

**Final report on excavations and research conducted on the farm**

**WELKOMSKRAAL**

portion of

**VAALE KRANS 122, VENTERSTAD**

**EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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**PERMIT NO 80/08/04/014-017/51 B**

March 2015

## Introduction

In 2008 a permit was requested for excavations to be conducted at six different farmstead sites in the Venterstad district, Eastern Cape Province. These sites or portions are all located on the farm originally known as Vaale Krans 122. Three of these sites are located at Welkomskraal at approximately S30°57.584', E25°44.357', two on Mooihoek (Mooihoek A at approximately S30°57.940', E25°47.477' and Mooihoek B at approximately S30°58.20.6', E25°45.11.4') and one on Vaalbank at approximately S30°57.301', E25°46.017'. The excavations were planned to form part of a Masters degree by GCJ Coetzee through Unisa under the supervision of Prof Jan Boeyens and Joanna Behrens. After inspection of the sites by the supervisors it was decided to limit the excavations and project to the three sites at Welkomskraal, due to the fact that the research project was for a Masters degree and not a Doctoral thesis.

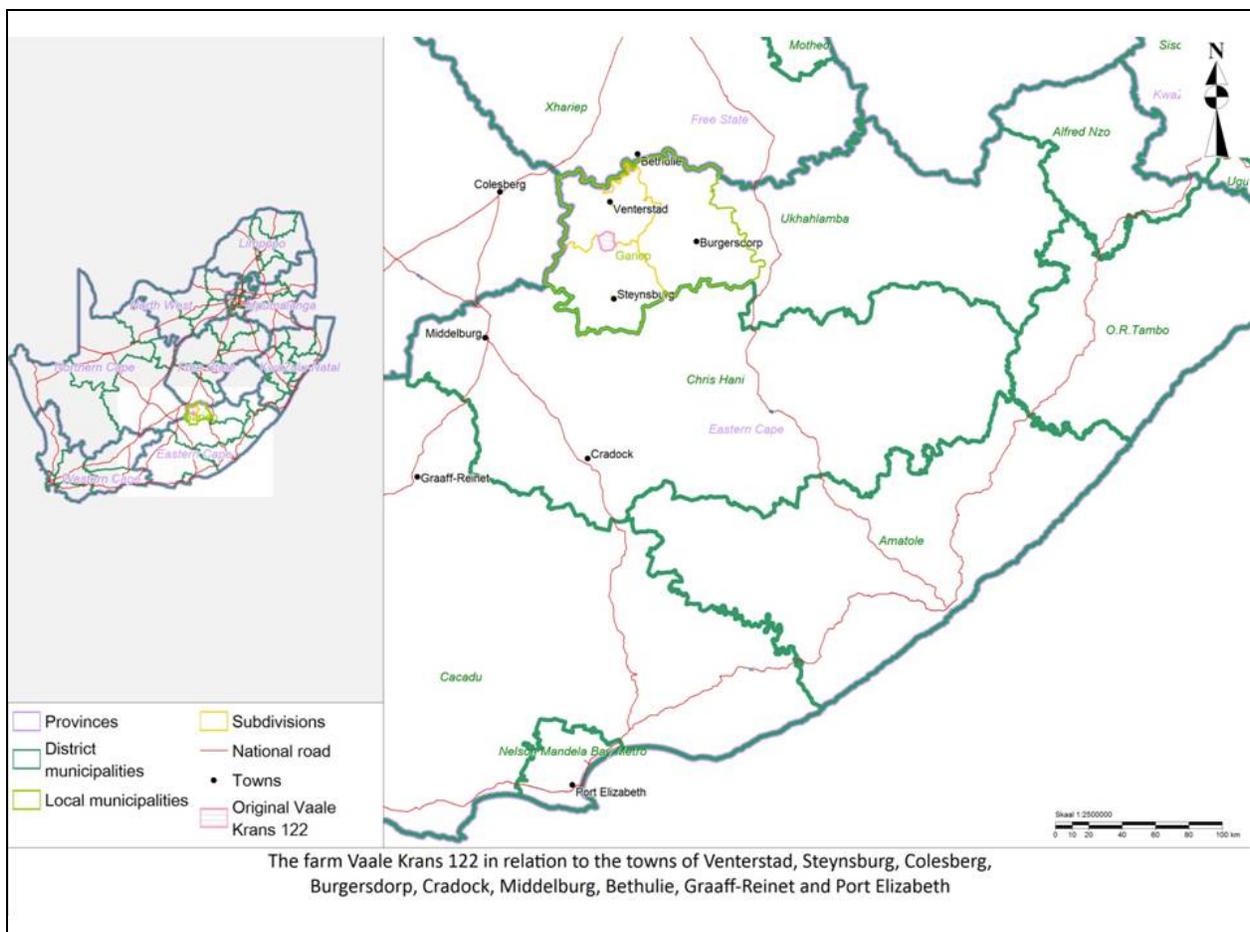
Excavations and surface collections were conducted during 2008 and 2009 at Welkomskraal, portion 6 of the farm Vaale Krans 122. The research area was surveyed in detail and various structures and middens were identified. Six of these middens, all associated with structures, were excavated. Surface material was collected from the areas surrounding the middens and nearby structures. Archival research has also been undertaken and included examining old farm records, title deeds, estate papers, death certificates and researching the general history of the area.

The analysis of the excavated and collected material is published in the dissertation with the title '*n Histories-Argeologiese studie van die plaas Welkomskraal, distrik Venterstad, Noordoos-Kaap*', which was successfully completed in 2012. This historical archaeological study provides a baseline description of the material culture of a remote southern African farm occupied between the 1880s and the 1930s. The study is based on a detailed analysis of the excavated finds recovered from middens associated with three homesteads, located on the farm Welkomskraal, in the Venterstad district of the north-eastern Cape. Artefacts were identified using the reference collection of the National Museum in Bloemfontein and commercial advertisements. The

material culture covers the full spectrum of the daily lives of the farm's occupants and is complemented by genealogical data, which indicate that the landowners were the descendants of the first trek-farmers (*trekboers*) who settled in the area. The occupation of Welkomskraal coincided with the second industrial revolution, which was characterised by mass production of goods and an increasingly global trade network. The assemblage attests that farmers in the deep interior had access to a wide range of imported goods although they were not necessarily prosperous.

Copies of the thesis are available at the National Museum, Bloemfontein, Unisa, and The Heritage Foundation. It is also available for download from UNISA at the following link:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10500/13260>



**Figure 1:** Map indicating the location of Vaale Krans in the Eastern Cape Province (Map: Chriselle Bruwer).

## **Historical background**

The trek-farmers settled in the Agter Suurberg area as early as 1821. The Agter Suurberg area is currently part of the Venterstad and Steynsburg districts in the Eastern Cape Province. Vaale Krans, one of the first farms to be established in this region, belonged to Stephanus Johannes Kruger, the grandfather of the Zuid Afrikaanse Republic (ZAR) president, Paul Kruger.

Dirk Jacobus Coetzee bought Vaale Krans from Stephanus Kruger sometime between 1835 and 1837. Dirk Jacobus Coetzee was married four times. His fourth wife was Susanna Catharina Steynberg whom he married on 14 February 1842. The couple did not have any children. Dirk Coetzee died on 27 July 1857 and was buried on the farm (on the portion that was later called Vaalbank). He left behind his wife and several children from his previous three marriages.

Susanna Catharina then married Jacobus Bernardus Moolman. He was previously married to Dina Lourens with whom he had 7 children. Susanna Catharina passed away in 1878. Jacobus Moolman then married Hyla Johanna van Tonder, with whom he had one daughter. After his third wife's death he married Anna Susanna Kruger. Jacobus Bernardus Moolman passed away at the age of 84 years on 20 April 1894 in his house in Venterstad.

In 1857, when Dirk Jacobus Coetzee died, Susanna Catharina inherited the northern half of Vaale Krans. After her marriage to Jacobus Bernardus Moolman, this part of Vaale Krans was transferred to his name in 1863 and was later renamed Vaalbank. In 1893 the 4 816 morgen farm was divided into 7 smaller portions with Jacobus Bernardus Moolman himself keeping one portion and the rest going to his sons Hans Jurie, Hendrik Justinus, Matthys Johannes, his daughter Hyla Johanna, who was still a minor, and his two sons-in-law, Johannes Petrus Coetzee and Johannes Samuel Grobler. Hyla Johanna Moolman later married a certain Martin Joseph Adriaan Coetzee from the Burgerdorp district.

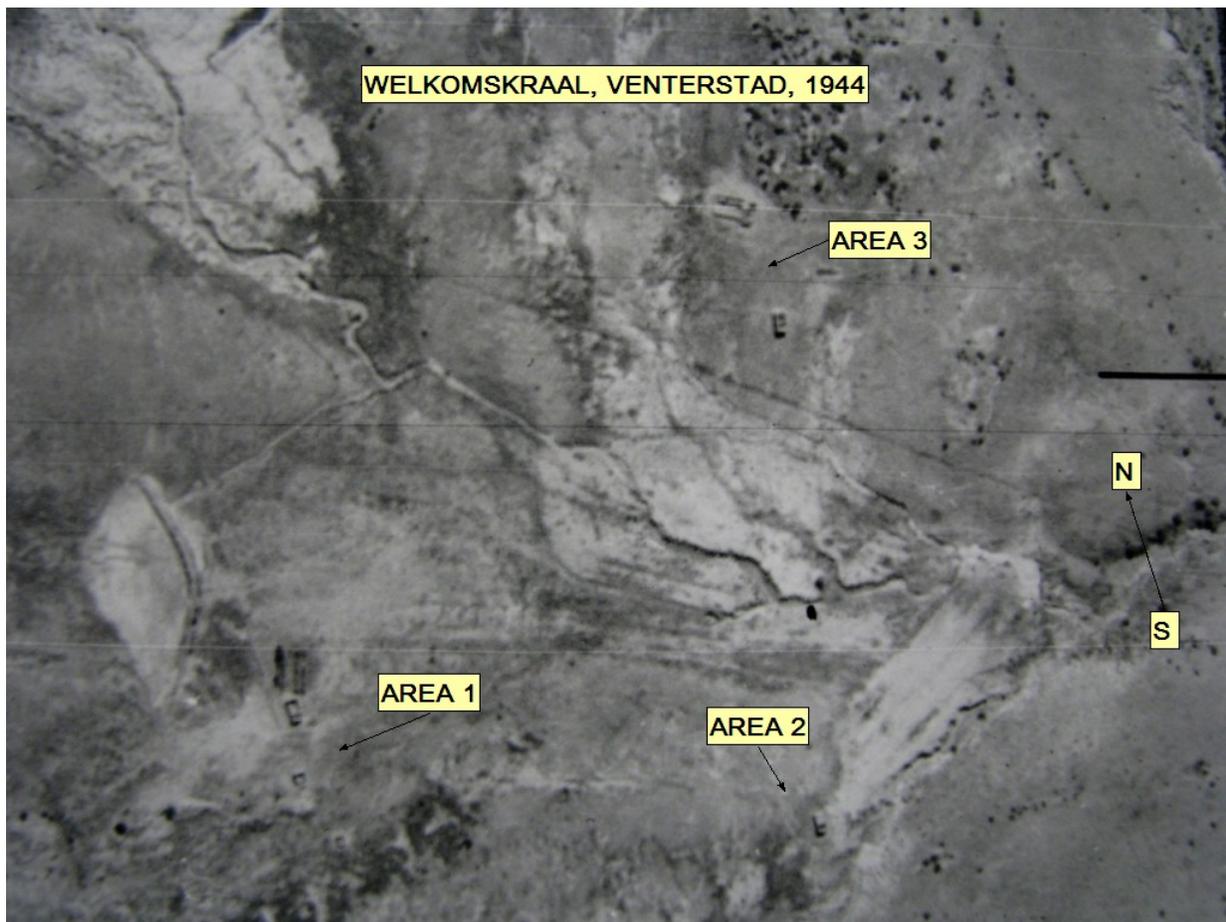
The archaeological excavations reported on here were conducted on one of the portions,

previously known as Welkomskraal. This portion of 622 morgen had been transferred to Hendrik Justinus Moolman in 1893. Welkomskraal is now divided between two farms, Delville and Kleinvlei Boerdery.

| <b>Figure 2: Welkomskraal (portion 6): List of owners since 1893.</b> |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Registration Date</b>  | <b>Size</b>   | <b>Previous owner</b>                      | <b>New owner</b>   | <b>Information</b>  |
| 18.08.1893  | 622 morgen  | J.B. Moolman & 8 other persons             | Hendrik Justinus Moolman                                 | H.J. Moolman was the son of J.B. Moolman.   |
| 01.10.1898  | 622 morgen  | H.J. Moolman                               | Constantine Alexander Schweizer                          |   |
| 27.09.1902  | 622 morgen  | C.A. Schweizer                             | Wessel Hendrik Moolman & Hans Jurie Moolman              | Hans Jurie Moolman was the brother of Hendrik Justinus Moolman. Wessel Hendrik was Hans Jurie's brother in law. |
| 29.06.1911  | 622 morg  | H.J. Moolman & W.H. Moolman                | Tjaart Francois Venter & Floris Andries Johannes Coetzee | Tjaart Francois Venter and F.A.J. Coetzee were brothers in law.   |
| 11.10.1915  | 622 morgen<br>Half portion                            | T.F. Venter                                | Pieter Kruger  |   |
| 16.10.1919  | 622 morgen<br>Half portion                            | P. Kruger                                  | Jacobus Abraham Daniël van der Westhuizen.               | Van der Westhuizen was the owner of Delville.   |
| 20.03.1920  | 622 morgen was divided – 308 morg (became portion 14) | J.A.D. van der Westhuizen & F.A.J. Coetzee | Jacobus Abraham Daniël van der Westhuizen                | Van der Westhuizen was the owner of Delville.   |
| 20.03.1920  | 622 morgen was divided – 314 morgen (portion 6)       | J.A.D. van der Westhuizen & F.A.J. Coetzee | Floris Andries Johannes Coetzee                          |   |
| 05.02.1924  | 314 morgen  | F.A.J. Coetzee                             | Louwrens Christiaan Coetzer                              | Coetzer was the owner of Vaalbank.  |

## Layout of the site

The remains of several structures can still be seen on Welkomskraal. These structures were once used as houses and outbuildings but are now in a very dilapidated state. However, in many instances, the remains of windows, doors and built-in cupboards can still be seen. Other structures that were found include several stockyards, a big round structure which was most probably a threshing-floor and a small stone structure against a ridge which can possibly indicate the presence of an old fountain. Several stone fence posts are still visible, as well as two old fruit trees.



**Figure 3:** Aerial photograph of the study area, 1944

(Order no.. 64 of 1944, strip 20, photo no. 677 – 64 020 00677: Chief Directorate: NGI, Mowbray).

Middens were found in the vicinity of all the structures identified as residential houses. Ceramics, glass and metal were visible on the surface in all the areas. Excavations were conducted in all the identified middens.

The concentration and number of structures at Welkomskraal gives one the impression that there was probably more than one domestic living unit on this part of the farm. For that reason Welkomskraal was divided into three research areas, namely Area 1, Area 2 and Area 3.

Area 1 is the oldest of the three. The remains of the following were found in this area (Figure 10):

- A structure consisting of only one room, possibly a residential building (Figure 4). A stone with the inscription *H.E.M.* (Figure 5) was found on the ground, just outside the door facing east;
- A structure consisting of 3 rooms, possibly used as an outbuilding (Figure 6);
- A residential house consisting of 2 or 3 rooms with the possible presence of an oven inside one of the rooms (Figure 7);
- A big earth dam that has a paved wall (Figure 8);
- The foundation of an unknown round structure, which could have been a threshing-floor;
- The foundation of a rectangular structure at the foot of a small ridge, possibly the remains of a kraal (Figure 9);
- The remains of three middens. Excavations were undertaken at all three of them. All the middens are situated on sloping ground and as a result of erosion over many years, artefacts such as wire, metal, glass and ceramics are scattered over a wide area.
- Several rocks that were used as fence posts can still be seen in the area.



**Figure 4:** Small structure with one room.



**Figure 5:** Stone with *H.E.M.* initials.



**Figure 6:** Outbuilding in Area 1.



**Figure 7:** The house in Area 1.



**Figure 8:** Earth dam in Area 1.



**Figure 9:** Possible kraal remains.



**Figure 10:** Aerial photo showing the location of the structures and middens in Area 1.

Area 2 (Figure 11):

The remains of the following were found in Area 2:

- A residential house with two or three rooms (Figures 12 and 13);
- A semi circular structure built against a nearby ridge, using the natural outcrop as the back of this structure. This structure could possibly indicate the presence of an old fountain (Figure 14);

- Two middens close to the house right next to a small gully, situated on a slight slope. Due to the location of the middens, rain and flooding has caused the artefacts from the middens to be spread over a wide area. Excavations were conducted in both middens.
- Rocks used as fence posts are still visible in the area (Figure 15) and one wooden fence post (Figure 16).



**Figure 11:** Aerial photo of Area 2 showing the location of the structures and middens.



**Figure 12:** The house in Area 2 (Photo: Neels Kruger).



**Figure 13:** The inside of the house in Area 2.



**Figure 14:** Semi circular structure in Area 2.



**Figure 15:** Fence posts in Area 2.



**Figure 16:** Wooden fence post.

Area 3 (Figure 27):

The following were found in Area 3:

- A residential house with two or three rooms, with the remains of a built-in oven on the inside (Figures 17 and 18);
- An outbuilding with three rooms and a kraal attached to the back. The letters *F.E.A.* are engraved on one of the rocks at the front of the outbuilding (Figures 19 – 24);
- An unidentified rectangular structure that was part of the kraal;
- A terrace packed with rocks against the hill close to the outbuilding;
- One midden a little to the west (the rear) of the house. Excavations were undertaken at this midden;
- An unidentified small round structure situated some distance away from the house and outbuilding (Figure 25);
- A small kraal-like structure at the foot of the ridge not far from the outbuilding. The outcropping rock was used as the rear of this structure;
- Areas at the foot of the hill where rock for building could have been quarried;
- Rocks used as fence posts are visible in the area (Figure 26).



**Figure 17:** The house in Area 3.



**Figure 18:** Built-in oven in the house.



**Figure 19:** The front of the outbuilding in Area 3.



**Figure 20:** *F.E.A.* initials at the front of the outbuilding.



**Figure 21:** Rear view of the outbuilding.



**Figure 22:** Kraal at the back of outbuilding.



**Figure 23:** Shelf in outbuilding.



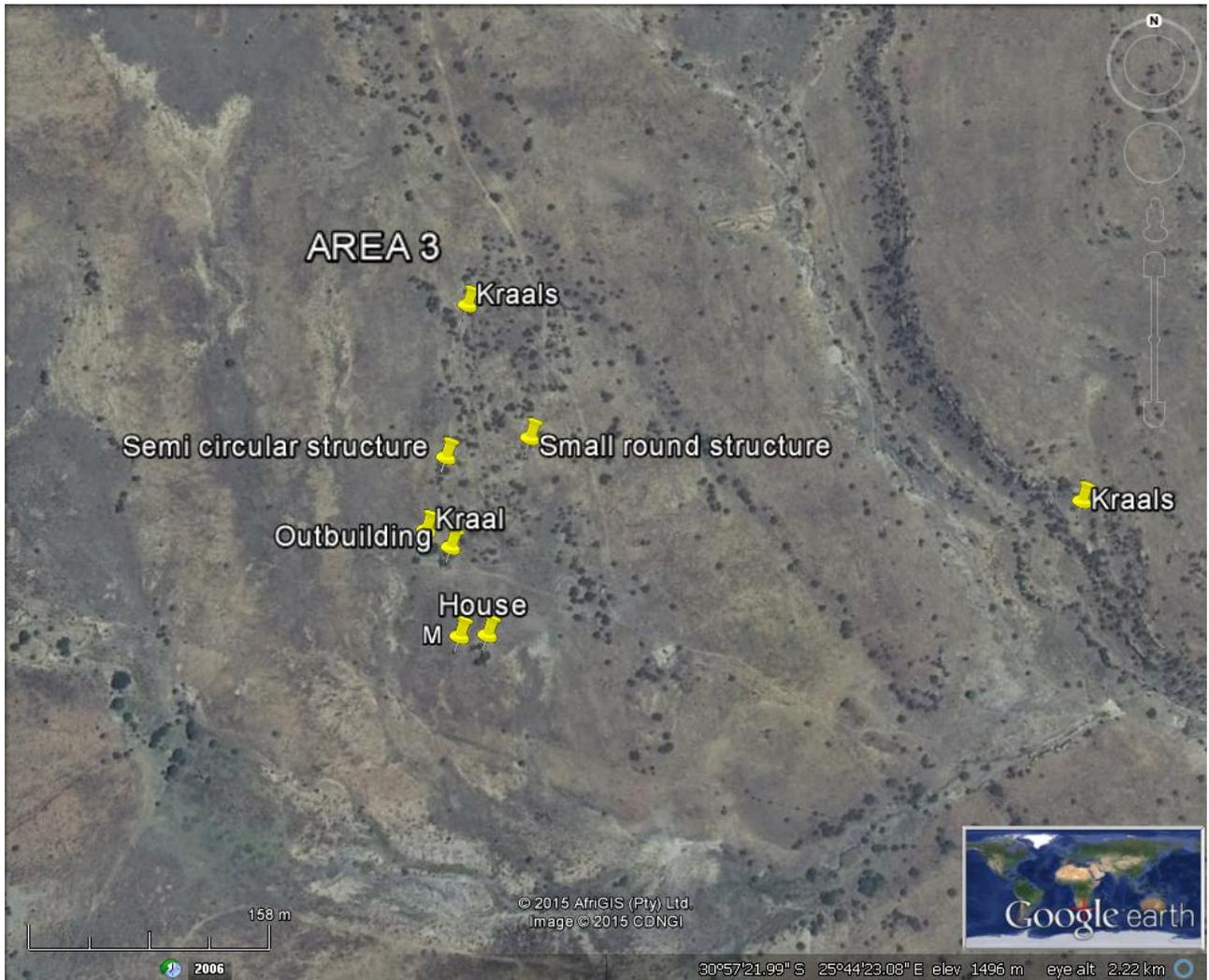
**Figure 24:** Niche in outbuilding.



**Figure 25:** Round structure in Area 3.



**Figure 26:** Fence posts in Area 3.



**Figure 27:** Aerial photo of Area 3 showing the location of the structures and midden.

Possible communal areas (Figure 30):

- Stock kraals against the nearby hills (Figure 28);
- Fruit trees close to a small stream in the middle of the Welkomskraal area (Figure 29).



**Figure 28:** Stock kraals in the nearby hills.



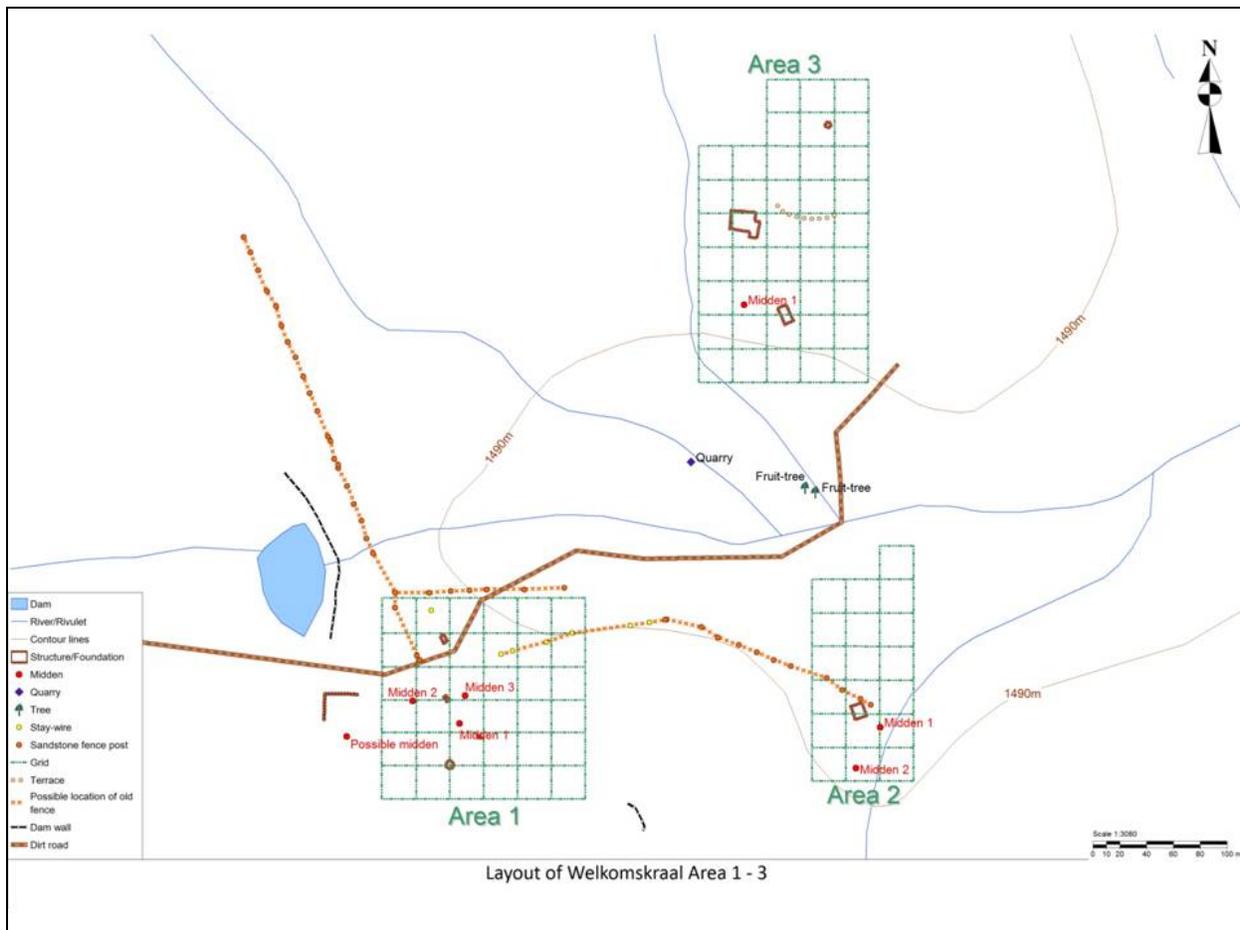
**Figure 29:** Two fruit trees at Welkomskraal.



Figure 30: Aerial photo of Welkomskraal, showing the structures and other features.

### Archaeological fieldwork

Three fieldwork sessions were undertaken during 2008 and 2009, investigating one Area at a time. In each Area the fieldwork commenced with the creation of a grid of 25x25 meter blocks (Figure 31). These blocks were numbered and surface material was collected per block. In the midden areas, the 25x25m blocks were divided into 5x5 meter blocks and then into 1x1m blocks over the middens themselves.



**Figure 31:** The layout of Welkomskraal Area 1, 2 and 3 indicating the overlay of the 25 x 25 m grids (Map: Chriselle Bruwer).

Surface material was collected accordingly. At each midden one of the 1x1 meter blocks was excavated. In Area 1 and Area 2 only one 1x1m block was excavated in each midden, since there were three middens in Area 1 and two middens in Area 2. As only one midden was found in Area 3, two 1x1m blocks were excavated at this midden, to allow for comparable sample sizes.

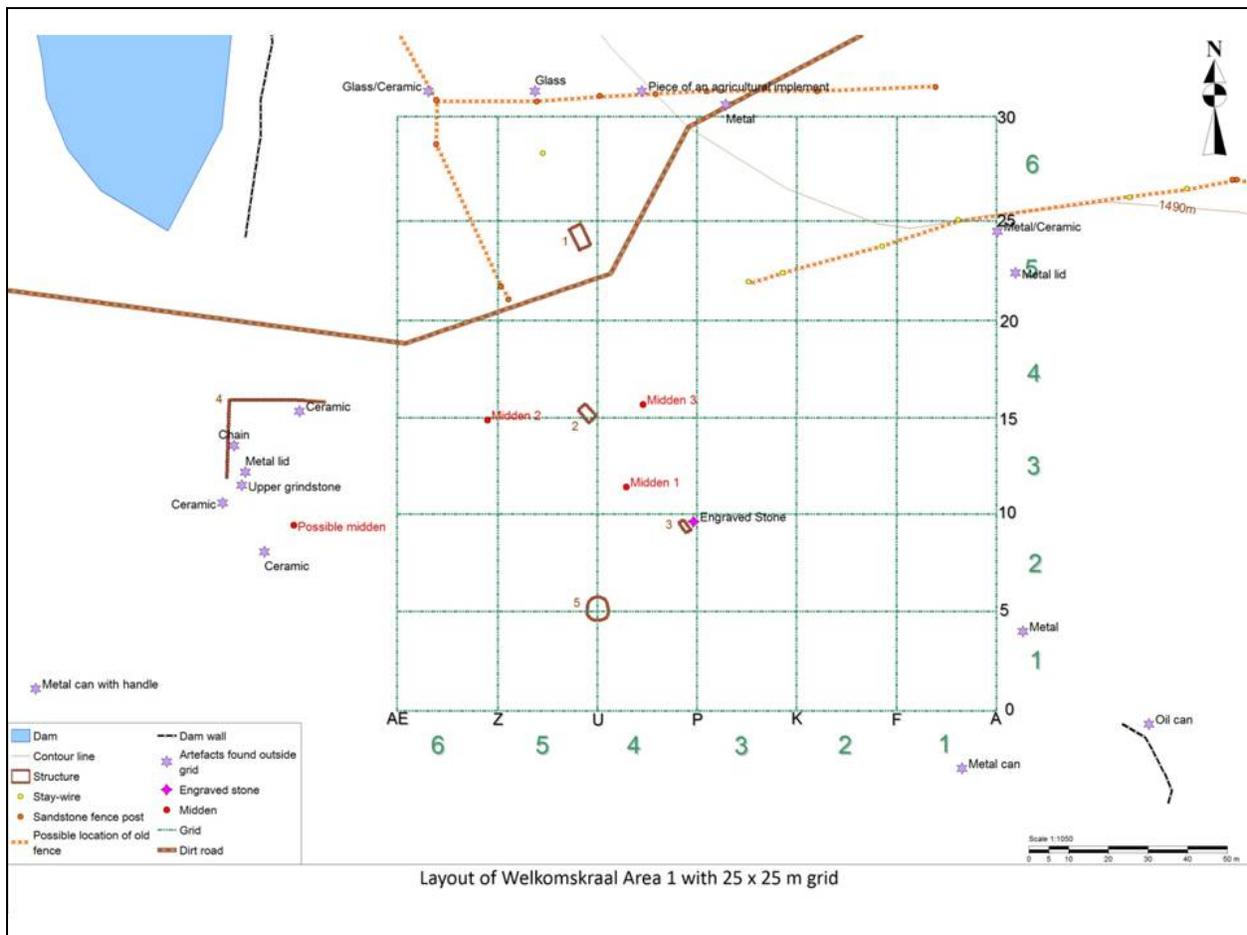
In all three areas the houses and outbuildings were measured and drawn. GPS readings were taken of all the man-made features in the area, as well as of the fruit trees.

Despite an extensive search, no graveyard was found on Welkomskraal. It is therefore assumed

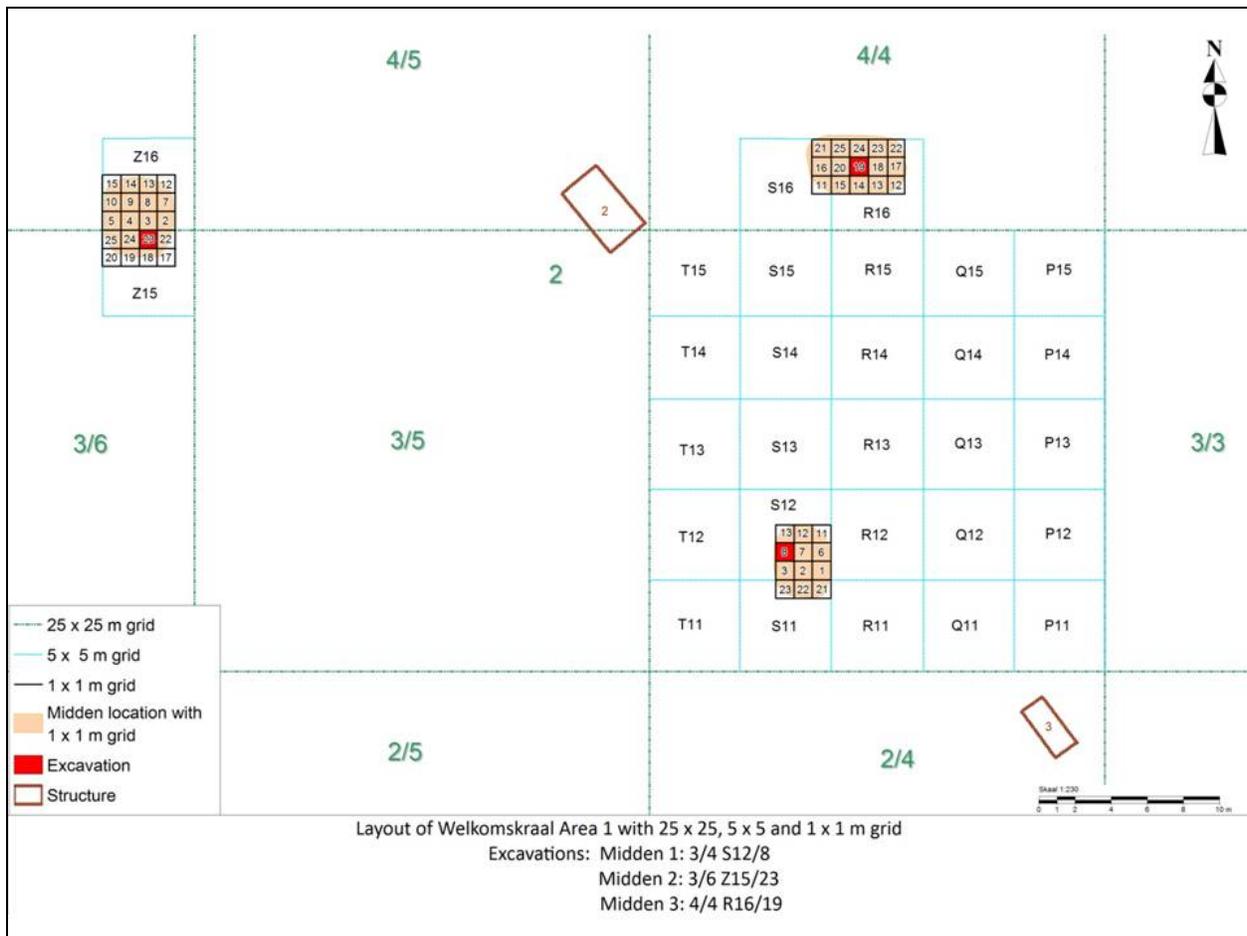
that the deceased were either buried in Venterstad or in the family graveyard, which was probably situated on the portion previously known as Vaalbank. Several graves were found on Vaalbank, including that of a certain Luitjie Hendrika Moolman, who died in 1880. All these graves were recorded and GPS readings were taken.

### Middens in Area 1

Three middens were found in Area 1 (Figures 32 and 33). They were all flat with the surface not forming visible heaps anymore. The location of the middens was determined through the presence of a large concentration of material on the surface and/or ashy soil. In all three instances artefacts were scattered across the surface over a wide area.



**Figure 32:** The layout of Area 1, indicating the location of the middens (Map: Chriselle Bruwer).



**Figure 33:** The layout of Area 1 showing the precise locations of the middens within the grid (Map: Chriselle Bruwer).



**Figure 34:** Midden 1.



**Figure 35:** Midden 1.

Midden 1 is located on a slope (Figures 34 and 35) and it is clear that many items were washed down the slope over the years. A 1x1 m block was excavated in this midden, located at block 3-4/S12-8 (Figure 33). Midden 1 was the deepest of the three middens with a depth of about 40cm and excavated in 5cm spits with a total of 8 layers (Figures 36 - 39). Very little material was found on the surface of block 3-4/S12-8, only three pieces of ceramic, two pieces of glass, a few fragments of bone and a screw.

In the different layers, the following were found:

Layer 1: Fauna (bone), glass and ceramic fragments, peach pit pieces, charcoal, metal, two glass beads, brick pieces, slate, a slate pencil and white stone.

Layer 2: Fauna (bone and shell), glass and ceramic fragments, charcoal, peach pit pieces, brick pieces, slate, a glass bead, metal, including several nails and piece of a horseshoe, as well as wire.

Layer 3: Fauna (bone and shell), including pieces of burnt bone, charcoal, glass and ceramic fragments, brick pieces, white stone, metal, two glass beads and slate.

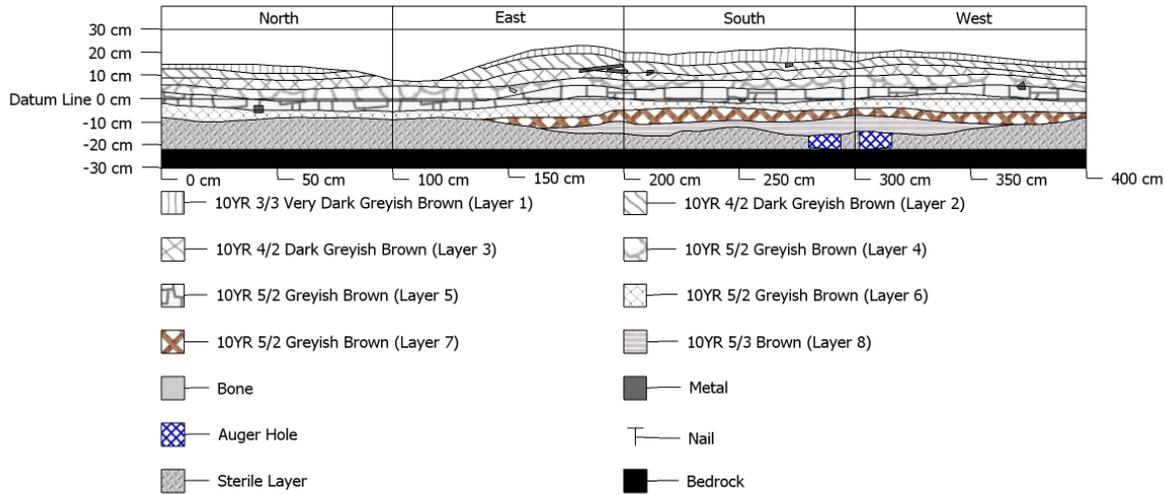
Layer 4: Fauna (bone), flora (seeds, including peach pit pieces), glass and ceramic fragments, metal, the arm of a doll, brick pieces, white stone and charcoal.

Layer 5: Fauna (bone and ostrich eggshell), charcoal, peach pit pieces, three glass beads, glass and ceramic fragments, metal, pieces of brick, white stone with a smooth surface and small piece of cloth.

Layer 6: Fauna (bone), charcoal, glass, ceramic fragments, brick pieces metal, one glass bead and one glass button.

Layer 7: Fauna (bone), charcoal, gastrolith, glass, ceramic fragments and metal.

Layer 8: Only a few pieces of charcoal and fauna (bone) were found.



**Figure 36:** Stratigraphy of Midden 1 in Area 1 (Drawing: Thys Uys).



**Figure 37:** Midden 1, base of layer 4.



**Figure 38:** The base of Midden 1.

Midden 2 is located in block 3-6/Z15-23 (Figures 40 and 41). This midden (Figure 42) was very shallow with a depth of about 20 cm and consisted of four layers, the surface layer included. On the surface of the block a few pieces of bone, charcoal, brick, metal, two pieces of glass and three pieces of ceramics were found



**Figure 39:** Midden 1 with the “one room structure” in the background.



**Figure 40:** Excavations taking place at Midden 2 with the house on the left side and the outbuilding on the right side.



**Figure 41:** The grid over Midden 2.



**Figure 42:** Midden 2.

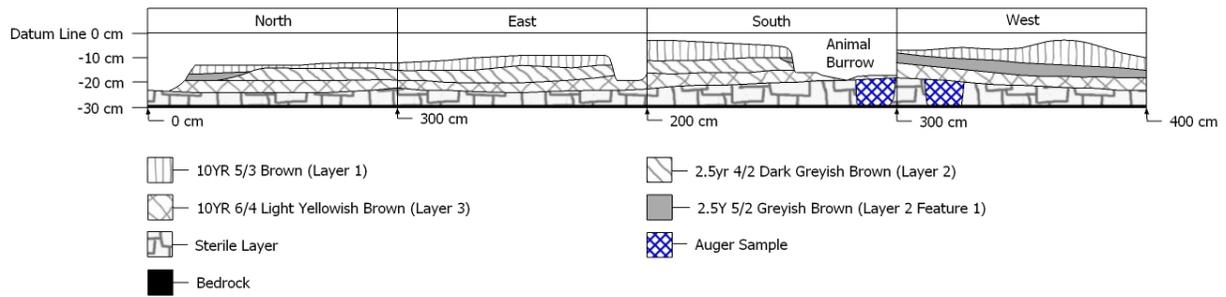
The surface layer was between 2 and 4 cm deep (Figure 43). Ceramic, glass, fauna (bone and ostrich eggshell), charcoal, a piece of wire, a nail, brick pieces, white stones and a stone tool were found in this layer.

The next three layers were excavated stratigraphically and the following items were found:

Layer 1: Ceramic fragments, glass, fauna (ostrich eggshell, bone, including burnt pieces of bone), charcoal, brick pieces, rusted metal and nails, slate, a white glass bead and a piece of wire.

Layer 2: Brick pieces, white stones, slate, ceramic fragments, glass, charcoal, burnt wood, metal, including two nails and fauna (bone, ostrich eggshell and burnt bone). A large concentration of bone was found in the western part of the layer.

Layer 3: Fauna (bone), charcoal, one ceramic fragment, three glass fragments, brick pieces and four pieces of metal that included a nail and a screw.



**Figure 43:** Stratigraphy of midden no. 2 in Area 1 (Drawing: Thys Uys).



**Figure 44:** The location of Midden 3 in relation to the outbuilding, left, and the house in the background.

Midden 3 lies a few metres north of midden 1 and is also situated against a slope which caused the material to be washed downslope when it rained (Figures 44 - 47). Midden 3 is situated in block 4-4/R16-19 and was very shallow, with a depth of about 16cm. It consisted of five layers, including the surface layer (Figure 48).

The surface layer was between 2 and 4 cm thick and produced the following material: Fauna (ostrich eggshell and bone, including burnt bone), seeds, ceramic fragments, glass, two glass beads, a slate pencil, a piece of wire and pieces of metal. The following four layers were excavated stratigraphically and produced the following material:

Layer 1; Brick pieces, white stones, wire, metal (including nails and a lead ball from a shot gun), slate, glass and ceramic fragments, a piece of shoe leather, two glass beads, fauna (bone) and flora (seeds and a peach pit).

Layer 2: Ceramic and glass fragments, one white glass bead, pieces of wire, metal, fauna (bone and ostrich eggshell), charcoal, flora (seeds) and a white clay marble.

Layer 3: Shoe leather, five glass beads, fauna (bone), metal (including buttons and nails), glass and ceramic fragments and pieces of wire.

Layer 4: Three glass beads, fauna (bone, including burnt bone), glass fragments, metal (including nails) and one piece of ceramic.



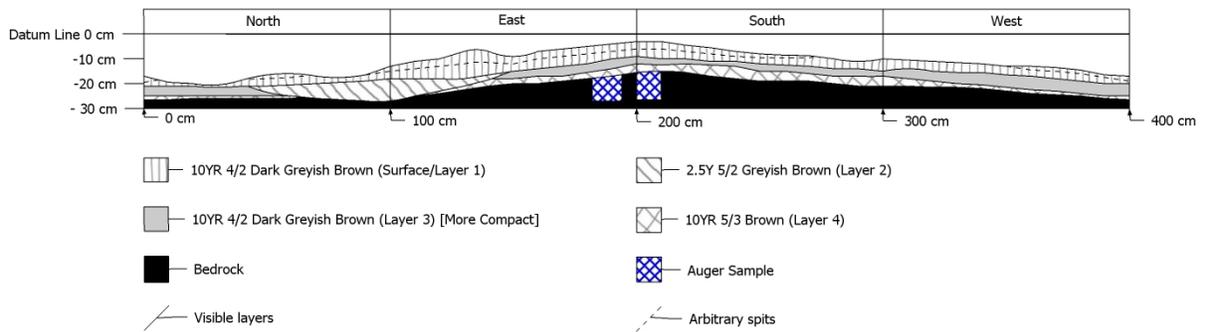
**Figure 45:** Midden 3.



**Figure 46:** The base of Midden 3.



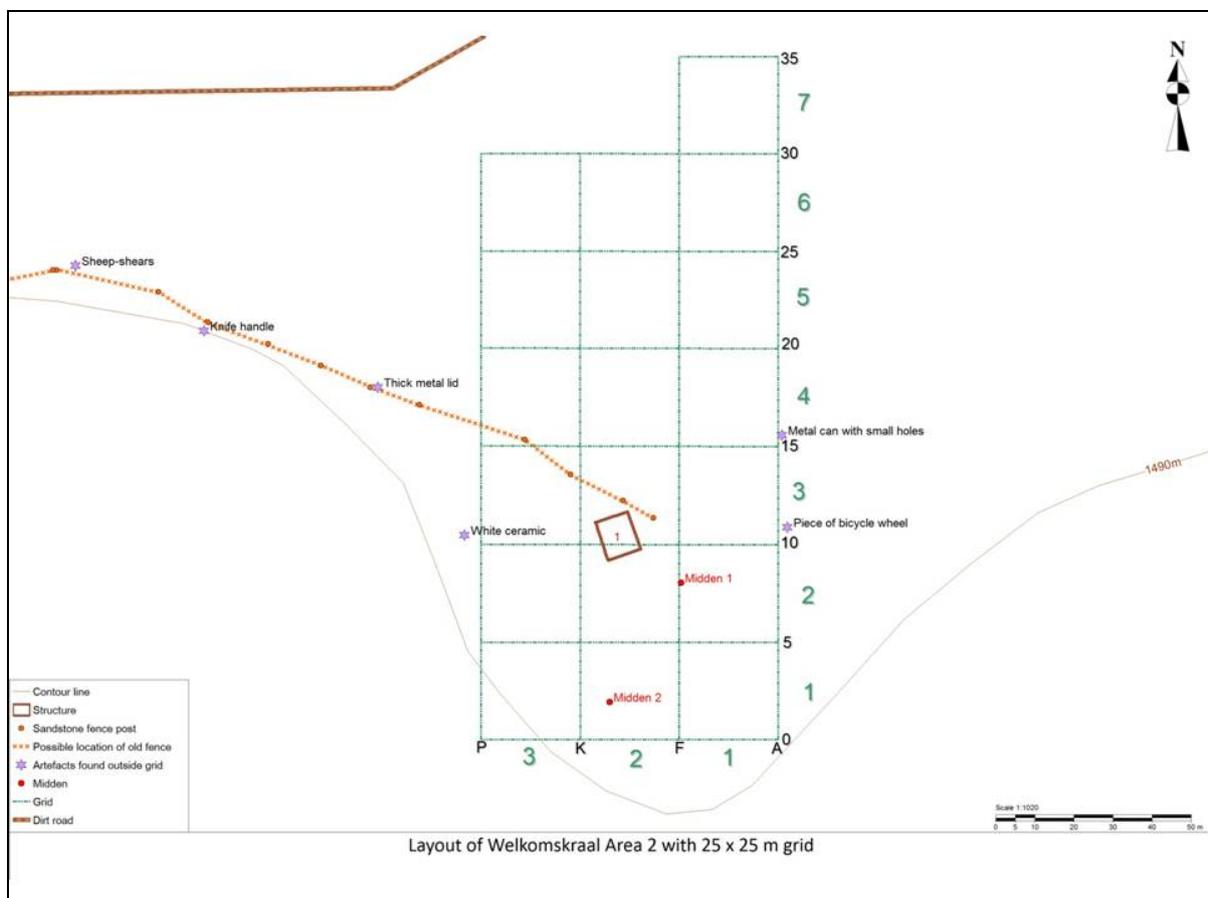
**Figure 47:** Midden 3 with the house in the background.



**Figure 48:** Stratigraphy of Midden no. 3 in Area 1 (Drawing: Thys Uys).

## Middens in Area 2

Two middens were found in Area 2 (Figure 49), of which one (midden no. 1) still forms a visible heap. Both are situated close to a stream that flows past the front of the house. Midden 1 was the deepest in Area 2 with a depth of 45cm. Midden 2 is does not form a visible heap and its location was determined through the presence of a large concentration of material on the surface and ashy soil. In both instances artefacts were scattered across the surface over a wide area.



**Figure 49:** The layout of Area 2 indicating the location of the middens inside the grid (Map: Chriselle Bruwer).



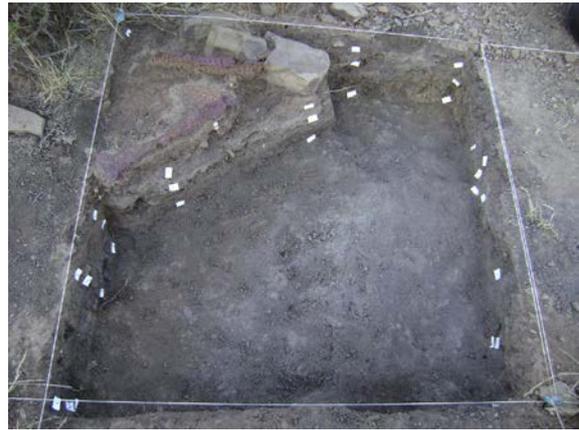
**Figure 50:** The layout of Area 1 showing the precise locations of the middens within the grid (Map: Chriselle Bruwer).

The 1x1m area excavated at Midden 1 is located in block 2-1/E9-5 (Figure 50). The midden (Figure 51) consisted of five layers. On the surface the following material was found: Fauna (bone), seven pieces of glass, six rusted nails, rusted metal, including the remains of a knife and a metal pan.

The surface layer, which was approximately 2cm thick contained the following: A piece of wire, pieces of metal, including pieces associated with clothing, two pieces of ceramic, four pieces of glass, shoe leather, nails, charcoal and fauna.



**Figure 51:** Midden 1 in Area 2.



**Figure 52:** Layer 4 in Midden 1.

Layers 1, 2 and 3 were excavated in spits of 5cm each and layers 4 and 5 in stratigraphic layers (Figure 52 - 56). The following items were found in these layers:

Layer 1: Fauna (bone), brick pieces, charcoal, flora (seed and peach pit pieces), pieces of glass, a piece of cloth from male clothing, two glass beads, metal (including two pieces associated with clothing), as well as nails and a piece from a sieve.

Layer 2: Pieces of metal and wire, one nail, part of a cork, a piece of glass, shoe leather, a peach pit, charcoal and fauna (bone).

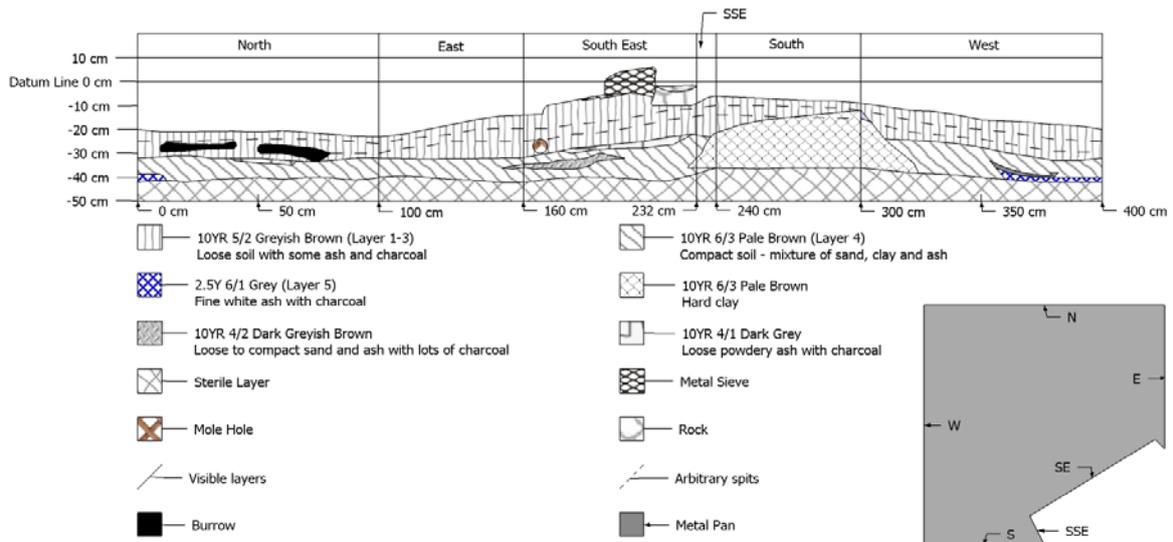
Layer 3: A piece of wire, one nail, shoe leather, pieces of a harmonica and a tobacco pipe, a metal button, section of a chain, seeds, brick fragments, charcoal and fauna (bone).

Layer 4: Charcoal, fauna (bone), brick fragments, rusted metal, as well as a metal fastener associated with male trousers.

Layer 5: Charcoal, fauna (bone), rusted metal, shoe leather, pieces from a harmonica and three pieces of glass.



**Figure 53:** Excavations at Midden 1 in Area 2 with the house in the background.



**Figure 54:** Stratigraphy of Midden 1 in Area 2 (Drawing: Thys Uys).



**Figure 55:** The base of Midden 1.



**Figure 56:** The stratigraphy in Midden 1.



**Figure 57:** Midden 2 with the house in the background.



**Figure 58:** Midden 2 with the grid over it.

Midden 2 is located a few metres south of midden 1 (Figures 57 and 58). This midden was not very deep, with a depth of 28 cm. Excavations were done in block 1-2/I2-23. An animal burrow was visible in the south-western corner of this block. The midden consisted of seven

layers. On the surface the following items were found: Pieces of bone, rusted metal, four fragments of glass and one ceramic fragment.

The following items were found in the surface layer: Pieces of rusted metal, fauna (bone and ostrich eggshell, charcoal, glass, ceramic and peach pit pieces). Layers 1 and 2 were excavated in 5cm spits. Layers 3 to 7 were excavated in stratigraphic layers (Figure 60). The following items were found in these layers:

Layer 1: Charcoal, metal, two nails, ceramic fragments, glass (including a complete Lennon's medicine bottle (Figure 59)), fauna (bone), and shoe leather.

Layer 2: Charcoal, fauna (bone), glass, a piece of black cloth, two pieces of metal (including a clothing fastener), brick fragments and a piece of slate.

Layer 3: Fauna (bone and ostrich eggshell), charcoal, flora (including peach pit pieces), one glass fragment, two pieces of metal (including an airgun cartridge), and three ceramic fragments.

Layer 4: Charcoal, fauna (ostrich eggshell and bone, including burnt bone), flora (seed), one glass fragment, two ceramic fragments, a piece of metal and shoe leather.

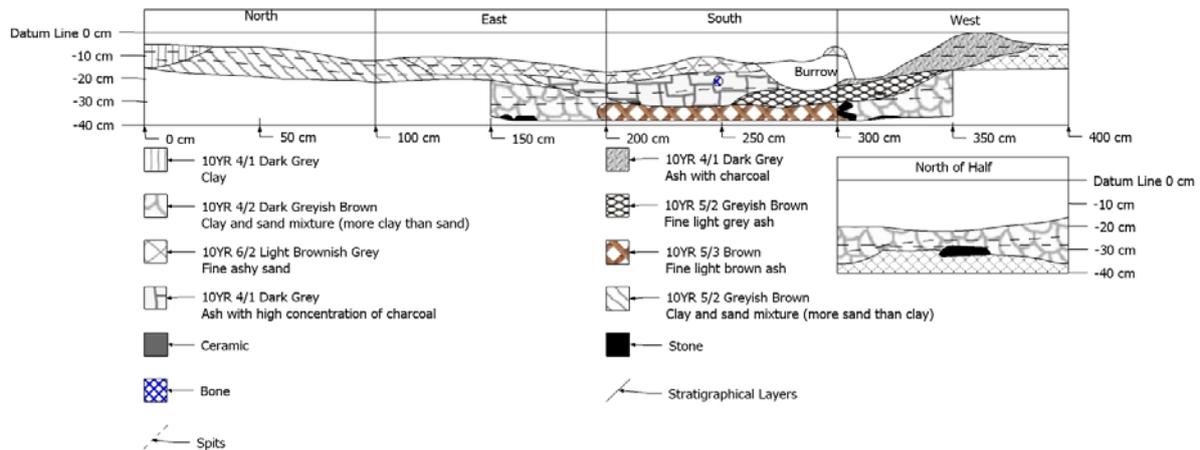
Layer 5 consisted of very compact soil and no items were found.

Layer 6: Fauna (bone), charcoal and flora (seeds).

Layer 7 consisted of compact soil and rocks. No items were found in this layer.



**Figure 59:** Bone and a Lennon's medicine bottle found in Midden 2.



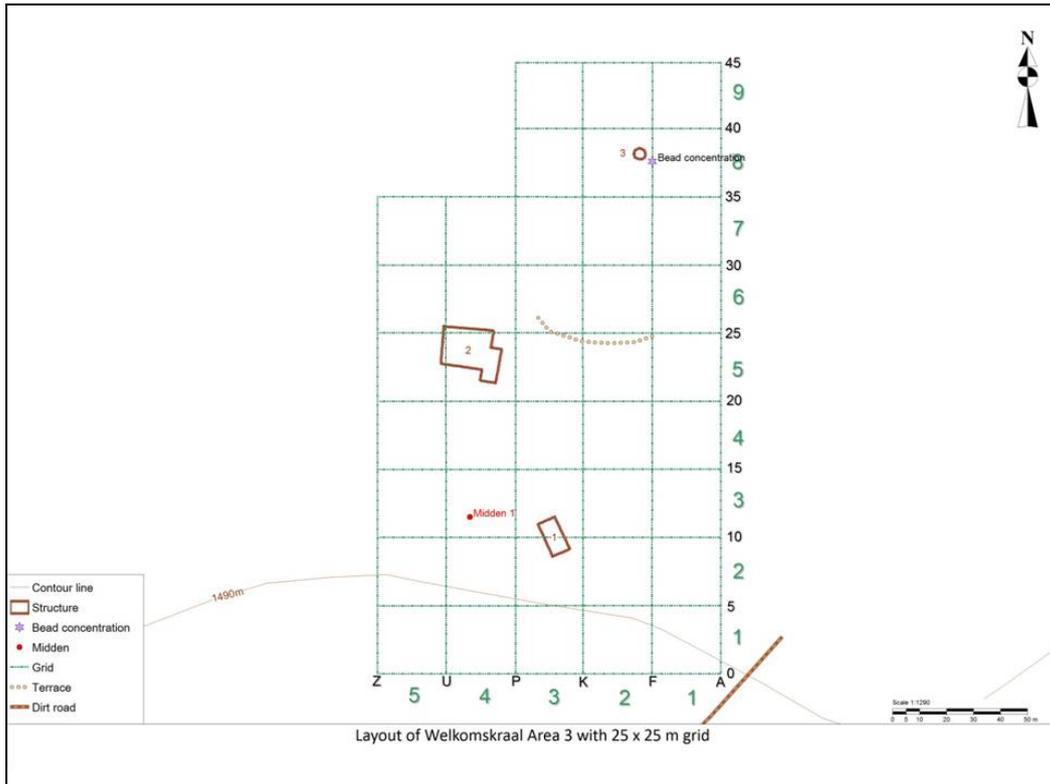
**Figure 60:** Stratigraphy of Midden 2 in Area 2 (Drawing: Thys Uys).

### Middens in Area 3

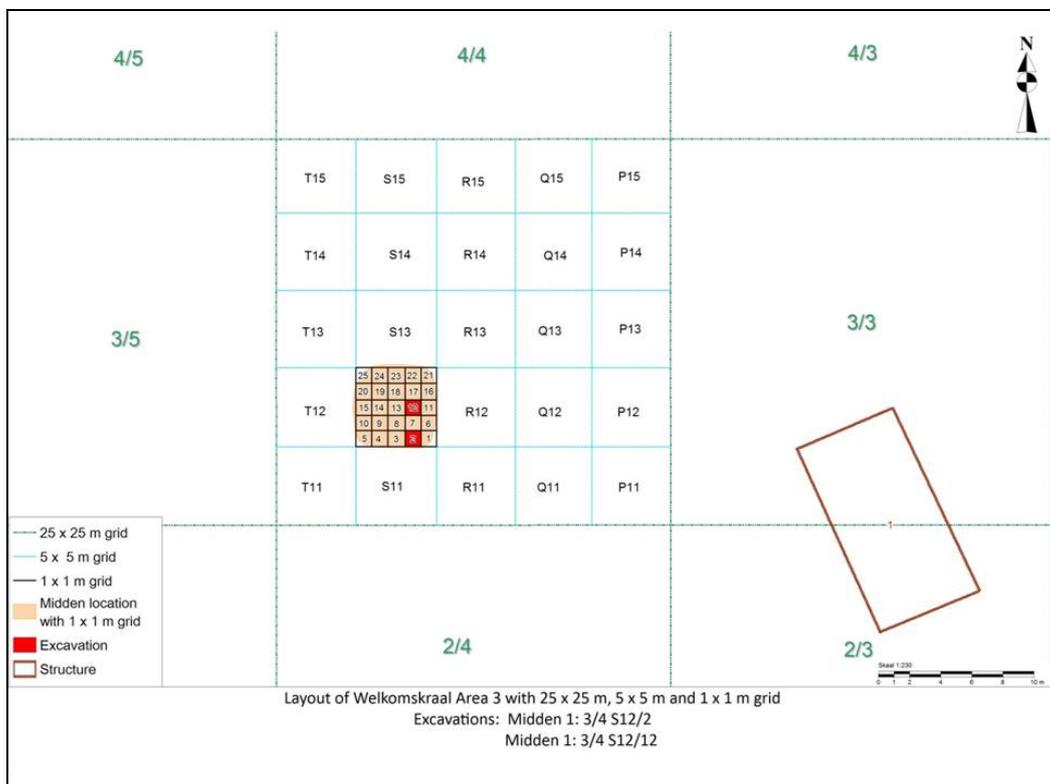
Only one midden was found in Area 3 which is located a few metres behind the house or to the west of the house (Figures 61 - 64). The midden does not form a visible heap and its location was determined through the presence of a large concentration of material on the surface and ashy ground. Artefacts were scattered across the surface over a wide area. Since there was only one midden, it was decided to excavate two 1x1 metre blocks (Figures 71 and 72) to ensure that enough material was collected for comparison with the other two areas.

The midden in Area 3 was not very deep, with excavation 1 being 20cm in depth and excavation 2 being 18cm in depth. Based on the amount of material found on the surface, it was decided to do the first excavation in block 3-4/S12-12. The following material was found on the surface of this block:

A few pieces of bone and ostrich eggshell, four glass fragments, one ceramic fragment and two slate pencil pieces.



**Figure 61:** The layout of Area 3 showing the location of the midden inside the grid.



**Figure 62:** The layout of Area 3 showing the precise location of the midden within the grid.



**Figure 63:** The midden behind the house.



**Figure 64:** The grid across the midden with the outbuilding in the background.

The first excavation consisted of five layers (Figures 65 – 67). The surface layer was between 1–5cm thick and consisted of the following material: Glass, three ceramic fragments, a piece of wire, charcoal, fauna (bone and ostrich eggshell), shoe rubber and a few pieces of metal, including a nail.

Layers 1 and 2 were excavated in spits of 5cm each. Layers 3 and 4 were excavated according to stratigraphic layers. The following material was found in these layers:

Layer 1: Bricks, fauna (bone and ostrich eggshell), charcoal, glass and ceramic fragments, a few pieces of metal, including an airgun cartridge, and three pieces of shoe leather.

Layer 2: Charcoal, fauna (bone and ostrich eggshell), glass, one ceramic fragment, metal (including a button and clothing fastener, a glass bead and pieces of leather).

Layer 3: The ashy ground around the bricks was excavated as layer 3. Items found: Charcoal, fauna (ostrich eggshell and bone), brick pieces, glass, a glass bead and pieces of shoe leather.

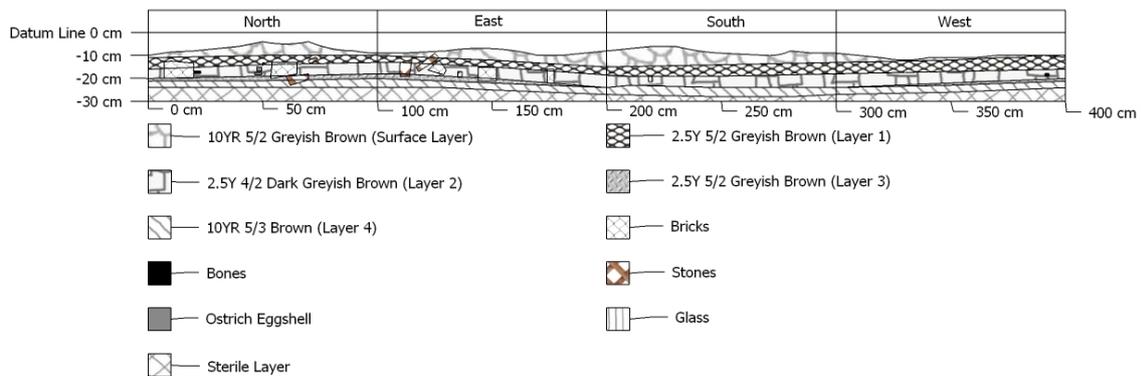
Layer 4: This layer was 5cm in depth and no material was found.



**Figure 65:** Excavation 1, layer 3.



**Figure 66:** Excavation 1, base.



Surface Layer, Layer 1 and Layer 2 are arbitrary spits.  
Layer 3 and Layer 4 are visible layers.

**Figure 67:** Stratigraphy of excavation 1 in Area 3 (Drawing: Thys Uys).

Excavation 2 is located in block 3-4/S12-2 and consisted of three layers, including the surface layer (Figures 68 – 70).

On the surface of this block the following material was found: Pieces of bone and ostrich eggshell, one ceramic fragment and three glass fragments.



**Figure 68:** Excavation 2.



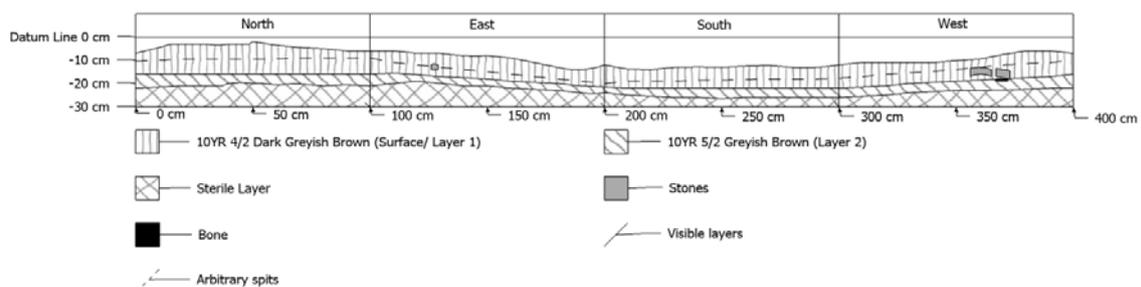
**Figure 69:** Excavation 2, base.

The surface layer was about 5cm deep and contained the following material: Charcoal, pieces of brick, fauna (ostrich eggshell and bone, including burnt bone), glass fragments, peach pit pieces, ceramic fragments, pieces of metal, including a nail, a .303 cartridge casing and a slate pencil.

Both layers 1 and 2 were excavated according to stratigraphic layers. The following material was found:

Layer 1: Charcoal, fauna (bone and ostrich eggshell), glass and ceramic fragments, flora (including peach pit pieces), brick pieces, glass beads, wire and metal (including two .22 cartridge casings).

Layer 2: Charcoal and fauna (bone, including burnt bone).



**Figure 70:** Stratigraphy of excavation 2 in Area 3 (Drawing: Thys Uys).



**Figure 71:** Excavation 1 (left) and excavation 2 (right).



**Figure 72:** Excavation 1 and 2 in relation to each other, with excavation 1 closest to the camera.

North of the structures in Area 3, close to the entrance of the unidentified structure, several glass beads (Figure 73) were found on the surface. Ceramic, glass and metal were also collected on the surface, but no midden was found.



**Figure 73:** Glass beads were found on the surface close to the small round structure in the background.

**GPS coordinates:**

| Description                   | GPS                          |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Area 1</b>                 |                              |
| One room structure            | 30°57'35.90"S; 25°44'11.00"E |
| Outbuilding                   | 30°57'34.76"S; 25°44'10.11"E |
| House                         | 30°57'33.45"S; 25°44'9.83"E  |
| Dam                           | 30°57'31.50"S; 25°44'6.73"E  |
| Kraal                         | 30°57'35.29"S; 25°44'7.51"E  |
| Threshing floor               | 30°57'36.96"S; 25°44'10.73"E |
| Midden 1                      | 30°57'35.60"S; 25°44'10.50"E |
| Midden 2                      | 30°57'34.99"S; 25°44'9.13"E  |
| Midden 3                      | 30°57'34.78"S; 25°44'10.57"E |
|                               |                              |
| <b>Area 2</b>                 |                              |
| House                         | 30°57'35.04"S; 25°44'21.57"E |
| Semi circular structure       | 30°57'35.90"S; 25°44'24.30"E |
| Midden 1                      | 30°57'35.42"S; 25°44'22.34"E |
| Midden 2                      | 30°57'36.40"S; 25°44'21.84"E |
|                               |                              |
| <b>Area 3</b>                 |                              |
| House                         | 30°57'25.53"S; 25°44'19.82"E |
| Outbuilding                   | 30°57'23.33"S; 25°44'18.88"E |
| Kraal behind outbuilding      | 30°57'23.18"S; 25°44'18.22"E |
| Small round structure         | 30°57'21.08"S; 25°44'20.92"E |
| Semi circular structure       | 30°57'21.51"S; 25°44'18.69"E |
| Midden                        | 30°57'25.56"S; 25°44'19.10"E |
|                               |                              |
|                               |                              |
| <b>Other</b>                  |                              |
| Fruit tree south              | 30°57'30.70"S; 25°44'21.30"E |
| Fruit tree north              | 30°57'30.10"S; 25°44'21.10"E |
| Kraals                        | 30°57'22.57"S; 25°44'35.61"E |
| Kraals                        | 30°57'19.25"S; 25°44'20.19"E |
|                               |                              |
|                               |                              |
| <b>Graveyards at Vaalbank</b> |                              |
| Moolman grave & others        | 30°56'49.90"S; 25°45'43.20"E |
| Maharry grave & others        | 30°57'02.0"S; 25°45'46.60"E  |
| Unidentified graves           | 30°57'01.70"S; 25°45'49.10"E |
| Unidentified graves           | 30°57'04.20"S; 25°45'48.10"E |

## SOURCES

Coetzee, G.C.J. 2012. *'n Histories-argeologiese studie van die plaas Welkomskraal, distrik Venterstad, Noordoos-Kaap*. Unpublished Master's dissertation: University of South Africa (UNISA).

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