

Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report
Low Cost Housing Project, Portion 2 of Muiskraalkop, Nkqubela,
Robertson, Langeberg Municipality, Western Cape.

FOR:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a Portion of Erf 2, Muiskraalkop, Robertson was undertaken by Pro-Active Archaeology. The survey was requested by PHS Consulting on behalf of the Langeberg Municipality. The Municipality intends to develop the approximately 3.3ha property into 129 single low cost residential units, with associated infrastructure. The property is currently un-used and will be re-zoned as residential. This report forms part of a Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO).

No significant archaeological sites or artefacts were found during the foot survey of Muiskraalkop. From an archaeological perspective there is no reason that development cannot continue. However, there is always the possibility that human remains and other archaeological resources may be located during bulk earthworks. Should this occur, work should cease until HWC is notified and a professional archaeologist has assessed the finds.

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment of a Portion of Erf 2, Muiskraalkop, Robertson was undertaken by Pro-Active Archaeology. The survey was requested by PHS Consulting on behalf of the Langeberg Municipality. The Municipality intends to develop the approximately 3.3ha property into 129 single low cost residential units, with associated infrastructure (Figure 1). The property is currently un-used and will be re-zoned as residential. This report forms part of a Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO).

1.1. Stakeholders

	Owner & Developer	Environmental Practitioner
Name	Langeberg Municipality	PHS Consulting
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1.2. 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 assess 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.

1.3. 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 m², 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

Little is known of the prehistory the Breede River Valley, especially Later Stone Age (LSA) site distribution. Prins 2009 says that 'Stone age sites dating from all periods of the Stone age are known to occur in various localities throughout the Breede River Winelands Municipality. Unfortunately the exact location of these sites is unknown due to bad museum practice and provenance in the past.' One of the limitations of the survey mentioned is that little published information exists on the prehistoric sites of the region. Previous AIA's in the region have yielded few archaeological resources, though Kaplan 2006 found a large scatter (60-70m in extent) of LSA flakes. A 2010 survey by Van Pletzen-Vos & Rust found more flakes in the area just north of Ashton. Please refer to the bibliography for a list of previous AIA reports consulted.

The Archaeological Department of the University of Stellenbosch surveyed the area in 1970s and 1980s, but Prins (2009) reported finding no records of these surveys. However, heritage sites and various shelters with LSA deposit have been located in the Kogmanskloof area. The San still frequented the higher lying areas in the vicinity of Kogmanskloof and Montagu in the 1700s. Many Earlier Stone Age (ESA) hand axes and Middle Stone Ages (MSA) flakes (some large) made from quartzite sandstone, and some LSA material, especially bored stones are to be seen in displays in museums in Robertson, Bonnievale, McGregor and Montagu, but as mentioned this material collected is not sourced properly so origin and context are lost.

It is reported in the survey that a Boesmanspad (old pathway used by San to conduct raids into Breede river valley) descends from a mountain on the farm Boesmanspad, east of Bonnievale, close to the boundary with the farm Nooitgedacht. The San obtained pigments (ochre) by following this trail through Boesmansdrift (Riversonderend Mts) along the Boesmansrivier. Marlene Cloete from the Farm Rhebokskraal recalls the stories told by her Great-uncle that San people came here to collect flint (Hornfels or indurated shale). Depending on her age her great uncle's time could be late

1800 which is late for San still active in the areas.

2.1. Montagu Cave

Montagu Cave lies near the town of Montagu and yields important chronological information on *Homo ergaster*, the humans populating most of South Africa before the emergence of modern humans. *H. ergaster* is also known as *Homo erectus* depending on which number of species are recognised in the genus *Homo* (Deacon & Deacon 1999). Under the identity of *H. erectus*, these truly upright and bipedal humans were the first people to step out of Africa around 1.8 Ma (Dennell & Roebroeks 2005).

Montagu Cave chronologically starts the long record of human settlement of the Little Karoo. It is also significant as it is one of the few cave occupation sites dating to the Acheulian period (Deacon & Deacon 1999) of the Earlier Stone Age (ESA) in Southern Africa. There are Middle Stone Age (MSA) and Later Stone Age (LSA) occupation levels present in the site (Deacon 1979; Keller 1973). Montagu Cave was rediscovered by Ravencroft in the 1880's (Deacon 1979; Keller 1973). It was not until the owner began removing the guano on the cave floor for fertilizer, that artefacts were found. A team, none of whom were archaeologists, was sent out by the South African Museum, Cape Town, to investigate in 1919. October and November of that year saw the team remove one third of the deposit, taking the artefacts back to Cape Town for analysis. The results were published in 1929 (Goodwin 1929). The remaining deposit was excavated by Keller (Keller 1973) between 1964 and 1965.

2.2. Cogmans Kloof Archaeological sites

There are nine archaeological sites in Cogmans Kloof (ADRC 12154-12162), recorded in the IZIKO Museum, Cape Town. These sites range from the ESA (ADRC 12155) to the LSA (ADRC 12158). This later site also features rock art in which four human figures depicted. The remaining sites are all from the MSA as evidenced by stone flakes, blades, cores and chips. The LSA site is particularly vulnerable to human impact as it is located near the Keurkloof picnic area, though at present this picnic site is closed to the public (Biesenbach 2008, pers com). All the sites are vulnerable to road upgrade developments.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY & METHODOLOGY

Portion 2 of Muiskraalkop lies on the southern edge of Robertson, to the west of Nkqubela, in the Langeberg Municipality. It is located on the 1:50 000 topographic map 3319 DD, Robertson (Figure 2). The development overlay is shown on the satellite image in Figure 3. Two archaeologist in the company of Mr Paul Slabbert from PHS Consulting traversed the property on foot on Monday 16 May 2011. The GPS tracking is illustrated in Figure 4.

The property slopes up from north to south, with a good view of Robertson (Figure 5). Vegetation cover (Figure 6) allowed for fair archaeological visibility. Dumping (Figure 7) and littering occurred on the peripheries of the property. A transmission line runs along the southern boundary of the site (Figure 8).

GPS data was acquired using Garmin GPS 60 and Garmin Oregon 450. Digital photographs were taken with a Canon DSLR and Panasonic Bridge camera.

4. DESCRIPTION OF SITES & ARTEFACTS IDENTIFIED

A total of 13 isolated MSA tools were located (Table 1 & map in Figure 9). Mostly cores and flakes, materials include Quartz, Quartzite, Silcrete and Indurated Shale.

Table 1: Lithic finds

N	Period	Typlogy	Material	Mark	Figure
1	MSA	Core	Quartzite	200	10
2	MSA	Retouched Flakes	Quartzite	201	11
1	MSA	Flake	Quartzite	202	12
1	MSA	Notched flake	Quartzite	203	13
1	MSA	Flake	Quartz	204	14
1	MSA	Flake	Quartzite	204	14
1	MSA	Core	Silcrete	199	15
1	MSA	Flake	Quartzite	23	16
1	MSA	Chunk	Indurated Shale	24	17
1	MSA	Flake	Quartz	25	18
1	MSA	Flake	Indurated Shale	26	19
1	MSA	Flake	Silcrete	27	20
N=13					

An historic ruin (Figure 21) was located on the western boundary of the property (Mark 28 in Figure). The walls consist of sandstone blocks covered with concrete.

5. FIELD RATING

A field rating of Generally Protected C is awarded. This site has been sufficiently recorded. It requires no further recording before destruction as it has a generally Low significance.

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Generally low significance.

Significance Criteria	Comment
a. its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;	N/a
b. its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;	Whilst the MSA stone tools do show aspects of South Africa's cultural heritage, they are neither uncommon nor rare.
c. its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;	MSA sites are relatively numerous but are under threat from development.
d. its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects;	The limited and isolated nature of the MSA finds will contribute little towards further research.
e. its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;	N/a
f. its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;	The limited and isolated nature of the MSA finds will do demonstrate good examples of stone knapping techniques, but are very significant.
g. its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;	N/a
h. Strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;	N/a
i. Sites of Significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa.	N/a

7. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological sites or artefacts were found during the foot survey of Muiskraalkop. From an archaeological perspective there is no reason that development cannot continue. However, there is always the possibility that human remains and other archaeological resources may be located during bulk earthworks. Should this occur, work should cease until HWC is notified and a professional archaeologist has assessed the finds.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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9. FIGURES

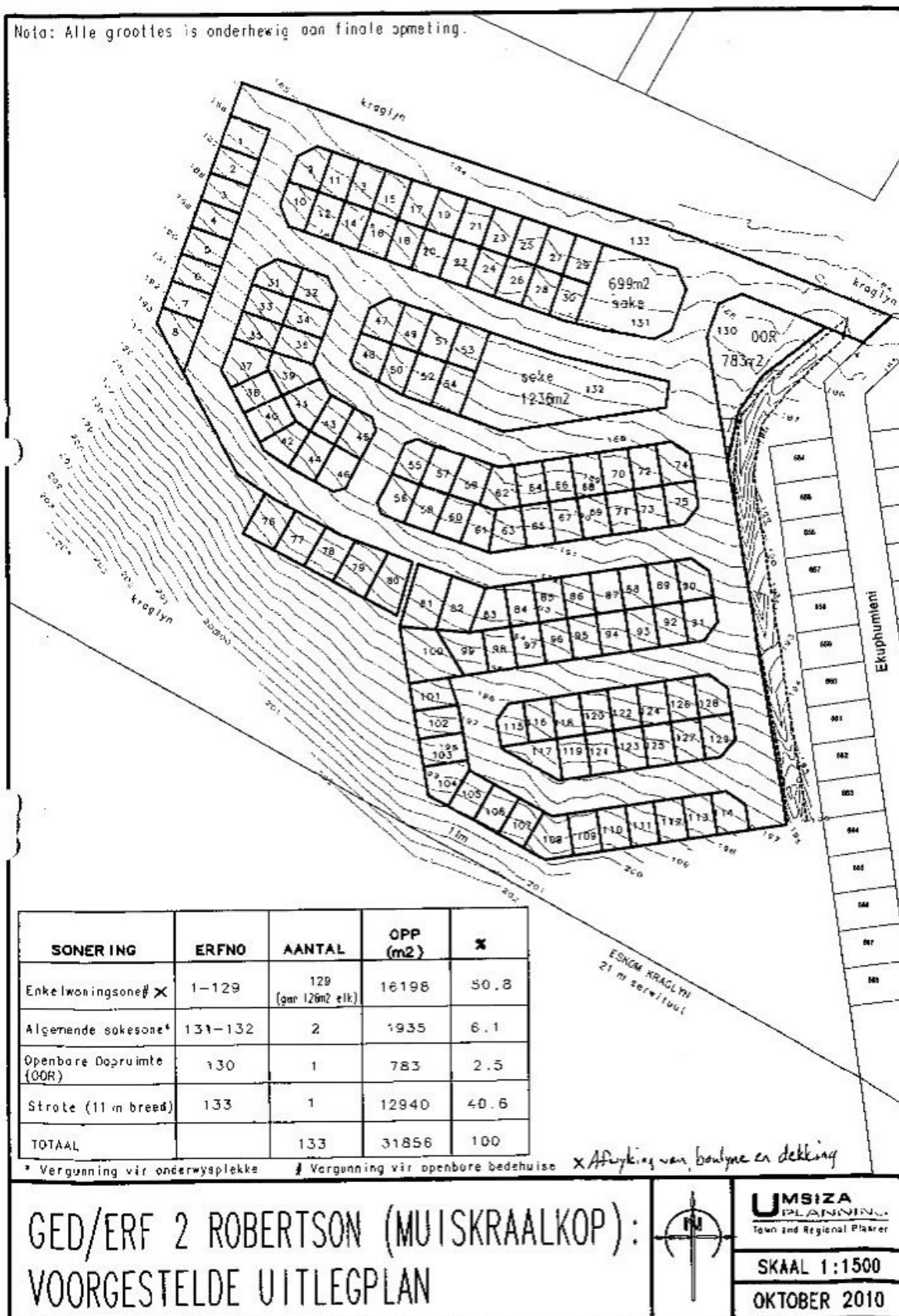


Figure 1: Proposed low income residential development, Muiskraalkop, Robertson.

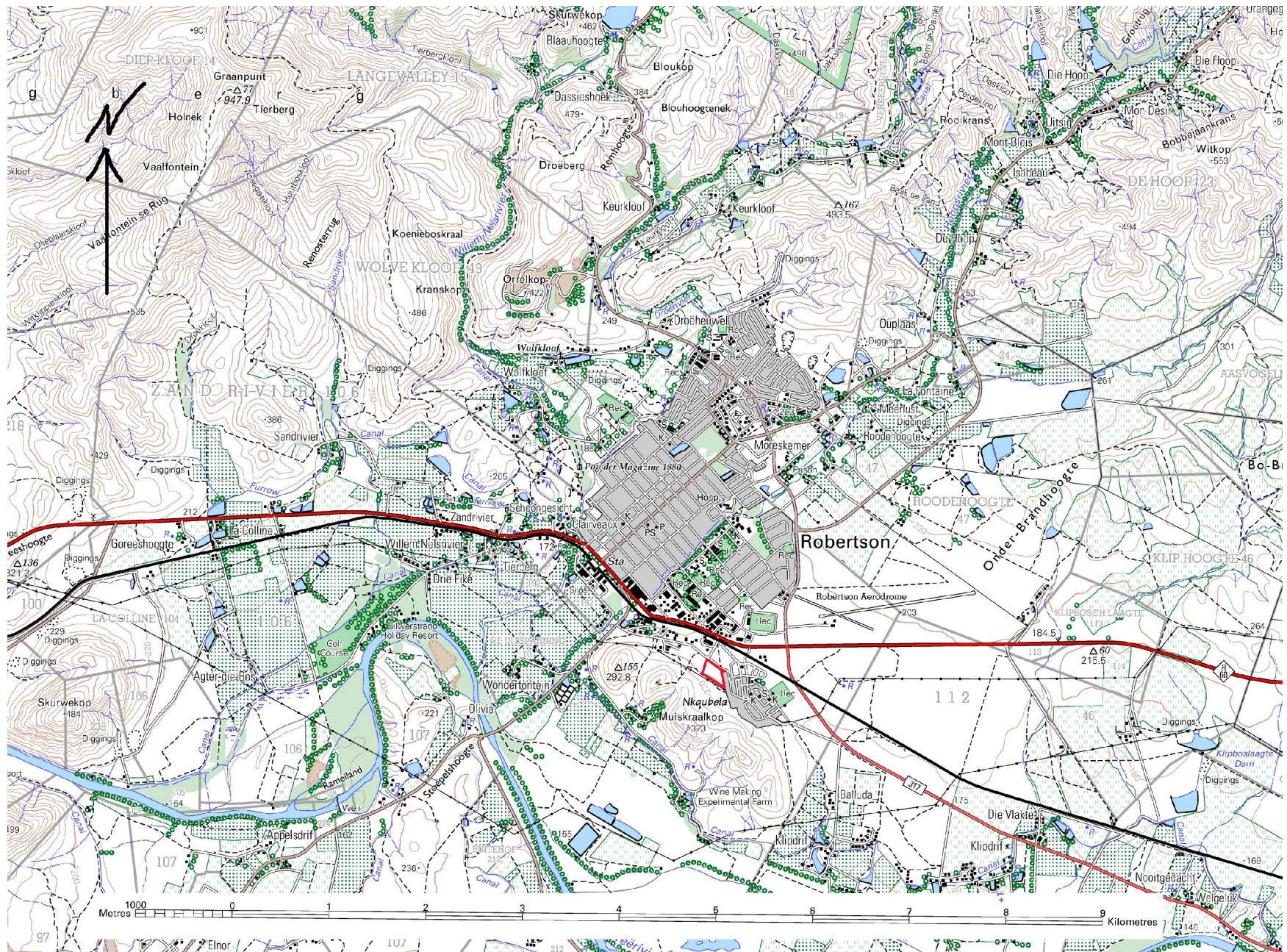


Figure 2: 1:50 000 topographic map 3319 DD Robertson.



Figure 3: Overlay of development plan on satellite image.



Figure 4: GPS tracking on Muiskraalkop.



Figure 5: View north toward Robertson.



Figure 6: Vegetation cover.



Figure 7: Dumping of wooden planks.



Figure 8: Transmission line running along the northern boundary of the property.



Figure 9: Marks indicating finds on Muiskraalkop.



Figure 10: MSA Core



Figure 11: MSA retouched flakes



Figure 12: MSA flake.

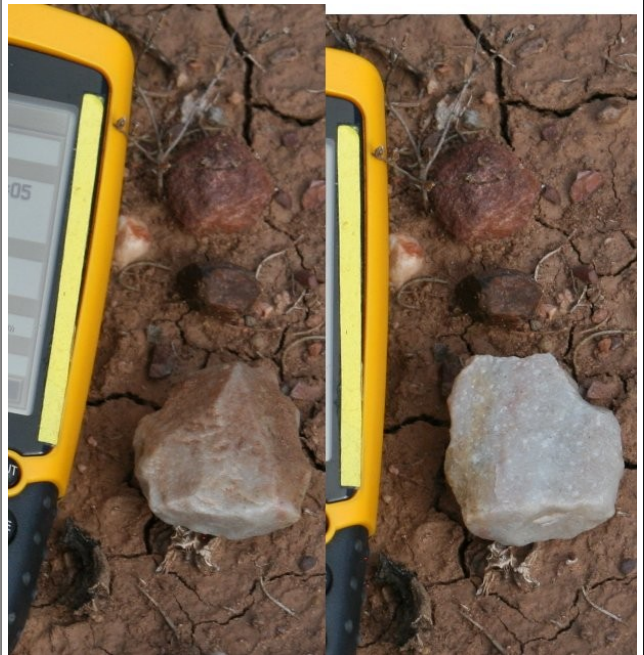


Figure 13: MSA notched flake.



Figure 14: MSA flakes.



Figure 15: MSA core.



Figure 16: MSA flake.



Figure 17: MSA Indurated shale flake.



Figure 18: MSA flake.



Figure 19: MSA Indurated Shale flake.



Figure 20: MSA Silcrete flake.



Figure 21: Wall from the ruin.