

**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON A
PORTION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM STYR-KRAAL 81
NEAR ONSEEPKANS, SIYANDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.**

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received 07 March 2008

1 February 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to establish if any heritage sites were present on an undeveloped 220 ha portion of the farm Styr-kraal 81, on the Orange River near Onseepkans in the Siyanda District Municipality of the Northern Cape Province. A full afternoon spent driving and walking over a flat north – dipping pale beige gritty sand surface sparsely covered by grass, melkbos and a few bushes produced no artefacts, fossil bones or graves of any age. It is consequently considered that this ground has no heritage potential and that its proposed use for the growing butternuts and *Hoodia gordonii* will have no perceptible impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Styr-kraal management has decided to grow butternuts and *Hoodia* on a hill – flanked sand basin perched c 50 m above the Orange River with water pumped from there up a cliff – face and then on to the upslope dam (Fig. 1).

This report is part of an EIA that is being prepared by Marquerite Geldenhuys of MEG Environmental Impact Studies on behalf of the farm owner, Mr David Bell.

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The nearest excavated locality, about 60 km to the ESE, is the aquifer – linked and about 400 year – old LSA occurrences at Droëgrond, that were investigated by A Smith (1995). And some 80 km to the ENE is Bokvasmaak 3, where a herder assemblage dated to 120 years BP is associated with iron fragments and many fish bones (Beaumont *et al.* 1995).

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The inspected 220 ha portion of the farm Styr-kraal 81 lies west of the R358 and just south of the Orange River near Onseepkans in the Siyanda District Municipality of the Northern Cape (Fig. 1). That ground slopes upwards from a lowest point (the cliff – face) at 488.9 m to 526.3 m at the proposed dam site, which has co-ordinates of 28° 43' 07.4" S, 19° 29' 18.3" E (Figs. 2 – 4). I spent the afternoon of Thursday 24 January 2008 driving and walking over this terrain together with, at times, farm manager Jonathan Vermaak, Lucille Karsten of Dept. Tourism, Environment & Conservation, botanists Noel and Gretel van Rooyen, and Marquerite Geldenhuys.

SUPERFICIAL GEOLOGY

Occasional pits indicated a 0 – 1.5 m thickness of unstratified pale beige gritty sand with a generally low admixture of quartz and felspar rubble on very weathered schist belonging to the Namaqualand Metamorphic Complex (Kent 1980).

HERITAGE FINDINGS

A careful search showed that this ground was entirely bereft of artefacts, fossil bones, or graves of any age, as confirmed by Jonathan Vermaak, who often visits the area latterly.

CONCLUSIONS

My conclusion is that this terrain contains no heritage material and that its use for the production of butternuts and *Hoodia* will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

REFERENCES

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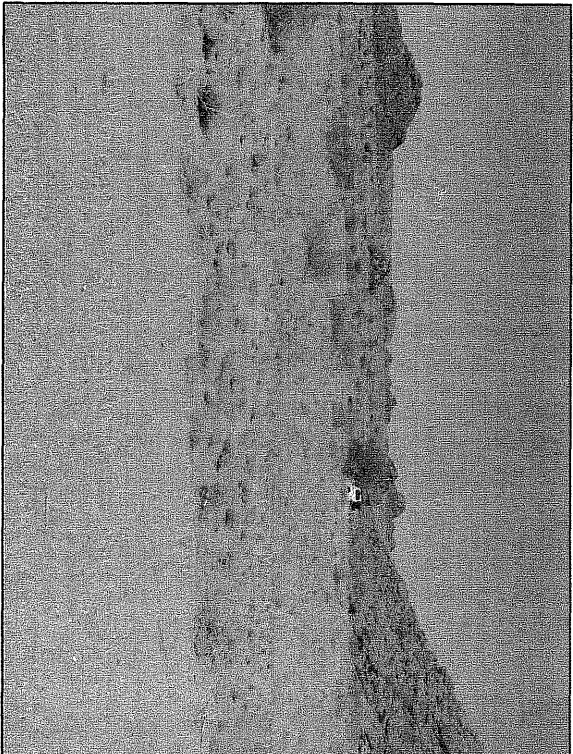


FIG 2 VIEW TO E

FIG 3. VIEW TO S

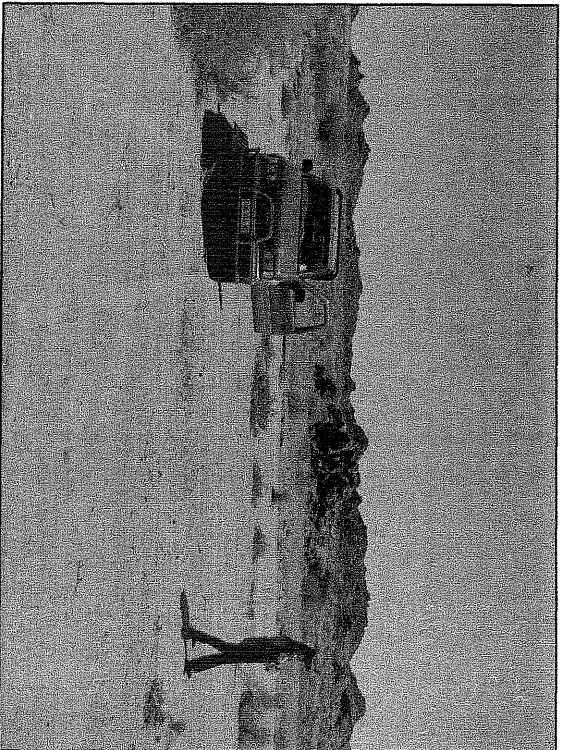
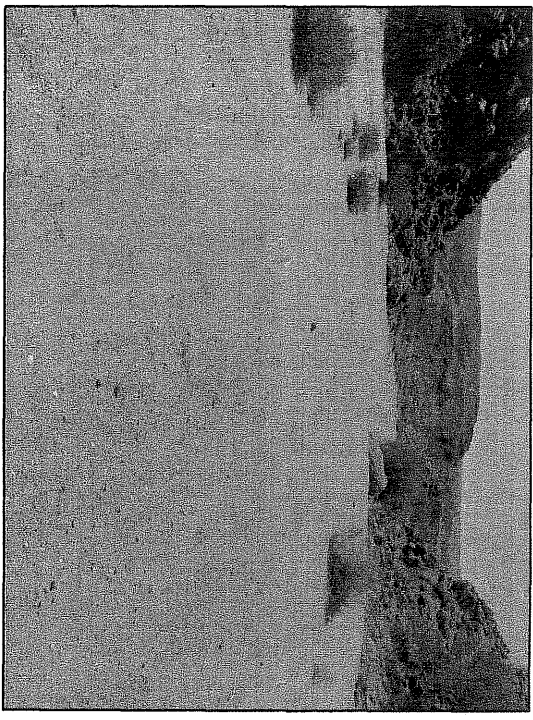


FIG 4. VIEW TO N.