

**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON A  
PROPOSED WASTE DISPOSAL SITE AT THE SWARTKOPDAM  
SETTLEMENT NEAR NOENIEPUT, NORTH – WEST OF UPINGTON,  
IN THE SIYANDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF THE NORTHERN  
CAPE PROVINCE.**

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McGregor Museum

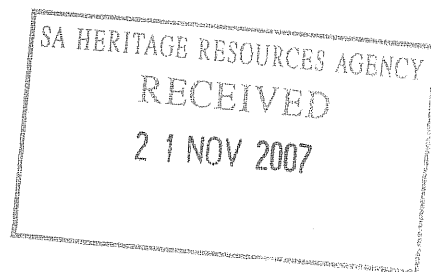
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this study was to establish if any heritage sites were present in the vicinity of a proposed waste disposal site for the Swartkopdam settlement some 140 km north – west of Upington in the Siyanda District Municipality of the Northern Cape. A 40 minute – long foot survey of a 2 ha area at and around the intended location in a swale (leegte) just south of the settlement produced a few undiagnostic stone artefacts, but nowhere there did I see any fossil bones or graves of any age. It is consequently considered that this terrain has no heritage potential and that its proposed use as a waste disposal site for the settlement will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Swartkopdam is a small Kalahari settlement comprising a few dozen families of which the menfolk are mainly employed on farms in this region. Homes, mainly galvanized iron, and each with its own nearby rubbish midden, were randomly scattered on communally – held (Congregational Church) land. After consultations, the Siyanda District Municipality has begun replacing these with brick – built RDP houses, each on its smaller, but now privately owned plot. These changes led to some problems with garbage disposal, but a single waste disposal site, well downslope of the settlement, has now been agreed upon.

This report is part of an EIA that is being compiled by M Geldenhuys of MEG Environmental Impact Studies on behalf of the Siyanda District Municipality.

## **LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

The Kalahari remains largely unexplored archaeologically, with two promising landscape settings being clast – covered flats, like those seen near Swartkopdam, and the banks of the Nossob, next to which the road to that settlement runs for many a mile. The closest recorded archaeological occurrence is Eensaamheid Pan, some 40 km to the east, where what seems to be an ancient strandline terrace is covered by a fair density of Fauresmith or Late Acheulean material based on exotic rocks (Masson 2006).

## **PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

The examined 2 ha area lies just south of the Swartkopdam settlement, situated on a portion of the farm Abiqua's Aar 352, about 140 km north – west of Upington, in the Siyanda District Municipality of the Northern Cape (Figs. 1 & 2). It falls near the base of broad swale, dammed at 2 – 3 points, which carries occasional water westwards to a pan, and has a centre – point co-ordinate of 27° 40' 31.5" S, 20° 12' 44.5" E (Fig. 3). Some 40 minutes was spent walking over the terrain on the morning of 11

October 2007 in the company of Marquerite Geldenhuys, Anton Meyer of DTEC and Frikkie Ruppig of the Siyanda District Municipality.

## **SUPERFICIAL GEOLOGY**

Surface silts overlie Karoo shale in the inspected swale area, whereas subangular – subrounded exotic (often quartzite) clasts were seen to cover the abutting plains to the east. These could be Dwyka tillite vestiges and, if so, a nearby (but not visited) low outcrop of black rock, perhaps the source of the settlement name, may show smoothing or plucking as a result of ice action at that time, about 300 million years ago.

## **HERITAGE FINDINGS**

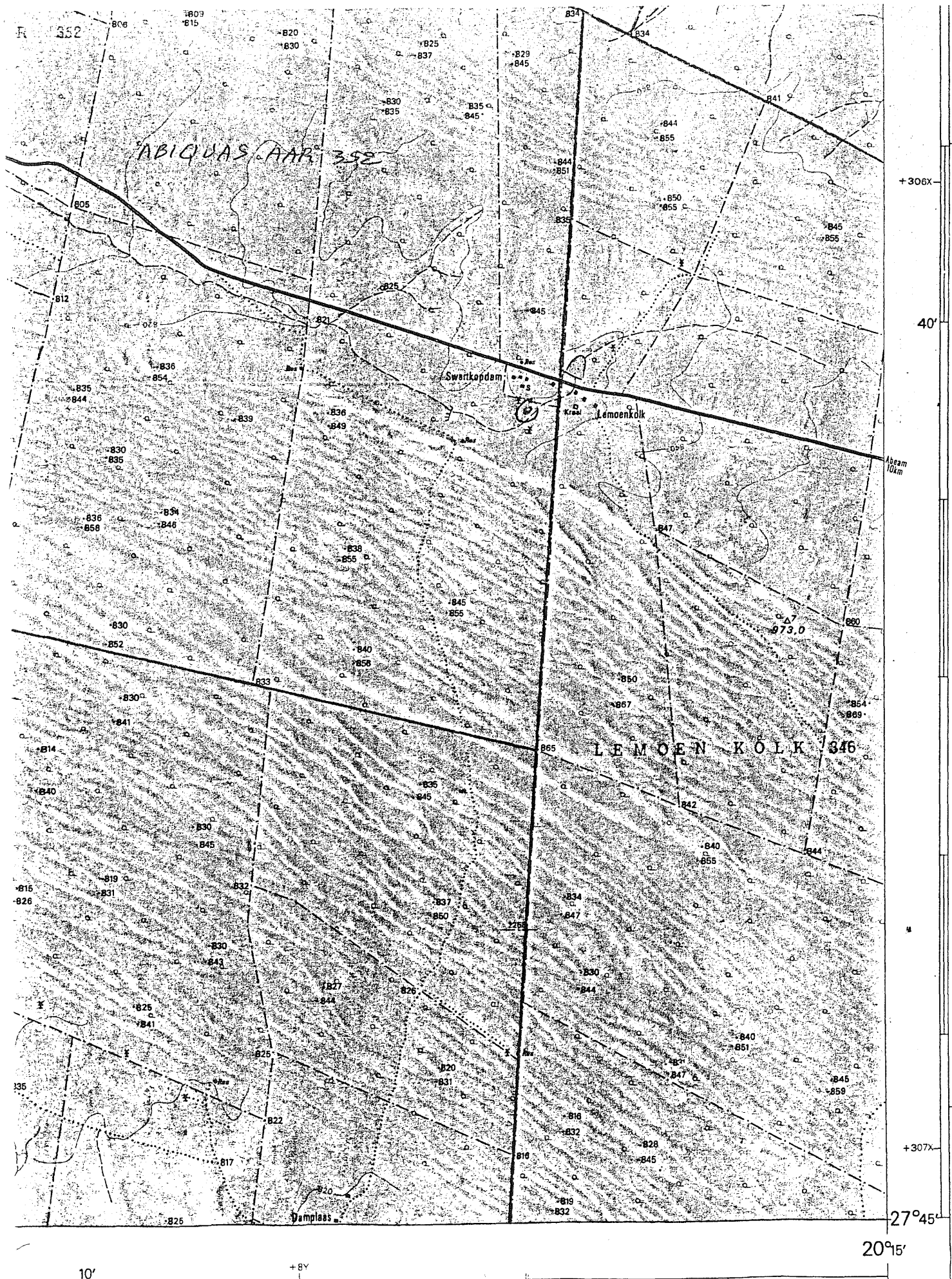
Only occasional stone artefacts and certainly no sites, fossil bones or graves were seen in the inspected area where a waste disposal site is planned for Swartkopdam. However, on the rubble – strewn flats flanking the road to the settlement, and, to a lesser extent, at its upper end, near the school (Fig. 4), a modest number of associated fresh – weathered artefacts occur. The fresh fraction included a blade and a small 5 cm – long handaxe, both of quartzite, and best ascribed to the Fauresmith, but the older material, with prepared cores, is probably Middle Acheulean (Figs. 5 & 6).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The investigated area is bereft of any heritage material and that its use for waste disposal will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

## **REFERENCES**

Masson, J. 2006. Archaeology and geomorphology: Eensaamheid Pan, Northern Cape. *The Digging Stick* 23 (1), 15 – 18.



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 KONTORHUISRUIMTE 20 METER  
 10 METER SUB-KONTORHUIS

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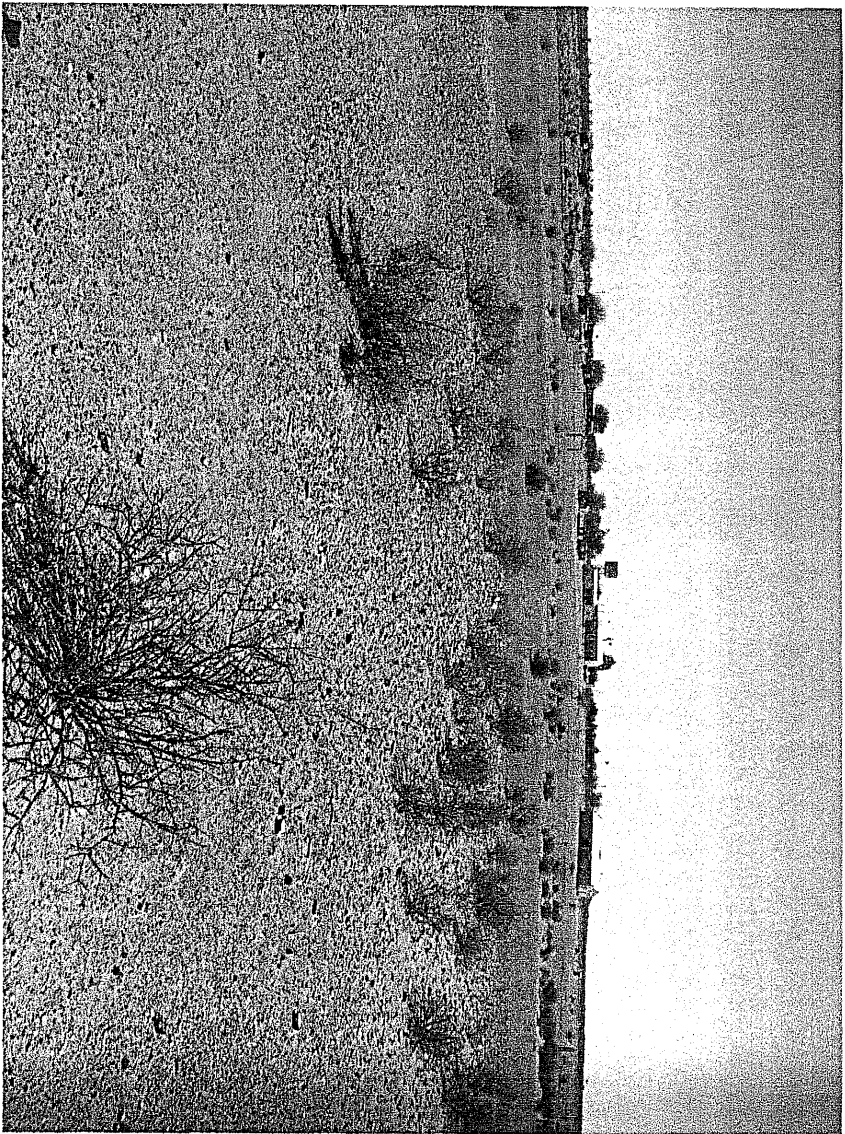


Fig 3. View up slope to Smartkepan settlement from proposed waste disposal vicinity.

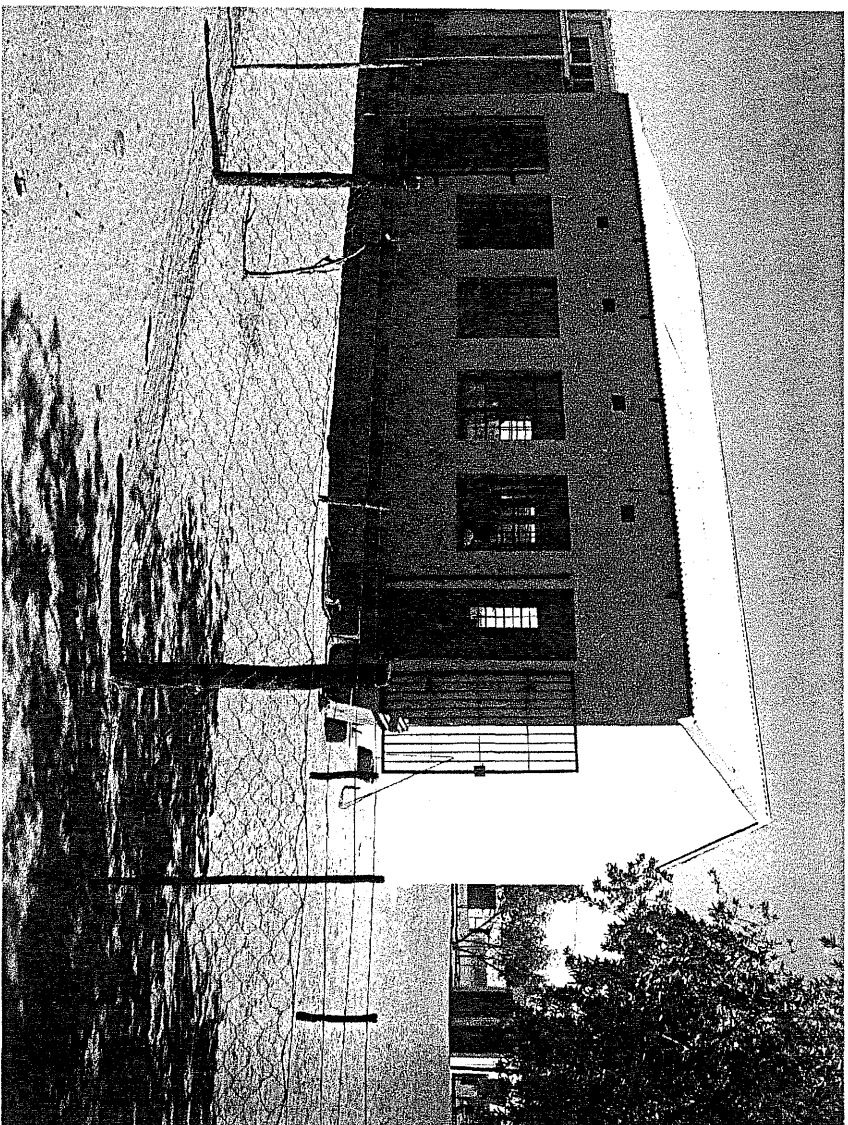


Fig 4. The School/Hall at Smart Key, Va.



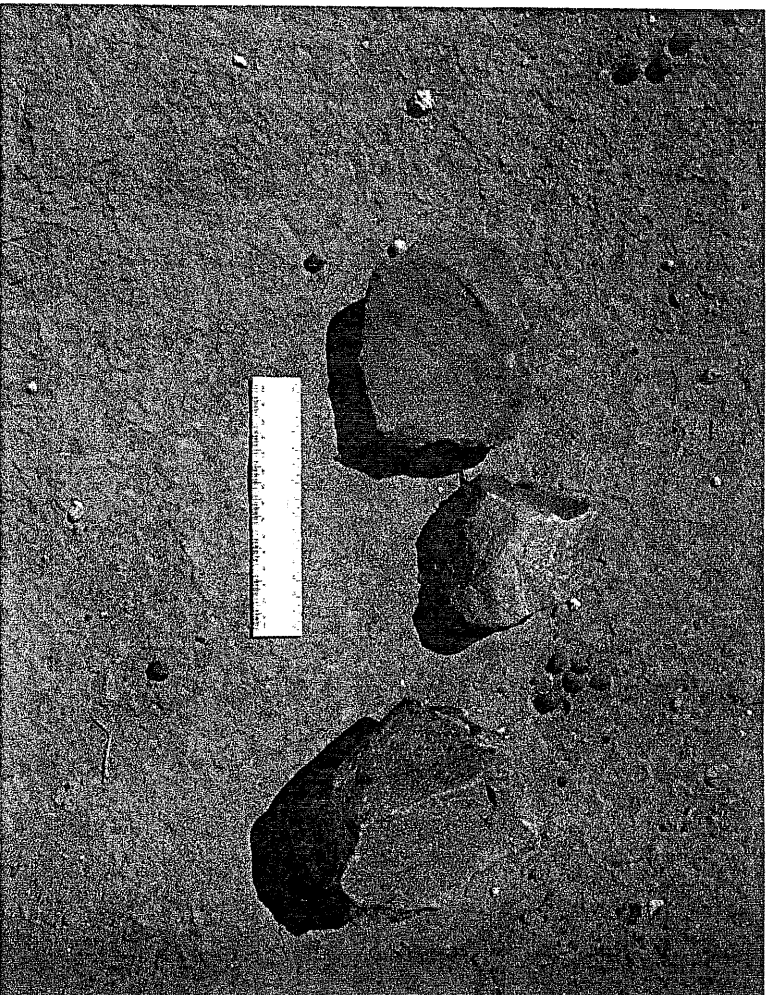


Fig 5. *Arbuckle*? outcrops from Sample 1 area (Fig 2)

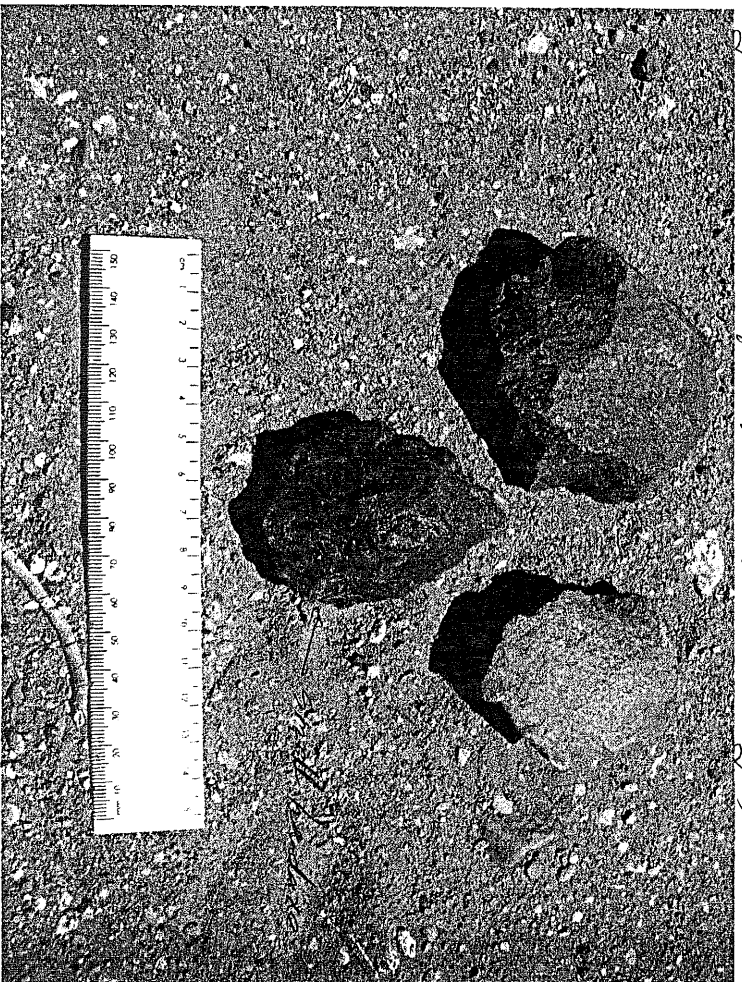


Fig 6. *Faines* with *Arbuckle*? outcrops from Sample 2 area (Fig 2)