

**PHASE 1 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON A
PORTION OF THE FARM FULLER 578 NEAR OLIFANTSHOEK,
SIYANDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.**

Peter B Beaumont

c/o Archaeology Department

McGregor Museum

PO Box 316

8300 Kimberley

Tel 053 - 842 0986 or 053 - 839 2700

Fax 053 - 842 1433

e-mail se@museumsnc.co.za

Consultant:

Geo-Rock International (Pty) Ltd.

PO Box 3226

8300 Kimberley

Tel 053 – 831 7634

Fax 053 – 832 5421

e-mail georock@kimberley.co.za

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to establish if any heritage sites were present in or next to a stream bed on the farm Fuller 578 near Olifantshoek in the Siyanda District Municipality of the Northern Cape. A 3.5 hour – long foot search by two along it produced a dozen or so artefacts, but no actual sites, palaeontological bones or graves of any age. It is consequently considered that this strip of ground has no archaeological significance and that the proposed removal of river sand from it will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The anticipated threefold increase in the size of Kathu over the next decade will require vast amounts of river sand and crushed stone, in addition to bricks. To meet that looming demand, Dawid Malan of Langeberg Bricks, some 30 km from Kathu, plans to recover river sand on the farm Fuller 578, near Olifantshoek. This report is part of an EIA that is to be compiled by Geo-Rock International on his behalf, and with the agreement of the farm owner, Johan Mitchell.

LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGY

No major sites are recorded from Olifantshoek itself, but 30 km away to the ENE is Kathu Pan 1 – 11 and Kathu Townlands (Beaumont & Morris 1990), 30 km or so to the NW are LSA and Fauresmith occurrences with engravings at Nchwaneng, while northwards, in the Langeberge, are conflict sites of the late 1800's.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The channelway of the intermittent stream that was investigated runs parallel to and near the eastern edge of the farm Fuller 578, a few km NW of Olifantshoek in the Siyanda District Municipality of the Northern Cape (Figs 1 & 2). This is, to the S, incised by up to 9 m below the surface of what appears to be a flat alluvial fan of river sand, which may stretch a few hundred metres westwards to the farmhouse vicinity (Fig. 1). About 3.5 hours was spent walking with Wiehahn Smit along it to Point B (Fig. 1), the northernmost limit of viable sand recovery, at 27° 54' 56.9" S, 22° 42' 36.1" E, on the morning of Friday 30 March 2007.

SUPERFICIAL GEOLOGY

Weathering over time of the quartzites that form the Langeberge results, eventually, in the dissolution of exposed rock surfaces into the original constituent quartz grains. These are then flushed by rain down the kloofs and then to valley exits, locally at an altitude of ~ 1 315 m, where they tend to accumulate if local rainfall is low. Observations indicate as mentioned above, that river sand is up to 9 m thick at the

southern end of the farm, but it remains to be seen, by way of test pits, for how much further westward that order of thickness is maintained. We also noted that, although sand is present in viable amounts further upstream, until at least Point B (Fig. 1), depths there are substantially less, and potential lateral extents much reduced (Fig. 3).

HERITAGE FINDINGS

Occasional fresh quartzite artefacts in the downstream channelway led to a search beyond the east bank, where there is a narrow strip of highly eroded sediments abutting on the hillside. There, at or near Point A, with co-ordinates of 27° 55' 40.1" S, 22° 43' 09.5" E, up to 0.5 m of Hutton Sand was underlain by ~2.0m of compact beige silty sand with quartzite fragments and ferruginous nodules (Fig. 4). These remnant deposits are taken to have accumulated at a time when weathering of the regional quartzites was far more intense than during subsequent periods of the Pleistocene. In or eroding out of that deposit at random depths was a sparse occurrence of pristine Late Acheulean, mainly based on quartzite, including river cobbles, but including some exotic specimens of red, yellow and brecciated jasper. Formal tools, handaxes and cleavers, seemed to be present in similar proportions, with the items shown in Fig. 5 being the smallest handaxe seen, the smallest cleaver and a few of the blades. This locality is well away from and would not be affected by present or future sandworks, which are 100 m or more to the west.

CONCLUSIONS

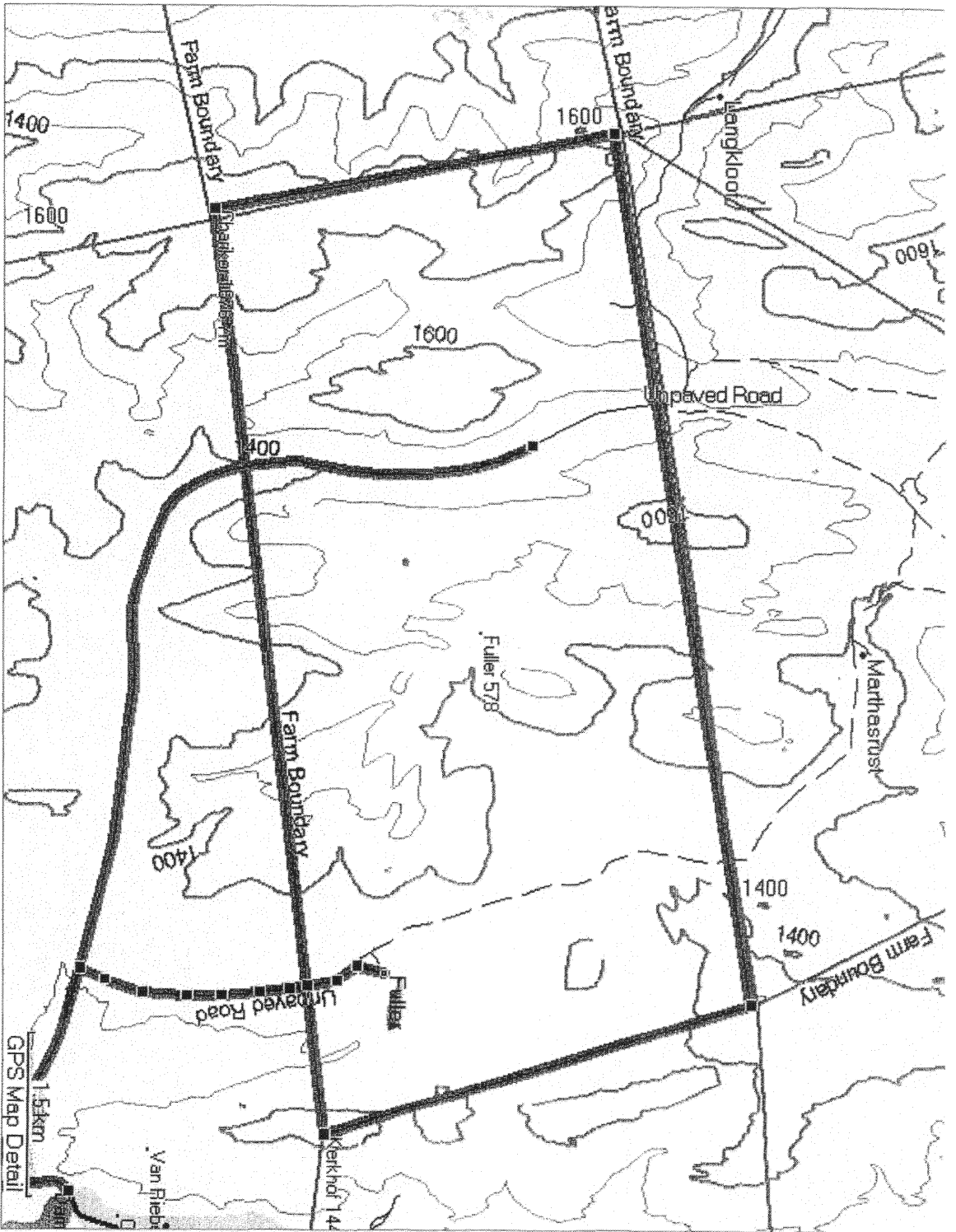
The inspected stream bed produced occasional artefacts, but nowhere along it were there any actual sites, palaeontological bones, or graves. My conclusion is therefore that that the proposed further recovery from it of river sand will have no impact on the heritage resources of the Northern Cape.

REFERENCE

Beaumont, P. and Morris, D. 190. *Guide to the archaeological sites in the Northern Cape*. McGregor Museum, Kimberley.

NOTES

- A copy of the locality map and all other appended Figures must accompany this report to SAHRA.
- Applications to SAHRA will not be processed unless accompanied by payment of R150 per application. SAHRA banking details are: ABSA, Branch Code: 312109; Current Account no.: 360 680 606.



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FIG 2.



Fig 3



Fig 4

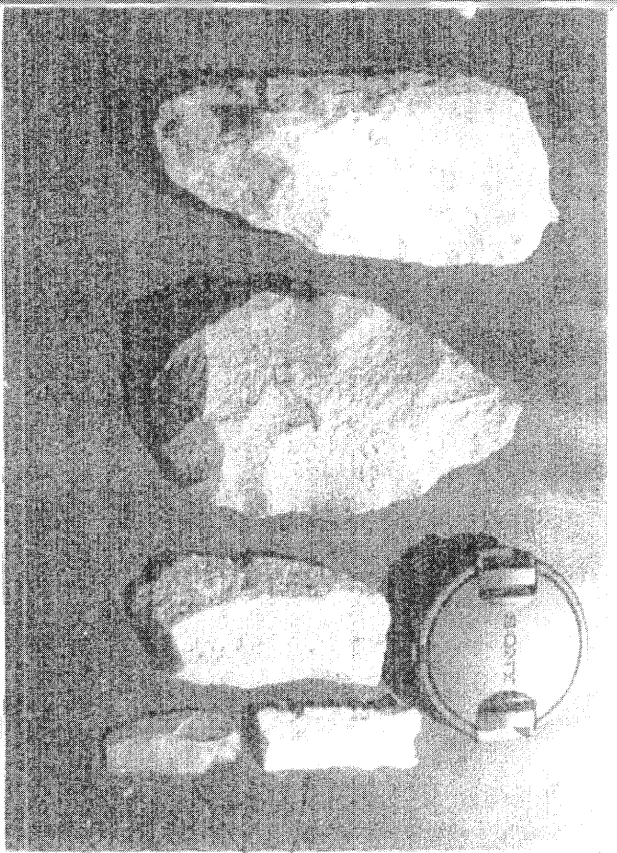


Fig 5

exotic jagged blades