

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

HENKRIES AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Remainder of Farm Steinkopf No. 22, Springbok, Northern Cape

Assessment conducted under Section 38 (3) of the National Heritage Resource
Act (No. 25 of 1999)

Prepared for:

ENVIROAFRICA

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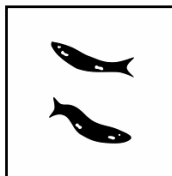
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Executive summary

Introduction

ACRM was appointed by EnviroAfrica to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed development of a large piece of vacant agricultural land situated alongside the Orange River (Namakwa District Municipality) near Henkries in the Northern Cape.

The project entails the cultivation of grapes and dates on previously undeveloped virgin soils on the Remainder of Farm Steinkopf No. 22 (Springbok).

Associated infrastructure includes water storage reservoirs, irrigation pipelines, pump houses, electrical transformers, and construction of internal roads.

Water for the project will be sourced from the Orange River.

The footprint area for the proposed agri-development is about 140ha.

The HIA forms part of an EIA process that is being conducted by independent environmental consultants, EnviroAfrica cc.

The applicant is the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Development.

The primary objective of the project is to stimulate the economy of this isolated region in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, job creation and economic empowerment of this marginalized community.

The proposed Henkries development is part of a much larger, long term vision for agricultural development in the region.

Aim of the HIA

The overall purpose of the HIA is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources in the 140ha application area, to determine the potential impacts on such resources, and to avoid and/or minimize such impacts by means of management and/or mitigation measures.

Heritage resources identified

A site assessment of the proposed activities took place in September 2015, in which the following observations were made:

- Despite a detailed assessment of the proposed development site, only a very small number of Later Stone Age flakes tools were recorded.
- No old buildings, structures or features are present in the application area.

Grading of the archaeological resources

The very small numbers means that the archaeological remains have been graded as having *Low* (Grade 3C) significance.

Graves

- The remains of a small (modern) kraal, and a possible grave were recorded about 20m south of a large sandstone outcrop in the north western corner of the proposed development site.

Burials are rated as having *Moderate-High* (Grade 3B) significance.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed agricultural development on the Remainder of Farm Steinkopf No. 22 near Henkries, will not impact on significant archaeological heritage.

A grave may be impacted by proposed farming activities.

According to the SAHRIS paleo-sensitivity map, the area is considered to have a very low (insignificant/zero) palaeontological sensitivity.

Conclusion

The HIA has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to, proposed farming activities commencing.

Therefore there are no objections to the authorization of the proposed development.

The possible grave (Site 665) must be protected during the Operational Phase of the project.

Recommendations

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. The grave (Site 665) must be fenced off prior to site preparation commencing. Alternatively a buffer of 30m must be established around the site, which includes the modern kraal (Site 664).
3. Should any (other) human remains be uncovered or found during agricultural operations these must be immediately reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Ms Natasha Higgitt 021 462 4502), or Jonathan Kaplan (082 321 0172).
4. The recommendations must be included in the Environmental Management (EMP) Plan for the proposed project.

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1. INTRODUCTION

ACRM was appointed by EnviroAfrica, on behalf of the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Development, to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed development of a large piece of agricultural land on the remainder of the Farm Steinkopf No. 22 (Springbok), alongside the Orange River, near Henkries in the Northern Cape (Figures 1 & 2).

The project entails the cultivation of grapes and dates on previously undeveloped, virgin soils.

Associated infrastructure includes water storage reservoirs, irrigation pipelines, pump houses, electrical transformers, and construction of internal roads.

Water for the project will be sourced from the Orange River.

The footprint area for the proposed agri-development is about 140ha.

The primary objective of the development is to stimulate the economy of this isolated region in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, job creation and economic empowerment of this marginalized community.

The Henkries project is part of a much larger, long term vision for sustainable agricultural development in the region.

The HIA forms part of an EIA process that is being conducted by independent environmental consultants, EnviroAfrica cc.



Figure 1. Locality map. Red polygon indicates the location of the study site



Figure 2. Google satellite map indicating the location of the proposed development site (red polygon).

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) makes provision for a compulsory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) when an area exceeding 5000 m² is being developed. This is to determine if the area contains heritage sites and to take the necessary steps to ensure that they are not damaged or destroyed during development.

The NHRA provides protection for the following categories of heritage resources:

- Landscapes, cultural or natural (Section 3 (3))
- Buildings or structures older than 60 years (Section 34);
- Archaeological sites, palaeontological material and meteorites (Section 35);
- Burial grounds and graves (Section 36);
- Public monuments and memorials (Section 37);
- Living heritage (defined in the Act as including cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships) (Section 2 (d) (xxi)).

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the study were to:

- Determine whether there are likely to be any important archaeological resources that may potentially be impacted by the proposed project/activities, and
- Recommend any mitigation action to minimise the impact of the project on the archaeological heritage

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Henkries is located about 100kms north of Springbok. Access to the small village is via an unnamed gravel road off the N7 about 12kms north of Steinkopf. The proposed development site (i. e. Rem of Steinkopf No. 22) is a large, level piece of land hemmed in by the mountains and the Orange River (Figure 3). The site is currently vacant; although some limited grazing does take place. A few old tracks are visible over the landscape. The site is heavily washed as a result of periodic flooding, and deep dongas occur against the steep mountains and in the western portion of the site, where a number of, dry river beds fan out over the surrounding landscape. Scarring is very evident over large portions of the site which is indicative of periodic flooding. Salt bushes cover large portions of the site, and there are sporadic trees occurring in places (Figures 4-9). A few outcroppings of rock occur. There is existing agricultural development alongside the river north of the proposed footprint area. Surrounding land use is agriculture (dates, cash crops, vegetables), grazing (goats) and residential.



Figure 3. Google satellite map indicating the approximate boundary of the proposed application area.

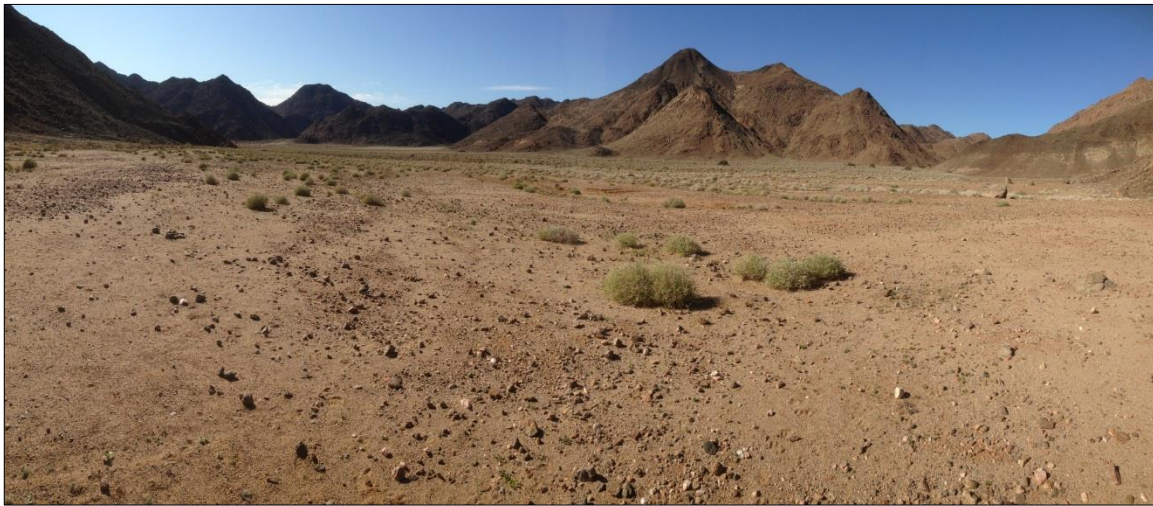


Figure 4. View of the proposed application area facing east

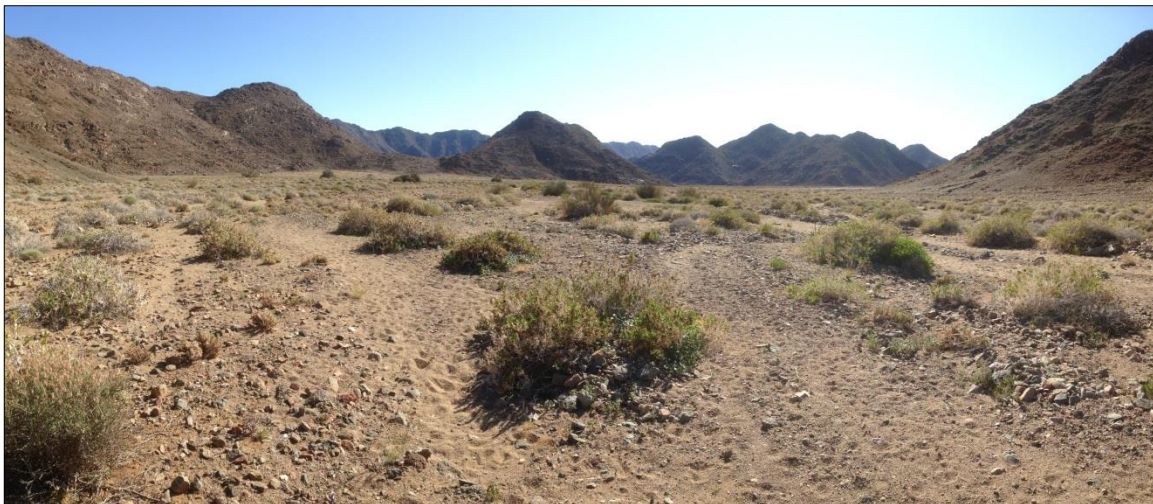


Figure 5. View of the proposed application area facing east



Figure 6. View of the proposed application area facing north



Figure 7. View of the proposed application area facing north west



Figure 8. View of the proposed application area facing north (to the Orange River)



Figure 9. View of the application area facing south from the gravel road

5. STUDY APPROACH

5.1 Method

The overall purpose of the HIA is to assess the sensitivity of archaeological resources in the 140ha application area, to determine the potential impacts on such resources, and to avoid and/or minimize such impacts by means of management and/or mitigation measures

A literature survey was carried out to assess the heritage context surrounding the proposed development site.

5.2 Constraints

There were no constraints associated with the study. Ground visibility was excellent.

5.3 Identification of potential risks

There are no archaeological risks associated with the proposed activities.

A possible grave was located near a modern kraal.

According to the SAHRIS paleo-sensitivity map, the area is considered to have a very low (insignificant/zero) palaeontological sensitivity.

5.4 Archaeological background

There has been no systematic archaeological work undertaken in the vicinity of Henkries and Goodhouse. Archaeological investigations have been done on the banks of the Orange River, but these have taken place much further south, in the Richtersveld region of the Northern Cape (Halkett 1999; Smith *et al* 2001; Webley 1997; Orton & Halkett 2010). Research indicates that intensive hunter-gatherer occupation of the Namaqualand region started around 4000 years ago during the Later Stone Age, but most of our current information comes from the coastal zone (Webley 1992; Dewar 2007). Archaeological sites with pottery, post-dating 2000 years ago are reported from a number of sites in Namaqualand. These ceramic LSA sites are believed to be associated with the introduction of pastoralism to the region. Webley (2001) has obtained dates for sheep from Spoegrivier Cave near Hondeklipbaai, of 1900 years ago. These early dates for sheep suggest that pastoralist groups may have travelled into the south-western Cape along the west coast. There is also evidence for pastoralist settlement at Bethelsklip, north of Kharkams, dating to about 800 years ago (Webley 1984). Complete ceramic pots have been recovered from a number of farms in the Kamiesberg area (Webley 1992). The archaeology supports the historic information that pastoralist groups (the ancestors of the Little Namaqua Khoekhoen) were occupying this area at the time of colonial contact.

Historically, the interior of Namaqualand was occupied by the Little Namaqua, a Khoekhoen pastoralist group, who herded sheep and cattle and lived in temporary encampments of mat/grass huts. The Little Namaqua are known to have moved seasonally with their livestock, and historical reports indicate that they may have

followed a transhumance cycle between the Kamiesberg in the summer months and the Sandveld in the winter months (Webley 1992). Since the Little Namaqua had no clearly defined territorial boundaries, it was easy for the colonial Trekboers to settle in the area. The earliest loan farms were granted after 1750. The Little Namaqua eventually retreated to so-called “reserves” such as Leliefontein, Steinkopf, Kommaggas, Concordia and the Richtersveld (Webley & Halkett 2010).

6. FINDINGS

6.1 Archaeology

A small handful of isolated archaeological remains were recorded during the field assessment which took place on 03rd September, 2015 (Table 1 & Figure 10). These included a few quartz chunks (Site 656) and a banded ironstone miscellaneous retouched piece (Site 657) found at base of the cliff in the north western corner of the proposed development site. A possible quartzite Middle Stone Age flake (Site 668), a flaked cortex cobble (Site 669) and a few milky white and vein quartz flakes were recorded on heavily washed sands in the south eastern corner of the site (refer to Figure 6). The tools most likely represent discarded flakes and flake debris.

Archaeological resources recorded during the study are illustrated in Figures 11 and 12.

Grading of the archaeological resources

The very small numbers mean that the archaeological remains have been graded as having Low (Grade 3C) significance.

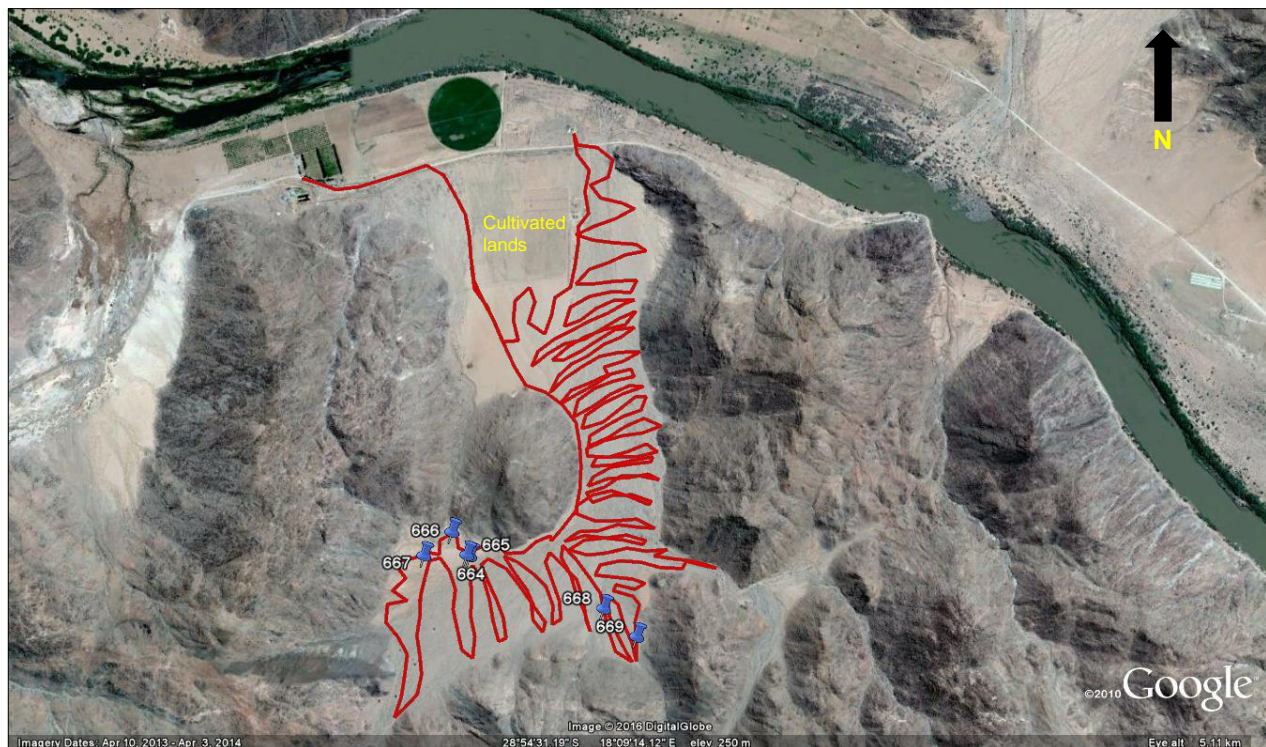


Figure 10. Track paths (red) and waypoints of archaeological finds.

Site	Farm Name	Lat/Long	Description of finds	Significance	Suggested mitigation
664		S28 54.961 E18 08.749	Remains of a small kraal about 20m south, of a large sandstone outcropping. Dung, bits of wire fencing, pieces of wooden fence poles, bits of old timber, rusted metal, glass, ceramics, plastic, irrigation pipes, asbestos all lying about.	3C	30m buffer to be established around the kraal (& grave)
665		S28 54.958 E18 08.741	Possible burial – a few loose rocks placed in a partial circle. No grave goods, however. Possible headstone	3B	Grave to be fence off. Alternatively 30m buffer to be established around the grave and kraal
666		S28 54.900 E18 08.698	A few quartz chunks on a raised (eroded) ridge above a dry river bed, at the base of mountain cliff. Heavily disturbed	3C	None required
667		S28 54.960 E18 08.617	Banded ironstone misc. retouched piece.	3C	None required
668		S28 55.093 E18 09.134	Possible MSA quartzite flake	3C	None required
669		S28 55.164 E18 09.229	Flaked cortex cobble & quartz flakes	3C	None required

Table 1. Spreadsheet of waypoints and description of archaeological finds



Figure 11. Site 666 & 667. Scale is in cm



Figure 12. Site 667. Scale is in cm

6.2 Graves

The remains of a small kraal (Site 664), and a possible grave (Site 665) were recorded about 20m south of a large sandstone outcrop in the north western corner of the proposed development site (Figures 13-15). Dung, bits of wire fencing, pieces of wooden fence poles, timber, rusted metal, glass, ceramics, plastic, irrigation pipes, and some asbestos were all noted scattered about, in a level clearing surrounding the sandstone outcrop.

The grave comprises a few loose rocks intentionally placed in a partial circle. There is a possible headstone, but the grave seems to have been disturbed as some of the stones have been moved around. No grave goods were found in the immediate vicinity, and it appears as if the site has been abandoned and neglected for a long period of time.

Burials are rated as having *Moderate-High* (Grade 3B) significance.

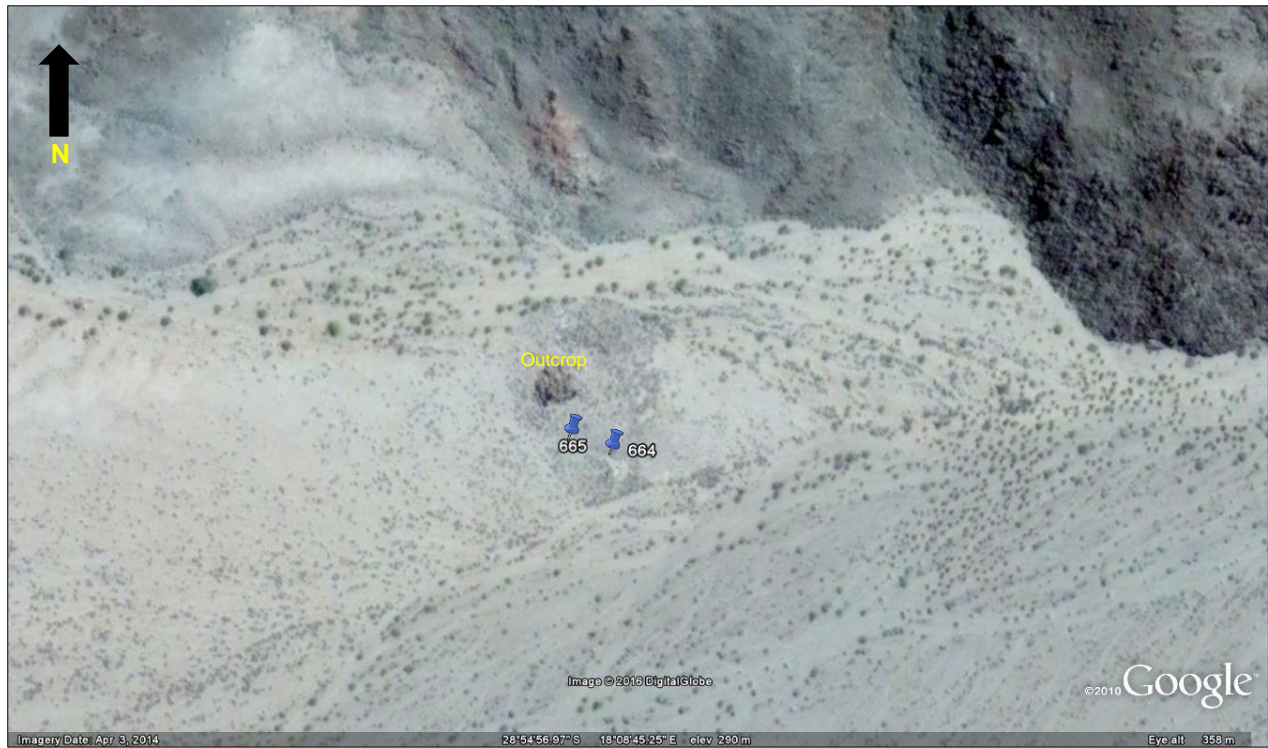


Figure 13. A modern kraal (Site 664) and a possible grave (Site 665) were recorded about 20m south, of a large sandstone outcropping. Note the dry river/stream beds below the mountain ridge and in the foreground.



Figure 14. Site 664 with the grave (Site 665) in the foreground



Figure 15. Possible grave (Site 665). Note the headstone

6.3 Buildings and structures

No old buildings, structures or features are present in the application area.

7. CONCLUSION

The HIA has identified no significant impacts to pre-colonial archaeological material that will need to be mitigated prior to the proposed development activities commencing.

Indications are that the receiving environment is not a sensitive or threatened archaeological landscape.

From a heritage perspective there are no objections to the authorization of the proposed agri-development.

Measures must be put in place to protect the grave (Site 665).

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed Henkries agricultural development on Remainder of Farm Steinkopf No. 22 (Springbok), the following recommendations are made:

1. No archaeological mitigation is required.
2. The grave (Site 665) must be fenced off prior to site preparation commencing. Alternatively a buffer of 30m must be established around the site, which includes the modern kraal (Site 664).
3. Should any (other) human remains or graves be found or uncovered during agricultural operations these must be immediately reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (Natasha Higgitt 021 462 4502/021 462 4502), or Jonathan Kaplan (082 321 0172).
4. The recommendations must be included in the Environmental Management (EMP) Plan for the proposed project.

9. REFERENCES

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