

*Barberton
Archaean
Surface
Environments*



Nic Beukes at UJ has been buried in paperwork:
Contracts, fund transfers, accounts, access
permits, water use, electricity applications,
hiring, tenders,

- there is no end, it seems.



BASE 4-1



BASE 1



BASE 5-2



BASE 4-2

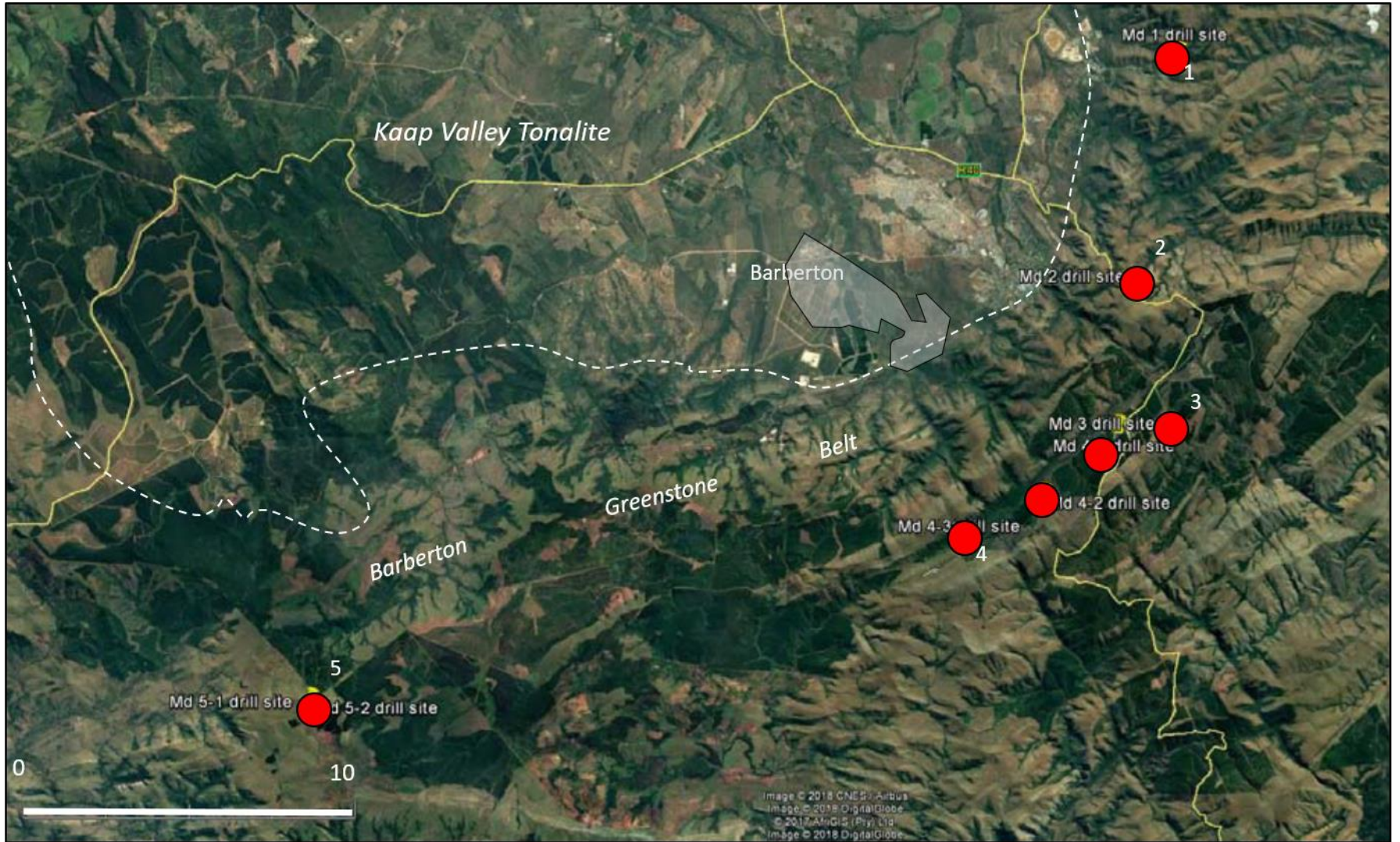


BASE 4-3

On Oct. 4 and 5, we visited all drill sites with the engineers from Master Drilling. It was a foggy day with occasional drizzle but it appears that no drill site will have any problems in accessibility, water, security etc.

Two track-mounted drilling rigs will arrive on flatbed trucks in Barberton in two weeks, Oct. 26.

We will drill two holes simultaneously, each ca. 450-550 m long. At ca. 10-25m/day, each of the eight planned holes will take 4-7 weeks. Drilling operations may be done by mid-March, depending on drilling rate, weather, and funding.





We will use the spacious central section of the BIAS (Barberton Industrial Assembly and Steel) Hall in central Barberton. The core slabbing saw has arrived from Johannesburg; water and electricity connections have been laid. Core boxes to arrive by truck next week. Tables will be set up, posters hung, signage posted.



Phumi and Dora will live in the residence above left (walking distance to work), the menfolk (Chris, Rod, Christoph) in the residence to the right.



I picked up beds and mattresses last week.

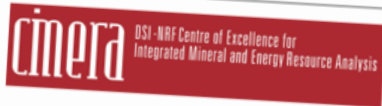
Funding



Financing the BASE drilling project is a joint effort by a number of international research agencies:



JSPS



HARVARD UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN



We are still seeking contributions by ...



Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

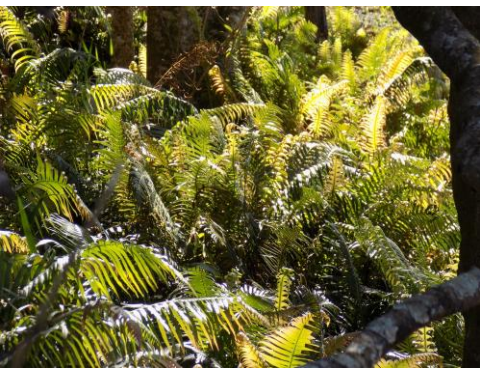


UK Research and Innovation



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Christoph is busy assembling and printing posters.



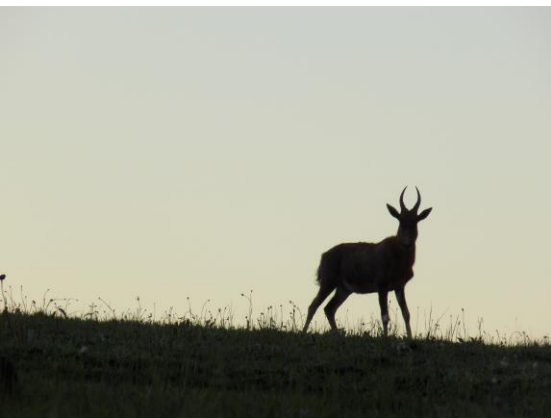
Barberton is alive and well. Jacarandas are blooming; the rainy summer season is about to begin.



We are making the arrival of the drilling project known through the town and the region.

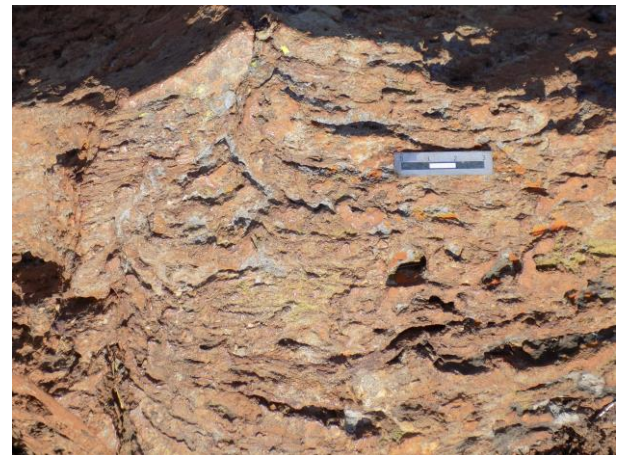
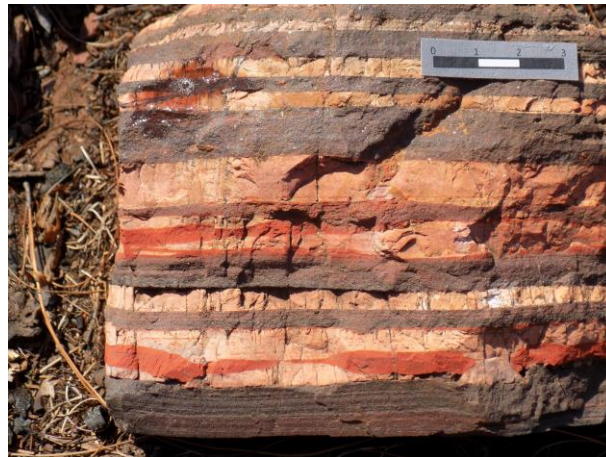


In other news, Deon, Sebastian, Christoph and Christoph had another great field season in September.

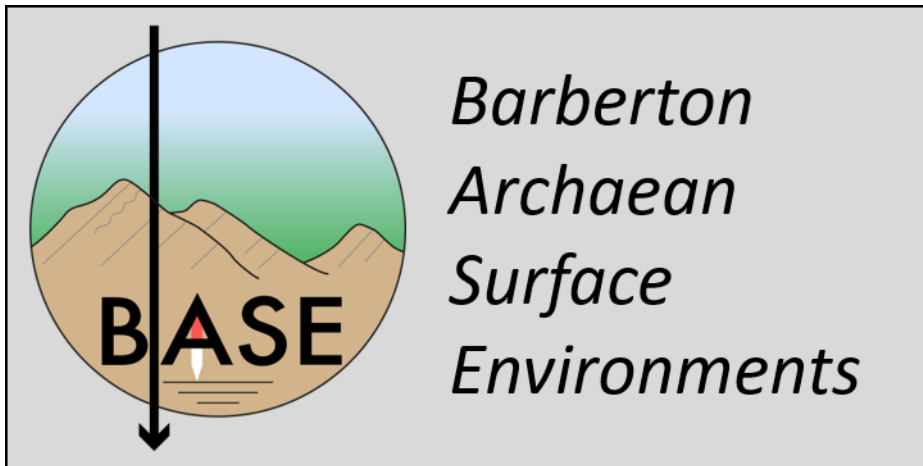




Moodies Group lithologies, facies, and (bio-)sedimentary structures continue to yield fascinating hypotheses.



If there is enough community interest and sufficient findings from the cores, we may hold a field workshop for BASE Science team members and their students in February in Barberton, combined with a 2- or 3-day field trip.



Visit us at

<https://www.icdp-online.org/projects/world/africa/moodies-s-africa/details/>