



Woodlands Project

Alluvial Diamond Prospecting
Programme



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Introduction

1.1. Background Geology

The Woodland project is located in the Parys District of the Free State Province, on the north-eastern limb of the Vredefort Dome (**Figure 1**)

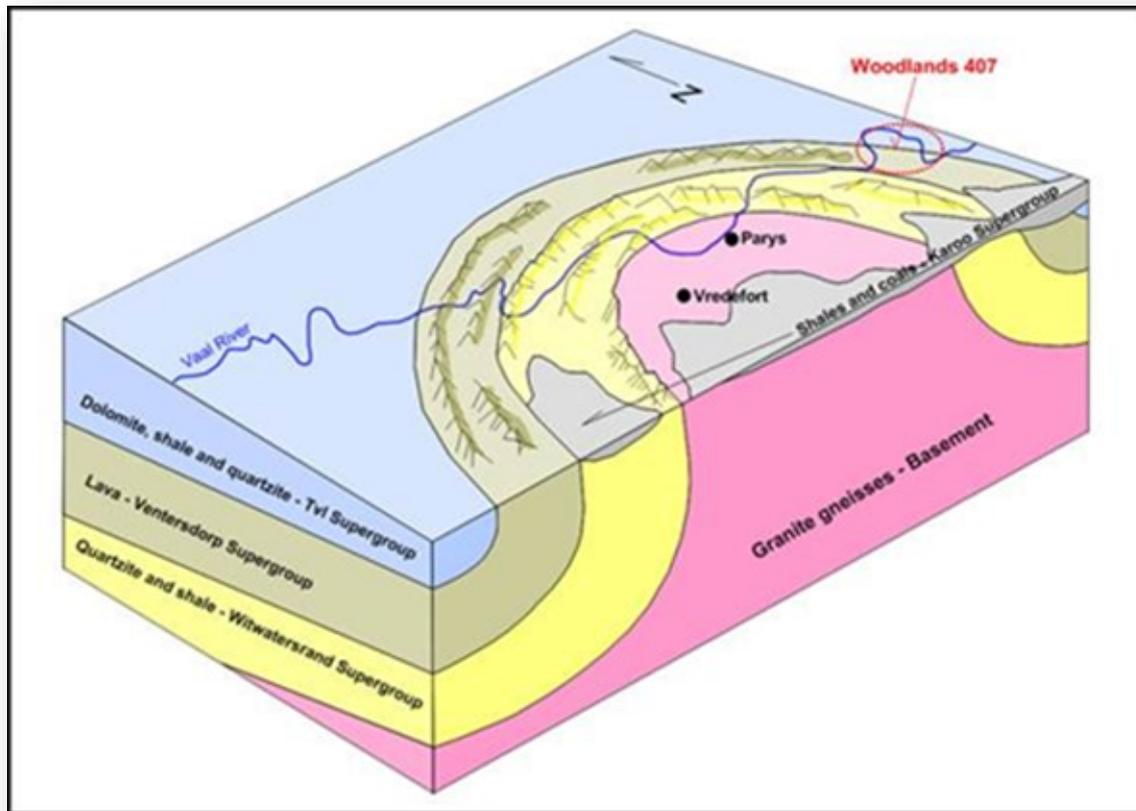


Figure 1 Location of the Woodlands alluvial diamond project, on the north-eastern limb of the Vredefort Dome (Erasmus & Turnbull, 2018)

The geological formations described on Woodlands (Erasmus & Turnbull, 2018) are, from oldest to youngest (**Figure 2**):

Klipriviersberg Group (Rk).

The Klipriviersberg Group of the Ventersdorp Supergroup consists of volcanic rocks comprising basaltic lavas, agglomerates and tuffs. This unit unconformably overlies the Witwatersrand Supergroup and is locally estimated to be 3,300 - 3,600 m thick.

Malmani Subgroup (Vmd).

This sub-group overlies the Black Reef Formation conformably and consists of dolomites, cherts and chert-breccias. This unit is 1,200 – 1,500 m thick in the vicinity of Woodlands. The dolomites are usually covered by soft sediment but the more resistant cherts and chert-breccias are usually visible as prominent ridges. This unit covers the largest part of the subsurface geology on the project property and hosts the much younger, Cainozoic (Quaternary) alluvial deposits (sands and gravels).

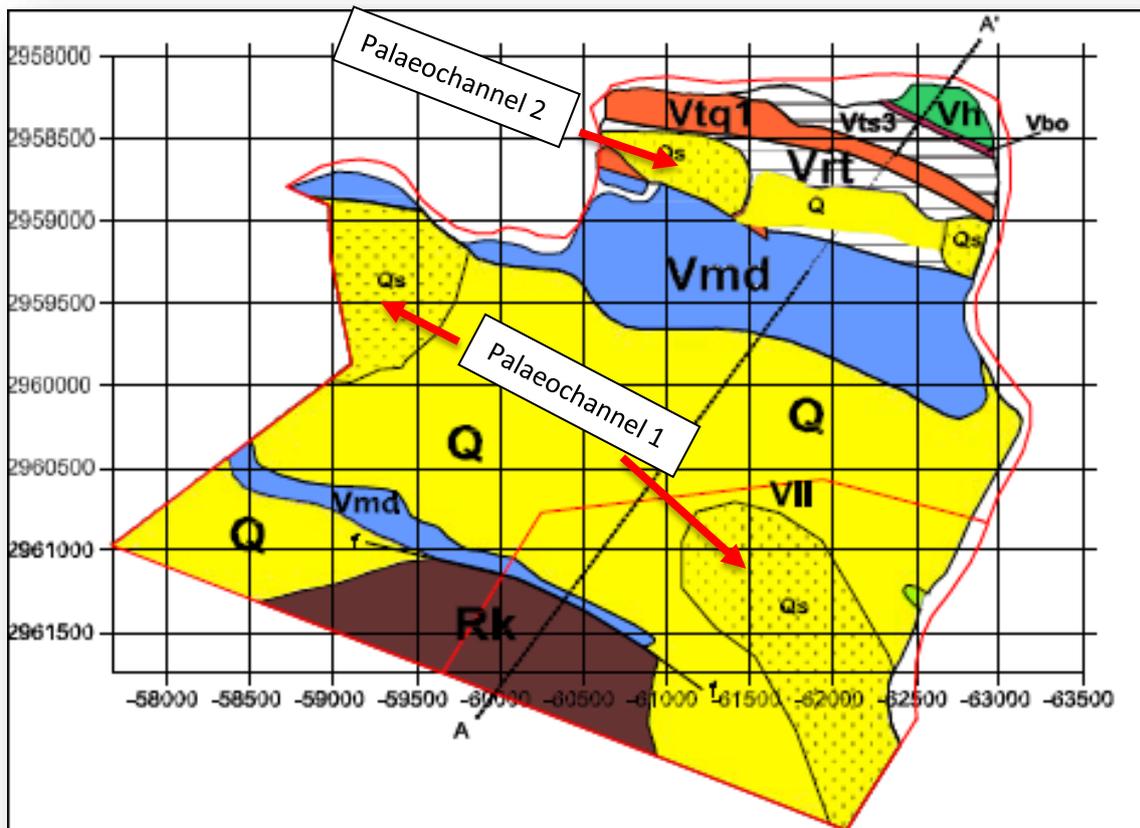
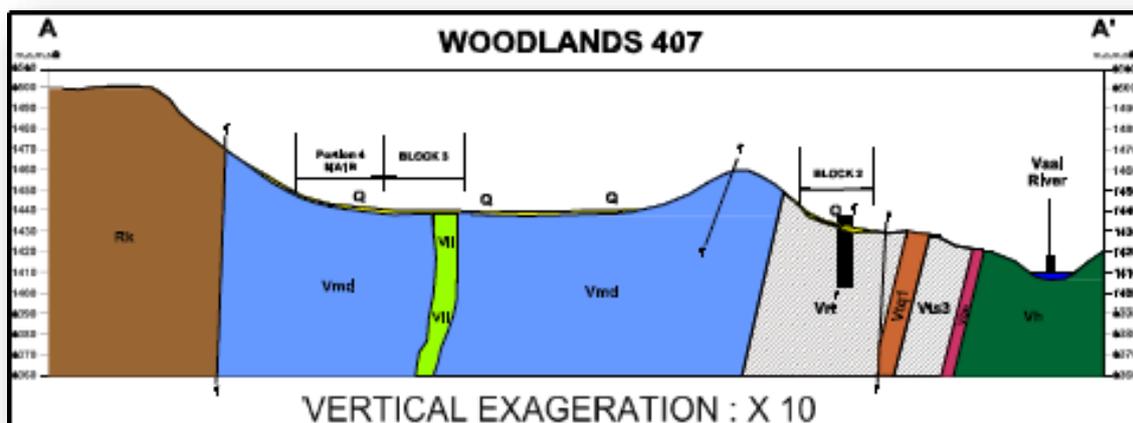


Figure 2 Sub-surface geology of Woodlands (above) and section A-A' (below) (Erasmus & Turnbull, 2018)



Lindeques Drift Complex (Vli).

This intrusive igneous complex forms an elongated body of some 11km in length and is emplaced within the Malmani dolomites (see cross section). It consists of lamprophyre, syenodiorite and albite-syenite dykes. Locally the dolomites may have been altered to marble by contact metamorphism with this intrusion.

Rooihoogte Formation (Vrt)

The Rooihoogte Formation unconformably overlies the Malmani Sub-group and is on average 10-150m thick. The thicker upper portion of this formation consists of shales and intercalated quartzites.

The Timeball Hill Formation (Vtq and Vts).

This formation overlies the Rooihoogte Formation conformably and is made up of a number of alternating quartzite and shale units. The quartzite ridges typically form prominent outcrops.

The Boshhoek Formation (Vbo).

This is a thin (5-10m) unit of upward fining conglomerate that unconformably overlies the Timeball Hill Formation.

The Hekpoort Formation (Vh).

The Hekpoort Formation, comprising finely crystalline andesitic tuffs and lava flows with amygdoloidal zones unconformably overlies the Boshhoek Formation.

Quaternary Sands (Q).

All of these older formations are overlain by modern unconsolidated quaternary sediments of waterborne and windblown sands (Q). These units vary in thickness between 10cm and 10m and are distributed in suitable sediment traps. There is evidence on the property for two Vaal River palaeochannels (palaeochannel 1 being older than palaeochannel 2). These deposits are delineated largely by the areas of prior and current sand mining.

2. Alluvial Diamond Potential

During the period 1922-1926, some 25,000ct are recorded as having been recovered from five farms located on the northbank¹ of the Vaal River in the vicinity of Woodlands (Marshall, 1987) (**Table 1, Figure 3**). On Kaalplaats and Zeekoeifontein, intermittent diamond production continued up until 1968 and 1973 respectively. No information exists regarding potential grades or diamond values.

Table 1 Diamond Production from nearby properties

Property	Carats Recorded
Boschdraai 575	135.75
Brakfontein 476	44.75
Bronkhorstfontein 566	266.45
Kaalplaats 577	11,147.89
Witkop 475	220.00
Zeekoeifontein 573	13,644.65

¹ Historical production figures for the southbank properties (such as Woodlands) have not been compiled in an easily accessible database due to differing administrative procedures in the SA Diamond Board for Free State properties during the early 20th century.



Figure 3 Location of properties where diamond recoveries have been recorded (Marshall, 1987)

The largest number of diamonds recorded historically (+13,000ct), were recorded from the farm Zeekoeifontein, which is located directly across the river from Woodlands, in the meander bend where Vaal Oewer is situated today.

During a site visit in mid-June 2018, the author visited the banks of the Vaal River across from Zeekoeifontein and noted the presence of “diggers heaps” (**Figure 4**, see also **Figure 3** above for locality) and an old plant-site. The spoil heaps comprise rounded – well-rounded, pebble-cobble size, alluvial clasts that could, conceivably, date back to the mid-1920’s. These diggers heaps prove that diamonds were recovered from the Woodland property, likely at the same time that diamonds were being mined elsewhere in the vicinity. The plant-site probably dates from the 1960’s or 70’s, indicating that gravels were still being processed there up until quite recently (as is the case on Zeekoeifontein and Kaalplaats).

What is most encouraging to note is that, both the old diggers heaps on Woodlands and the property with significant diamond production records are located adjacent to the North pit sand deposit (Block 2) on Woodlands (**Figure 5**). The implication is that alluvial diamond deposition is associated with the palaeochannel that deposited the sand.

In a meandering river system, such as the Vaal is seen to be at this location, the coarse-grained (gravel) units occur as channel lag deposits overlain by finer-grained, sandy point bar deposits (**Figure 6**). The point bar deposits would represent the silica sand deposits that are currently being mined on Woodlands, and the channel lag deposits would be the priority target for alluvial diamonds.



Figure 4

Diggers heaps (left) and old plant-site (below) indicating that diamondiferous alluvial gravels were mined on Woodlands historically (from 1922 up until the late 1960's or early 70's)



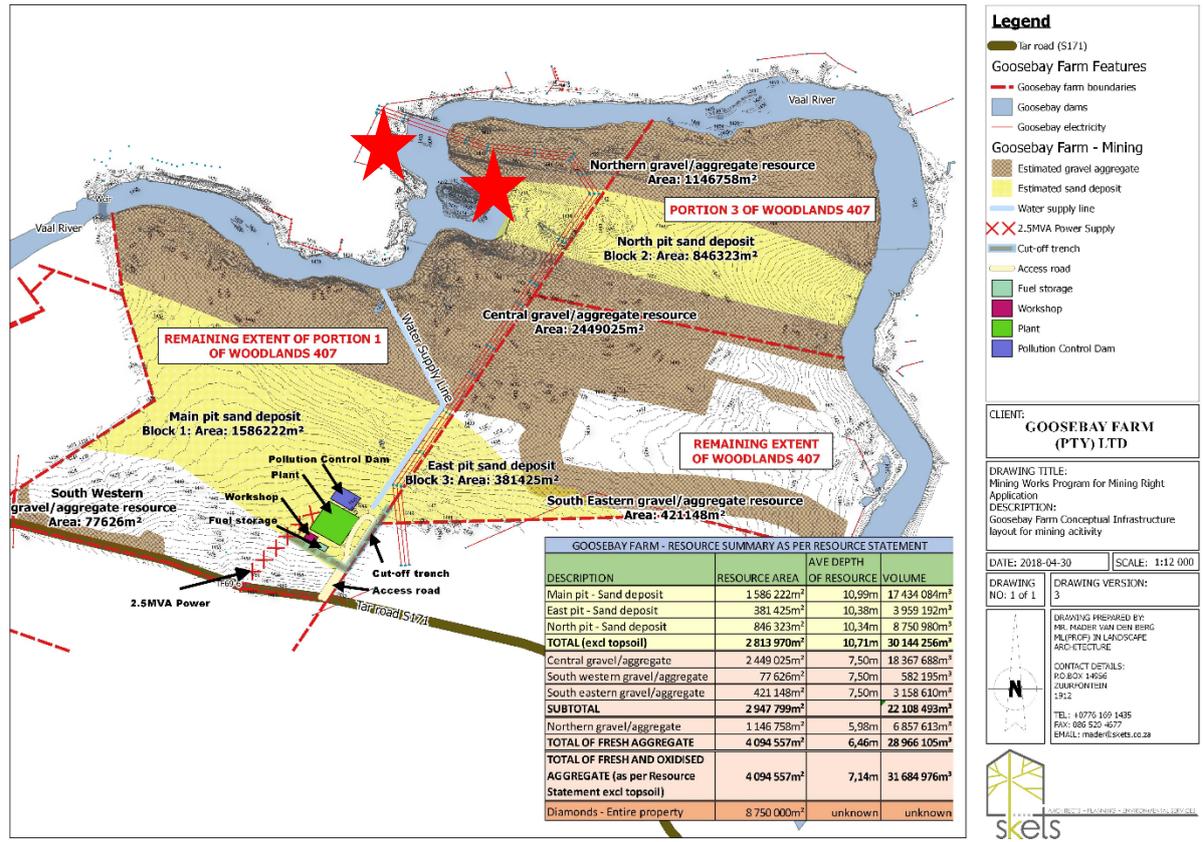


Figure 5 Location of historical diamond recoveries in the vicinity of the North pit sand deposit

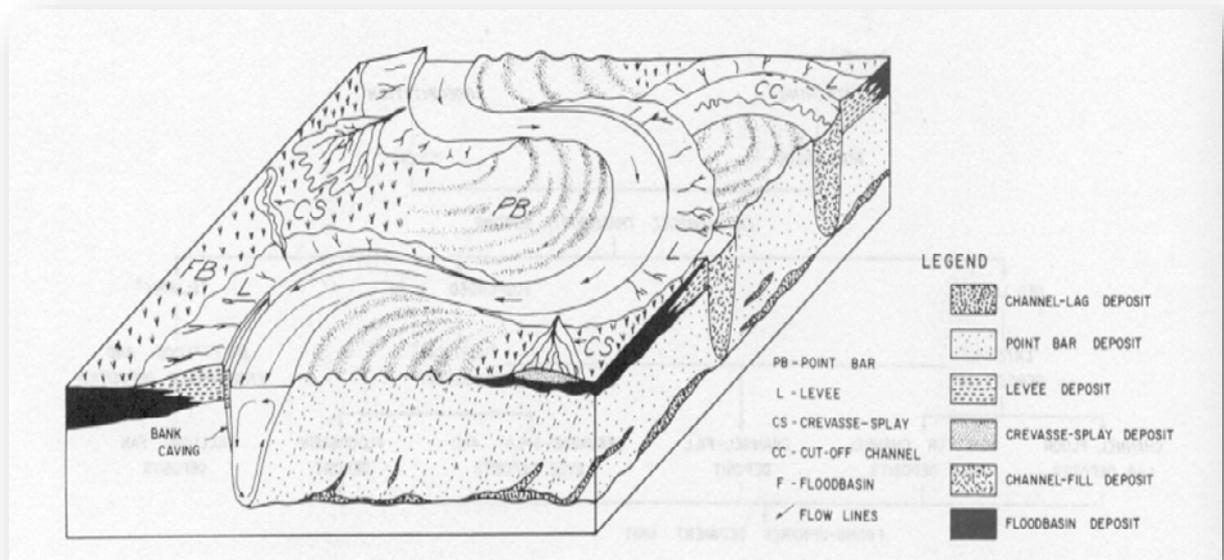


Figure 6 Schematic of point bar (sand) units overlying channel lag deposits

3. Prospecting Programme

As can be seen from **Figure 6** above, the channel lag occurs as a relatively thin, non-continuous unit located on the bedrock at the base of the sand deposit. Consequently, prospecting for this unit would be concentrated within the sand units that are already part of the mine plan. The north pit is the primary exploration target, with the main sand pit to the south being the secondary target.

The proposed prospecting for the basal channel lag is planned in a number of consecutive phases, each one being contingent upon success in the previous phase. The prospecting would proceed simultaneously with the sand mining and would not need to be a separate operation. The first phase of the prospecting programme would be Reverse Circulation (RC) drilling, to identify the presence and extent of the basal gravels on Palaeochannel 2 (**Figure 7**; also refer Figure 2 for location of palaeochannels)

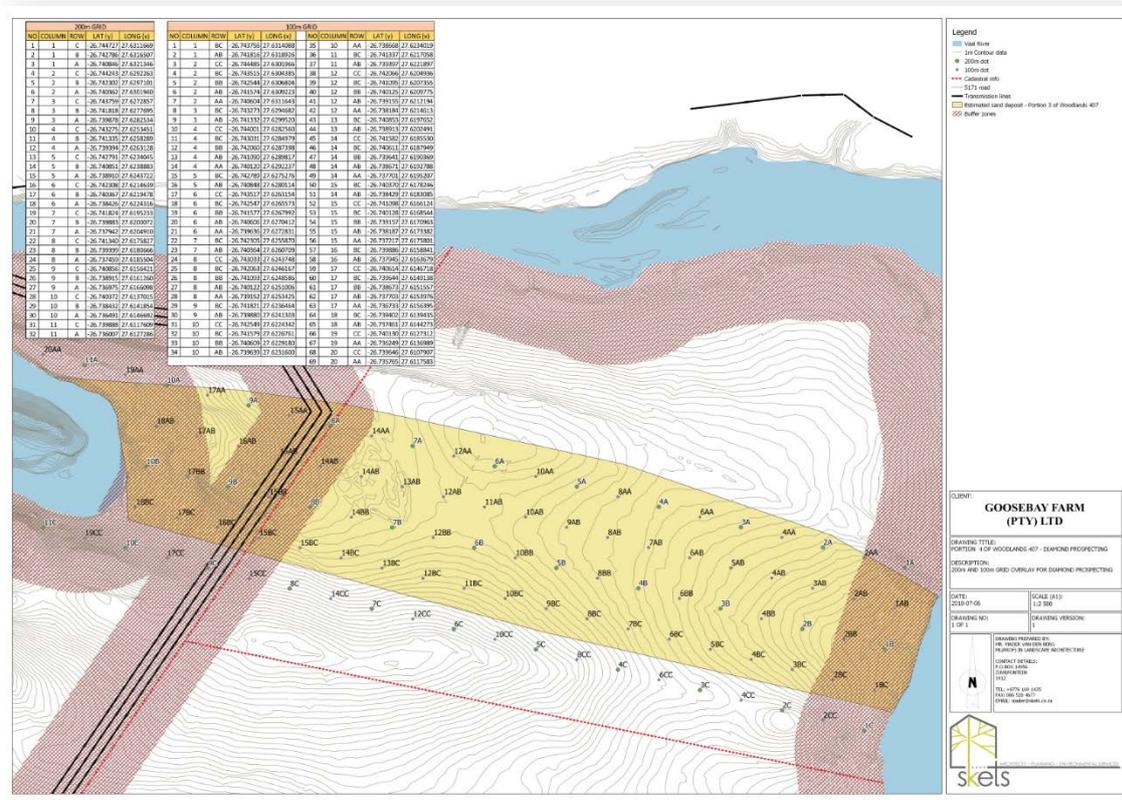


Figure 7 Location of proposed drilling grid on Woodlands (north sand block)

The initial drilling is planned on a 200m X 200m grid (32 holes at an expected maximum of 350m). Once channel lag gravel is encountered, the grid will be refined to 100m X 100m and 50m X 50m, to focus on establishing the extent (and/or potential available volume) of the gravel deposit to an Inferred Diamond Resource classification.

A similar drilling programme will also be planned for the drilling of Palaeochannel 1 (Ref Figure 2).

The advantage of this prospecting programme is that no additional excavations will be made outside of the planned sand-mining areas and that rehabilitation will fit in with the current schedule. The proposed sample plant (**Figure 9**) has a very small footprint and can easily be modified/upgraded to a full production system once the necessary volumes, grades and values have been identified and a Technical Study completed.



Figure 9 An example of the processing plant type proposed for the Woodlands bulk-sample

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4. References

- Erasmus, J., & Turnbull, S. (2018). *Goosebay Farm Resource Statement*. Johannesburg: Sumsare Consulting CC.
- Marshall, T. R. (1987). Alluvial diamond Occurrences of the western and southwestern Transvaal, a compilation of production data. *Economic Geology Research Unit Information Circular 194*, p. 38pp.