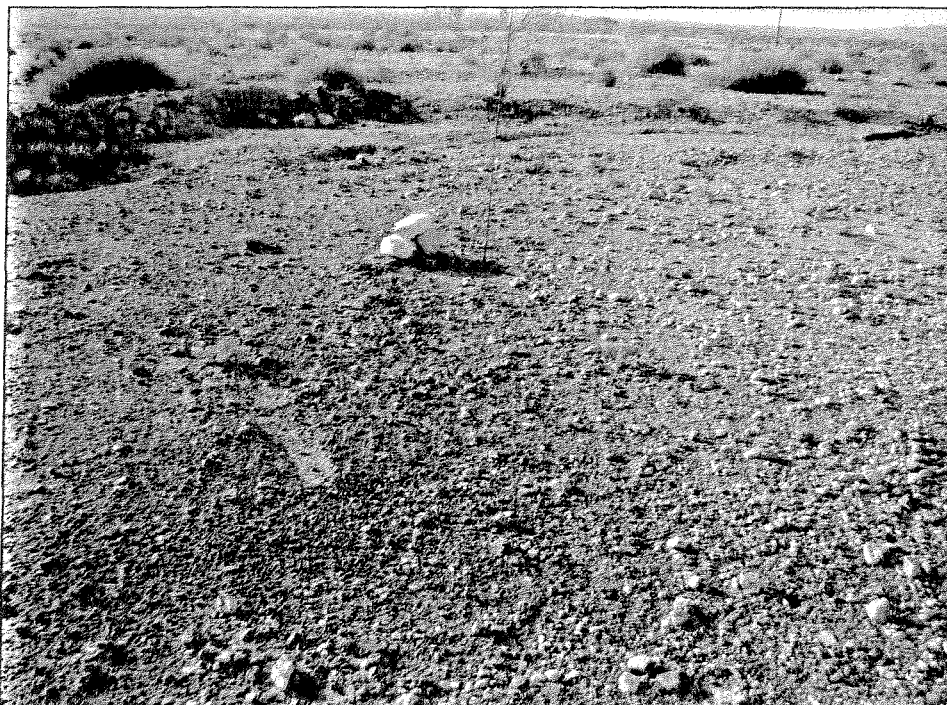


Fig.2 BP1 along the road from the Mission Gate to Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape.

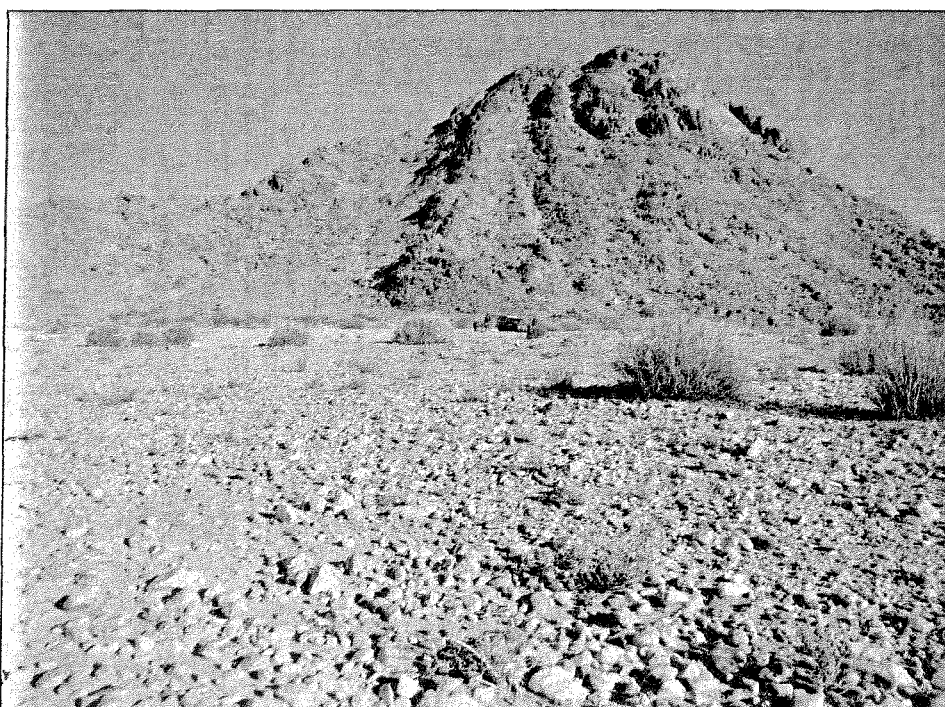


Fig.3 BP1 along the road to Riemvasmaak. Riemvasmaak Kop at the back.



Fig.4 Quartz and rose quartz on the surface at BP1.

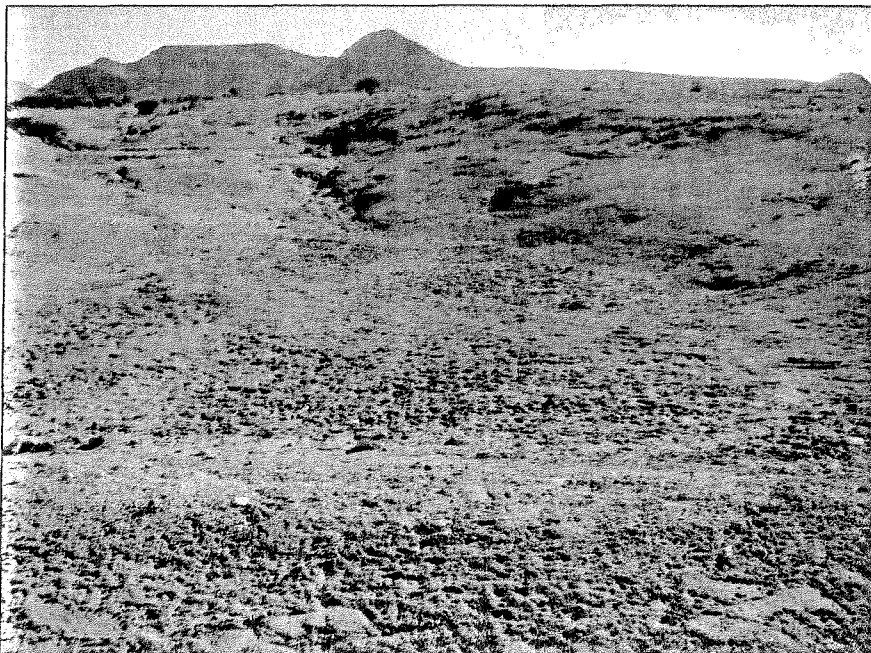


Fig.5 BP2 at Riemvasmaak.

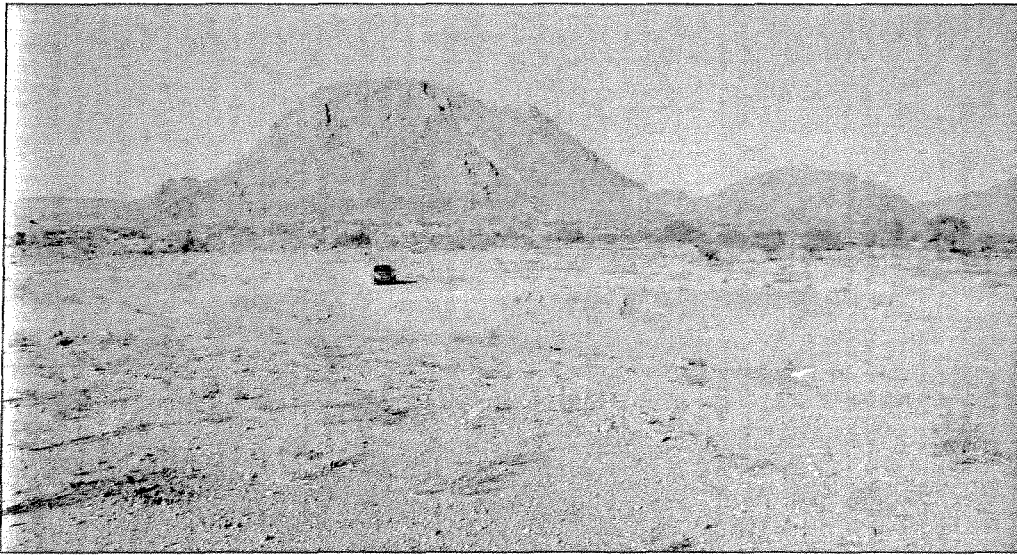


Fig.6 BP2 at Riemvasmaak. Riemvasmaak Kop at the back.

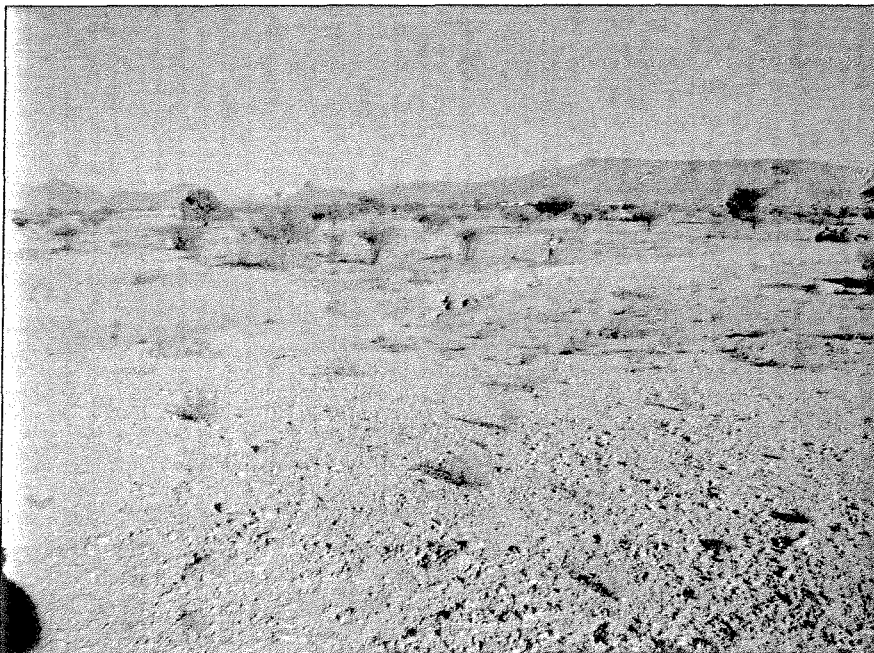


Fig.7 BP2 at Riemvasmaak.

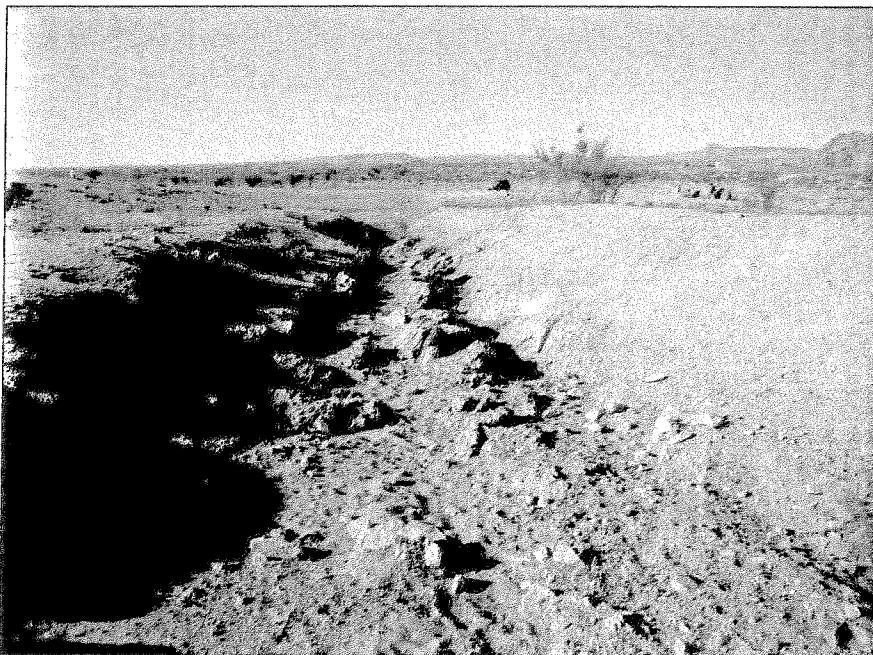


Fig.8 Donga running towards BP2 at Riemvasmaak.

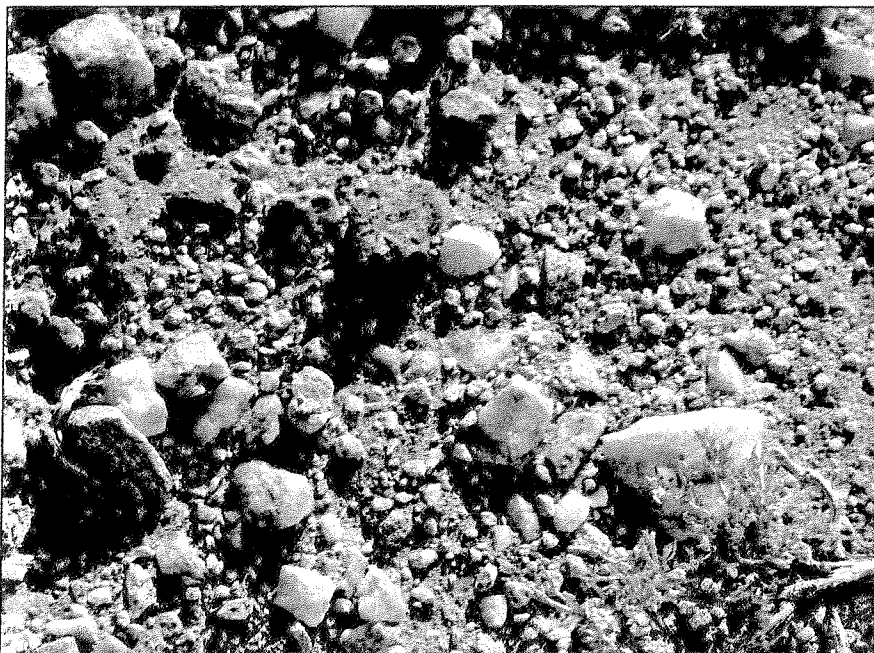


Fig.9 Quarts and rose quarts on the surface around BP2 at Riemvasmaak.

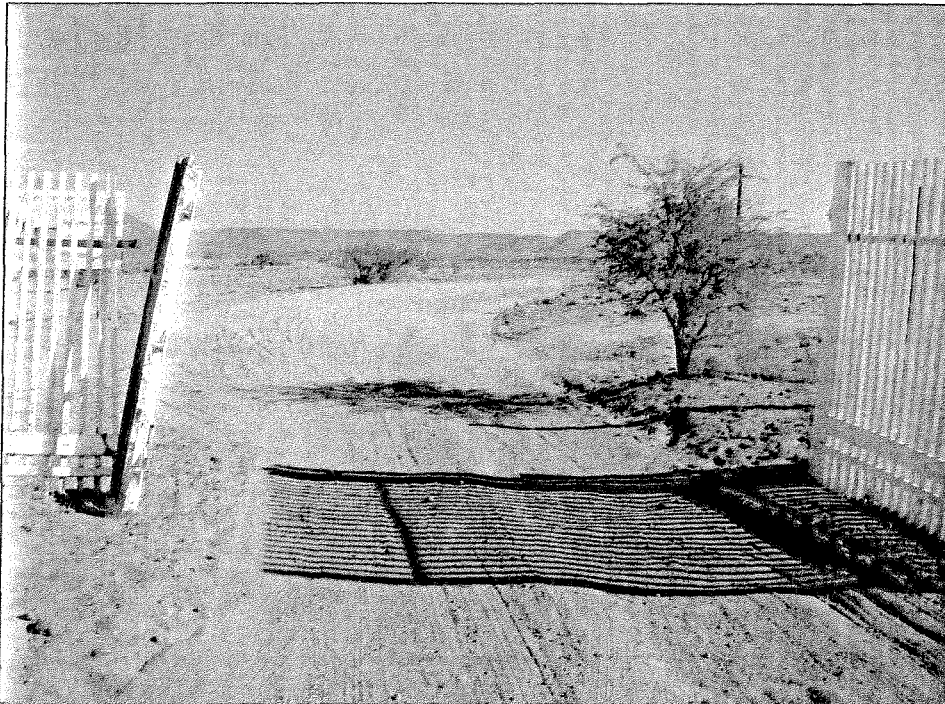


Fig.10 Starting point of the road to Riemvasmaak.

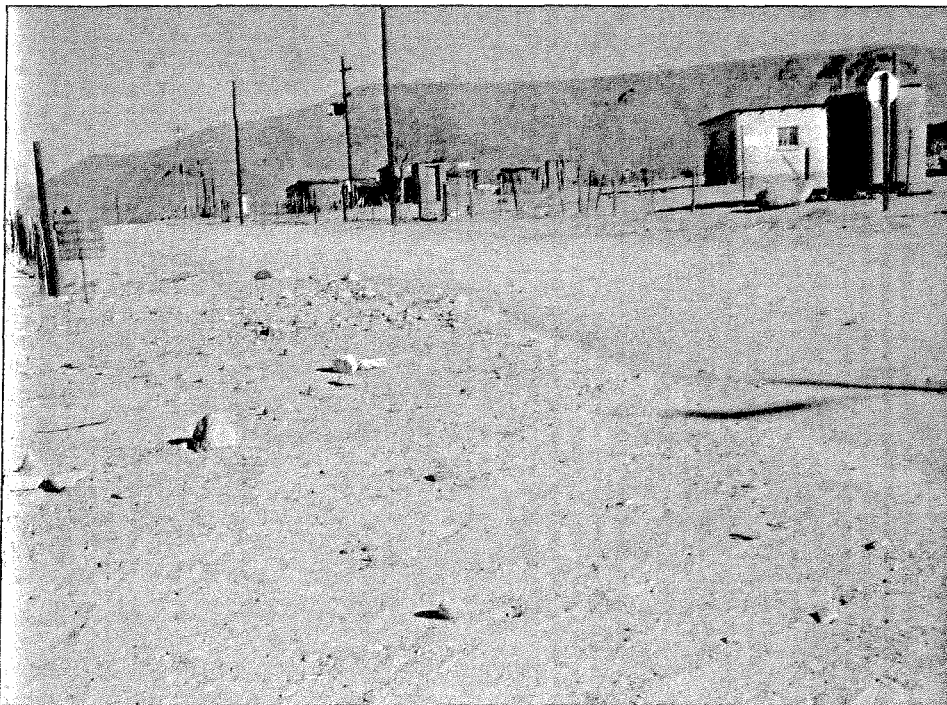


Fig.11 End of the road near the school at Riemvasmaak.

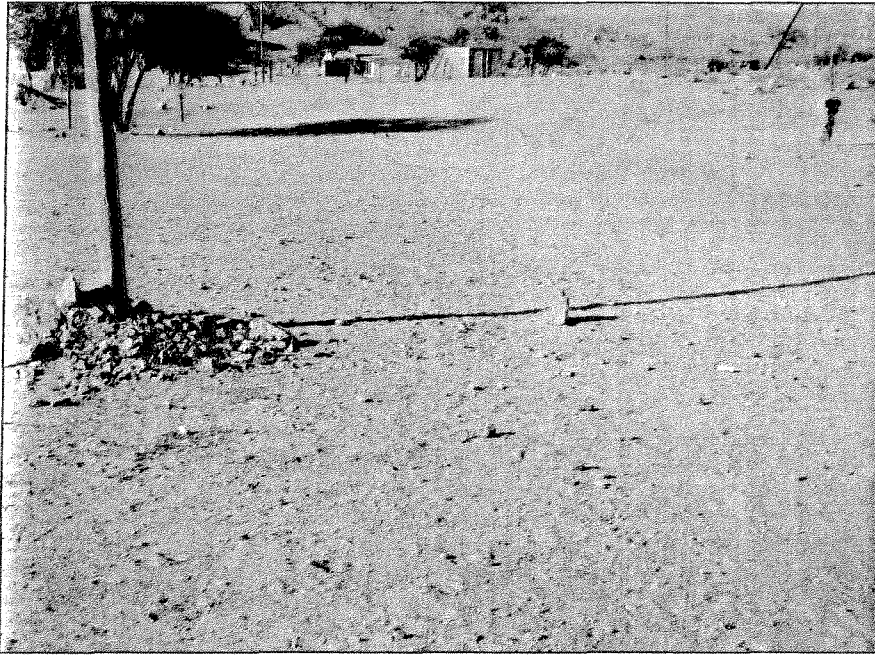


Fig. 12 End of the road near the school at Riemvasmaak.

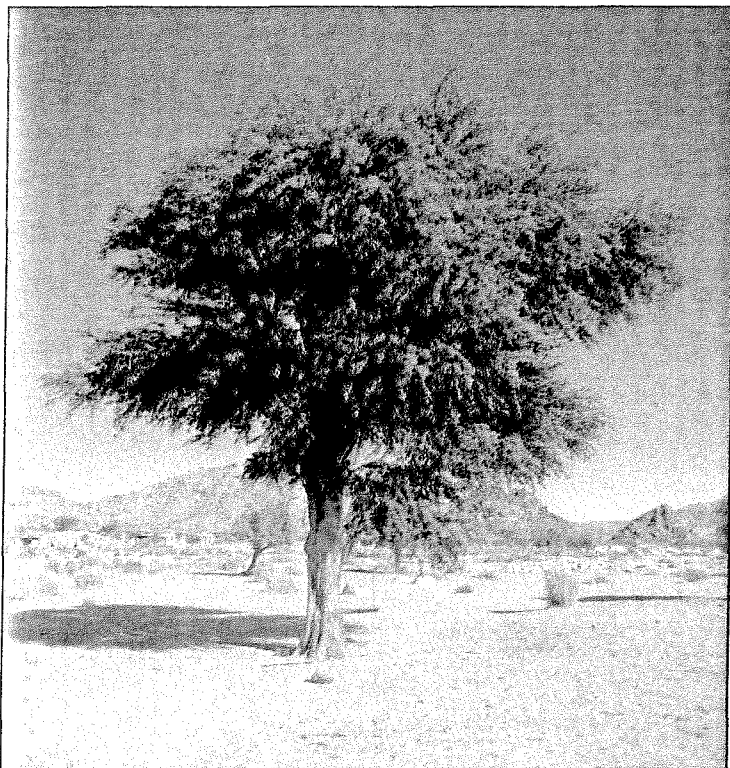


Fig. 13 *Acacia erioloba* trees in the road reserve at Riemvasmaak.