

# **Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment**

## **Portion 5, Farm Kamaggas No.200**

### **Proposed Nama Khoi Cemetary**

FOR:

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This assessment has been undertaken at the behest of PHS Consulting, at the request of Heritage Northern Cape (Ref: H.2.8.2.2.). The Nama Khoi Municipality indent to develop a cemetery of approximately 4 ha on the outskirts of Komaggas, Northern Cape. Two potential site have been identified by PHS Consulting: Alternative 1 (the preferred site) and Alternative 2. Both Sites were assessed during the archaeological survey.

Some 18 Middle Stone Age (MSA) quartz stone flakes were found on the very disturbed site of Alternative 1. On Alternative 2, 47 MSA quartz tools and 1 silcrete flake, were located during the survey.

The development of a cemetery for the Komaggas community has already been endorsed by the Nama Khoi Municipality and Heritage Northern Cape. Of the two alternative sites, Alternative 1 is the preferred development site as it is the most disturbed from an archaeological perspective. Fewer stone tools were found on this site. These sites have been sufficiently recorded and no further action needs to be taken before destruction.

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# 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This assessment has been undertaken at the behest of PHS Consulting, at the request of Heritage Northern Cape (Ref: H.2.8.2.2.). The Nama Khoi Municipality indent to develop a cemetery of approximately 4 ha on the outskirts of Komaggas, Northern Cape. Two potential site have been identified by PHS Consulting: Alternative 1 (the preferred site) and Alternative 2 (Figure 1). Both sites were assessed during the archaeological survey.

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## 1.1. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the specialist Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment are to:

- Identify and map pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed sites;
- Determine the importance of pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources on the proposed sites;
- Determine and asses the potential impacts of the proposed development on the pre-colonial archaeological heritage resources, and
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise impacts associated with the proposed development.

## 1.2. Legislative requirements

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) `...any development or other activity which will change the character of a site exceeding 5 000m2, or the rezoning or change of land use

of a site exceeding 10 000 m<sup>2</sup>, requires an archaeological impact assessment in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

Archaeology (Section 35 (4)) No person may, without a permit issued by the SAHRA or Heritage Western Cape, destroy, damage, excavate, alter or remove from its original position, or collect, any archaeological material or object.

## **2. DESK TOP STUDY**

Archaeological information (other than rock art (Beaumont 1989)) for the Komaggas and even the Springbok area is limited (Orton et al 2005). Data on finds are generally from previous AIA reports (Deacon 2004, Dryer 2002, Halket & Hart 1997; 2001, Kaplan 1998).

The stone tools located during the site survey belong to the Middle Stone Age (MSA). The MSA is sandwiched between the Earlier Stone Age (ESA) and Later Stone Age (LSA) and dates from between 250 000 B.P. To about 20 000 years ago (Deacon & Deacon 1999, Mitchell 2002). The technology is characterised by the absence of hand axes and cleavers, the presence of prepared core techniques (e.g. Levallois technique). The stone flakes are generally triangular in shape with faceted striking platforms. Elongated blades and blade flakes are also common.

## **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY & METHODOLOGY**

Komaggas lies within the Nama Khoi Municipality, Northern Cape Province, some 60 km from Springbok. Alternative 1 is on the urban edge to the west of the town, while Alternative 2 is to the North, across a stream. The sites are located on the map in Figure. The town can be found on the 1:50 000 map 2917 CD KOMAGGAS (Figure 2). GPS tracking of the sites is illustrated in Figure 3.

The sites were identified (Figures 4 & 5) by Mr Deon Magerman and MS. Beulah Williams of the Nama Khoi Municipality (027 718 8100). Two archaeologists assessed the sites on foot on 2011-02-01. Archaeological visibility was good given the sparse vegetation. GPS readings were taken with a Garmin GPS 60 and Garmin eMap (both with WGS 84). Photographs were taken using a Canon DSLR and Panasonic DMC FZ38.

### **3.1. Alternative 1**

This site is bounded to the north by a sports field (Figure 6). The field has been levelled using

material from the proposed cemetery site, leaving the property very disturbed. Areas of Alternative 1 have been used as an informal waste dumping ground (Figure 7). Trenches (Figure 8) and natural water erosion channels (Figure 9) are also present.

### **3.2. Alternative 2**

Alternative 2 is to the north of the town and bounded on its southern edge by the flood plain of a small semi permanent river. Bounding this site to the North-east is a formal dumping ground. The landscape is generally less disturbed than Alternative 1.

## **4. DESCRIPTION OF SITES & ARTEFACTS**

Only isolated stone tools and small stone tool scatters were located. The sites are already so disturbed, particularly Alternative 1, that any further development will not detrimentally impact the context of archaeological finds. For reference, the Garmin GPS60 is 12 cm long (excluding the aerial) and the eMap is 13.5 cm. GPS data is available in a supporting document

### **4.1. Alternative 1 – Artefacts**

18 Middle Stone Age quartz flakes, of varying sizes were located during the survey. They have been mapped in Figure 10. Figures 11 & 12 show the flakes.

### **4.2. Alternative 2 – Artefacts**

Some 46 Middle Stone Age quartz stone tools were easily located during the survey of Alternative 2 (Figure 13). These are mostly flakes, with a few cores (Figure 14). One silcrete flake was located (Figure 15).

## **5. FIELD RATING & STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

A generally low level of local significance is awarded to both Alternative 1 and 2. These sites have been sufficiently recorded and no further action needs to be taken before destruction.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS**

The development of a cemetery for the Komaggas community has already been endorsed by the

Nama Khoi Municipality and Heritage Northern Cape. Of the two alternative sites, Alternative 1 is the preferred development site as it is the most disturbed from an archaeological perspective. Fewer stone tools were found on this site. These sites have been sufficiently recorded and no further action needs to be taken before destruction.

## **7. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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# 8. FIGURES

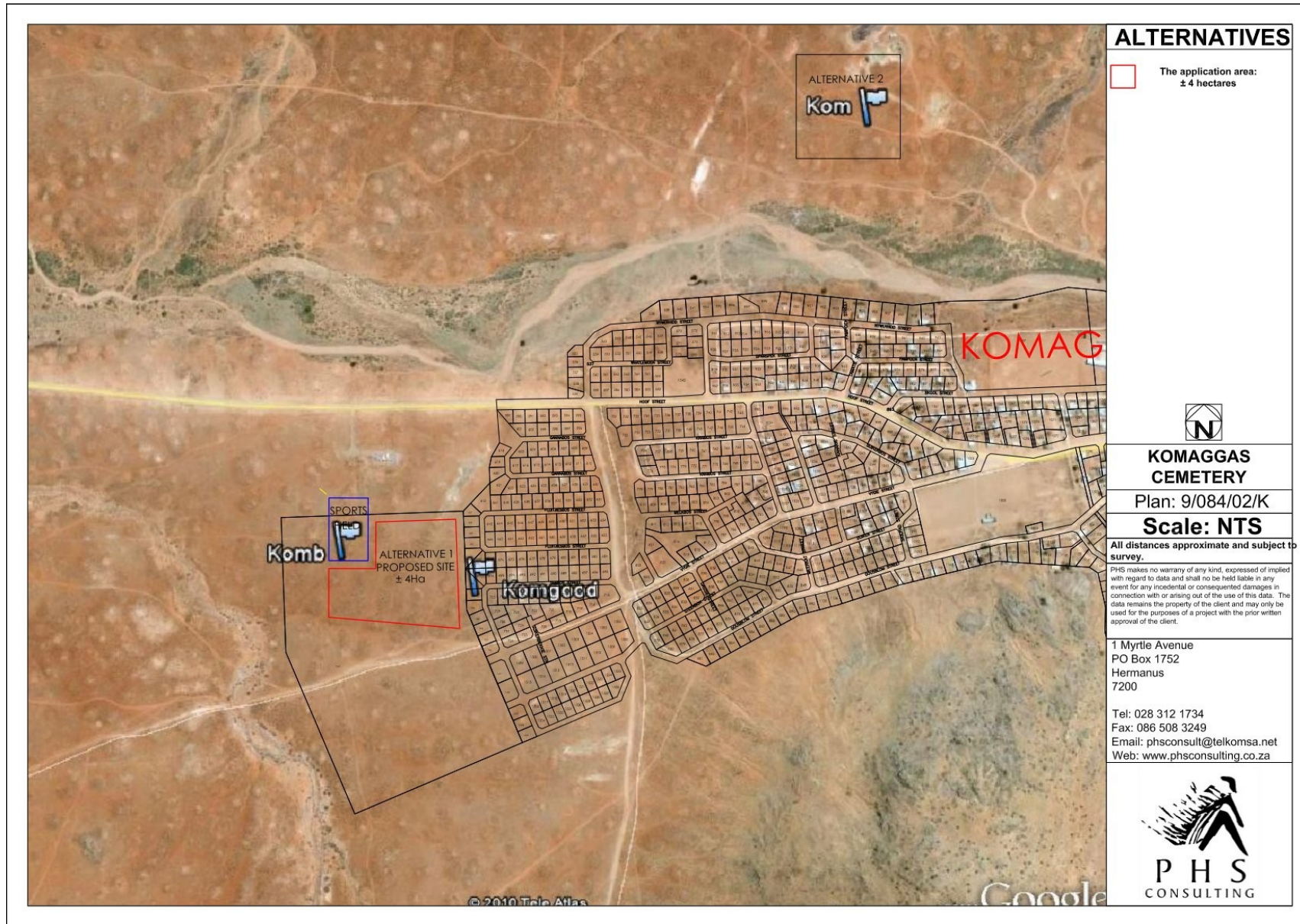


Figure 1: Location of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 sites.



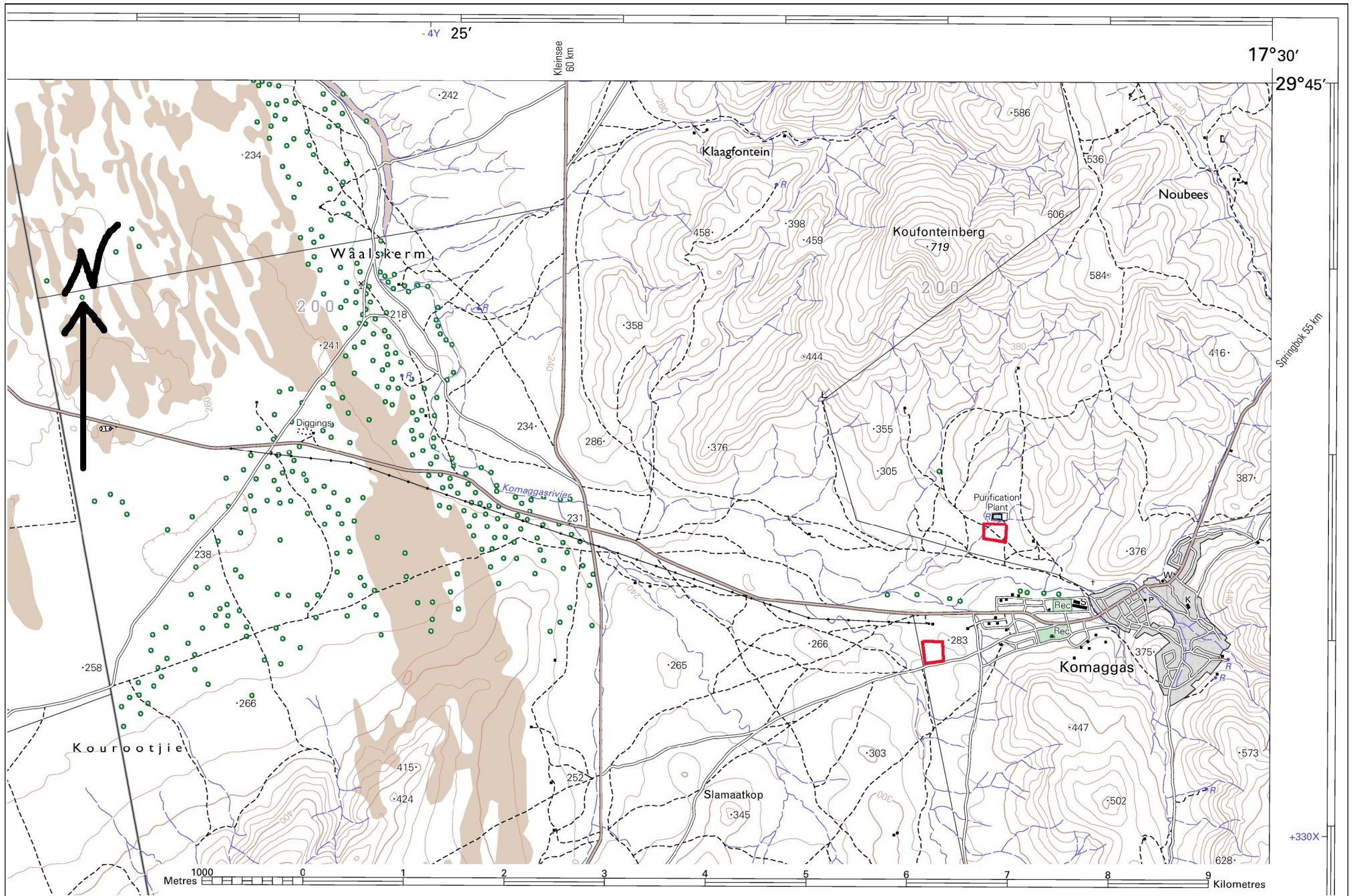


Figure 2: Location of the sites on the 1:50 000 map 2917 CD Komaggas.

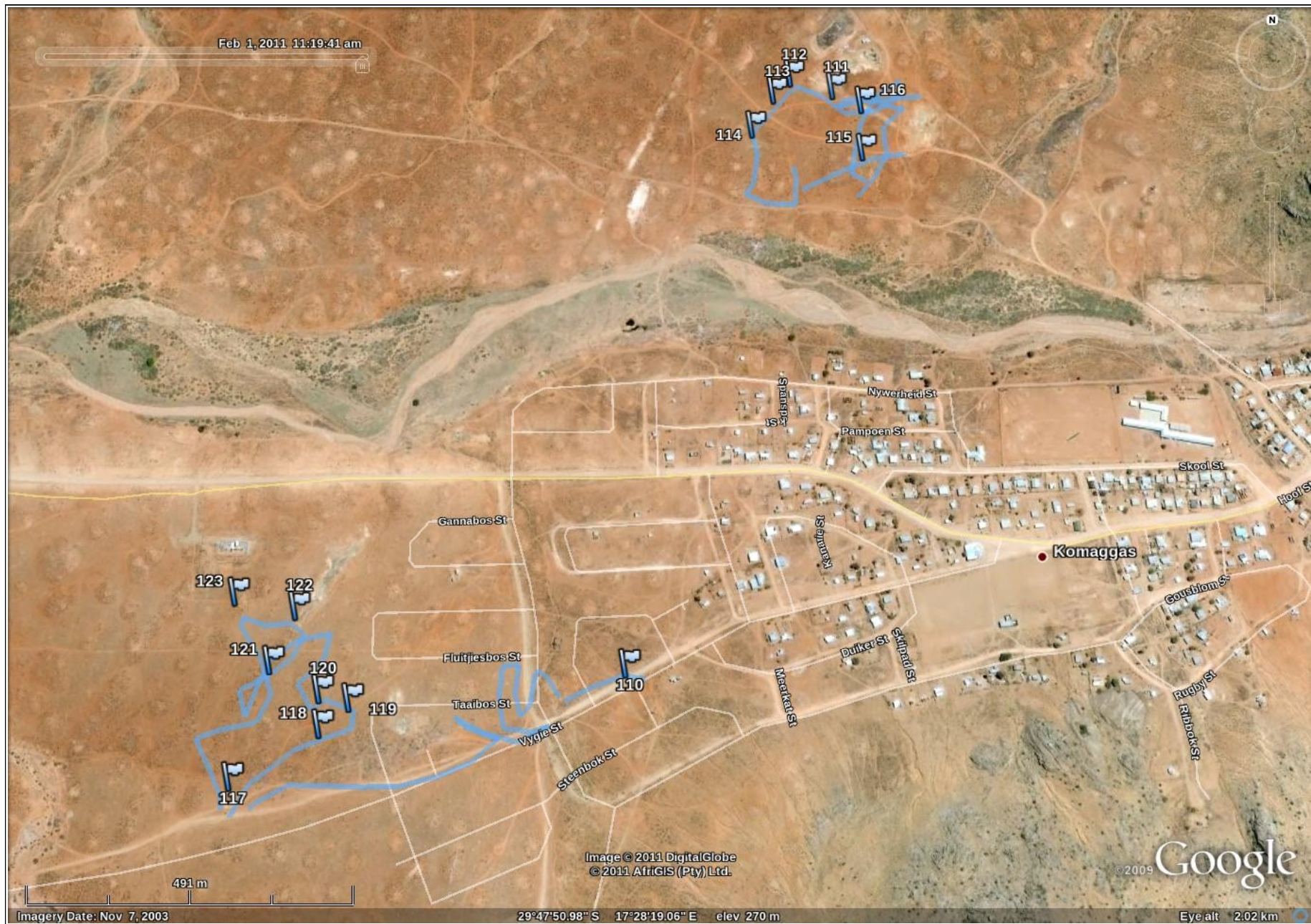


Figure 3: GPS Tracking on the two sites.



Figure 4: General view of Alternative 1.



Figure 5: General view Alternative 2.



Figure 6: View of sports ground from Alternative 1 site.



Figure 7: Alternative 1 - dumping area.



Figure 8: Alternative 1 - bulldozing and trench.



Figure 9: Alternative 1 - natural water erosion channel and rubbish.

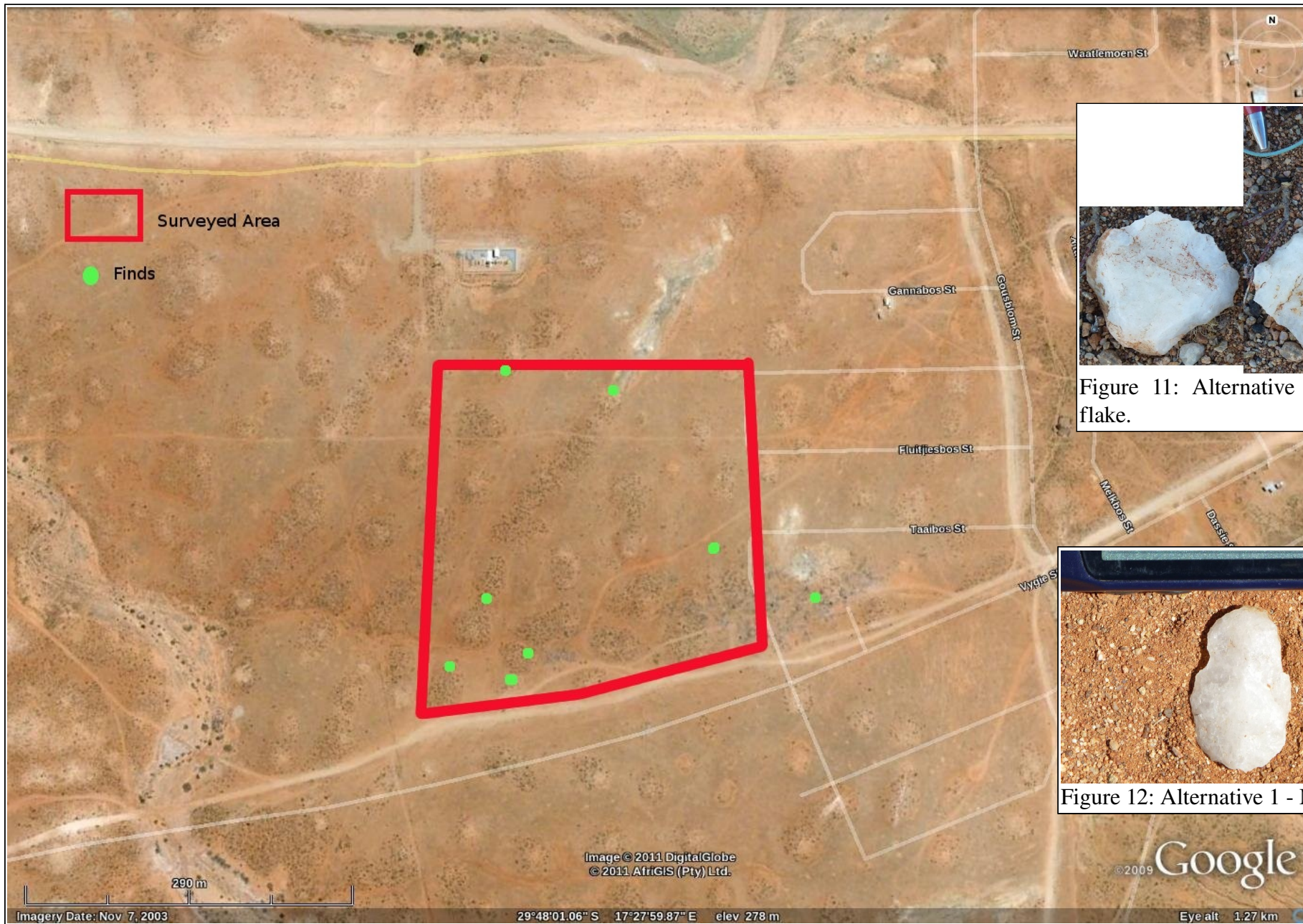


Figure 11: Alternative 1 - MSA quartz flake.



Figure 12: Alternative 1 - MSA quartz flake.

Figure 10: Map of lithic finds of Alternative 1.

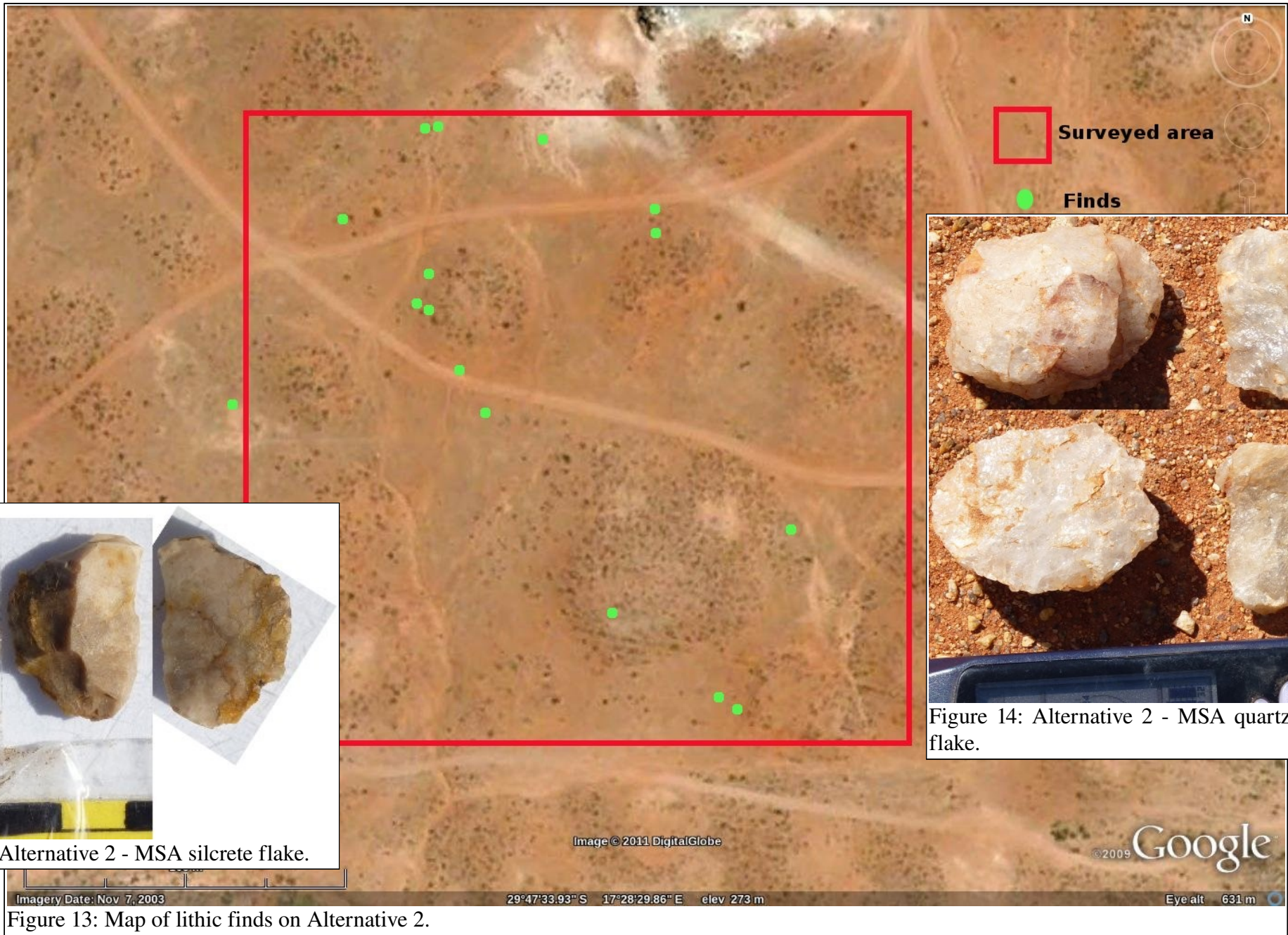


Figure 15: Alternative 2 - MSA silcrete flake.

Figure 14: Alternative 2 - MSA quartz core & flake.

Figure 13: Map of lithic finds on Alternative 2.