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The documentation of engravings on Driekuil Hill,
farm Driekuil 280 IP,
Lichtenburg,
North-West Province,
South Africa

Phase 2 Mitigation Report

Commissioned

by

Wonderstone Limited

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Rock Art Research Institute

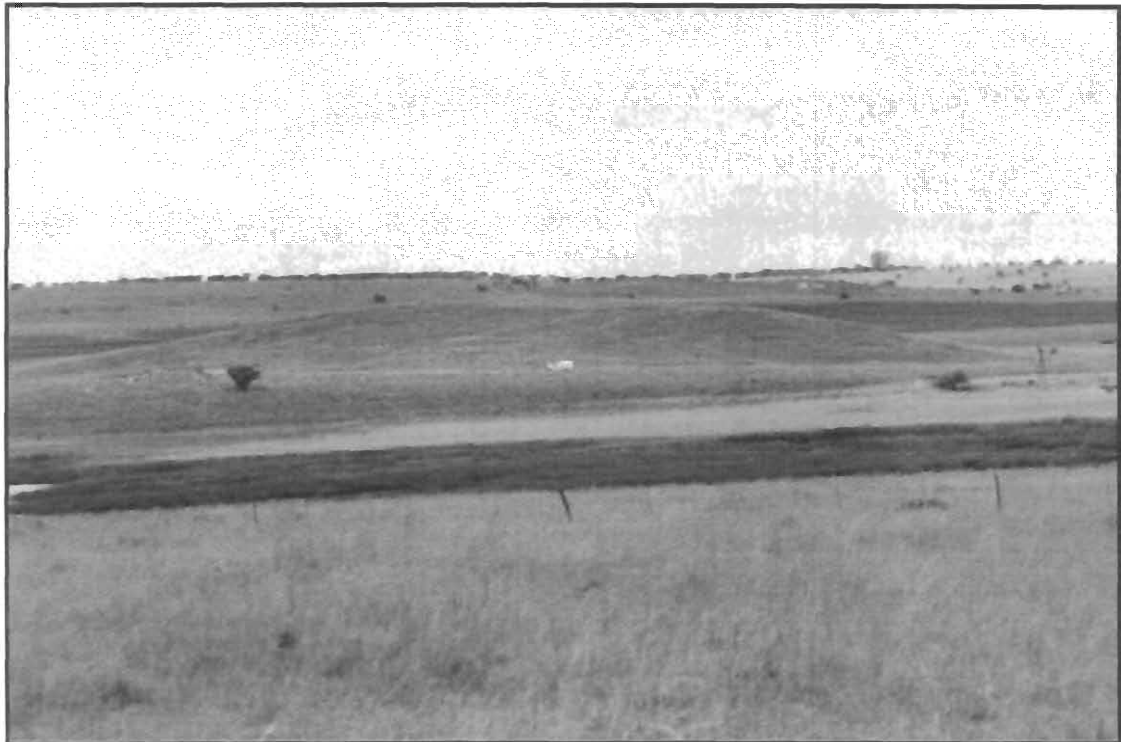
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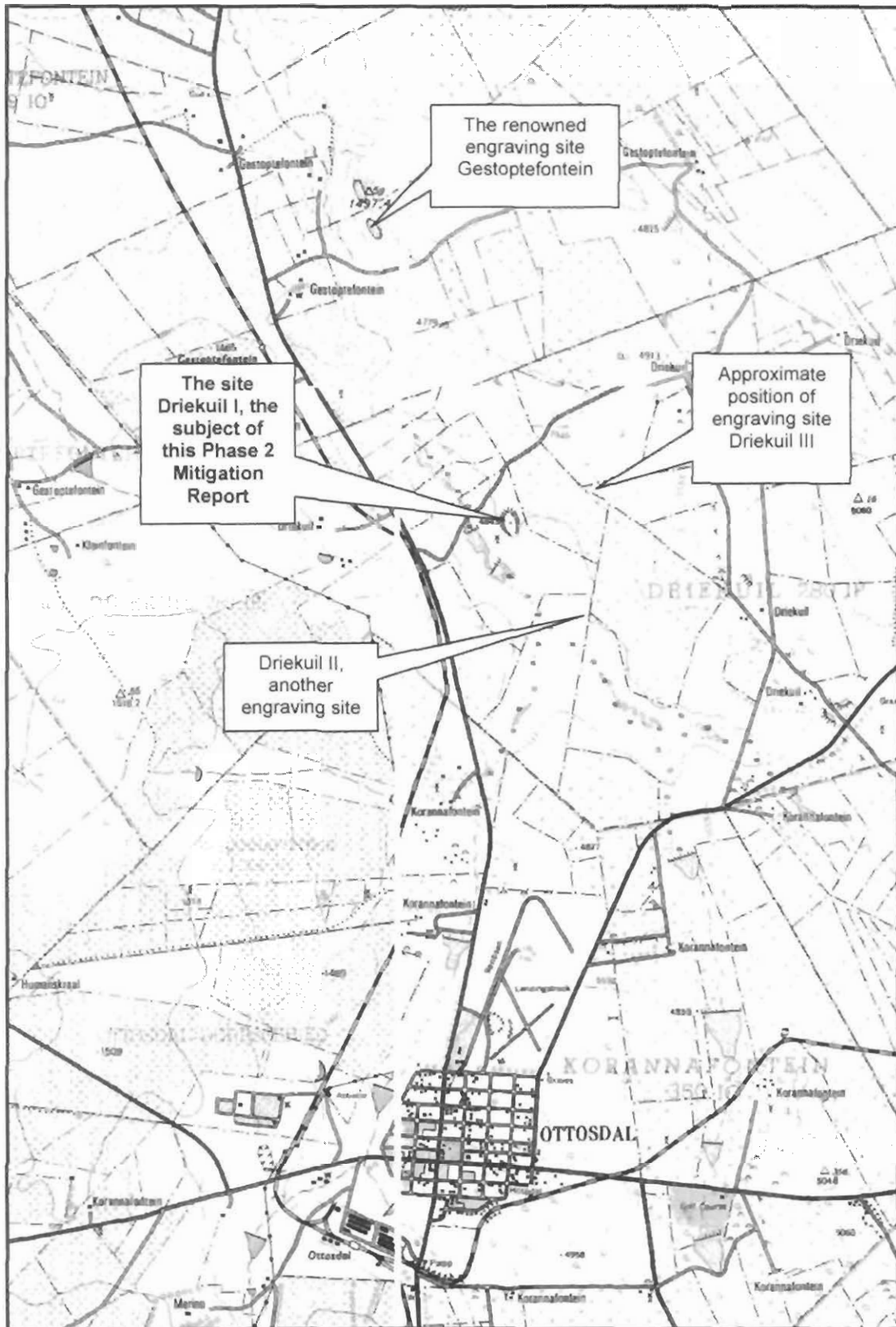
April 2005



The hill on the farm Driekuil, Lichtenburg District, North West Province.

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MAP OF SITE

Fig. 1. The position of Driekuil I, the site that is the subject of this report. Also indicated on this composite of four 1:50 000 maps are the positions of Gestoptefontein and two other Driekuil sites, all of which are engraved.

Acknowledgements

I thank Riaan Van Zyl for his assistance in locating and documenting engravings on Driekuil hill. Wayne and Laura Glenny plotted the engraved rocks and produced the plan views of the site. Marthina Mössmer designed the database. Pieter de Jager of Ottosdal must be acknowledged for bringing the presence of the engravings on Driekuil to the attention of Wonderstone Limited. I thank him too for his interest in the project and for valuable information about the engraved hills in the vicinity of Driekuil I and local history of Ottosdal. My thanks to the people at Wonderstone Mine—Jos Joubert, Schalk Burger, Hans van der Merwe, Johan le Grange, Johan Alsop, Maria Mzangwa and others—for their help and hospitality.

Thanks to Wonderstone Limited for contracting the Rock Art Research Institute to carry out the impact assessment and mitigation report and for honouring their responsibilities towards South Africa's heritage.

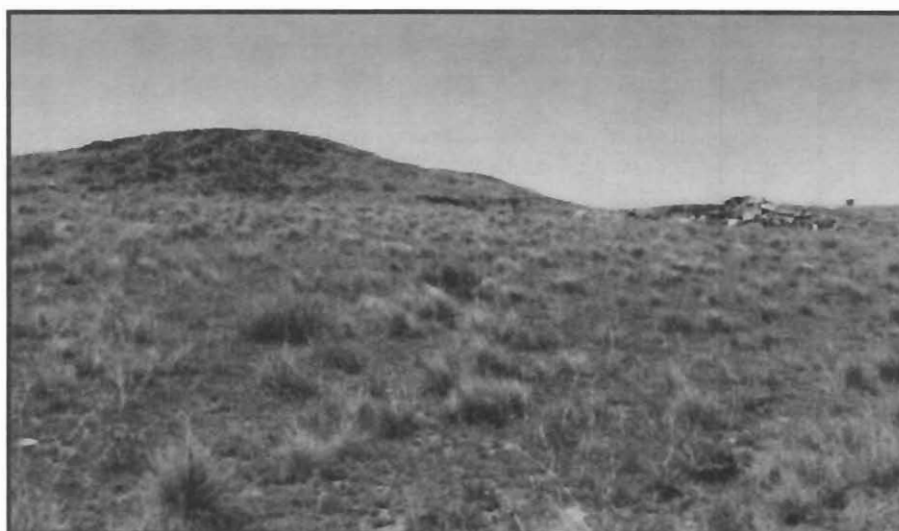


Fig. 2. View from the north of the hill at *Driekuil* for which Wonderstone Limited wants permits to remove and destroy approximately 350 engraved rocks. Dark tilted bands of pyrophyllite on which the engravings were made are visible at left. Notice the quarry to the right, which may date to the 1930s when the stone was used to manufacture items such as small pots, bowls and candlesticks.



Fig. 3. View of the Driekuil hill from the east showing the two hillocks. The southern hillock is at the left of the picture and the northern hillock at right.

Executive summary

- An archaeological impact assessment (AIA) recommended that before the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) issues a permit for the destruction of the engravings at Driekuil to Wonderstone Limited, a Phase 2 mitigation investigation be carried out.
- Archaeologists spent about 20 days in total at the site locating, photographing and tracing the engravings. All these data are contained in a database of which copies will be distributed to Wonderstone Limited, SAHRA, and the Rock Art Research Institute (RARI), University of the Witwatersrand.
- This report presents the findings of the Phase 2 mitigation, places the engravings in their archaeological context, evaluates their research potential and makes recommendations for the removal of a number of engraved rocks to a SAHRA-appointed institution (provisionally RARI, Wits University)
- Based on the preponderance of apron depictions compared with the number of engravings of animals, the site on the hill at Driekuil is characterised as a Khoekhoe engraving site.
- The most noteworthy feature of the engravings at Driekuil I is the numerical preponderance of apparently non-representational incisions, peck marks, pits and grooves. These kinds of rock-markings far outnumber depictions of aprons or animals. This emphasis suggests that not only were people coming to the hill at Driekuil to create and interact with representational symbols, such as aprons, they were also performing activities that involved the marking of rocks in non-representational ways.
- Wonderstone Limited has agreed to fund and provide the expertise for the removal of at least 10 of the engravings specified on the list appended to this report. Their support includes the cost of an archaeologist to oversee the removal of the engraved stones and their transportation to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.
- SAHRA Application Form 302 requesting a permit to remove up to 20 engravings from Driekuil I has been completed. This application and the necessary motivation and supporting documents together with this Phase 2 Mitigation Report will be couriered to Dr Mary Leslie, Archaeologist at SAHRA, Cape Town, who is aware of the urgent need for a decision from SAHRA because Wonderstone Limited's permission to prospect expires imminently.
- Once the removal process has been completed Jeremy Hollmann, the project archaeologist, shall assist Wonderstone Limited to make an urgent application to SAHRA for the destruction of the site.

Introduction

Background

In October 2004 Mr Duncan McGuinness, Quality Manager of the African Mining and Trust Company Limited, approached Dr Benjamin Smith, Director of the Rock Art Research Institute (RARI), University of the Witwatersrand regarding the presence of engraved stones on Driekuil (280 IP), a farm in the Lichtenburg District, North-West Province owned by Mr Rossouw du Toit. Through a subsidiary company, Wonderstone Limited, the African Mining and Trust Company holds the mineral rights to an outcropping of pyrophyllite, an aluminasilicate with applications in the manufacture of industrial diamonds amongst various other uses, on Mr Du Toit's farm. The hill on Driekuil has been identified as the next deposit of pyrophyllite to be mined.

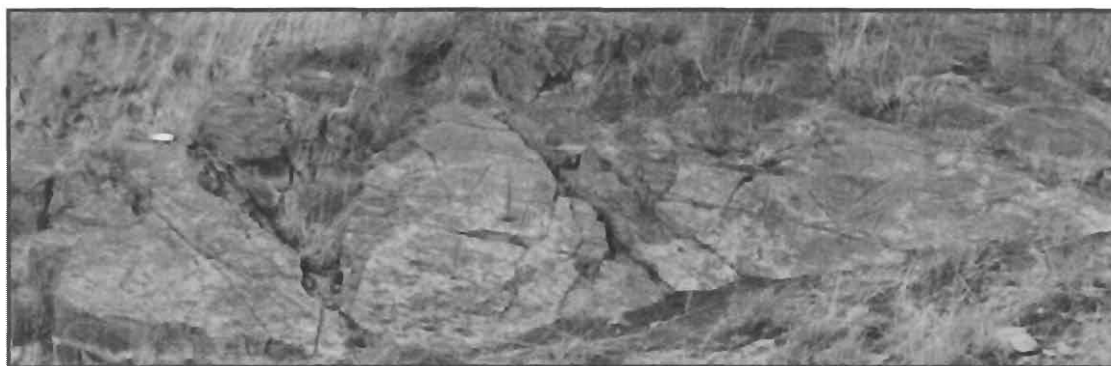


Fig. 4. An engraved section of pyrophyllite outcrop (accession #12).

In accordance with the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999) Mr McGuinness asked Dr Smith to proceed with an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) on the hill on *Driekuil*, subsequently referred to as Driekuil I, or 'the hill'. Accordingly, Professor Tom Huffman and Mr Jeremy Hollmann, both of the University of the Witwatersrand, surveyed the hill and the 20–100 m of land that surrounds it. Their report, submitted to Dr Mary Leslie, Archaeologist for the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in January 2005, recommended:

1. Full mitigation of the engravings on the hill, a process that involves the location, documentation and mapping of every engraving on the hill.
2. That at least 10 engraved rocks be removed to an institution recommended by SAHRA.
3. That Mr Hollmann facilitate Wonderstone Limited's request to SAHRA for a permit for the destruction of Driekuil I.

Aims of the report

This Phase 2 report details the methods employed to document and map the engravings at Driekuil I. It describes and discusses the types of engravings found on the hill and includes a database that provides details about the location, dimensions and other details of the engravings identified during fieldwork, as well as a record of digital photographs. The report concludes by placing the engravings in their archaeological context, evaluating their research potential and making recommendations for the removal of a number of engraved rocks.

Methods

Two RARI fieldworkers, Jeremy Hollmann and Riaan van Zyl, spent four days on the hill locating, numbering, photographing and describing 194 of the 352 engraved rocks eventually recorded at Driekuil I. As we encountered engraved rocks and facets of rock outcrops on the hill we gave them accession numbers. At first we allocated a number to engraved facets of rock larger than 1 m² and then divided them up into discrete clusters of engravings, each of which we labelled using a letter. For example, we numbered an engraved area of rock outcrop as #17 and then subdivided the engraved area into subdivisions 'a' to 'g'. Later we abandoned this numbering system as it could mistakenly imply that these subdivisions were meaningful categories devised by the engravers themselves, rather than a labelling procedure imposed *post hoc* upon the engravings by fieldworkers. Readers should therefore be aware that the labelling system for the engravings is arbitrary and that the use of alphabetically numbered subdivisions for the engraved areas of outcrops indicates nothing more than the physical proximity of the engravings.

As we discovered engraved rock surfaces we labelled them provisionally with masking tape. These temporary labels were replaced with small spray-painted stones gathered elsewhere, upon which the accession number was written with pencil. We took care to distinguish between incidental rock-markings—those caused by the hoofs of cattle, the movement of people and vehicles—and intentionally made rock-markings. We were especially sceptical about rock-markings on pavement rocks and on the bases of rocks. We described and measured salient features of the engravings on each rock recorded and photographed the engravings using both digital and film cameras and archival-quality, professional-grade colour transparency film.

After the initial joint survey of four days, I spent a further 16 days during February and March 2005 fully documenting the first 194 and an additional 158 engraved rocks. This work included making directly traced copies of a selection of engravings and clusters of engravings.



Fig. 5. Tracing the engravings at #256.

In choosing which engravings to trace I considered the following:

- The need for a representative sample of the kinds of rock-marking encountered at Driekuil I
- The suitability of the engraving for the tracing technique. Grooves and pits are best recorded photographically, whereas tracings of incised and pecked surfaces can reveal details not readily seen in photographs.
- Whether a particular engravings was earmarked for removal—in general I only traced engravings due to be destroyed. Exceptions include #63b and #256 of which I thought it imperative to have a traced record should they be damaged during removal.

A list of the tracings detailing their subject matter and dimensions is appended as Appendix 2.

In addition to this documentation, Wayne and Laura Glenny of the Archaeological Resource Management, School of Geography, Archaeology & Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, plotted the locations of all the engraved rocks and produced plan and elevation views of the site.

These field data is incorporated into a database of engraved rocks using Microsoft Access 2000. All data, including tracings and mounted colour transparencies, will be lodged at RARI, University of the Witwatersrand. Copies of this Phase 2 report, the database and the digital photographs will be distributed to Wonderstone Limited, SAHRA, and RARI, University of the Witwatersrand.



Fig. 6. View of the hill at *Driekuil* from the R505 between Ottosdal and Lichtenburg, North-West Province. The access gate in the picture is some 4 km north of Ottosdal.

Results

I begin by describing the hill at Driekuil I and its setting. The hill is about 16 m high, 210 m long in a north-south orientation and 90 m in an east-west transect. A shallow gully on the western aspect of the hill divides its summit into two hillocks, the northern hillock being larger than the southern hillock. The hill itself lies in a landscape of low rolling hills and stands out from the surrounding ridges because of its geomorphology and geology—it comprises several tilted bands of pyrophyllite. The pyrophyllite contrasts in texture, colour, and conformation to the predominant surrounding quartzite outcrops. Pyrophyllite is equivalent in hardness to talc and may readily be engraved.

There is a quarried area approximately 15 m² on the northwestern side of the hill which is 3 m deep. There is graffiti dated 1953 on a quarried block beside the pit. This quarry was apparently used as a source of pyrophyllite that was turned to produce gravestones, school slate boards, ornamental vases and other items, probably in the 1930s (Pieter de Jager pers. comm.). On the southern edge of the quarry remains of a 3–4 m wide ramp of quarried stone extend westward for about 15 m long. Three, much smaller, quarry pits are located at the base of the hill about 70 m south.

The hill on *Driekuil* is just over three kilometres downstream of two similar pyrophyllite outcrops on the farm *Gestoptefontein*. Formerly, both hills on *Gestoptefontein* bore engravings, but mining activities on the larger, most northerly of the two hills have apparently destroyed all the engravings on this larger hill (Fock 1984; Huffman & Steele 1995). Mine management has fenced off the engravings on the nearby, smaller southerly hill on *Gestoptefontein*.

There are also engravings on two other nearby pyrophyllite outcrops to the south (Driekuil II) and east (Driekuil III) of Driekuil I and there is believed to be at least one more engraved outcrop in the vicinity which I have not yet visited. The proximity of some five engraving sites and the similarity of the designs found at these places indicate that groups of prehistoric people with similar beliefs and practices used the outcrops extensively and intensively.

The rock engravings at *Driekuil*

Based upon the techniques used to mark the rock, the engravings at Driekuil I fall into three basic categories:

- Fine incisions in various configurations
- Pecked engravings of designs, objects as well as clusters and scatters of peck marks and deeper pits in the rock
- Grooves

The following sections describe each of these categories of rock marking in more detail.

FINE INCISIONS

Fine incisions in the rock surface are by far the most numerous and widespread type of rock marking at Driekuil I. Of the approximately 1072 engravings recorded at Driekuil I, some 546 engravings (just under 50%) are made using this engraving technique. Narrow incisions in the rock, 0,1–0,3 mm wide, vary from light scratching to shallow cuts approximately

1mm deep. I identified certain patterns in the way that the mark-makers made these cuts in the rock.

Configurations of incisions

1. Scattered incisions
Individual incisions of varying lengths made on the rock and which do not form a discernible pattern. About 23% of the rock markings at Driekuil I fall into this, the largest single category of engraving at the site.
2. Parallel and overlapping incisions
Between 5 and 50 incisions ranging from 50 to 120 mm in length and arranged in clusters. Such clusters account for about 18% of the total number of engravings at Driekuil I.
3. Incised mesh-like patterns
Incisions that intersect at approximately 45° to create a diamond-mesh-like effect make up almost 6% of engravings at Driekuil I.
4. Incised grid-like arrangements
Incisions that intersect at approximately 90° creating a grid-like effect comprise roughly 3,5% of the total of about 1072 engravings.
5. Rows of relatively short, parallel, more or less evenly spaced cuts are, numerically speaking, a relatively insignificant category as there are only about 10 examples at the site.
6. Converging/diverging incisions occur on about five engraved surfaces at Driekuil I.
7. Curved incisions
Incisions curved at angles that vary from approximately 30° to 60° occur on two engraved surfaces.
8. Patterned or decorative incisions
There are a small number of incised rock markings in zigzag arrangements and others that may depict decorative patterns.
9. Incised, representational images
There are two instances in which engravers may have intended to depict hut-like structures, or 'schermes' (e.g. #146) and a single instance of a finely incised quadruped.



Fig. 7. Incised lines (accession #48).



Fig. 8. A cluster of parallel and overlapping incisions (accession #55) the second most numerous category at Driekuil I.

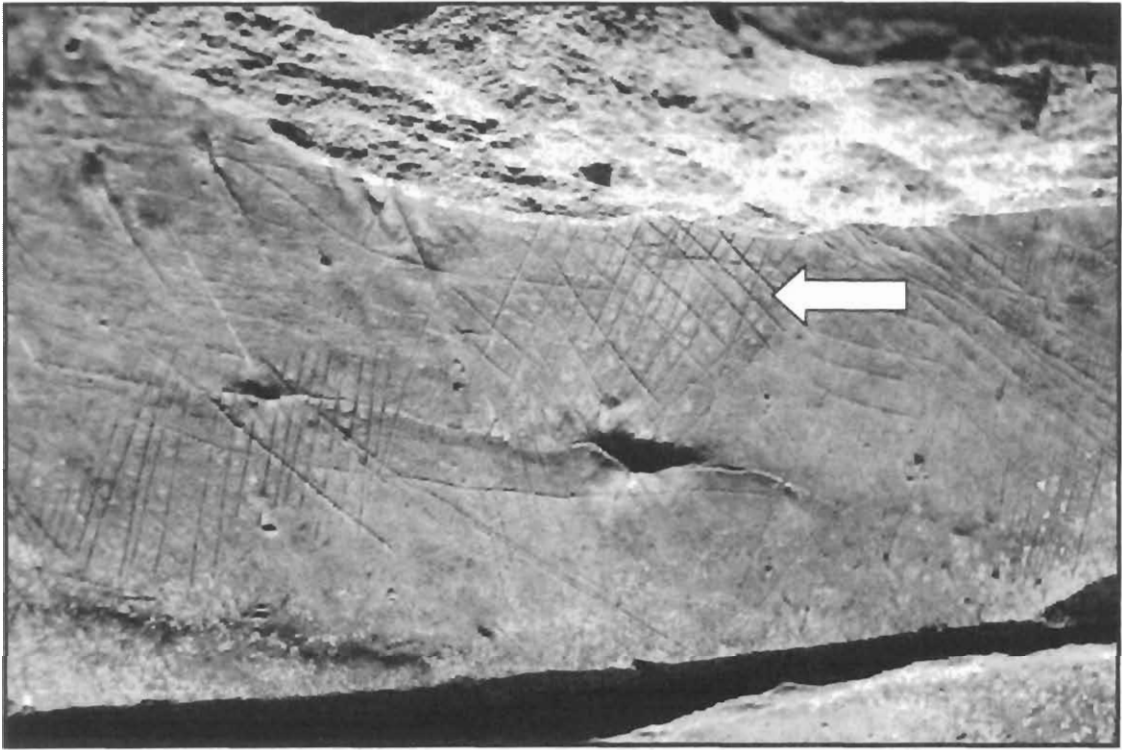


Fig. 9. Incised diamond-mesh like pattern (accession #122).

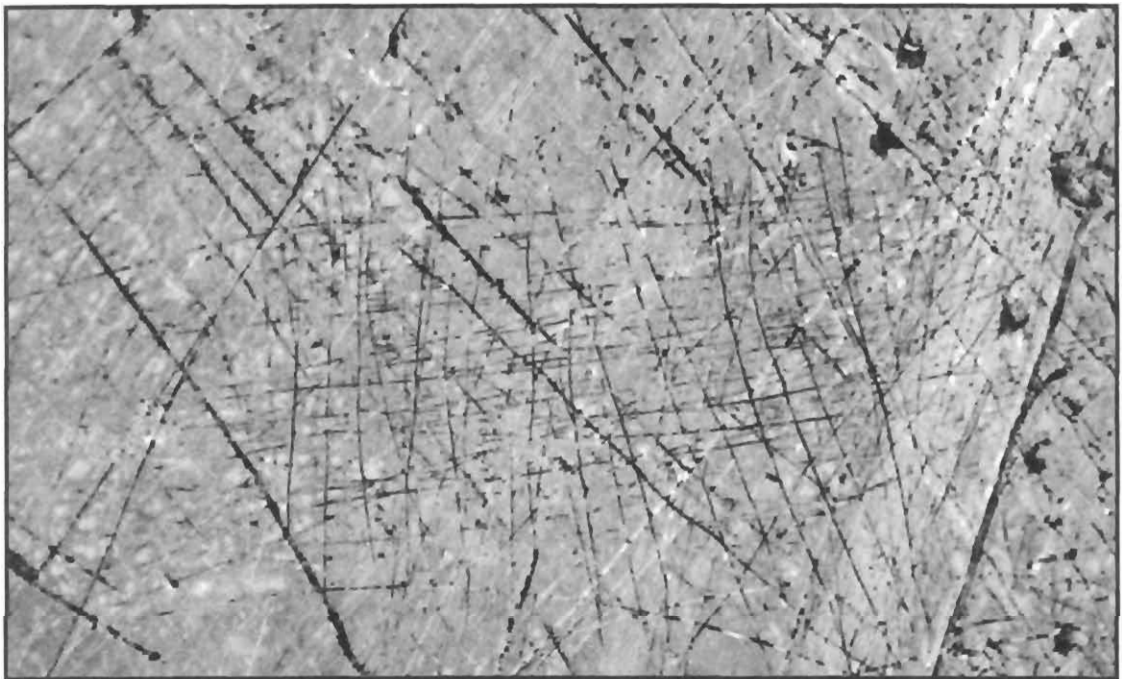


Fig. 10. Incised grid-like arrangements (accession #256).

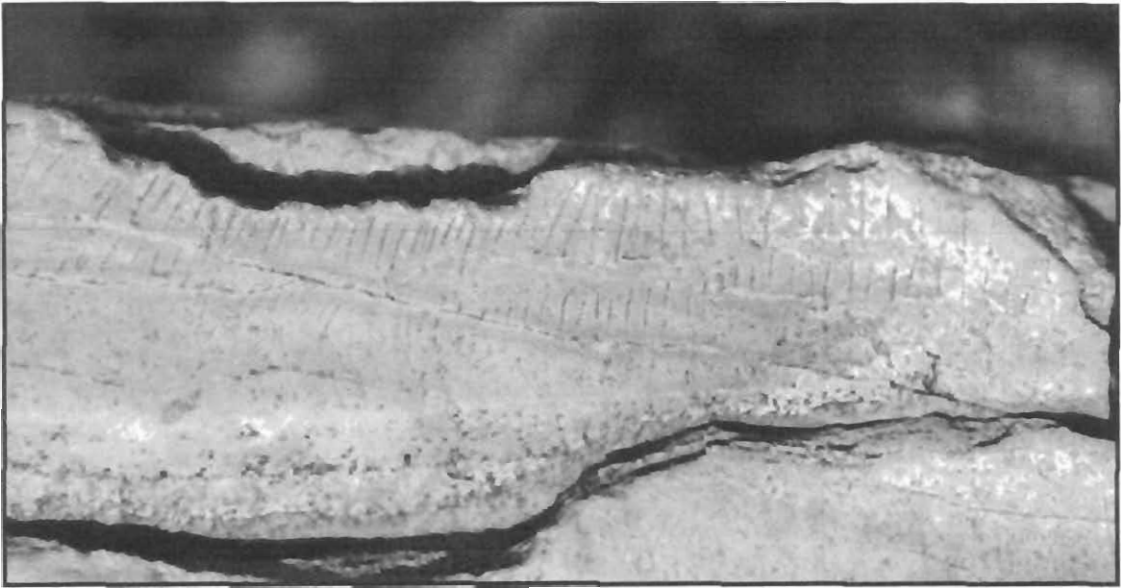


Fig. 11. Rows of relatively short, parallel, more or less evenly spaced cuts (accession #129e).

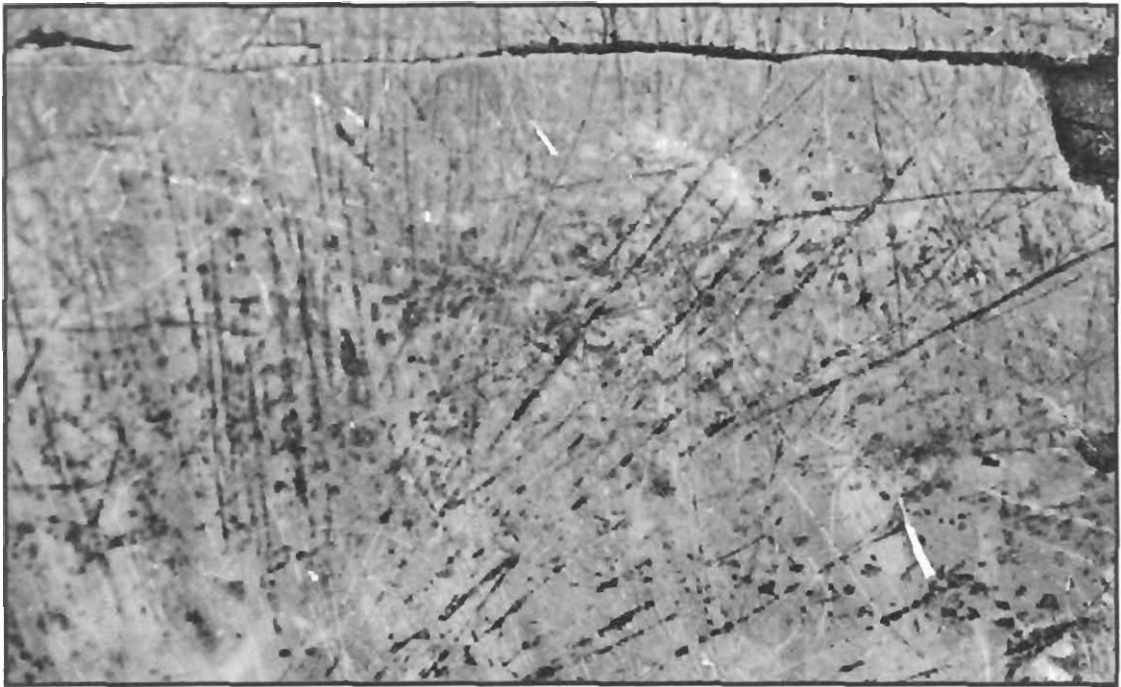


Fig. 12. Converging/diverging incisions (accession #256).



Fig. 13. Curved incisions at bottom right of picture (accession #292).

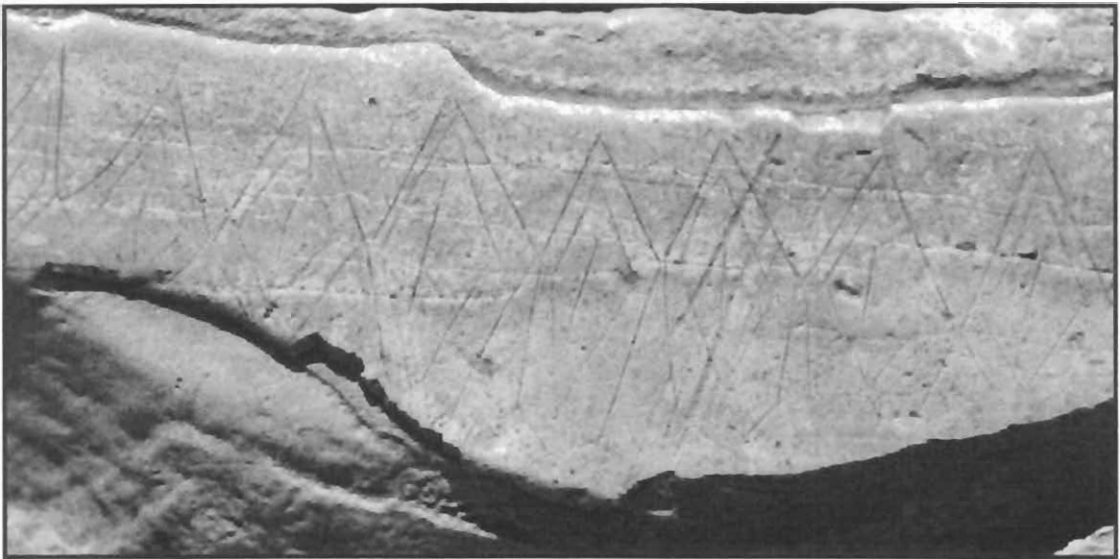


Fig. 14. Patterned/decorative incisions (accession #291).

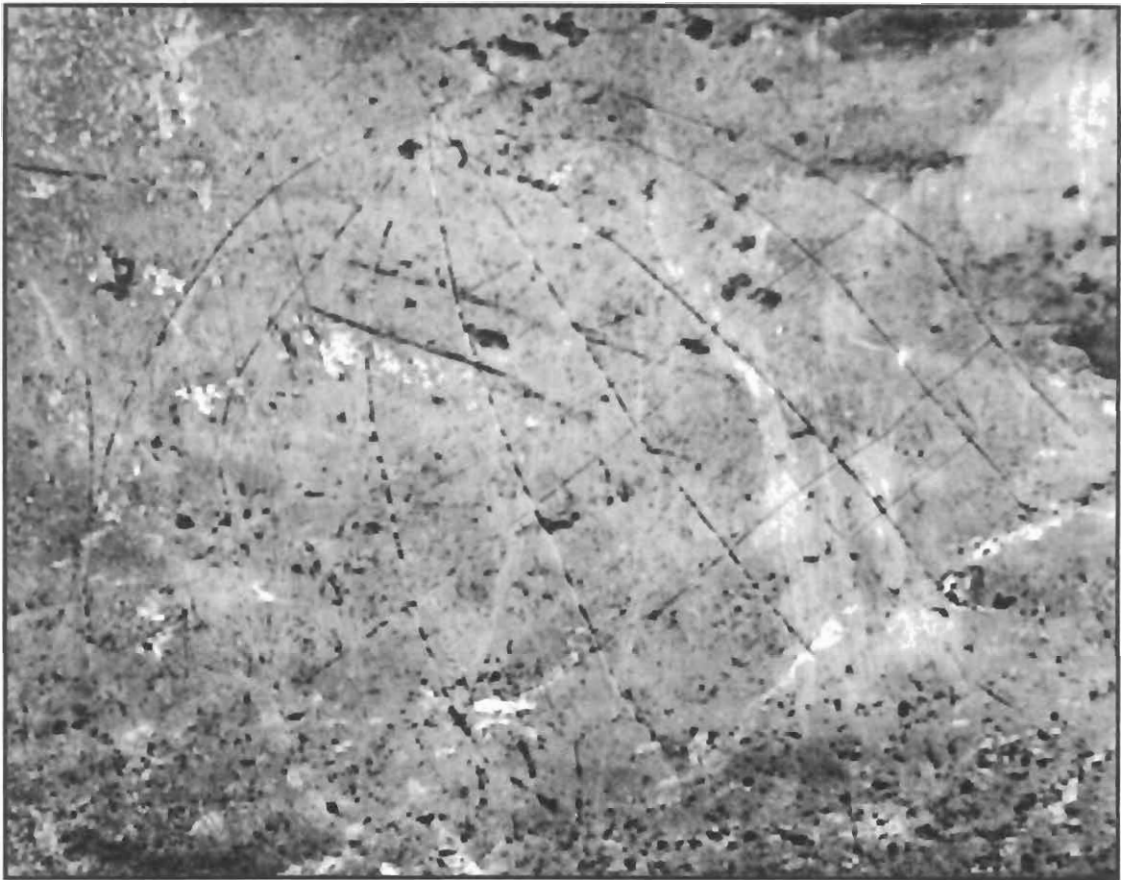


Fig. 15. Possible incised depiction of a hut or 'schem' (accession #146)



Fig. 16. Incised quadruped (accession accession #350)

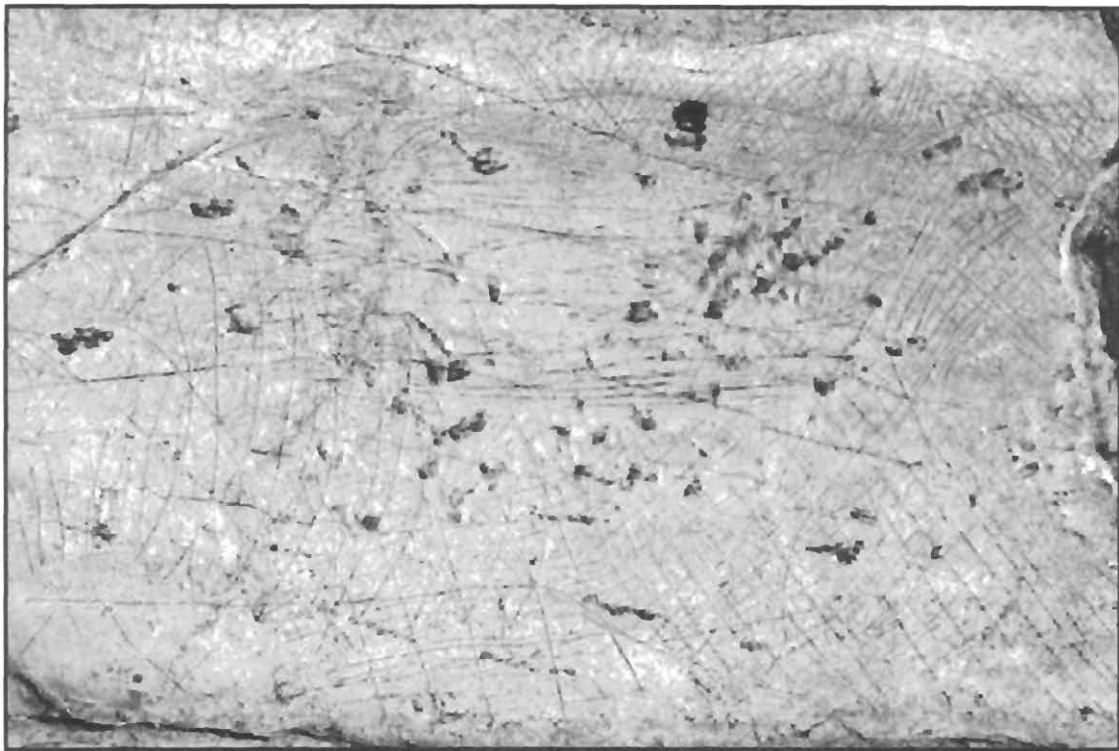


Fig. 17. Peck marks over incisions (accession #114).

Associations of incisions

Incisions of all types were made on the rock surface in the absence of any other types of rock-marking, but they are also often associated with pecked rock-markings. Peck marks over clusters of parallel and overlapping incisions are one of the most commonly recorded combinations of rock marking at Driekuil I. With a few possible exceptions it appears to the naked eye that the peck marks were made over the incisions. In the case of clustered parallel and overlapping incisions, there are instances in which the engravers chose to deepen certain incisions, an activity that created a deeper and wider groove in the rock surface.

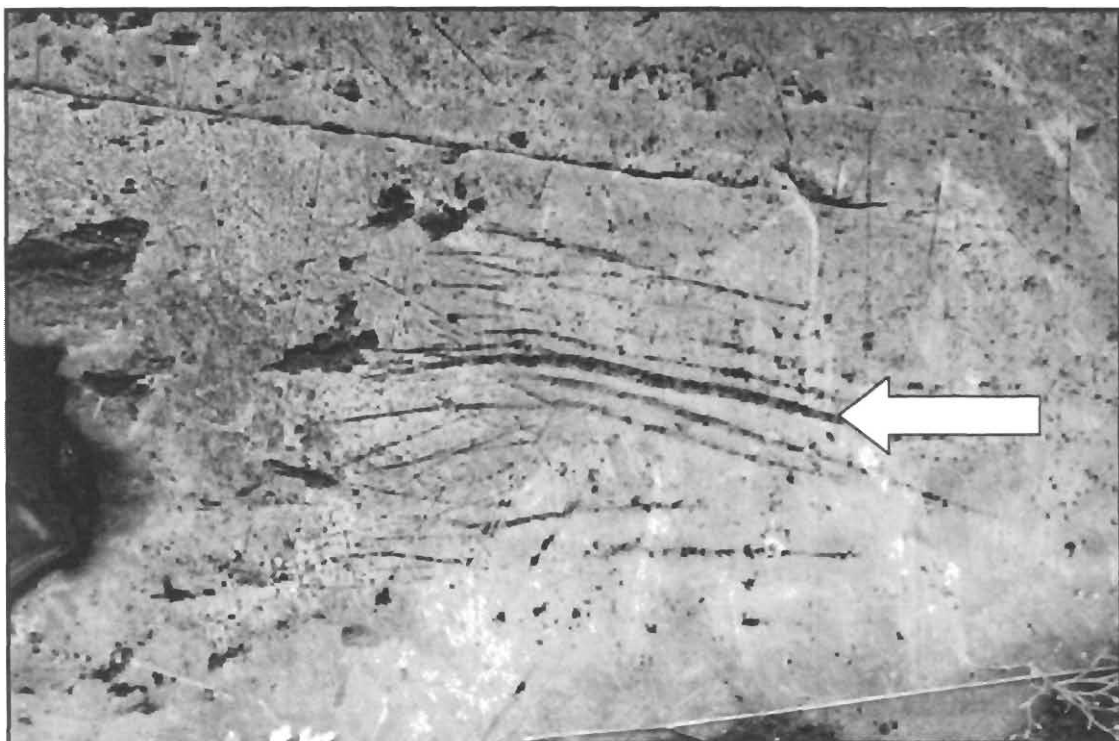


Fig. 18. One of a cluster of incisions is deepened to form a groove (accession #96b).

PECKED MARKINGS

Pecked markings of various types occur at Driekuil I.

1. Pecked images of anthropomorphs and non-human animals

There are three pecked engravings of anthropomorphs, probably in dance postures, a single instance of a hybrid creature that has an antelope head and human legs, and one engraving of an eland. The possibility also exists that there may formerly have been more pecked engravings of anthropomorphs and non-human animals but that, as is the case at Gestoptefontein, these have been removed.



Fig. 19. Pecked anthropomorph with arms outstretched (accession #154).

2. Pecked images of aprons (47 depictions identified comprising about 4,4% of the total number of engravings)

There are four types of apron designs at Driekuil I:

- a. A solid, more-or-less scalloped shape with a line extending from either side of the top edge of the scallop. Engraved rock #63 is a highly detailed engraving of a front apron with tassels and triangular decorations.
- b. Dressed animal skins, probably used as back aprons.
- c. A comb-like design consisting of a longer vertical line from which extend several shorter horizontal lines. These appear to depict tasselled front aprons;
- d. Square-rectangular-shaped outlines divided internally by additional sets of intersecting lines made at 90° to the outline of the design. Some of these images have associated sets of lines that resemble the tie-strings of aprons.

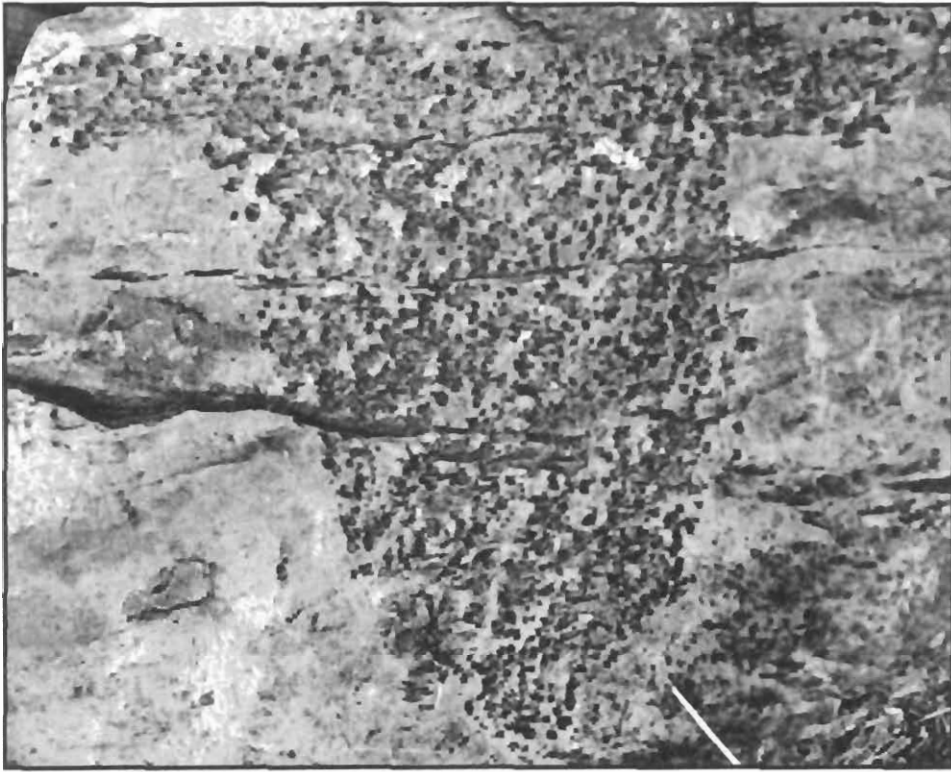


Fig. 20. Pecked image of a scalloped apron (accession #29).

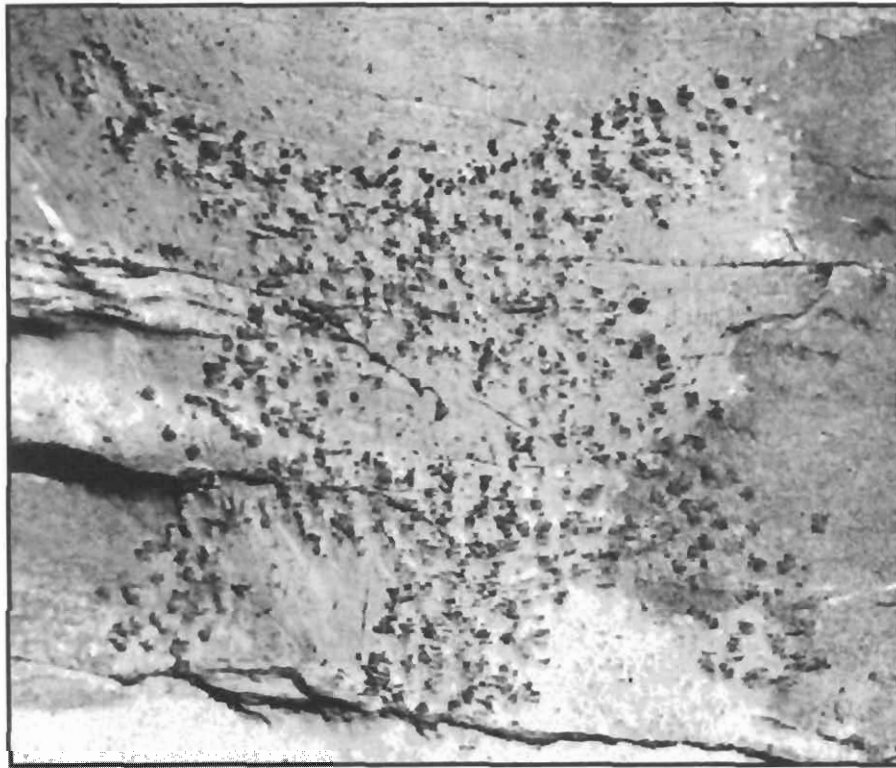


Fig. 21. Pecked image of an animal skin (accession #44).



Fig. 22. A pecked image of a tasseled apron (accession #27).



Fig. 23. Pecked engraving of an internally divided apron design. Notice the tie strings on either side of the apron (accession #64b).

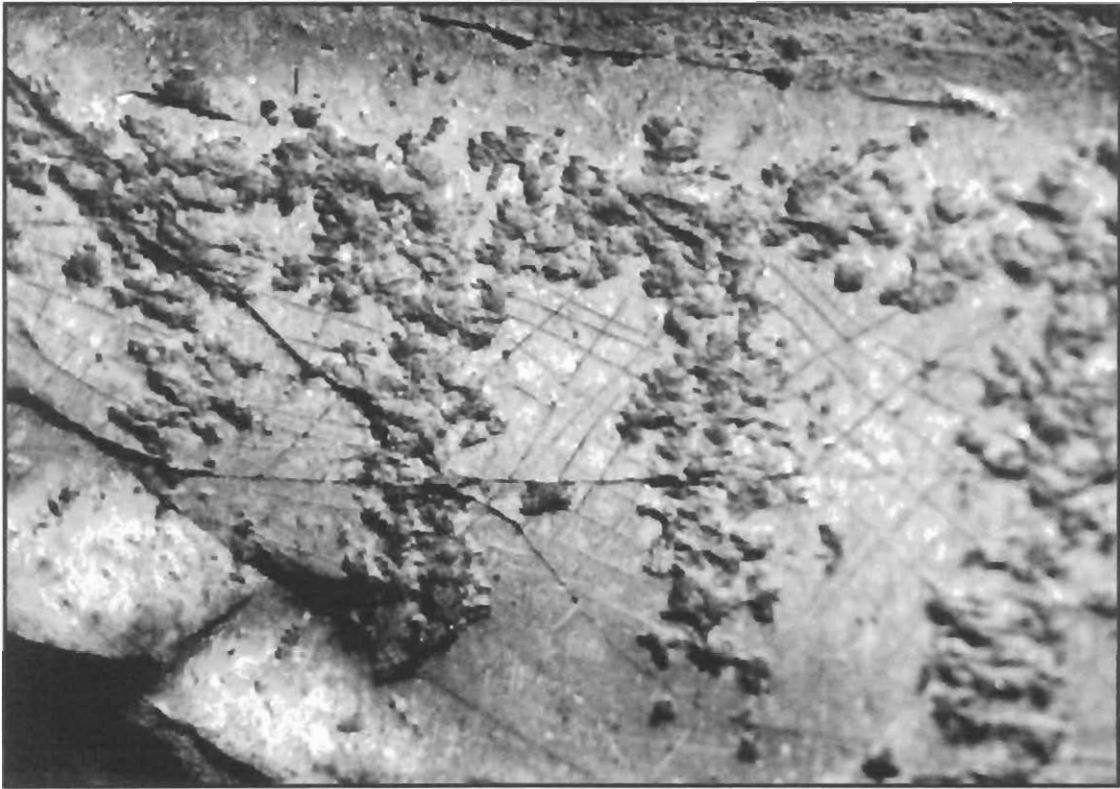


Fig. 24. Pecked depiction of tasselled apron over diamond-mesh-like incised pattern (accession #79f).

3. Circular forms

There are only two recorded instances of circular pecked forms at Driekuil I

4. Clusters of peck marks (128 depictions, almost 12% of the total)

The term 'cluster' refers to three or more peck marks that are within 1 to 10 mm of each other and which do not depict identifiable objects, such as aprons. Such clusters of peck marks occur in isolation and in association with incisions and deep peck marks, and often over clusters of parallel and overlapping incisions. The individual peck marks vary in shape, depth and dimension and were evidently made by instruments of varying dimensions and with varying degrees of force.

5. Scattered peck marks (170, or almost 16% of the total)

'Scattered' means three or more peck marks further apart from each other than 10 mm. As is the case with all pecked rock-markings at Driekuil I, the individual peck marks vary in shape, depth and dimensions. Scatters of peck marks are often superimposed on incisions of various kinds.

6. Pecks deepened to form pits (32 rocks with pits, or almost 3 %) of the total

I use the term 'pit' to describe a peck mark deeper than 3 mm. A pit is the result of several blows that are concentrated on a restricted area of the rock to create a cavity. Pits occur singly and in groups on a rock surface. They are sometimes closely associated with peck marks and it appears in some instances that engravers elected to deepen one of a group of peck marks and so create a pit. There are also instances at Driekuil I in which pits are juxtaposed with grooves (see *Grooves*).

7. Pecks arranged in rows

In two instances (#128b and #159c), peck marks are arranged to create the impression of a row.



Fig. 25. Two circular pecked forms (accession #26).



Fig. 26. A cluster of peck marks (accession #35).

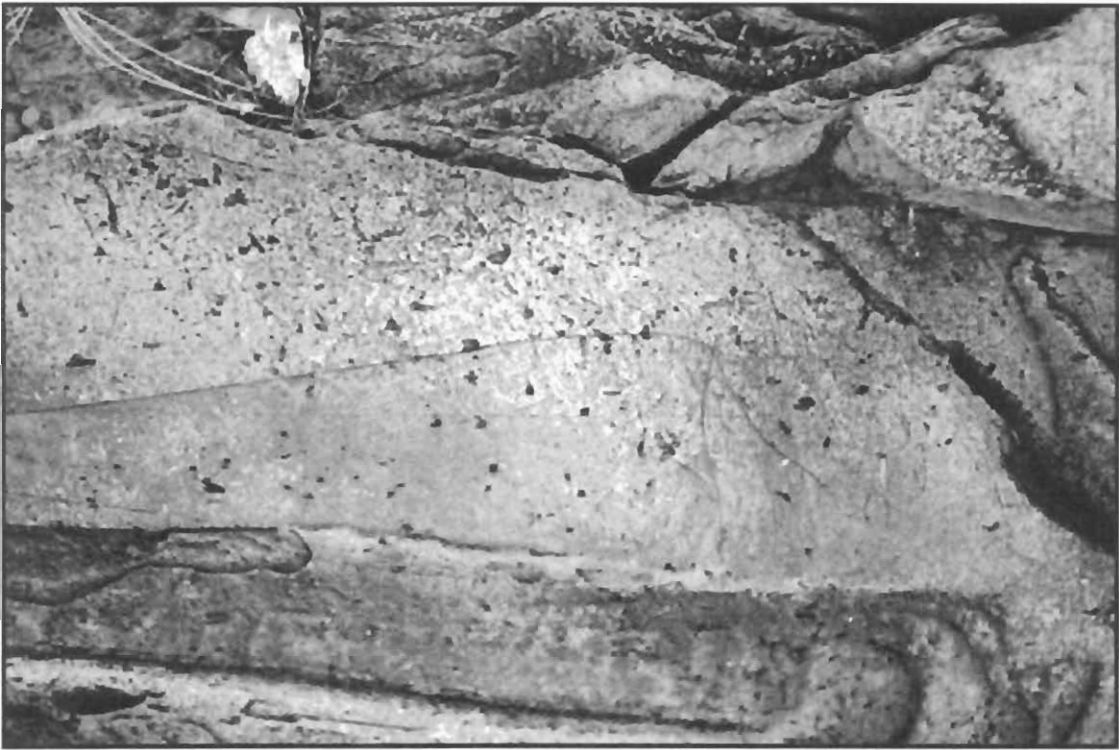


Fig. 27. Loosely scattered pecks over a smooth rock surface (accession #98).



Fig. 28. Pecks deepened to form pits (accession #256).

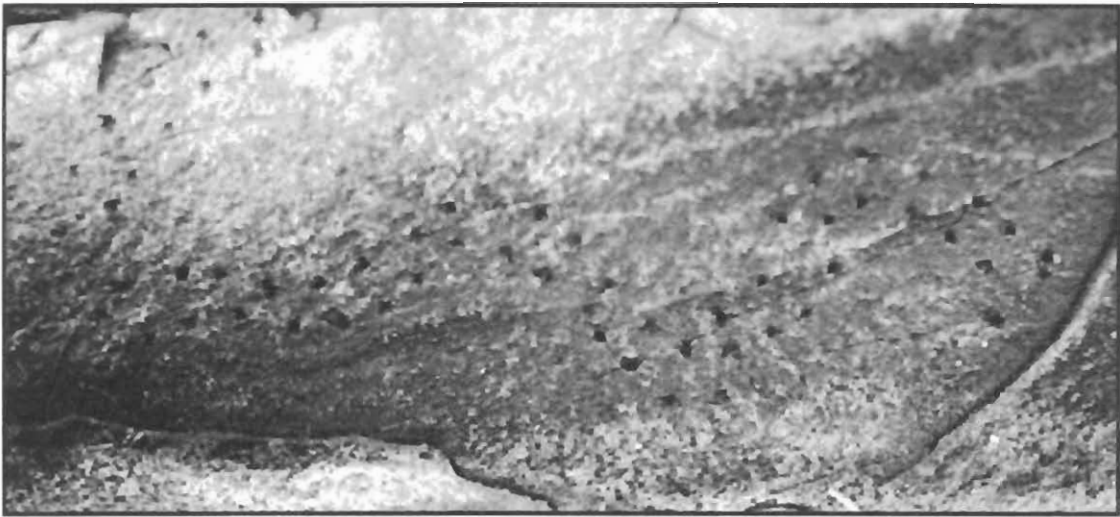


Fig. 29. Pecks arranged in a wave-like course (accession #159).

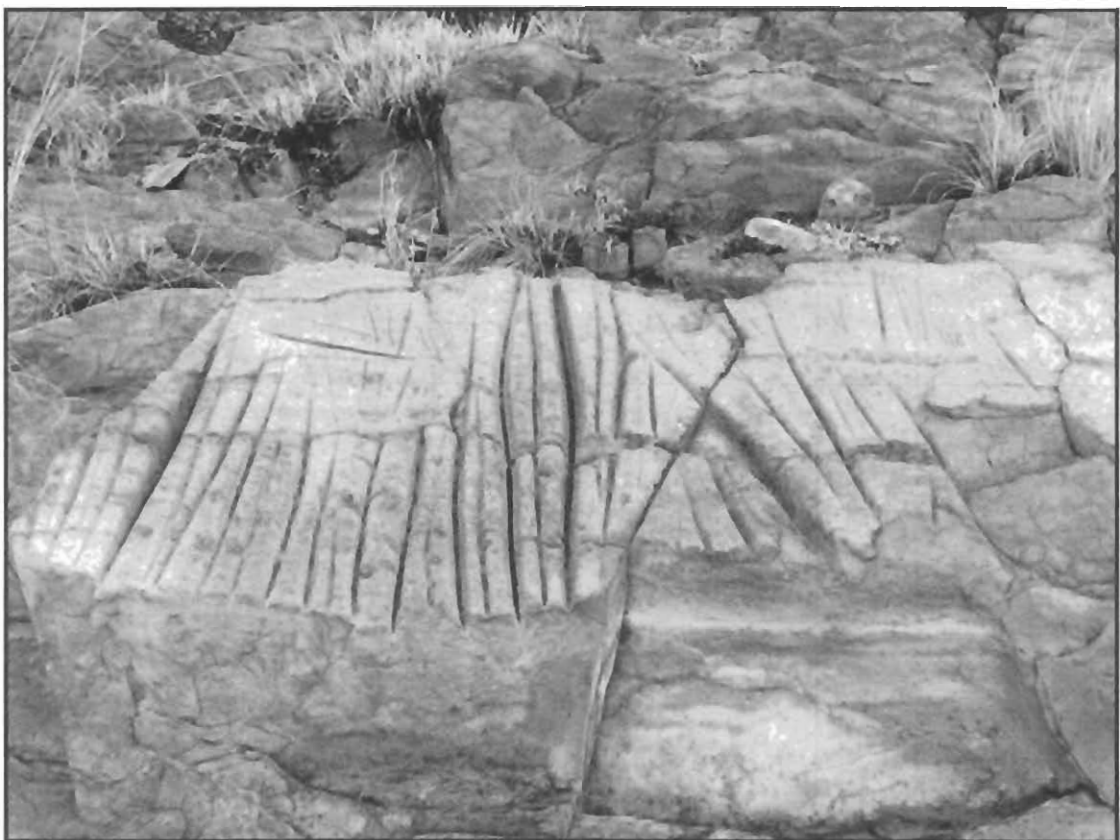


Fig. 30. A spectacular example of grooves made on the hill at *Driekuil* (accession #51a).

GROOVES

'Grooves' are areas of the rock surface into which the engravers cut repeatedly using unidentified instruments to form 'furrows' that vary in length and depth. I recorded 51 grooves at the site, some 4.75% of the total number of engravings. Grooves can be distinguished from 'incisions' because they are the result of repeated rubbing and are thus far deeper and wider than incisions. The smallest groove recorded (#7) is 40 mm in length. The largest groove (at # 51a) is 435 mm long and 45 mm at its widest. On some rocks, there are only a couple of grooves, while on others (#12 and #51a) the rock surface is scored by as many as fifty. Rock surfaces with many grooves tend to be highly polished. Grooves are arranged in different ways—in one example two grooves bisect each other midway at right

angles. Elsewhere the grooves are arranged in parallel. I mentioned above that there are instances in which a groove is located in the midst of a cluster of parallel and overlapping incisions. On rocks #12 and #51a, pits have been pecked in and around the grooves.

OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL ARTEFACTS

There are very few other artefacts on the hill at Driekuil. We located a fragment of a bored stone and a hollowed-out chunk of pyrophyllite. Interestingly, we found no flakes or potsherds at the site.



Fig. 31. Fragment of bored stone (left) and stone 'bowl' (right)

Discussion and recommendations

A recent draft Archaeological Policy Document circulated by SAHRA (2002: 9) observes that the purpose of Phase 2 Archaeological Mitigation is to:

- Rescue material and make it accessible for future research
- Provide enough information to give a reasonable characterisation of the site

These two criteria—the assessment of the significance or research potential of the site and the preservation of enough representative material to be rescued—are the subject of this section of the report. I have borne these considerations in mind throughout the mitigation process so that both the demands of mining and archaeological research can be met.

Archaeological context and research potential

Recent research and surveys suggest that there are two engraving traditions in central South Africa (Smith & Ouzman 2004):

- Naturalistic engravings of animals made by Bushman hunter-gatherers over the past thousands of years.
- A second, more recent, engraving tradition associated with the Khoekhoen, a term used for tribes of click-speaking herder people who entered this part of the African subcontinent, perhaps from Botswana, about 2000 years ago. Khoekhoe engravings depict skins, aprons (skirts) and other objects and designs. Research shows that some of these images refer to aspects of Khoekhoe girl's puberty rituals (Anderson 1997; Morris 2002; Eastwood 2003; Hollmann & Hykkerud 2004).

In which category do the engravings at Driekuil fit best? The number of engraved aprons far outweighs engravings of anthropomorphs and quadrupeds at Driekuil I. There is a similar emphasis at the other sites in the vicinity. By these criteria the engravings at Driekuil I belong predominantly in the Khoekhoe tradition.

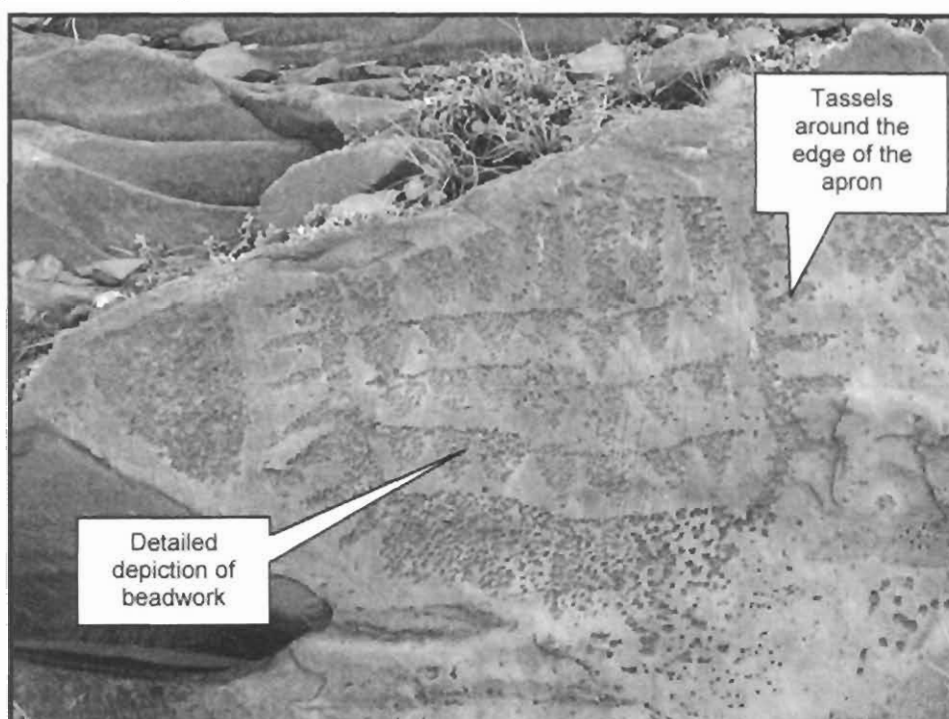


Fig. 32. The detailed engraving of a woman's front apron (accession #63b). Notice the tassels around the edge of the apron and the intricate diamond designs inside.

APRONS

The variety of aprons depicted at Driekuil—scalloped and tasselled front aprons, back aprons from animal skins, and square, subdivided forms—is noteworthy, as is the tendency for image makers to engrave aprons in a restricted area on the north west side of the hill. All the other categories of engraving are more evenly distributed across the northern, western and southern aspects of the two hillocks at Driekuil I. The engraved apron at #63b is worth specific mention for its size and detail. It is a priority for removal and has also been traced. In addition I have traced an example of each of the four basic kinds of apron image at Driekuil I (Appendix 2) and included samples of each kind of apron in a list of engravings identified for removal (Appendix 1).

NON-REPRESENTATIONAL INCISIONS

The most noteworthy feature of the engravings at Driekuil I, however, is the numerical preponderance of apparently non-representational incisions, peck marks, pits and grooves. These kinds of rock-markings far outnumber depictions of aprons or animals. This emphasis suggests that not only were people coming to the hill at Driekuil to create and interact with representational symbols, such as aprons, they were also performing activities that involved the marking of rocks in non-representational ways. Rock-markings such as the incised mesh- and grid-like patterns and decorative patterns are also numerous at the site. In my experience this sort of emphasis is unusual and warrants further investigation including comparison of types of rock marking at Driekuil I with sites in the surrounding areas and further afield. I have ensured that several examples of the various kinds of incisions have been included on the list of engraved rocks identified for removal (Appendix 1). In addition to extensive photography, I have also traced several engraved surfaces featuring these kinds of rock-markings (Appendix 2).

GROOVES

The proliferation of grooves at #12 and #51a, and the comparatively high overall total of grooves at Driekuil I are noteworthy characteristics of this site. Although grooves occur in other parts of the subcontinent (Hollmann & Swart 1991; Eastwood 2001; Eastwood & Eastwood 2001; Eastwood & Eastwood 2002; Eastwood & Eastwood 2003; Eastwood & Tlouamma 2003), I am not aware of engraving sites (except the neighbouring site Gestoptefontein) with a similar variety and frequency of this kind of rock-marking. Grooves do not lend themselves to tracing and so recording of this category of rock-marking was limited to photography. I have identified the two most intensively grooved rock surfaces as candidates for removal (Appendix 1). Other grooved rocks could be removed as samples on which to conduct research on the manufacture of grooves that requires the use of potentially destructive techniques, such as making casts and taking rock samples.

SIGNIFICANCE AND RESEARCH POTENTIAL

The fact that apparently every large outcropping of pyrophyllite in the area has been engraved suggests that these hills were the focus of engraving and other ritual activities probably over a considerable length of time. It is possible that the mark makers may have regarded the peculiar properties of pyrophyllite, especially the ease with which it can be engraved, as cosmologically significant. In this regard an early historical anecdote from the area is interesting: the first Voortrekkers in the area are reported to have found several skeletons on these pyrophyllite ridges (De Jager 2001:208). The story goes that they were skeletons of Bushmen or Khoekhoen who, pursued by enemies, had fled to these ridges in

the belief that once there they would be protected from danger by the supernatural forces that they associated with the pyrophyllite outcrops. The details of the story may be inaccurate, but the tale suggests none the less that the pyrophyllite hills had symbolic significance for the KhoeSan in the area.

The complex of sites in the region—Gestoptefontein and the three known Driekuil sites—therefore has considerable research potential.

Removal of engraved rocks

I have completed SAHRA Application Form 302 in which I request a permit to remove up to 20 engravings from Driekuil 1. I shall forward this application and the necessary motivation and supporting documents together with this Phase 2 Mitigation Report to Dr Mary Leslie, Archaeologist at SAHRA, in Cape Town. I have discussed the removal process with Dr Leslie and she is aware of the urgent need for a decision from SAHRA because Wonderstone Limited's authority to mine the hill expires imminently. Once the removal process has been completed I shall assist Wonderstone Limited to make an urgent application to SAHRA for the destruction of the site.

List of engravings for removal

The engravings listed were chosen with five criteria in mind:

1. The recommendations of the Driekuil AIA
2. The need to rescue a representative sample of the kinds of rock-marking encountered at Driekuil I
3. The degree of preservation of details of the engraved surface
4. Ease of removal and reassembly of engraved rock surfaces
5. Resources available for removal and relocation

Based on these factors I have compiled a list of 15 engraved surfaces that have been rated in terms of these five criteria (Appendix 1).

Choice of institution to which the engravings are to be removed

SAHRA is requested to nominate the institution to which the selected engravings from Driekuil should be removed. In the interim, the permit for removal lists the Rock Art Research Institute (RARI), University of the Witwatersrand, as the recipient of the engravings. Dr Benjamin Smith, Director of RARI, has indicated that in the absence of any other suitable host institution, RARI would be able to incorporate the removed engravings in its collection if requested by SAHRA.

Removal procedure

Wonderstone Limited Mine Manager, Mr Jos Joubert, has offered the mine's expertise to remove the stones from the site. Whilst he has assured me that Wonderstone's employees will take every precaution to avoid damage to the engravings, Mr Joubert has made this offer on condition that Wonderstone Limited will not be legally liable should any such damage occur during the removal and transport of the engraved rocks. To minimise such risks and to ensure that the correct engravings are removed, Wonderstone Limited is prepared to pay for an archaeologist to assist during the removal process. Wonderstone Limited will also arrange and pay for the transport of the engravings to the University of the Witwatersrand.

At an on-site visit in February 2005, I pointed out the stones listed as candidates for removal and the problems involved in extracting them without damage were discussed. The Wonderstone employee who, with SAHRA's approval, will supervise the removal assured me that most of the earmarked engravings could be relatively easily removed because they are made on laminae of rock which can be excavated and cut out by progressively removing the surrounding non-engraved rock laminae. This means that the larger assemblages of engravings will of necessity have to be disassembled in the removal process. I am, however, confident that documentation of the engravings is sufficiently detailed to enable their accurate reassembly.

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Appendix 1. List of engraved rocks for removal from Driekuil I, Lichtenburg, North West Province

Number	Accession number	Description	Image Type
1	#4a	Mesh-like pattern measuring 300 x 440 mm	Incised, mesh-like pattern
2	#12	Extensively grooved rocks about 4,4 by 1,6 m	Grooves Pits Peck marks Various types of incisions
3	#27	Pecked apron motifs 1,8 m x 0,36 m	Pecked animal skin rear apron Tasselled apron
4	#38	Pecked motifs on rock surface 1,7 m x 0,39 m	Tasselled apron Square subdivided apron Pecked squares
5	#51 a	Extensively grooved rock surface 4,8 m x 3,2 m	Grooves Pits Peck marks
6	#58c	Bag/apron form in bottom centre panel	Pecked representation of apron/bag
7	#63b	Aprons and other pecked forms 1,9 m x 0,54 m	Pecked apron Pecked designs
8	#146	Incised form resembling a 'scherm'	Incised representation
9	#158	Five areas of mesh-like patterns	Incised, mesh-like pattern
10	#231	Human/animal combination	Naturalistic
11	#256	Complex of incisions and pits 2,6 m x 0,46 m	Incised, mesh-like patterns Parallel and overlapping incisions Incised representation ('ladder') Clusters and loose scatters of peck marks Pits Grooves
12	#262	Extensively marked area of rock including various types of rock-marking.	Pecked representation of tasselled apron Incised, mesh-like patterns, some of which resemble bracelets Parallel and overlapping incisions Clusters and loose scatters of peck marks
13	#286	Pecked engraving of an eland	Animal depiction
14	#291	Incised designs in two rows. Top row has 3 diamond shapes. Bottom row is 17 x 20. Below are additional designs of a different sort	Patterned or decorative incisions
15	#339	Extensively incised rocks 850 mm x 400 mm	Incised, mesh-like patterns

Appendix 2. List of engravings traced at Driekuil I

Number	Accession number	Description	Image Type	Removal candidate?
1	#26	Two pecked circles with pecked infill (620 mm x 250 mm).	Pecked circle	Not on list
2	#27	Animal skin (80 mm x 100 mm) & tasselled apron (105 mm x 70 mm)	Pecked aprons	On the list
3	#29	Scalloped apron (145 mm x 115 mm)	Pecked apron	Not on list
4	#33d	Pecked outline of quadruped over fine incisions (270 mm x 120 mm)	Animal depiction Incisions	Not on list
5	#44	Animal skin apron (95 mm x 90 mm) Clusters of parallel & overlapping incisions (800 mm)	Pecked apron Incised clusters	Not on list
6	#58c	Pecked aprons and other pecked designs over fine incisions (1000 mm ²)	Pecked aprons and other Incisions	Not on list
7	#63b	Pecked aprons and other pecked designs over fine incisions (1900 x 580 mm)	Pecked aprons and other Incisions	On the list
8	#64b	Pecked grid designs over fine incisions (650 x 285 mm)	Pecked aprons Incisions	Not on list
9	#79f	Pecked tasselled apron over incised lines (160 x 40 mm)	Pecked aprons Incisions	Not on list
10	#83	Two pecked dancing figures (100 x 110 mm)	Anthropomorphic depiction	Not on list
11	#122a	Finely incised diamond-mesh-like patterns (490 x 130 mm)	Incised patterns	Not on list
12	#129e	Rows of short, closely spaced parallel lines (420 x 140 mm)	Incised patterns	Not on list
13	#146	Hut or 'scherm'-like form (150 x 110 mm)	Incised image	On the list
14	#149	Finely incised diamond-mesh like patterns (350 x 180 mm)	Incised patterns	Not on list
15	#153	Anthropomorph bending forward (130 mm)	Anthropomorphic depiction	Not on list
16	#154	Two pecked anthropomorphs (one 95 mm tall)	Anthropomorphic depiction	Not on list
17	#158	Finely incised diamond-mesh like patterns and grid-like patterns (300 x 260 mm)	Incised patterns	On the list
18	#222	Pits and short parallel incisions in sets (290 x 100 mm)	Incised patterns Pits	Not on list
19	#223	Clusters of parallel & overlapping incisions, scattered pecks, diamond-mesh patterns and vertical incisions (600 x 270 mm)	Incised patterns Scattered pecks	Not on list
20	#231	Therianthrope with antelope ears and short legs (25 x 110 mm)	Anthropomorphic depiction	On the list
21	#256	Intensively engraved surface featuring	Various	On the list

Number	Accession number	Description	Image Type	Removal candidate?
		all kinds of incisions, pecks, pits and grooves (2600 x 460 mm)	incisions Various pecks	
22	#262	Intensively engraved surface featuring all kinds of incisions, pecks, pecked aprons and other pecked designs (1200 x 1200 mm)	Various incisions Various pecks	On the list
23	#265	Pecked tasselled apron, scattered pecks, clusters of parallel & overlapping incisions (330 x 250 mm)	Pecked apron Scattered pecks Incisions	Not on list
24	#283	Rock surface covered with incisions (540 x 260 mm)	Various incisions	Not on list
25	#286	Pecked eland (200 x 150 mm)	Animal depiction	On the list
26	#295	Pecked design (170 x 70 mm)	Pecked design	Not on list
27	#350	Incised quadruped (55 x 20 mm)	Animal depiction	Not on list

Appendix 3. Plan elevation of engravings at Driekuil I

Sheets 1–3 attached

Plotted by Wayne and Laura Glenny,
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Appendix 4. Names and addresses of people and organisations involved in the mitigation process at Driekuil

Names are arranged in alphabetical order.

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