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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BORROW PIT SITES ALONG THE R63 ROAD BETWEEN CARNARVON & WILLISTON, NORTHERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eight borrow pits were investigated along the R63 gravel road between Carnarvon and Williston, Northern Cape.

At least two farmhouses are situated very near to the road.

Rocky outcrops consisting of large boulders are located near the road, but without any engravings.

Sparsely scattered highly patinated Middle Stone Age / Later Stone Age flakes occur at BP6.

I consider the Stone Age artefacts as part of a general distribution in the region, which seems to be of minor significance. I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the sites may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

Eight borrow pit sites for the removal of road-building material for the upgrading of the R63 road between Carnarvon and Williston were investigated on 8 March 2007. Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants accompanied me to the sites.

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

Eight borrow pits were investigated along the R63 gravel road between Carnarvon and Williston, Northern Cape (Map 1)

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

BP 1	Km14,3	30°54'41"S	021°54'28"E	Altitude 1293m (Map 2) (Fig.1).
BP 2	Km24,3	30°50'50"S	021°50'35"E	Altitude 1137m (Map 3) (Fig.2)
BP 3	Km31,1	30°48'43"S	021°47'15"E	Altitude 1135m (Map 4) (Fig.3).
BP 4	Km33,3	30°48'10"S	021°46'03"E	Altitude 1125m (Map 5) (Fig.4).
BP 5	Km47,4	30°42'44"S	021°40'24"E	Altitude 1098m (Map 6) (Fig.5).
BP 6	Km54,5	30°42'39"S	021°36'49"E	Altitude 1135m (Map 7) (Fig.7).
BP 7	Km66,4	30°39'28"S	021°30'24"E	Altitude 1043m (Map 8) (Fig.8).
BP 8	Km70,6	30°41'21"S	021°29'15"E	Altitude 1067m (Map 9) (Fig.9).

RESULTS

Sparsely scattered highly patinated Middle Stone Age / Later Stone Age flakes were found at BP6.

At least two farmhouses, of which one is a declared National Monument (Figs.11&12), are situated right next to the road (Fig.14).

No other occurrence of archaeological or historical material was found at any of the sites.

Rocky outcrops consisting of quite substantial sized boulders, appear next to the road in some places (Fig.10). No engravings could be found on these boulders.

One smoothed boulder was found near the road (Fig.13), but this feature can not be explained.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The specific tools at BP6 are highly patinated and do not fall into any clear cluster.

I consider the Stone Age artefacts as part of a general distribution in the region. The occurrence seems to be of minor significance and I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the sites may proceed.

At least two farmhouses are situated right next to the road will have to be considered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the borrow pits and I recommend that the work may proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the areas for the proposed developments, mitigation measures will not be required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Johan du Preez from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

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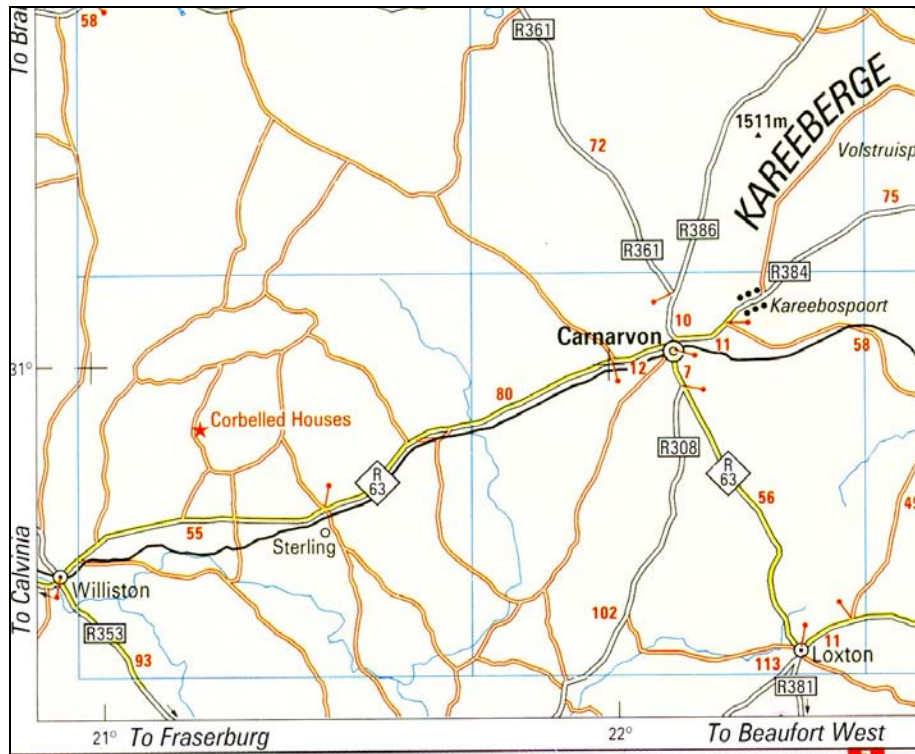
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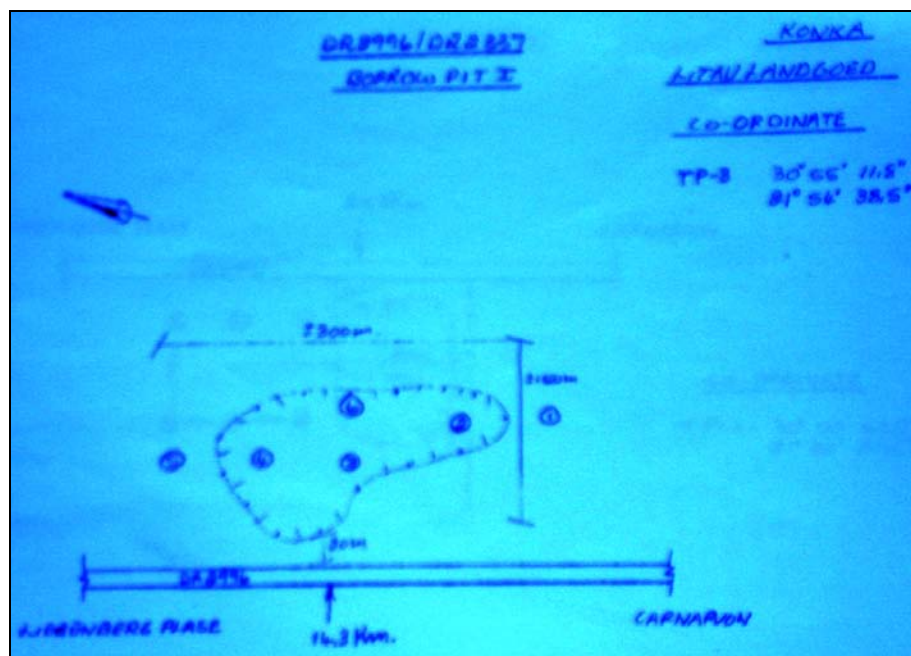
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



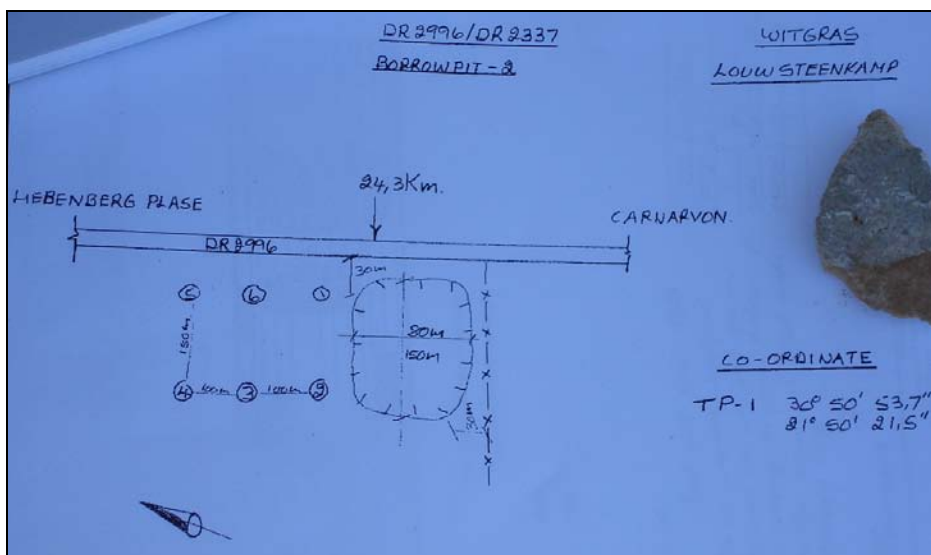
Map 1 The R63 road between Carnarvon & Williston, Northern Cape.



Map 2 BP1 at 14,3km on the farm Konka (Litau Estate).



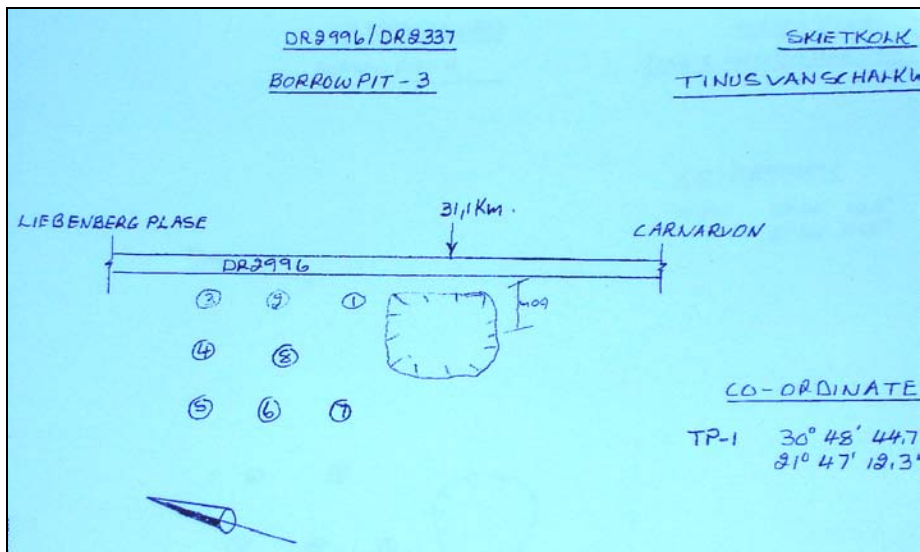
Fig.1 BP1 Existing borrow pit at 14,3km between Carnarvon and Williston.



Map 3 BP2 at 24,3km on the farm Witgras.



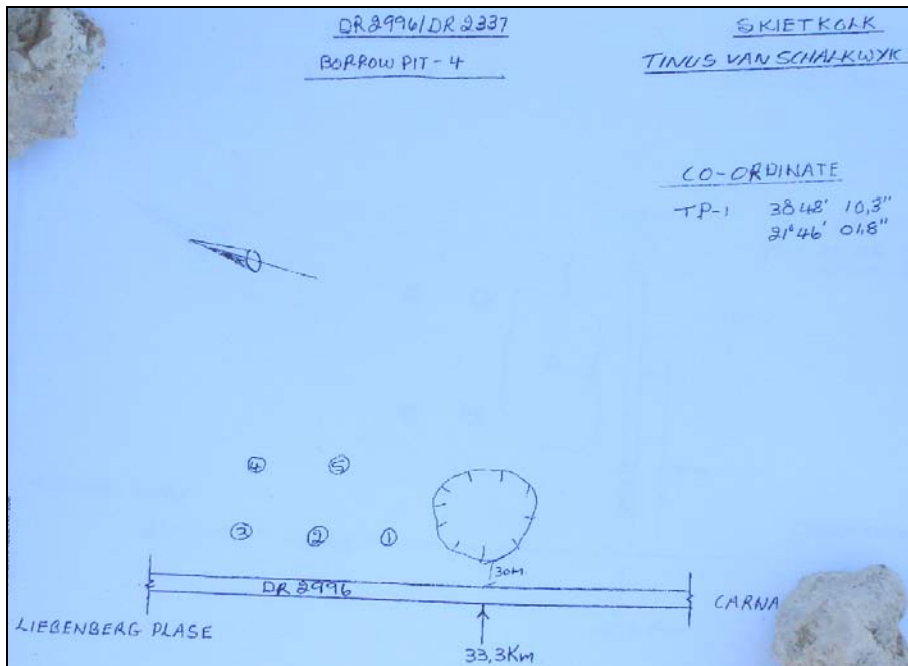
Fig.2 BP2 at 24,3km on the farm Witgras.



Map 4 BP3 at 31,1km on the farm Skietkolk.



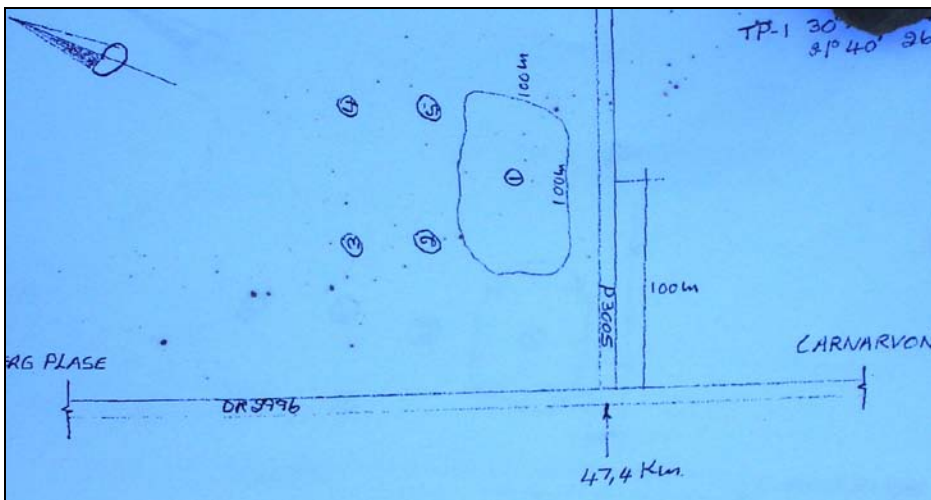
Fig.3 Existing borrow pit BP3 at 31,1km on the farm Skietkolk.



Map 5 BP4 at 33,3km on the farm Skietkolk.



Fig.4 Existing borrow pit BP4 at 33,3km on the farm Skietkolk.



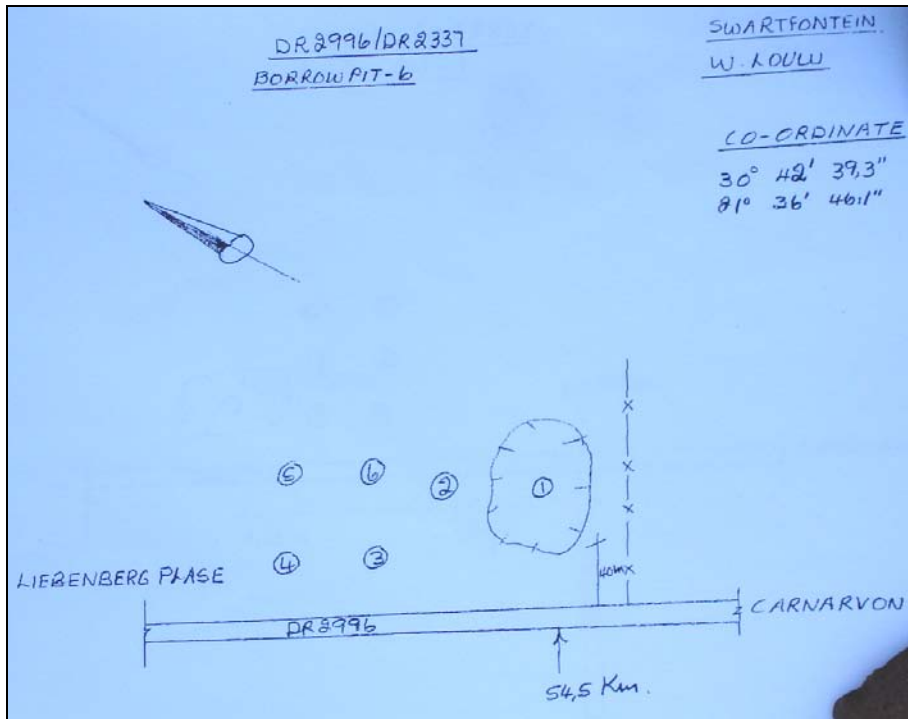
Map 6 BP5 at 47,4km.



Fig.5 BP5 at 47,4km turn-off from the R63 onto the DR2996.



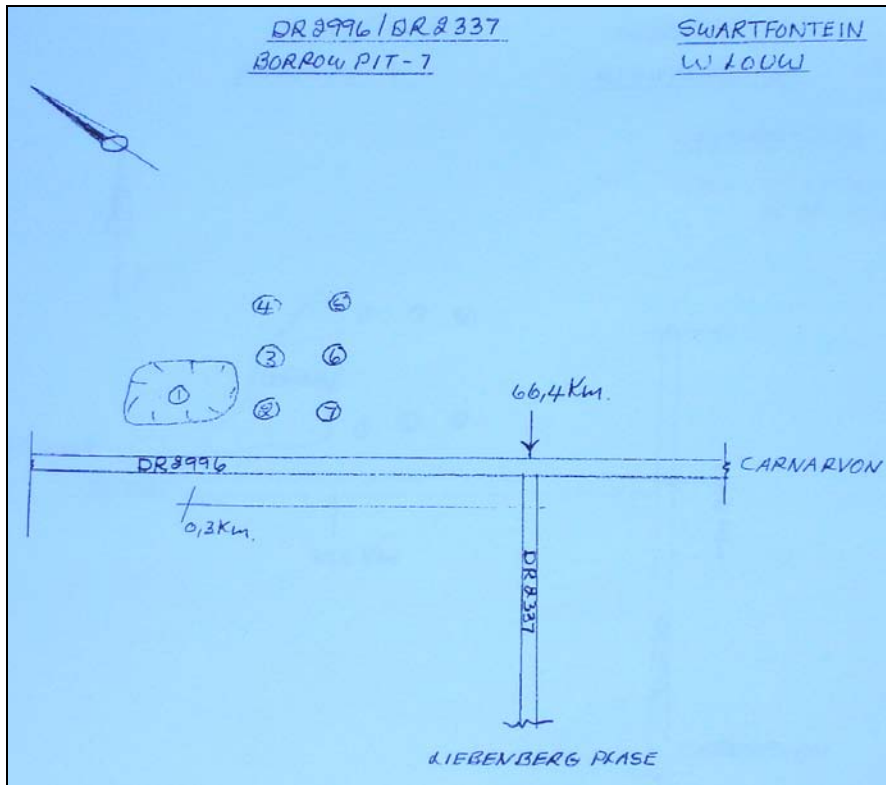
Fig.6 BP5 at 47,4km along the DR2996 road.



Map 7 BP6 at 54,5km on the farm Swartfontein.



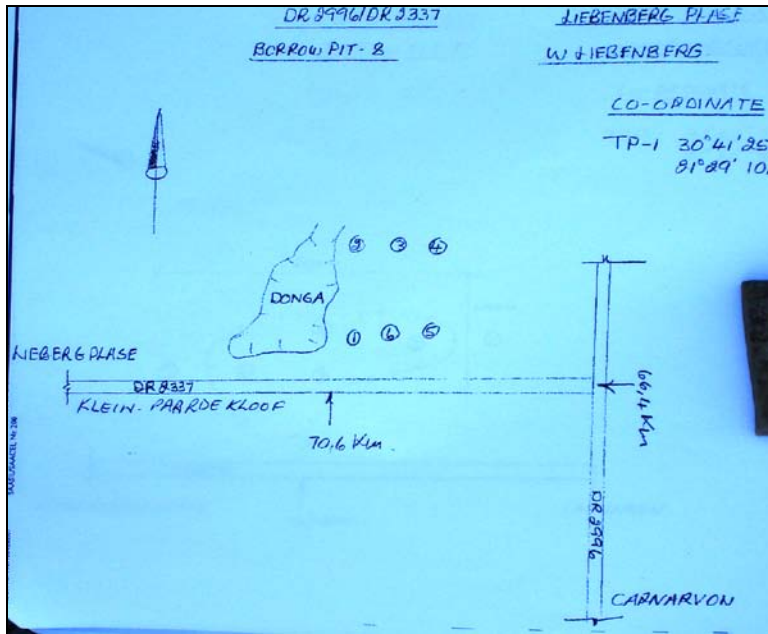
Fig.7 BP6 at 54,5km on the farm Swartfontein..



Map 8 BP7 at 66,4km on the farm Swartfontein.



Fig.8 BP7 at 66,4km on the farm Swartfontein.



Map 9 BP8 at 70,6km on the farm Swartfontein.



Fig.9 BP8 at 70,6km on the farm Swartfontein..



Fig.10 Outcrops of dolerite boulders occur along the road.
The boulders are without any engravings.



Fig.11 Farm house with corbelled houses at the farm Konka (Litau Estate).



Fig.12 These corbelled houses are declared National Monuments.

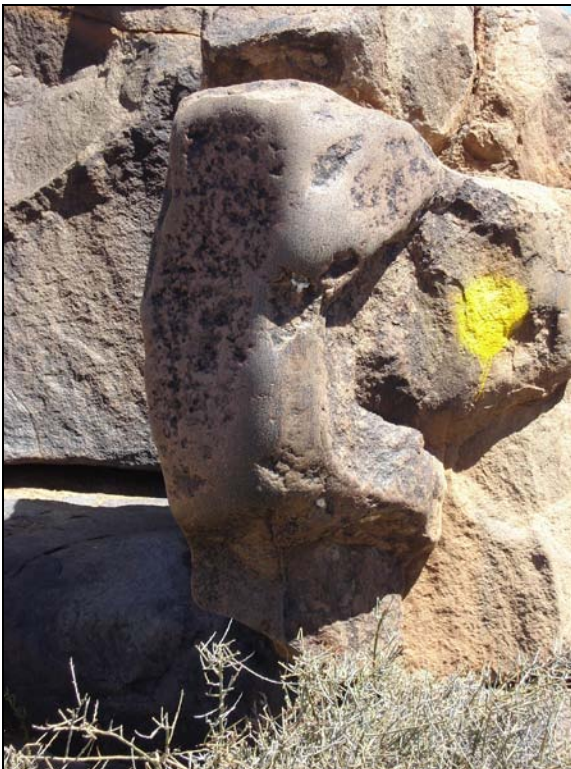


Fig.13 Smooth stone.



Fig.14 Farm house at Meintjieskloof is situated next to the road.



Fig.15 Stone tools at BP6. (Pocket knife = 83mm).



Fig.16 Natural stone fragments that resemble stone artefacts at BP7.



Fig.17 Abundant scatter of natural stone fragments at BP7.