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## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DIAMOND PROSPECTING AT HEUNINGKRAANS (PORTION 14 GROOTRIVIERWAGENDRIF 29), ALI WAL NORTH, EASTERN CAPE:**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Diamond prospecting is planned at the farm Heuningkrans, Aliwal North, Eastern Cape. The site is located along the Orange River to the east of town.

The land consists of an alluvial sand deposit along the river where centre-pivot irrigation is practiced.

A small collection of stone flakes and cores were found in a gravel road at Heuningkrans. The origin of this find is not clear and seems to be part an insignificant scatter.

The flaked stone artefacts are limited to the higher ground outside the area of development. I expect that the prospecting work will have no significant influence on the cultural remains in this area away from the alluvial beds.

I recommend that the prospecting work could continue on the lower areas along the river.

I anticipate that human burials could be discovered during the excavation work on the riverbanks. In the case of the discovery of any burial or human remains, the work should be stopped at once, the finds should be stabilised and protected and the archaeologist should be alerted immediately.

## **INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The farm Heuningkrans in the district of Aliwal North (Map 1) was visited on 26 September 2007. Daniel Calaca from Manhattan Mining Corporation, Benoni, accompanied me to the farm.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

### **LOCALITY**

Diamond prospecting is planned on the farm Heuningkrans (Map 2) Aliwal North, Eastern Cape.

The farm is reached by following the Gryskoppan turn-off from the R58 main road from Aliwal North to Burgersdorp.

The area along the Orange River consists of a deep alluvial sand deposit, which is the main concentration of centre-pivot irrigation and other agricultural activities.

GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken to plot the various features (2826DB) (Map 2):

HKA 30°35'22"S. 026°22'09"E Altitude 1275m (Fig.1).

HKB (Border Paardelaagte) 30°34'51"S. 026°23'41"E Altitude 1276m (Fig.2).

FARMHOUSE 30°35'08"S. 026°23'09"E Altitude 1284m (Fig.3).

## **RESULTS**

### **FINDS**

A small collection of stone flakes and cores (Fig.5) was found in a gravel road at Heuningkrans (Fig.4). The origin of this feature is not clear and seems to be part a general scatter of flakes in the area.

The flakes are smooth and mostly without any patination. Artefacts display no scars or secondary trimming, suggesting that the flakes are unutilised and cannot be described as “tools”.

Percussion bulbs are clearly recognisable and prepared platforms are plane and narrow.

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The lithic assemblage seems to be a general distribution of unutilised flakes.

The impact on the cultural heritage remains of the proposed site at Heuningkrans is expected to be of minor significance.

No other cultural, historical or palaeontological components were found during the investigation, nor were there any existing buildings, graves or burial grounds in the area.

The proposed diamond prospecting developments at Heuningkrans will have an insignificant impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

From previous experience, I anticipate that human burials and skeletal remains could be discovered during the excavation work on the riverbanks (Brink, Dreyer & Loubser 1992, Dreyer 1996).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

I recommend that the proposed developments at Heuningkrans may proceed.

It is important, however, that the field team should be on the lookout for the presence of human skeletal material in the area near the river. In the case of the discovery of any burial or human remains, the work should be stopped at once, the finds should be stabilised and protected and the archaeologist should be alerted immediately.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, mitigation measures will be required in the case of the discovery of any human skeletal material.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Daniel Calaca of Manhattan Mining Corporation, Benoni, accompanied me to the sites.

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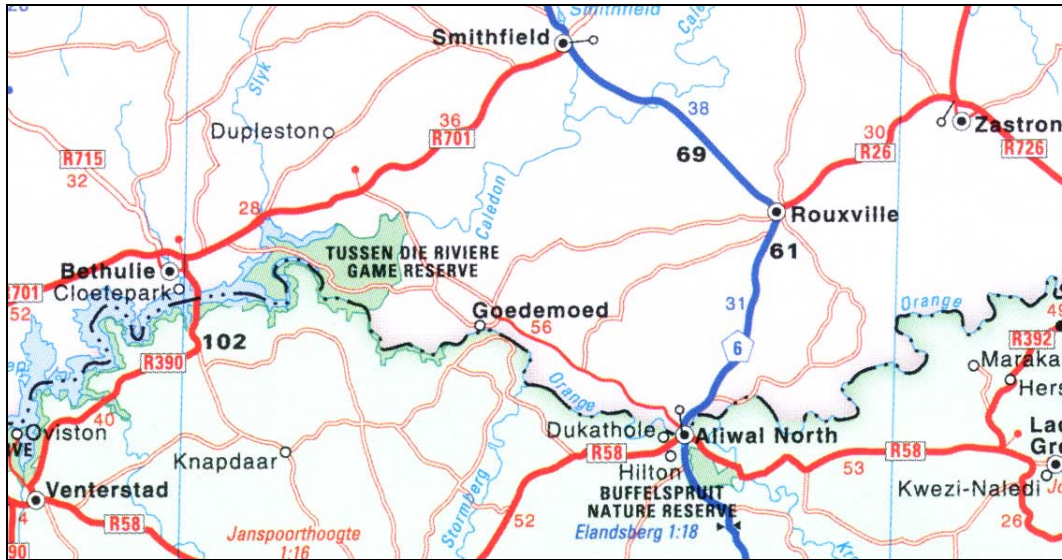
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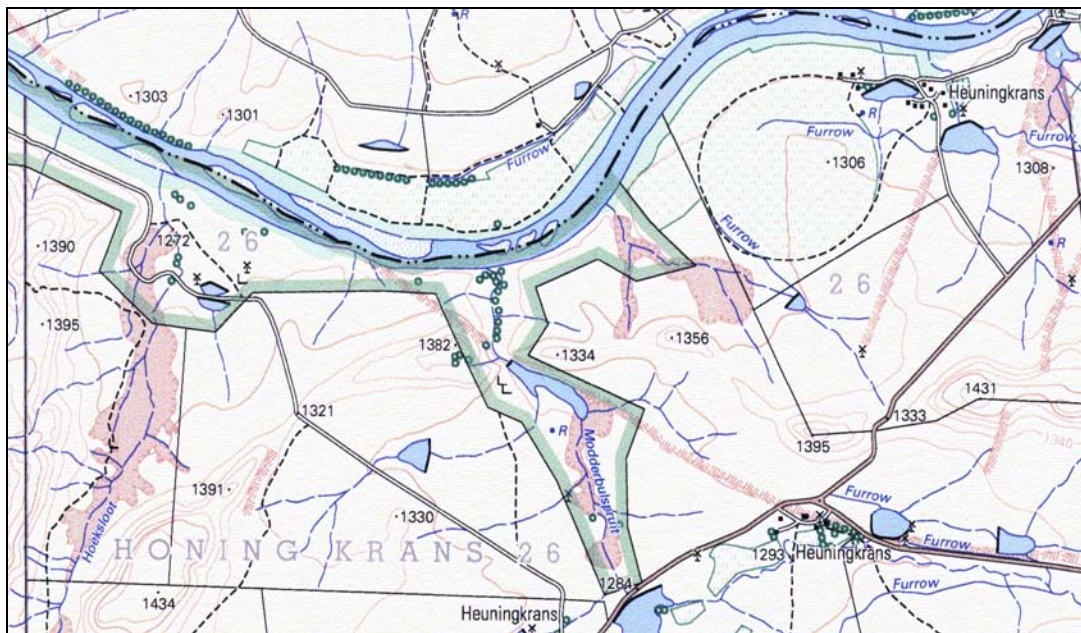
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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Aliwal North in relation to other towns along the Orange River.



Map 2 Locality of Heuningkrans 26, Aliwal North (3026CB).





Fig.1 Point HKA at Heuningkrans. Line of trees indicate position of Orange River.



Fig.2 Point HKB at Heuningkrans on the border with Paardelaagte.



Fig.3 The farmhouse at Heuningkrans.



Fig.4 Locality of stone flakes in road at Heuningkrans.





Fig.5 Stone flakes found at Heuningkrans. (Pocketknife = 83 mm).