

CHAPTER S. (SHALE HILLS) Outside the Study Area

Field Note S6b. Stone Age workshop near Gourikwa



Possible site of raw material for Stone Age tool making near Gourikwa Reserve.

CHAPTER S. (SHALE HILLS) Outside the Study Area

Field Note S6b. Stone Age workshop near Gourikwa

The site is located in a small depression, ~40 km west from Gouritsmond on the road to Still Bay, (and ~10 km west of the gate to the Gourikwa Nature Reserve on that road), at an elevation of 240-250 m asl (Figure 1). [The site is not part of the Shale Hills, but the Field Note is published here as it is about the same subject as the previous Field Note].

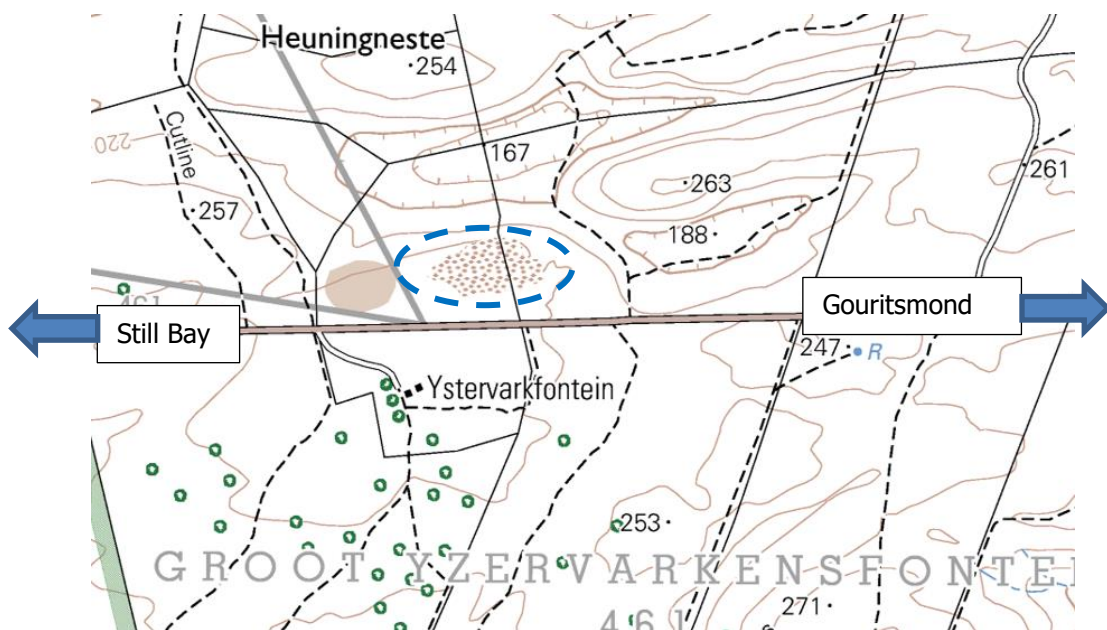
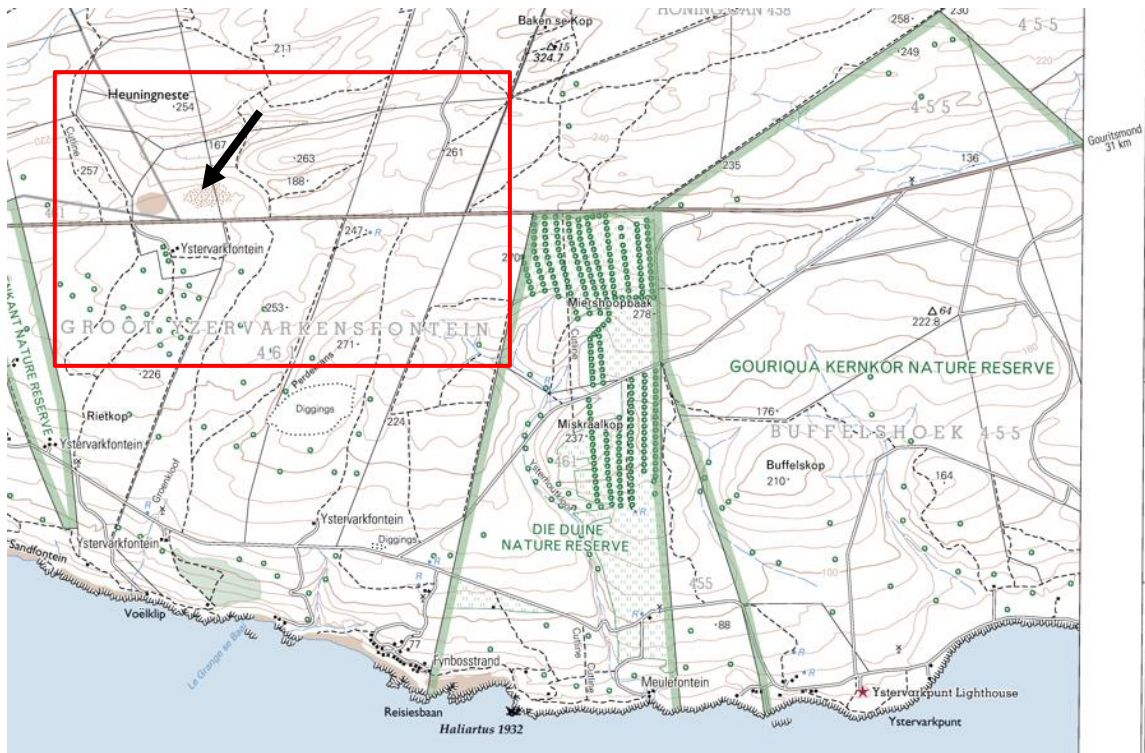


Figure 1. Topography maps showing the location of the site (arrow in the red box), near the Gourikwa Nature Reserve (arrow). Red box at the top enlarged at the bottom. Site in the ellipsoid.

The depression is located ~300 m from the road and can be easily accessed (Figure 3). It was first visited by ME Marker and PJ Holmes, who published their findings in a paper in 1999: “Laterisation on limestones of the Tertiary Wankoe Formation and its relationship to the African Surface, Southern Cape, South Africa”. See also Field Note on pinnacles outside the Study Area.



2. The access road into the depression.



3. View of the depression from the south.

Well-rounded pebbles (probably a lag deposit) as well as angular stones are found on the depression floor (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 4. Top and bottom - pebbles and lithics on the depression floor.



Figure 5. Top and bottom - pebbles and lithics on the depression floor.

The artefacts and would-be tools of the Stone Age which were collected from the depression floor (Figure 6) were given to the Gourikwa Reserve manager.



Figure 6. A random collection of Stone Age artefacts from the floor of the depression.

One Stone-Age tool was found by others near the chapel on the Gourikwa Reserve (Figure 7). The author is unaware of any photograph of that tool, or other information about it.



Figure 7. A poster located 200 m east of the chapel on the Gourikwa Reserve.

The author is not aware of any publication, which dealt with the archaeological findings, in the Gourikwa Reserve or around it. The nearest researched Stone-Age archaeological site is the Blombos Cave, some 45 km to the west (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Satellite image of part of the South Coast showing the sites in question.