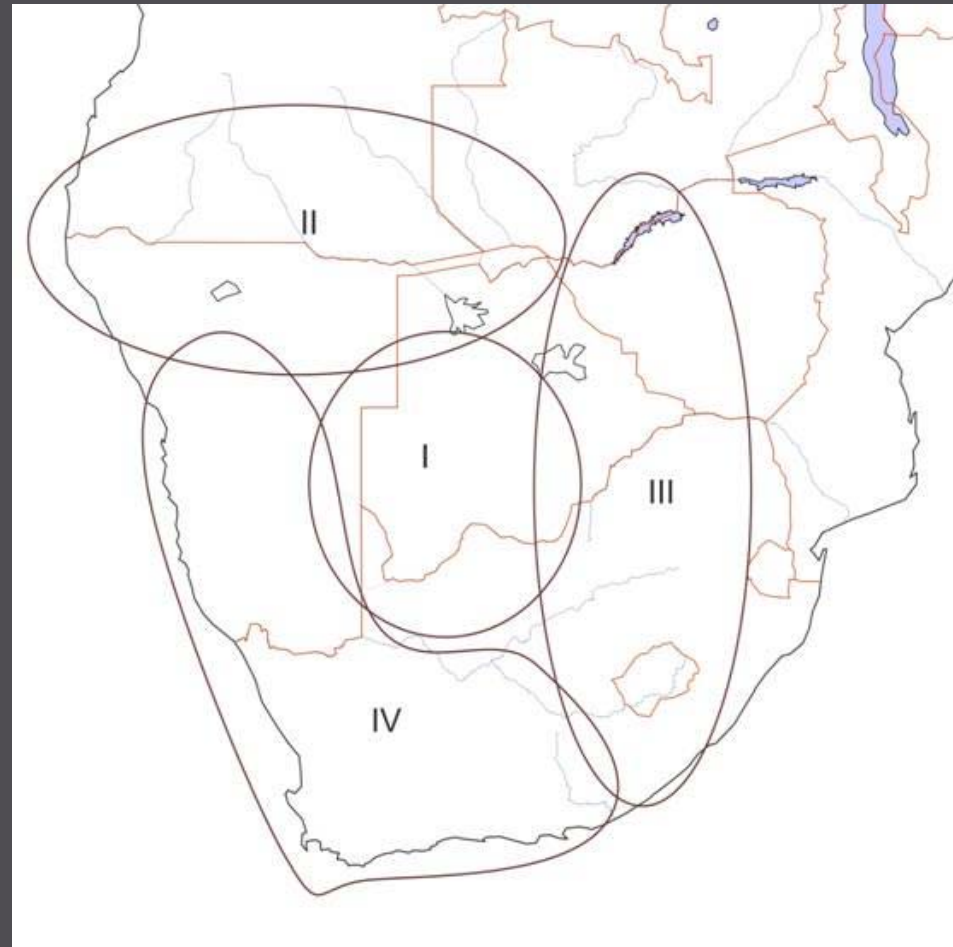


Major archaeological sequences and areas within the Holocene



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Early Holocene Demography & Settlement

- ▣ Generally, the best sequences are from caves in the mountains of the Cape Fold Belt (Areas III & IV), and preservation allows interpretation of lifestyles. The interior (Areas I & II) is much less known
- ▣ Decrease in settlement 12,000-10,500 BP (Younger Dryas arid period) and after 8500 BP (lower rainfall across much of summer rainfall area)
- ▣ Interior occupation variable, but southeast coast remained viable, with coastal materials (such as sea shell beads) being exchanged inland, and more diverse use of raw materials for stone tools

Late Pleistocene/Holocene Stone Tool Sequence

ROBBERG: 18,000-12,000 BP

- small bladelet industry
- result of innovation with bow & arrow?

OAKHURST (ALBANY): 12,000-7000 BP

- large scraper industry
- different exchange systems/settlement patterns/local lithic procurement strategies, using coarser-grained rocks? Was this a response to higher population densities with loss of the coastal plain?

WILTON: 7000-200 BP

- microlithic industry (increase in tool types in fine-grain raw materials)
- bone tools, ostrich eggshell beads/pendants (and a painted stone at Boomplaas dated 6400 BP)
- smaller game hunting (through snaring), exploitation of geophytes (adzes).

Area III: Moist Woodland Biome

- ▣ No Oakhurst north of the Zambezi (microlithic Nachikufan continued)
- ▣ Bambata Cave (Matopos) occupation of rock shelters after 6000 BP: plant foods (marula: productivity 190 kg/ha), as well as small game
- ▣ After 4800 BP storage of plant foods
- ▣ No evidence of occupation between 3800-2200 BP after which pottery and domesticates arrive, found with LSA tools

Area III: Grassland Biome

- ▣ Magaliesberg: 6000 BP Jubilee Shelter and Cave James. Close to each other, but intensive occupation after 4000 BP shows different artefact assemblages. This has been interpreted as occupation during different seasons, with aggregation and dispersal modelled on Kalahari Bushmen
- ▣ Cave James: small bovids, rodents, birds (snared?), and only summer fruits
- ▣ Jubilee Shelter: winter fruits, large and small bovids (spatial separation of bead making and artefact making at the site may indicate gender roles)

Area III: Drakensberg

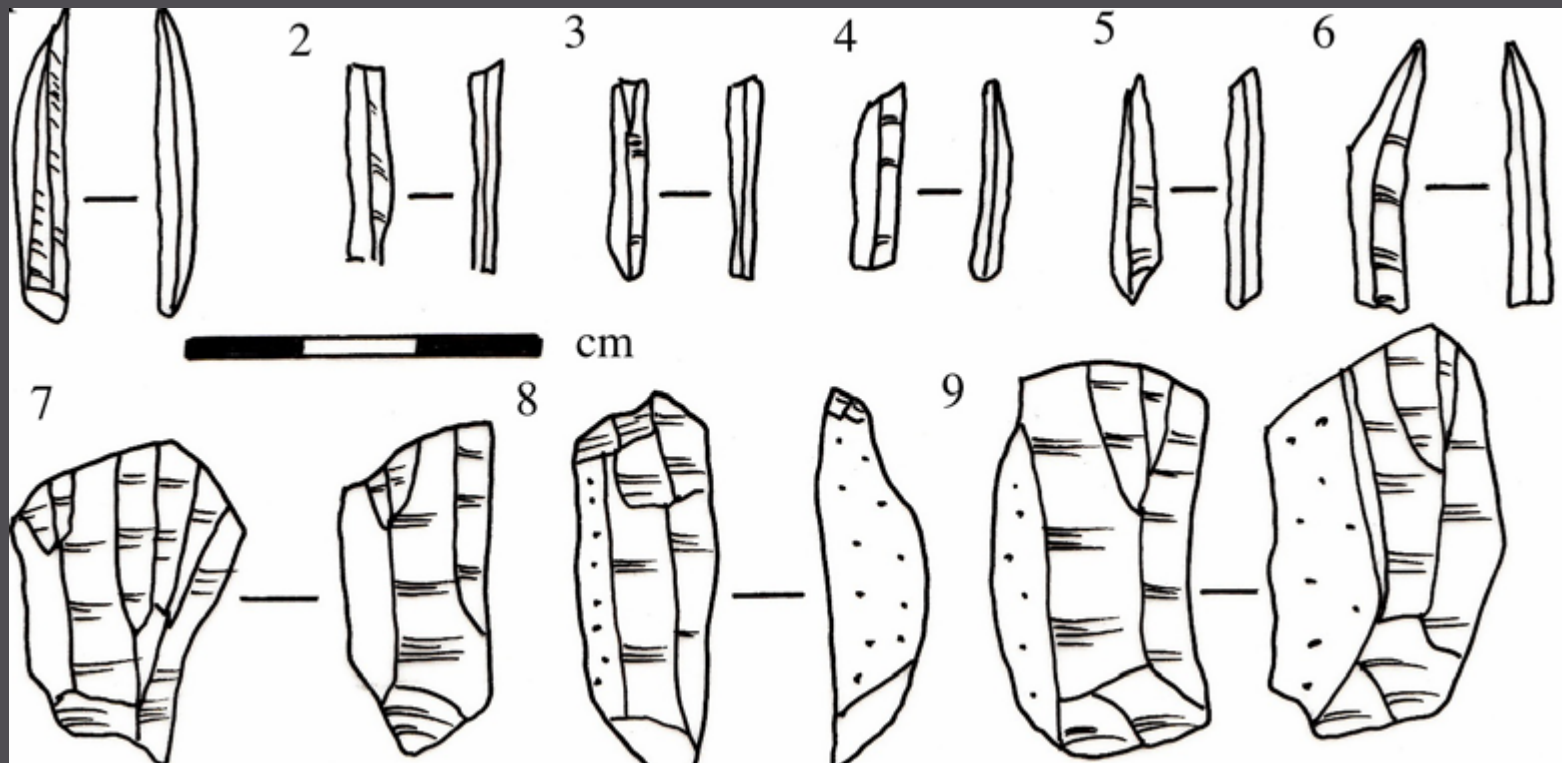
- ▣ Rose Cottage Cave (Wadley)
- ▣ Caledon Valley/Lesotho: Ha Makatoko (Mitchell & Arthur), Sehonghong (Mitchell)

Late Pleistocene/ Early Holocene occupation:

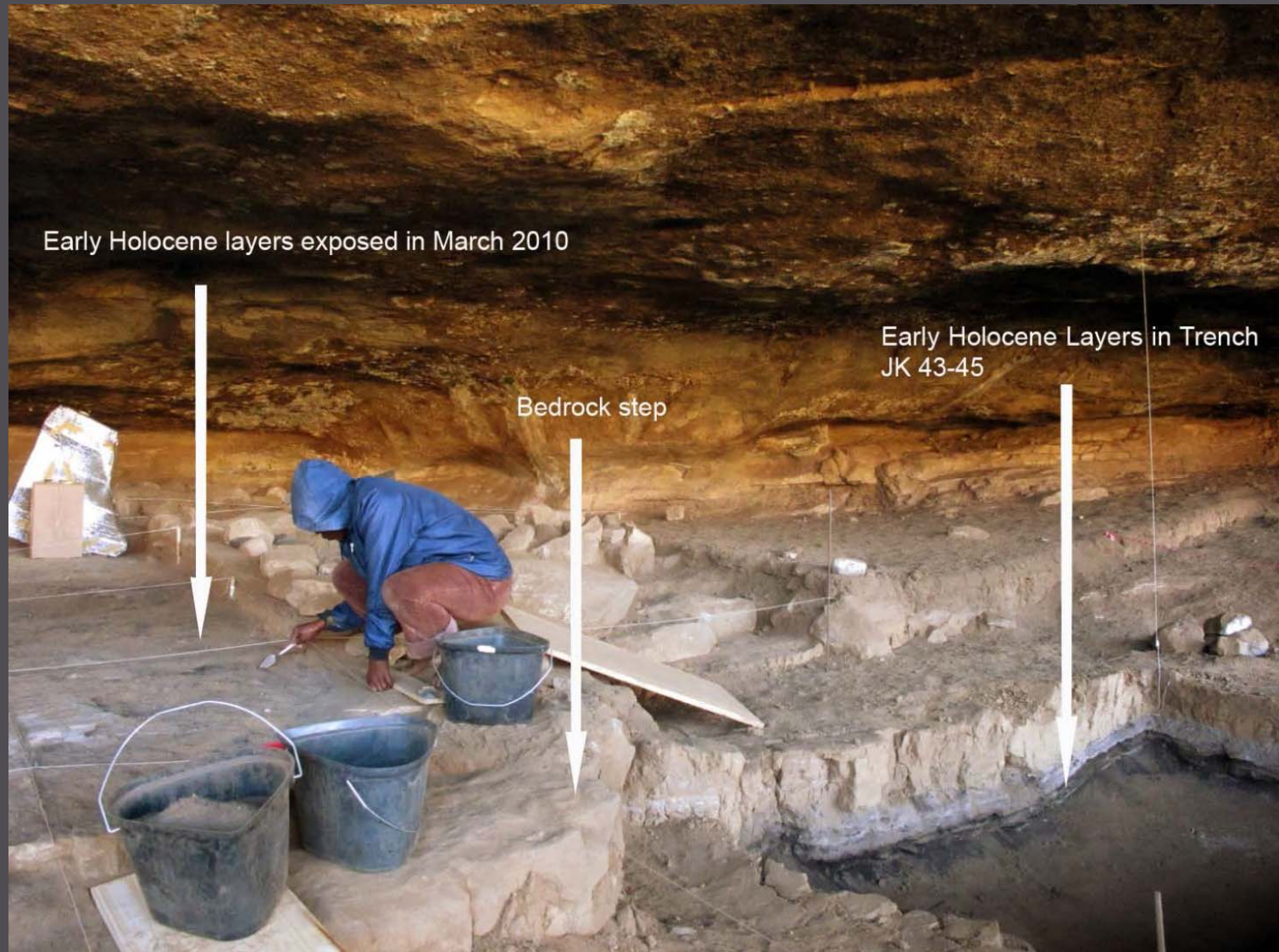
Woodlot (Oakhurst) environmental conditions wetter than present: 9300-8200 BP animals, such as vervet monkeys, kudu, blue wildebeest, and trees, such as yellowwood, existed (absent today, and historically)

The interior of the sub-continent shows hot/dry conditions 7500-4500 BP, possibly forcing people east and south towards the mountains and coastal plain

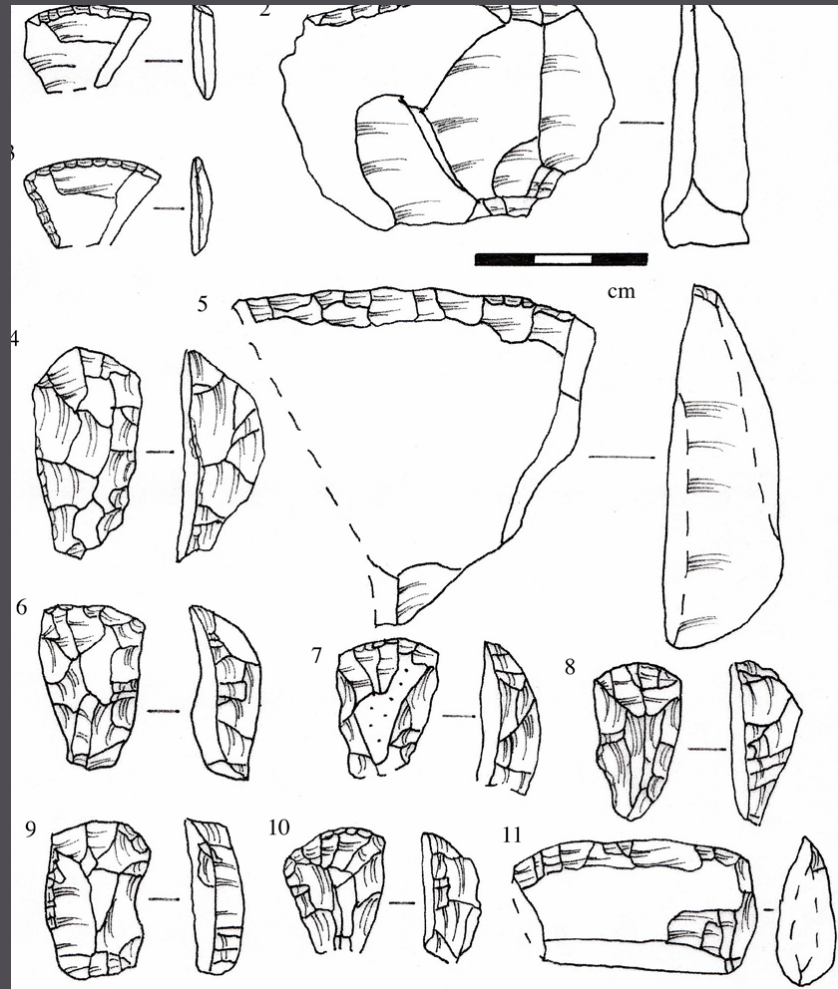
Ha Makatoko: Robberg



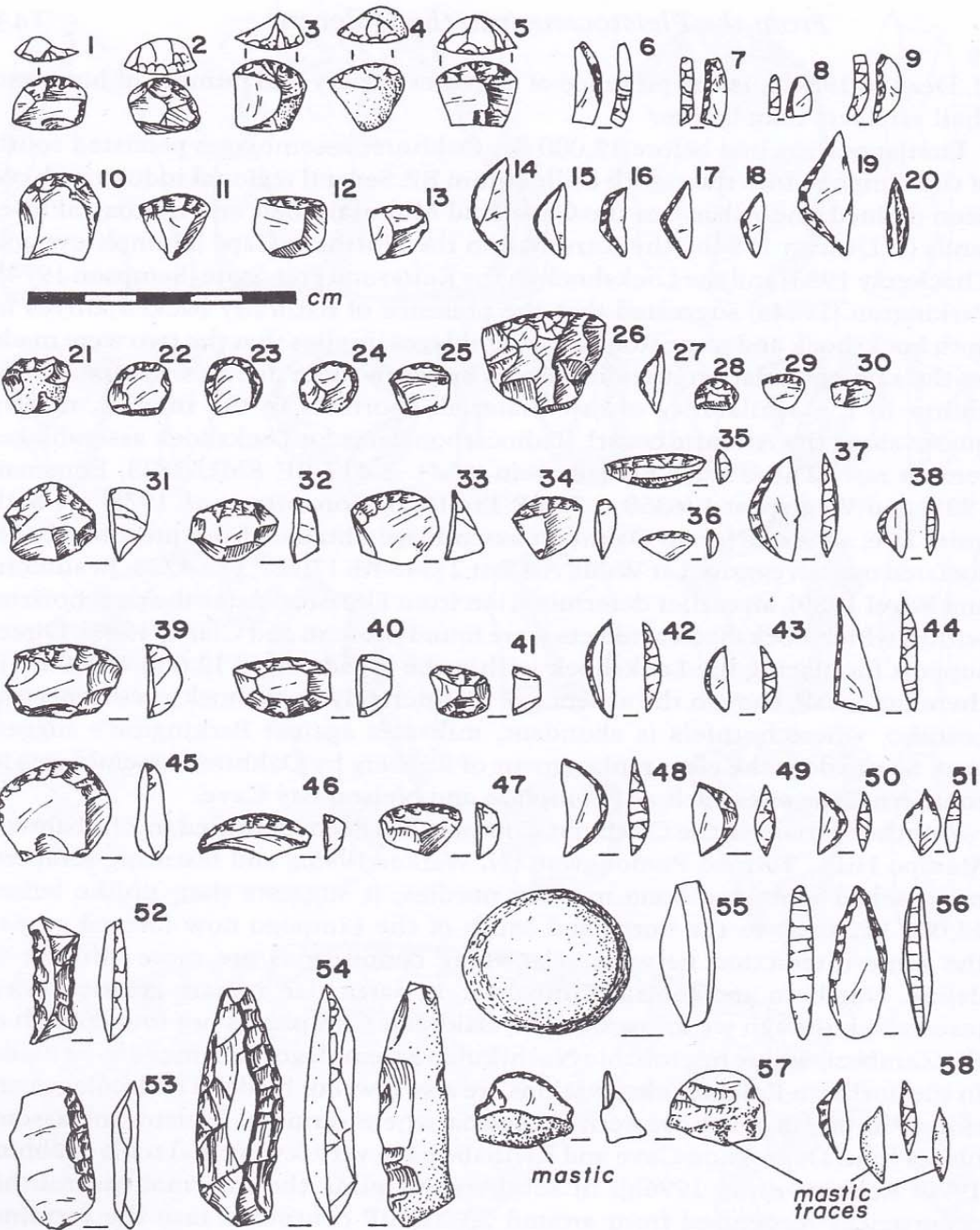
Ha Makatoko



Ha Makatoko: Woodlot (Oakhurst)



Wilton



Wilton

- ▣ Wilton assemblages before 8000 BP only north of the Limpopo and Orange Rivers. Suggestion that the technology moved south after this, with a few distinct regional variations before 5000 BP:
- ▣ Classic Wilton: 7000-4000 BP high numbers of segments
- ▣ Post-Classic Wilton: 4000-2200 BP backed bladelets and points
- ▣ 2200 -2000: high adze component
- ▣ 2000 BP ceramics

Area IV: The continental shelf

Last Glacial Maximum: 18,000 BP

A large area of the West and Southern Coast was exposed when the sea level fell by 130m.

Hunters exploited this area of open plains to hunt large herd animals: eland and buffalo

Once the sea level began rising at the beginning of the Holocene, c. 12,000 BP the coastal plain was flooded. In the fynbos, warmer temperatures and increased rainfall shifted open grassland to more closed habitat. New hunting strategies focussed on smaller solitary antelope: duiker, steenbok & grysbok

This was also a time of extinction of large megafauna (giant buffalo, Cape horse, giant hartebeest, southern springbok)[hunting pressure or environmental change?]

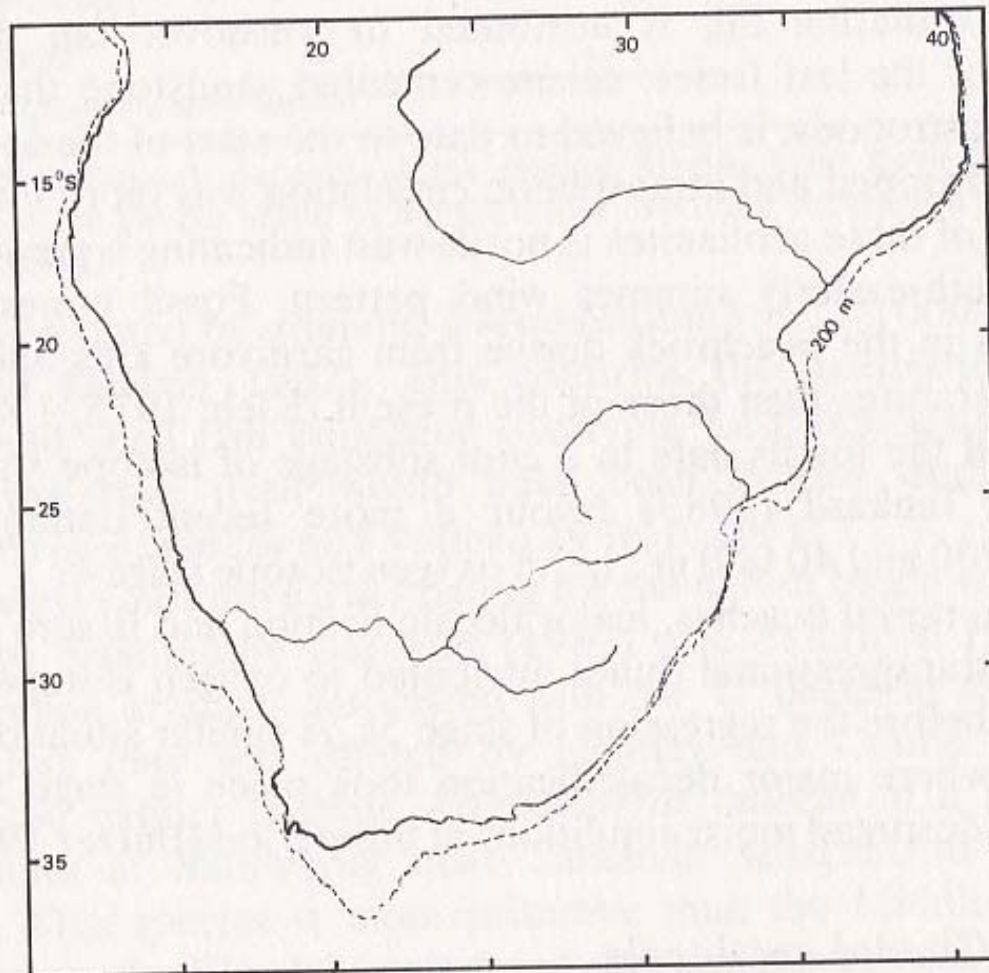


Fig. 6.3 Extent of the continental shelf (200 m below present sea level) indicating the approximate position of the coastline at the Last Glacial Maximum.