

Extrait du Géologie et géo-tourisme

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Phalaborwa mine

- Textes et documents pédagogiques - Photos géologiques -

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Description :

Petits trous, gros trous

Géologie et géo-tourisme

Phalaborwa mine

The Phalaborwa Copper mine exploits carbonatites from a ca. 1.2 Ga pipe, which represents the core of a complex including syenites, pyroxenites and other weird rocks that I'll try and post here one day. Until 2000, it was exploited as an open-cast pit, that is now some 2 km wide and 700 m deep. In 2000, wall stability became an issue and they moved to underground mining.

A good idea indeed. If you now visit the pit, you can see a fairly massive flank collapse, on the North-West of the pit : from Google Earth...



.. and from the public lookout point (identified on the GE photo above) :

