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ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF THE N7 SECTION 3 ROUTE, BETWEEN CITRUSDAL & CEDERBERG INTERSECTION, SOUTH WESTERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The upgrading of Section 3 of the N7 Route is planned between Citrusdal and the Cederberg Intersection, South Western Cape.

The upgrading along this section will include the widening of culverts and bridges, the construction of climbing lanes and the improvement of the existing road surface. Borrow pits will be opened for the sourcing of gravel.

The work will generally be done inside the road reserve and will have no impact on any cultural or historical remains on private owned land.

A cluster of about thirty graves are situated relatively close to the road reserve and should be avoided during construction work.

A landing strip for aeroplanes is located at the farm Nooitgedagt, adjacent to the road.

The Post Tree and Toll House on Piekenierspas are claimed to be declared National Monuments and should be avoided.

The historical farm Modderfontein represents the first European settlement in the Oliphants River Valley. The buildings are clearly older than sixty years and are well maintained and in a good state of preservation. The structures characterize the old Cape Dutch building style. The grave yard on the farm contains eighteen graves of former occupants and their family.

No other cultural or historical material was found during the investigation.

I recommend that the proposed developments may continue, provided that the necessary precautionary measures are taken to avoid the sites of importance.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The investigation provided an opportunity to examine the Section 3 of the N7 main route.

Briefing and maps to the localities were vague. Assistance had to be sought from the maintenance staff on the road. No other serious obstacles were experienced during the investigation.

Methodology

1. The borrow pit sites were inspected on foot and certain positions along the road were examined.
2. GPS points were taken and the surrounding areas and features were recorded on camera.

INVESTIGATION

The upgrading of Section 3 of the N7 Route is planned between Citrusdal and the Cederberg Intersection, South Western Cape.

I visited the site on 7 & 8 April 2011.

The operations along this section will include the widening of culverts and bridges, the construction of climbing lanes and the improvement of the existing road surface. The work will generally be done inside the road reserve. Borrow pits will be opened for the sourcing of gravel.

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).

The study aimed to locate and evaluate the significance of cultural and heritage sites, archaeological material, manmade structures older than 60 years, and sites

associated with oral histories and graves that might be affected by the proposed developments.

LOCALITY

Section 3 of the N7 main road between Citrusdal and Clanwilliam (Map 1) is located north of Citrusdal (Maps 2-8). This investigation included the Piekeniers Pass and Modderfontein farm at the foot of the pass as well as the grave yard at Klawersvlei and the landing strip at Nooitgedagt.

The proposed upgrading of the N7 main road will improve the road connection from Cape Town to Namaqualand, the Richtersveld and Namibia.

The soil surface in the area is sandy and contains mainly typical Oliphants Sandstone Fynbos in the low lying areas with Leipoldville Sand Fynbos in the hills (Figs.1-4). Other vegetation types could also be found locally. Blue gum, Pepper, Pine and other exotic trees occur on the old farm yards (Fig.27).

The topography of the region is determined by the geology and the Citrusdal and Clanwilliam area is dominated by the Oliphants River which cuts through the shale and sandstone deposits from north to south to form the valley (Map 9).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

BP1 Langkloof	A	32°32'05"S. 018°58'25"E. Altitude 206m (Fig.1).
	B	32°32'06"S. 018°58'22"E. Altitude 211m (Fig.2).
BP2 Korhaanshgte	C	32°29'35"S. 018°57'40"E. Altitude 179m (Fig.3).
BP3 La Ryne 98,4	D	32°23'47"S. 018°57'05"E. Altitude 134m (Fig.4).
Graves (±30)		32°21'22"S. 018°56'10"E. Altitude 148m (Fig.24).
E 127,2		32°16'32"S. 018°52'06"E. Altitude 96m (Fig.5).
F 121,6		32°12'58"S. 018°51'26"E. Altitude 142m (Fig.6).
G 115,8		(Fig.7).
H 112,2		32°17'06"S. 018°53'39"E. Altitude 334m (Fig.8).
J 105,2		32°20'24"S. 018°55'30"E. Altitude 176m (Fig.9).

Kleine Schuur	32°20'55"S. 018°55'53"E. Altitude 181m (Fig.10).
L Die Poort	32°23'05"S. 018°56'51"E. Altitude 122m (Fig.11).
M 96,4	32°24'46"S. 018°57'32"E. Altitude 143m (Fig.12).
N 91,6	32°27'13"S. 018°57'36"E. Altitude 171m (Fig.13).
P Koedoeskop	32°28'26"S. 018°57'47"E. Altitude 167m (Fig.14).
R 83,2	32°31'43"S. 018°58'27"E. Altitude 190m (Fig.15).
S 73,20	32°36'23"S. 018°58'43"E. Altitude 321m (Fig.16).
T Piekenierspas 68,850	32°37'47"S. 018°56'54"E. Altitude 520m (Fig.17).
U Toll Gate 69,650	32°37'25"S. 018°57'13"E. Altitude 518m (Figs.18&19).
V Petersfield 78,6	32°34'18"S. 018°59'14"E. Altitude 182m.
W Markuskraal	32°25'47"S. 018°57'20"E. Altitude 148m (Fig.20).
X Rondegat	32°21'49"S. 018°56'23"E. Altitude 141m (Fig.21).
Y Klawersvlei	32°21'35"S. 018°56'18"E. Altitude 130m (Fig.22).
Z Aggenbagskraal	(Fig.23).
Nooitgedacht Air Strip	32°16'45"S. 018°53'25"E. Altitude 324m (Fig.25).
Modderfontein Graves	32°36'22"S. 018°59'25"E. Altitude 213m (Figs.26).

RESULTS

FINDS

The investigation produced the following finds:

GRAVES

A grave yard containing about thirty (30) graves is located on the farm Klawersvlei, close to the road reserve (Fig.24). Of these graves, four headstones

are inscribed with European family names. The other graves are stone covered without any name or inscription.

The following inscriptions on the grave stones were recorded.

- Ernst Hendrik Smit *13/3/1875 †10/5/1956
- Classina M. Johanna Smit *22/2/1875 †10/8/1955.

- Johannes Petrus Smit *30/9/1903 †25/10/1997
- Aletta Catharina Smit Born Briers *24/3/1907 †18/5/1982.

- Ernst Hendrik Smit *6/3/1936 †13?/5/2006.
- Catharina (Kay) Smit Born Du Toit *22/2/1875 †

- Hester Sophia van Zyl Born Hanekom *23?/12/1876 †17/9/1898.

Another European family grave yard containing about eighteen (18) graves is placed at a respectful distance from the farm house at Modderfontein near Citrusdal (Fig.26). The graves represent the last resting place of the ancestors of the McGregor-family, former owners of the farm.

- Margaret McGregor *15/2/1815 †18/4/1902.
- Joseph McGregor †15/5/1890 Aged 83 years.
- Alexander McGregor *19/1/1842 †13/10/1886.
- William McGregor *21/9/1844 †19/4/1883.
- Edith McGregor †28/5/1946.
- Margaret Ann McGregor †20/10/1941.
- Elizabeth Helen Murchison? Born McGregor †9/12/1939.
- Jo. McGregor †27/8/1927.
- William McGregor †26/10/1918.
- James Campbell McGregor †20/10/1918.
- James McGregor *26/11/1830 †21/3/1914.
- Helena McGregor *6/7/1851 †7/6/1912.
- William MacGregor Peter *31/7/1928 †25/5/2003.
- Harriet Arabella MacGregor †12/7/1962.
- Grace Florence MacGregor †23/12/1948.
- Jean Peter Born MacGregor †28/6/1958?.
- W. Keith Peter †1/4/1935 Aged 46.
- David Beyth Dun D.S.C. †24/8/1936 Aged 51 years.

TOLL GATE

The old Toll Gate and Post Tree (Figs.18&19) at the top of the Piekeniers Pass are well-known features in the area. According to the shopkeeper at the farm stall, the land owner claims that the building is a declared National Monument. This could not be confirmed during the present investigation as there is no NMC plaque on the building. The shopkeeper also related that the large Blue Gum tree (*Eucalyptus sp.*) on the road side, used to be the post tree in bygone days. The tree has a very old appearance and there is no reason why the claim should be denied.

AIR STRIP

A significant air strip runs adjacent to the N7 road at the farm Nooitgedagt (Fig.25).

HISTORICAL VILLAGE AT MODDERFONTEIN FARM (Fig.27)

It is alleged that most of the buildings in the Old Village at Modderfontein dates from the 18th century. The farm Modderfontein became part of the first land to be allocated by the Dutch East India Company (VOC) to a farmer, one Jurgen Hanekom, in the Oliphants River Valley in 1725. By 1757 Hanekom had settled on his farm and completed the main farm stead.

This grant of land came after some Dutch explorers from the Cape led by Jan Danckert and Pieter van Meerhof visited the site of the present day Modderfontein in about 1660. These adventurers encountered scores of elephant along the river, which they promptly named the Oliphants River. Subsequently Van Meerhof undertook expeditions over the Groote Cloof pass into the valley on a regular basis.

In 1857 Thomas Bain started the construction of what he called Grey's Pass, and by 1858, after completion of the pass a Post Office and Postmaster's House were built at Modderfontein.

A certain James McGregor, who immigrated to South Africa with his parents as a ten year old boy, acquired Modderfontein in 1860. The property remained in the family for 140 years, while further additions such as the trading store, smithy and wheelwright were added over time. This was followed by a boarding house, a jail, and a doctor's room and dispensary. For many years the farm remained the entrance to the Cederberg region, until in 1916, when a new village named Citrusdal, was proclaimed across the Oliphants River.

Prior to 1742 the mineral bath in the valley attracted attention of citizens from the Cape. This year saw the erection of the first Cape Dutch house in the area and by 1773 bath facilities for the colonists, the slaves and other local people were added.

A new modern highway replaced the old Grey's Pass in 1960 and is called Piekenierskloof Pass. The name commemorates the battle in 1663 between the Pikes men (Piekeniers) and the Nama-Khoi of Gonnema.

The main farm house at Modderfontein was severely damaged during a fire in 1970. Michael Stekhoven, the present owner, acquired the farm from the descendants of James McGregor in 2001, when the restoration of the buildings started, completing the first phase of restoration by 2010.

The farm buildings are well maintained and kept in a fine state of preservation (Fig.27). The land is run as a Citrus and Rooibos Tea farm which also provides excellent accommodation facilities and a fine restaurant for visitors all year round.

A single porcelain fragment, possibly part of a tea cup was found near the Modderfontein farm house (Fig.28). The sherd contains a complete logo of MacGregors Citrusdal Hotel. The complete emblem is kerbed by a circle. In the centre of the logo a smiling man is depicted in floppy hat, tailcoat and knickers. He displays an orange in his right hand, while holding his left hand behind his back. The present farm owner relates that at a certain stage in the past, the McGregor family from Modderfontein also owned the Citrusdal Hotel, thus explaining the origin of the decorated sherd.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

All the sites containing graves and historical remnants are situated along the N7 main road.

If certain sites are avoided, the upgrading of the N7 between Citrusdal and Clanwilliam will create no major impact on the cultural and historical remnants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the proposed road building developments may continue, provided that the necessary precautionary measures are taken to avoid the sites of importance.

Take note that every archaeological and historical site is unique and should be treated as a non-renewable commodity. All efforts should be made to avoid any

unnecessary disturbance or destruction of the sites in the area. I stress, therefore, that in case of the discovery of any archaeological and historical or cultural material of significance during the course of the work, all activities should temporarily be stopped in the specific area for inspection by the present archaeologist or other specialists from a museum in Cape Town.

MITIGATION

Mitigation measures will only be necessary if any of the important sites would be affected.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

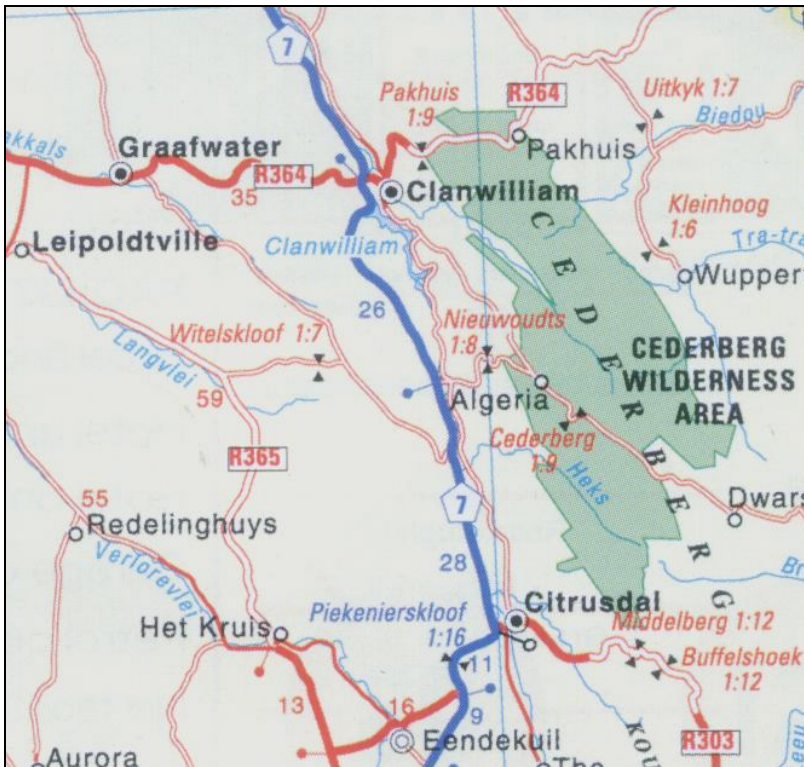
I thank Henry Botha and Arthur Smith from SACLAWA for assistance to find the sites. I also owe gratitude to Mike Stekhoven, the owner of Modderfontein for a discussion on the history of the farm. Margo from the Citrusdal Tourist Office supplied further information.

Dr. Johan Loock from Bloemfontein gave me access to his extensive book collection.

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- VAN DER MERWE, P.J. 1945. Trek. Kaapstad: Nasionale Pers.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 N7 main road between Citrusdal & Clanwilliam, South Western Cape.

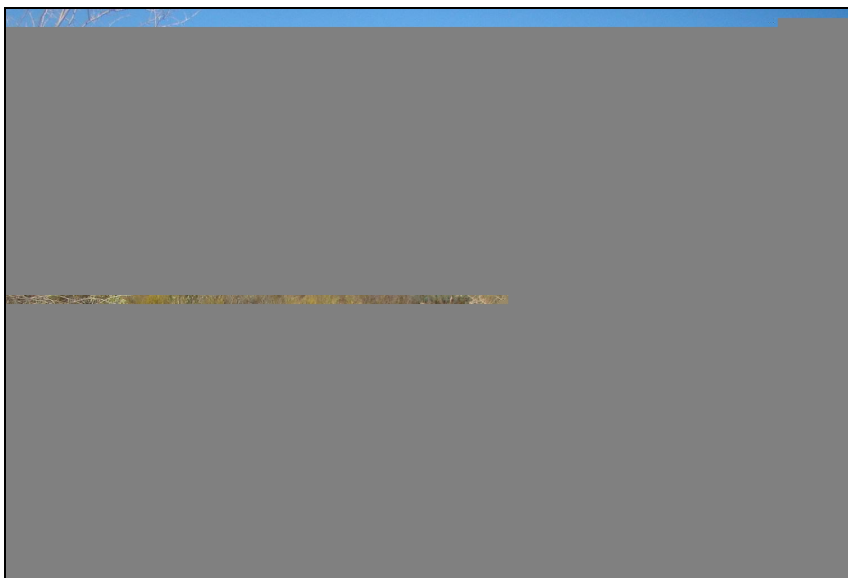
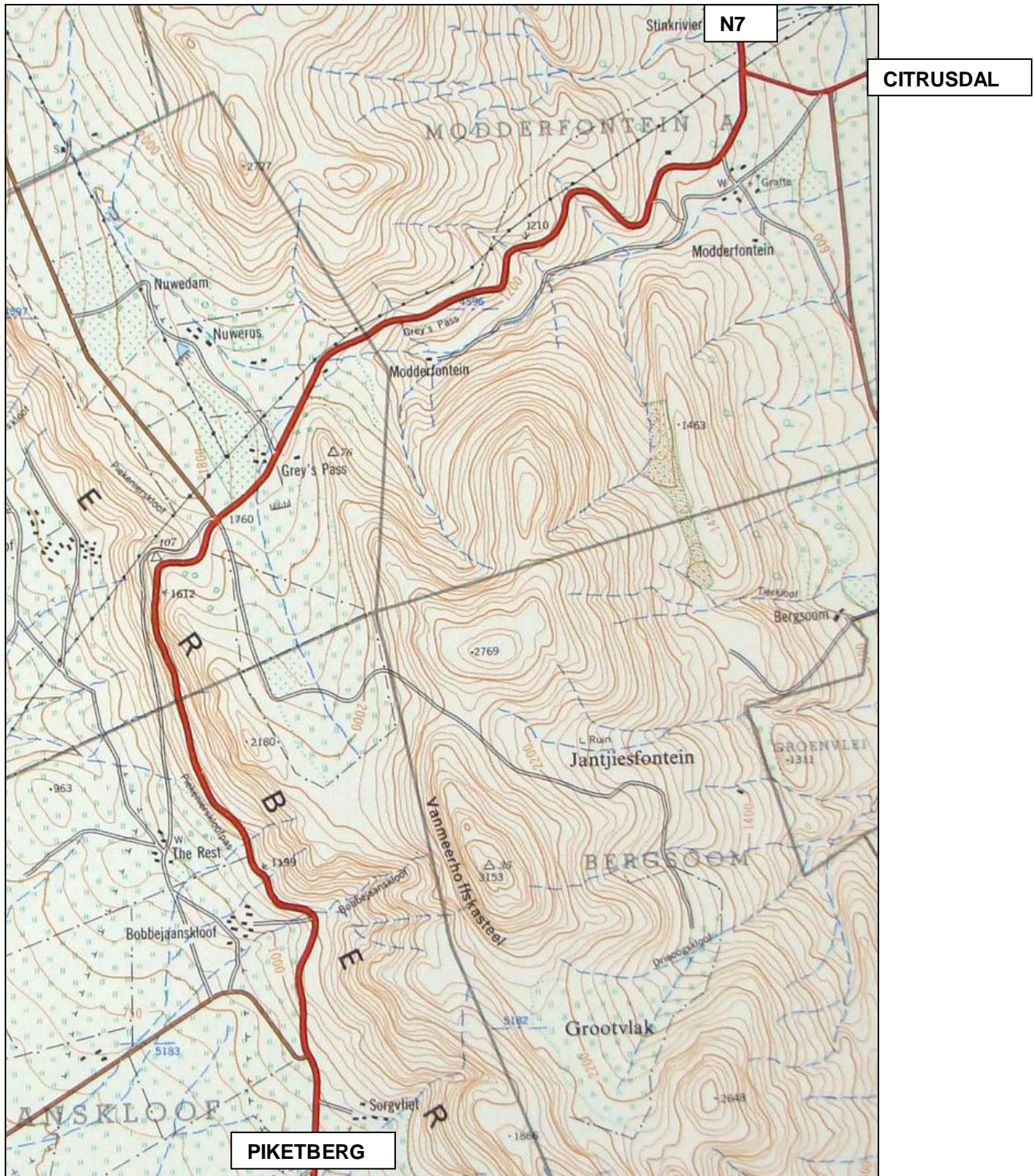
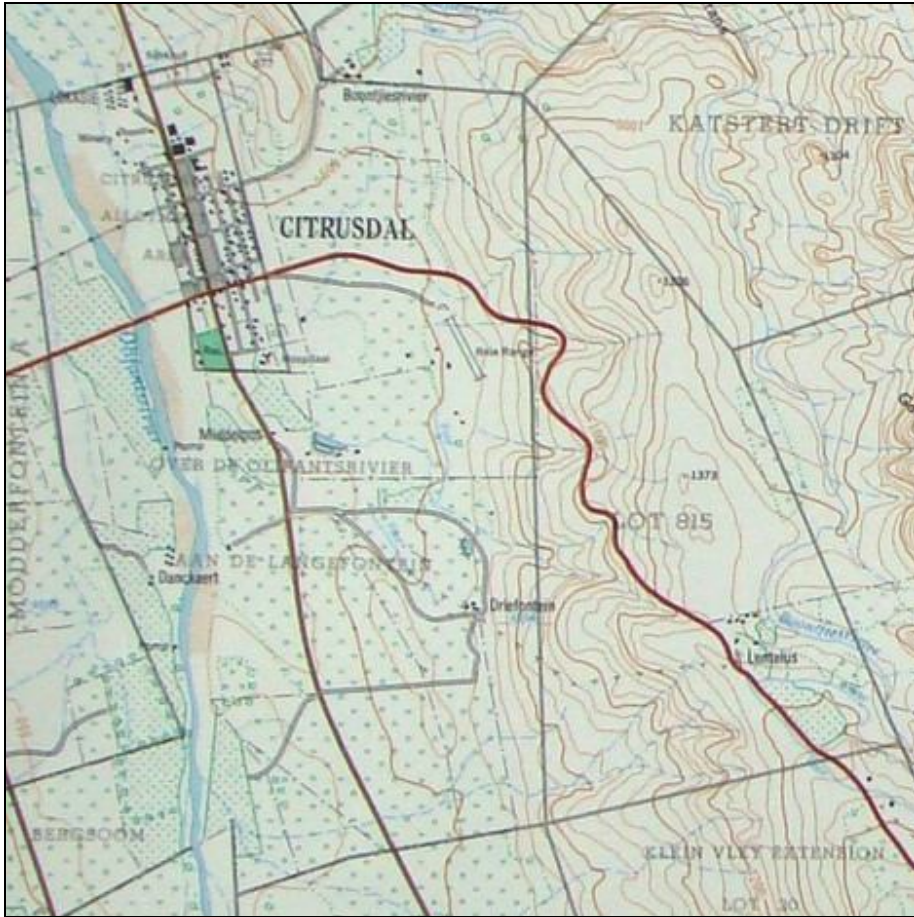


Fig.1 BP1 Point A at Langkloof N7 Citrusdal /Clanwilliam.



Map 2 Pieterienerspas in relation to Modderfontein (3218DB).



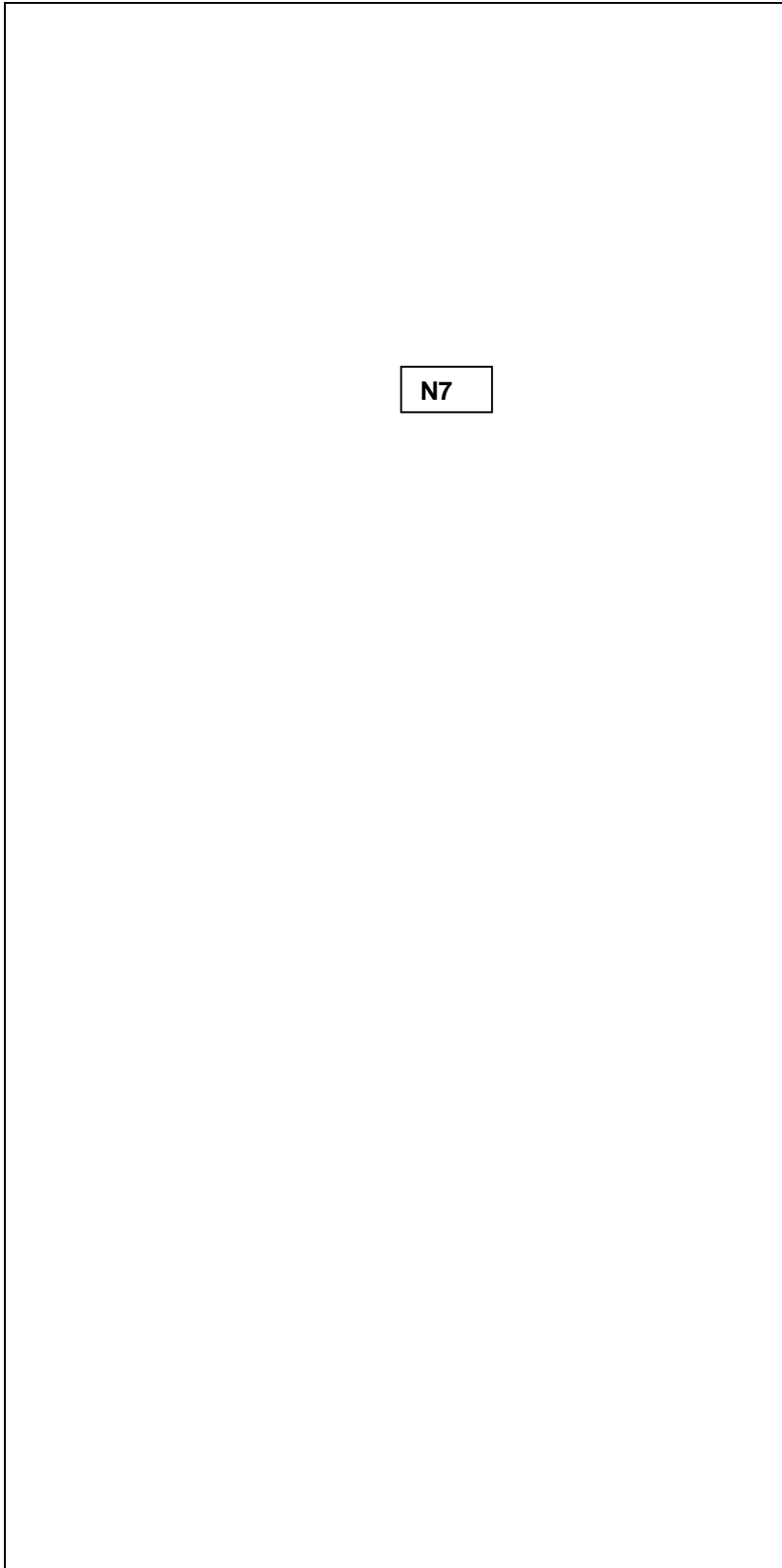
Map 3 Citrusdal in relation to Modderfontein (3219CA).



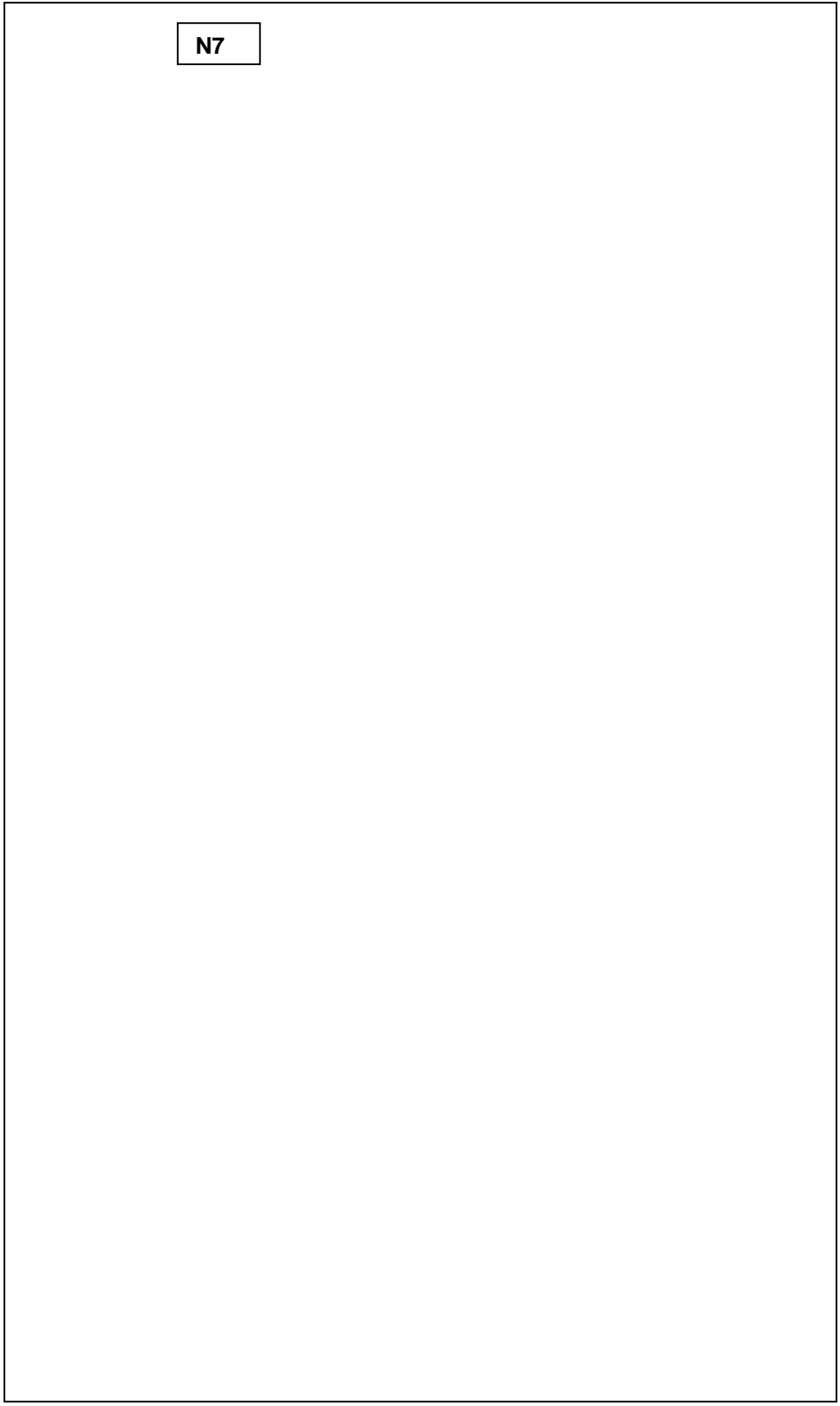
Fig.2 BP1 Point B at Langkloof N7 Citrusdal /Clanwilliam.



Map 4 Modderfontein, Peters Field, Grootvallei & Langvallei (3218DB).



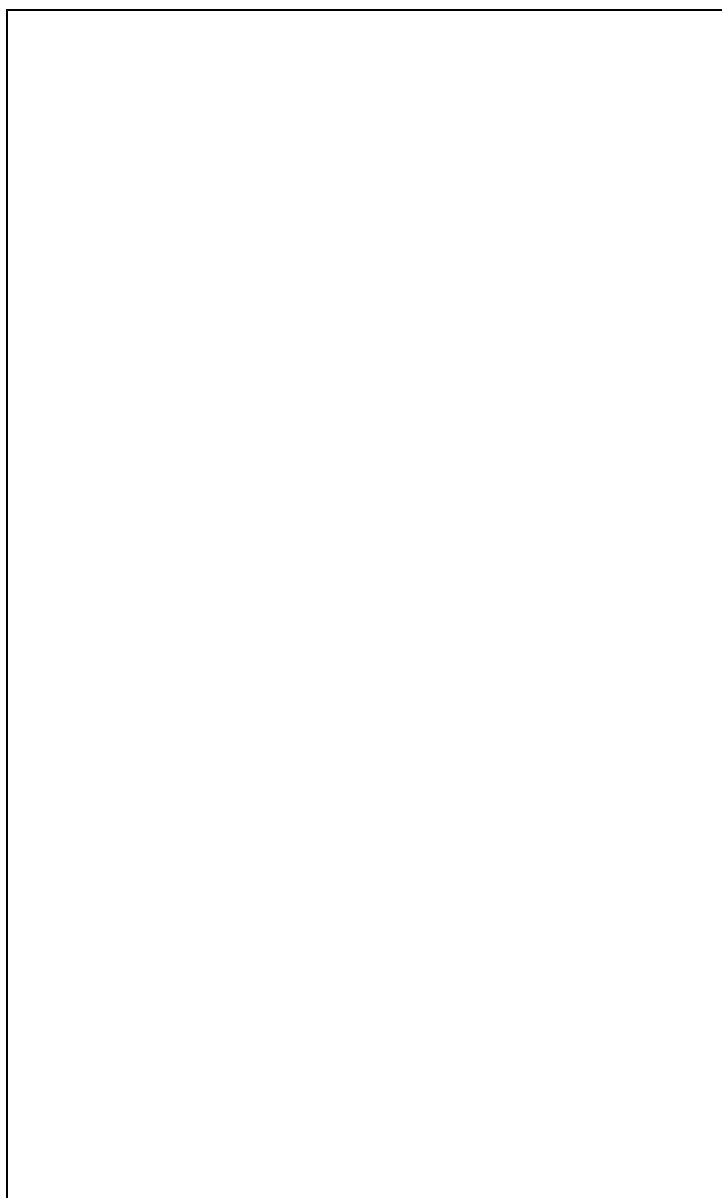
Map 5 Langvallei, Markuskraal, Groot Hexrivier (3218BD).



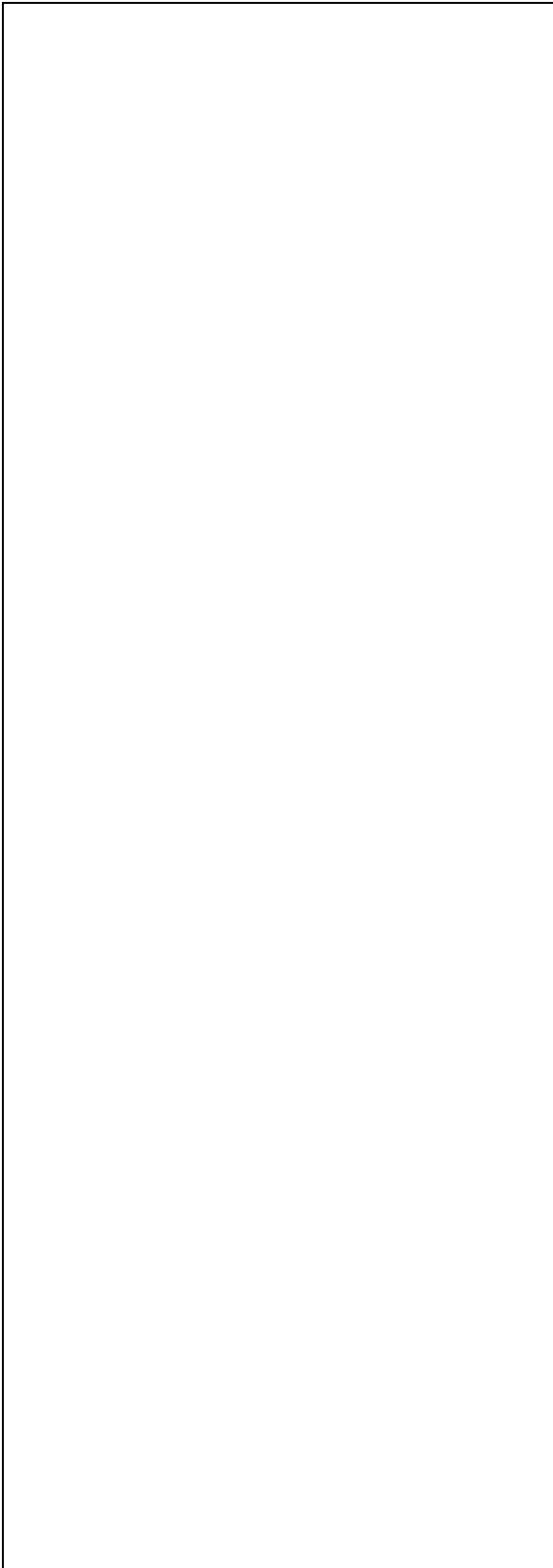
Map 6 La Rhyne, Klawervlei, Middelkraal, Aggenbagskraal & Rondegat (3218BD).



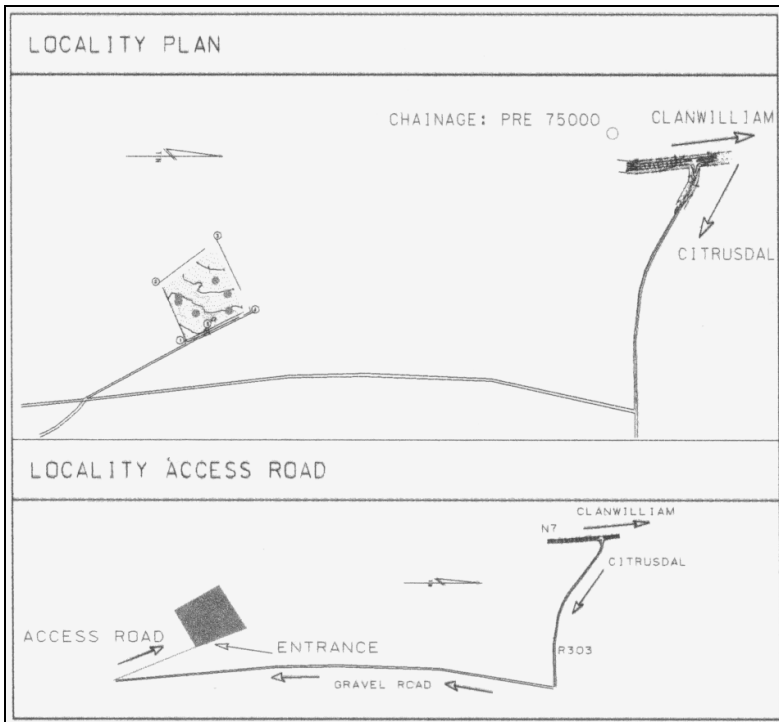
Map 7 Middelkraal, Aggenbagskraal & Rondegat (3218BD).



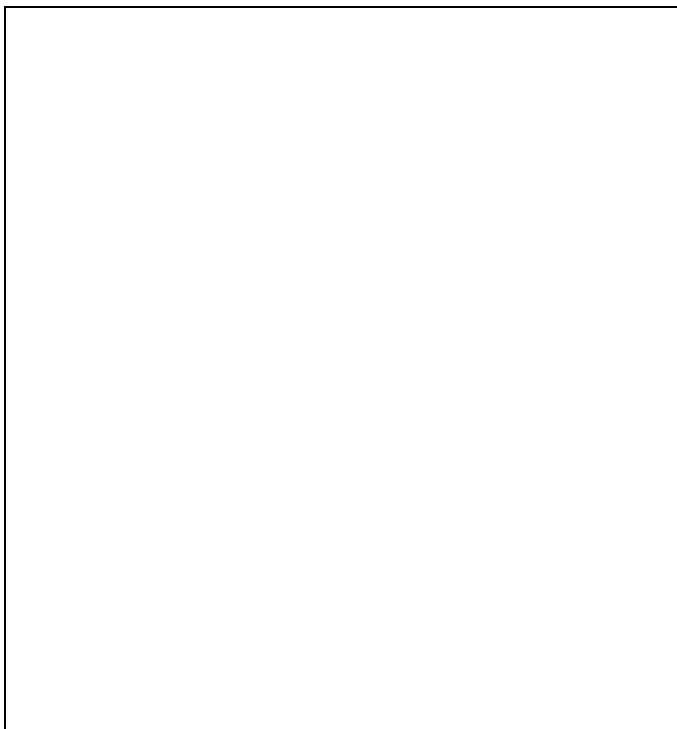
Map 8 Clanwilliam (3218BB).



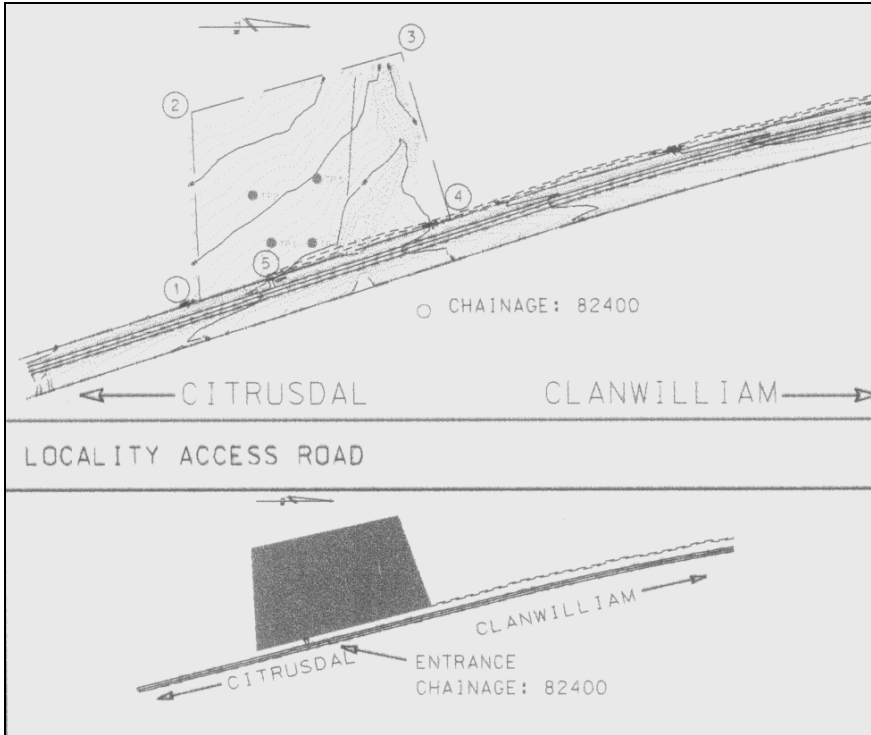
Map 9 Citrusdal / Clanwilliam Geological Map (3218BB).



Map 10 Locality plan of borrow pit at Modderfontein, Citrusdal.



Map 11 Locality map of borrow pit at Langkloof along the N7 Citrusdal /Clanwilliam.



Map 12 BP2 Point C at Korhaanshoogte N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

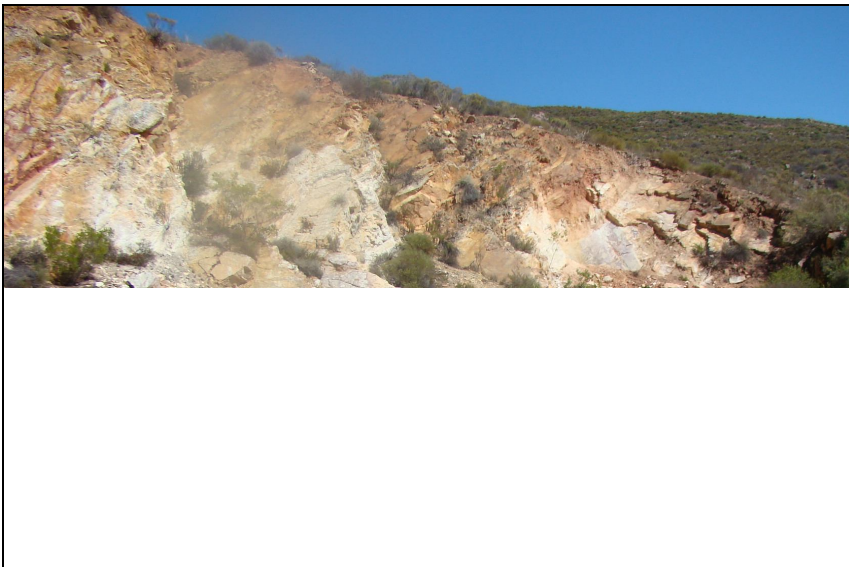
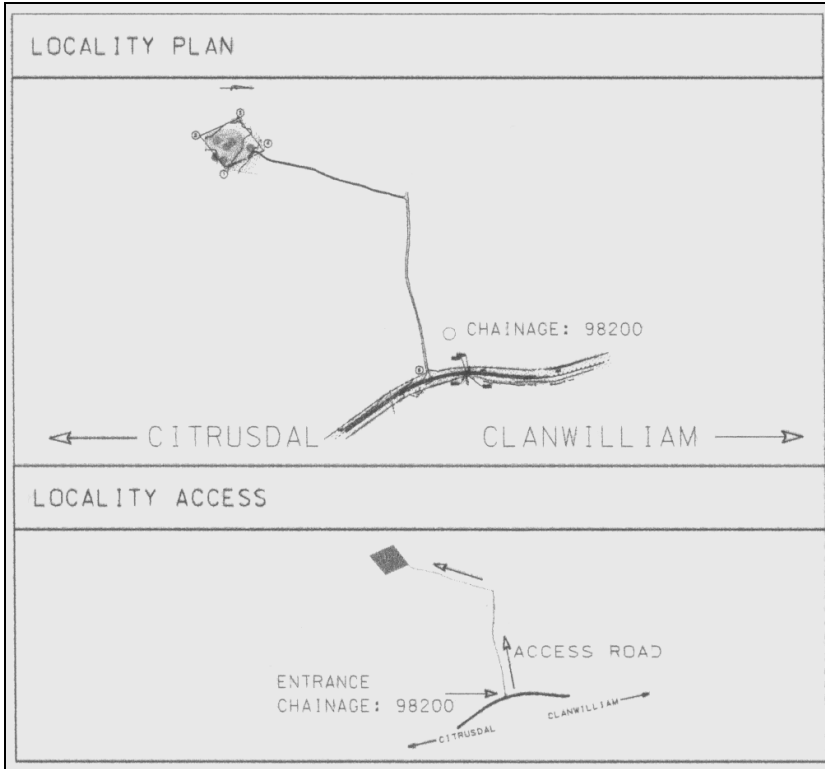


Fig.3 BP2 Point C at Korhaanshoogte N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Map 13 Locality plan of borrow pit at La Rhyne Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.4 BP3 Point D at La Rhyne N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

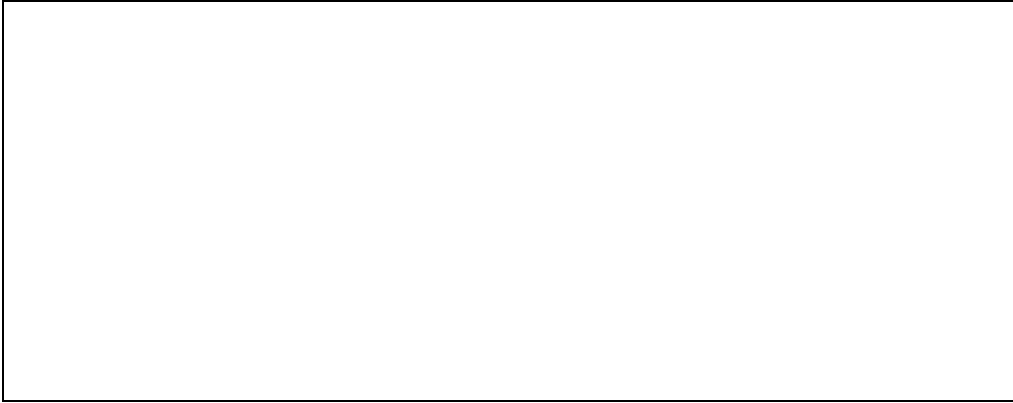


Fig.5 Point E on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

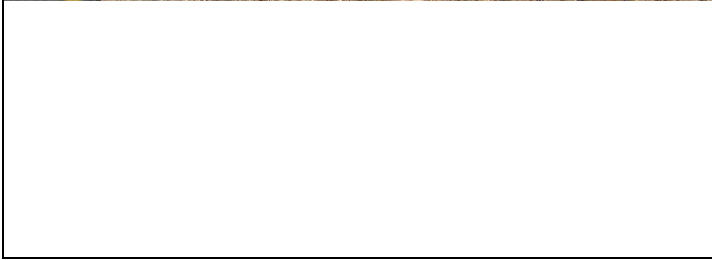


Fig.6 Point F on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.7 Point G on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

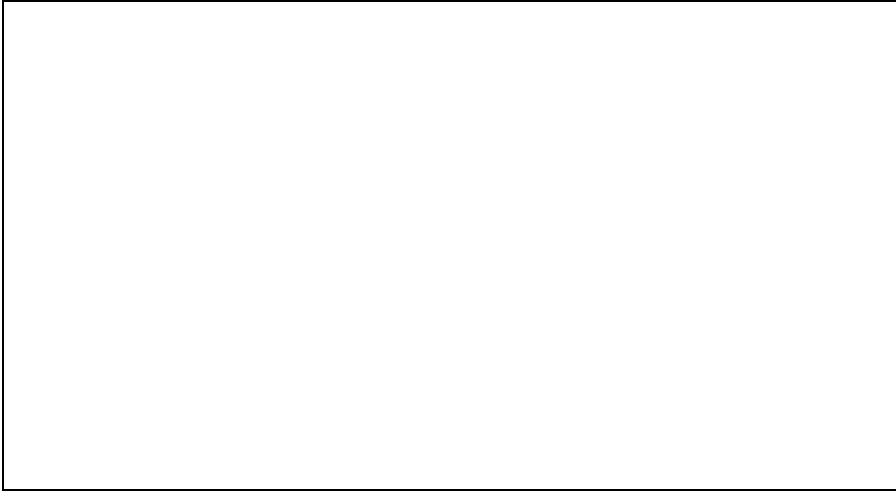


Fig.8 Point H on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

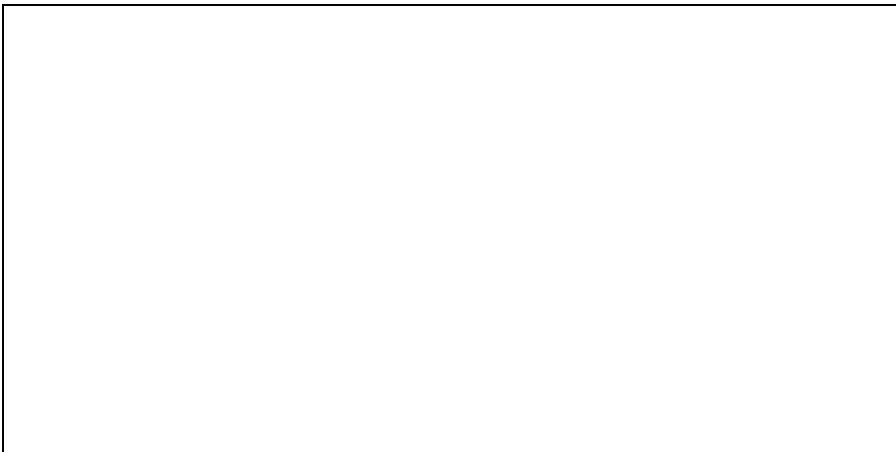


Fig.9 Point J on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.10 Point K at Kleine Schuur on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

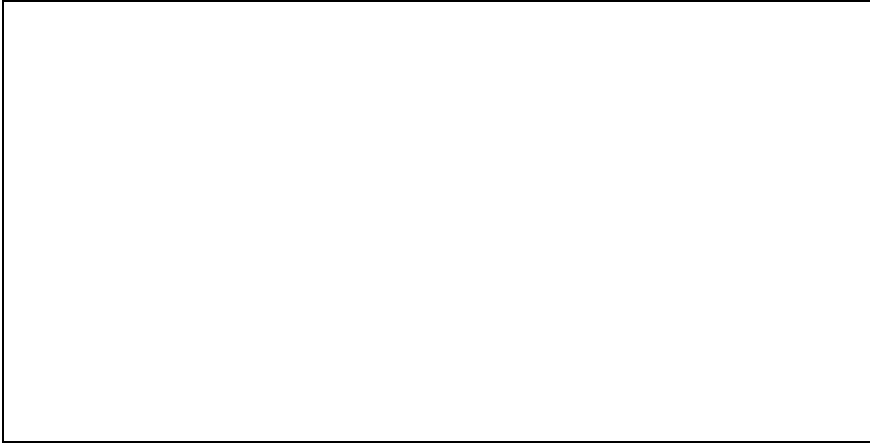


Fig.11 Point L at Die Poort on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

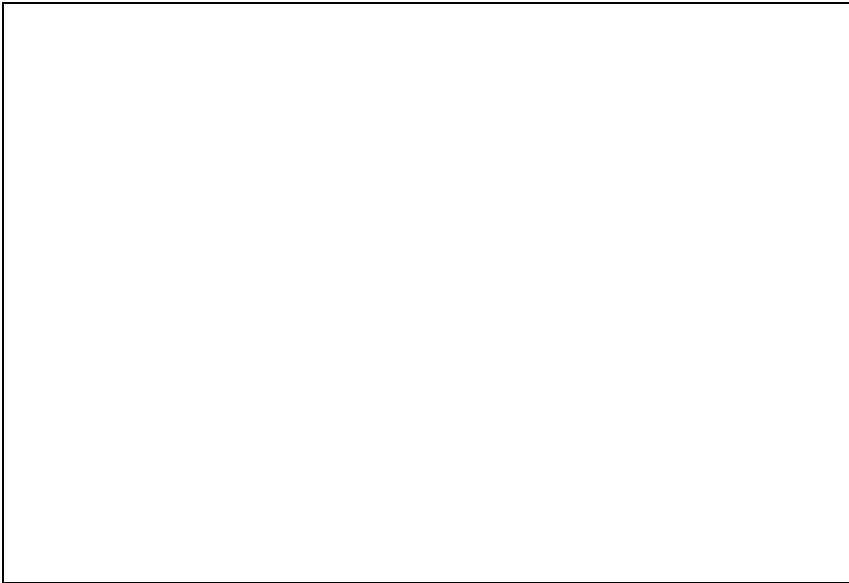


Fig.12 Point M on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

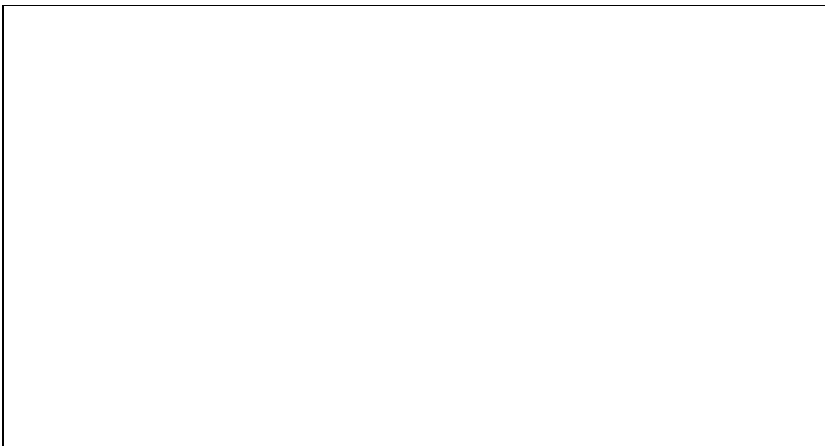


Fig.13 Point N at Kweekkraal on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.14 Point P at Koedoeskop on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.15 Point R on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.16 Point S on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

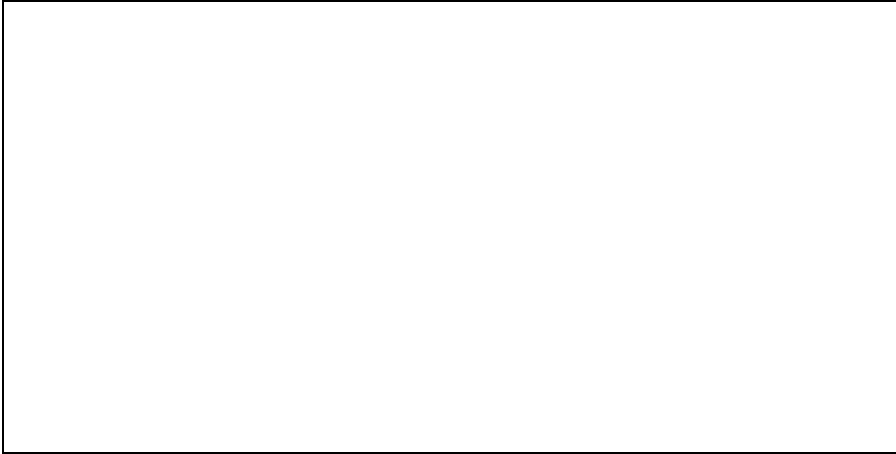


Fig.17 Point T on Pieknierspas N7 Citrusdal/Piketberg.

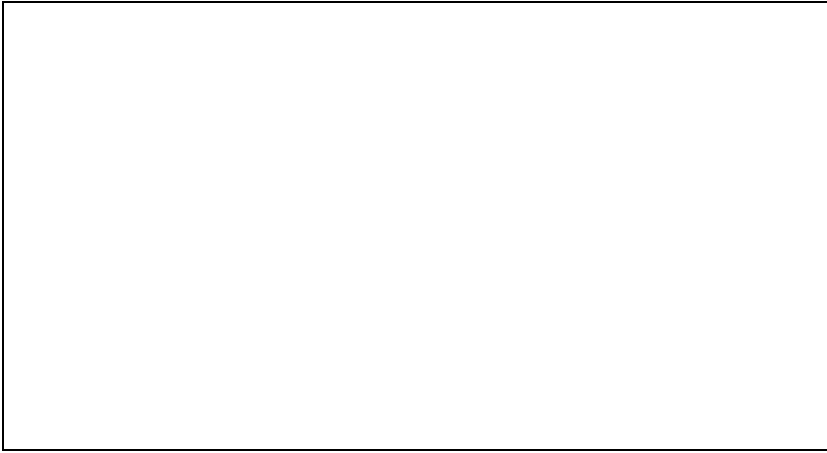


Fig.18 Point U at Toll Gate Pieknierspas on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

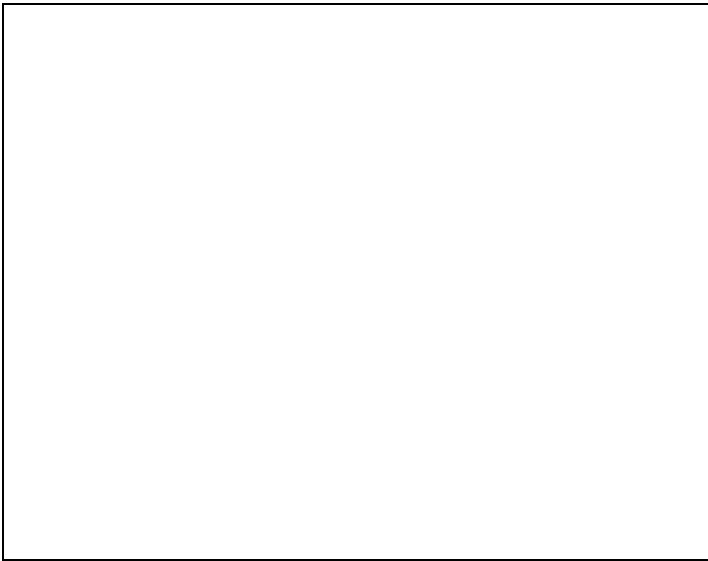


Fig.19 Point U Post Tree at Toll Gate Pieknierspas on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.20 Point W at Markuskraal on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.21 Point X at Rondegat on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.22 Point Y at Klawersvlei on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

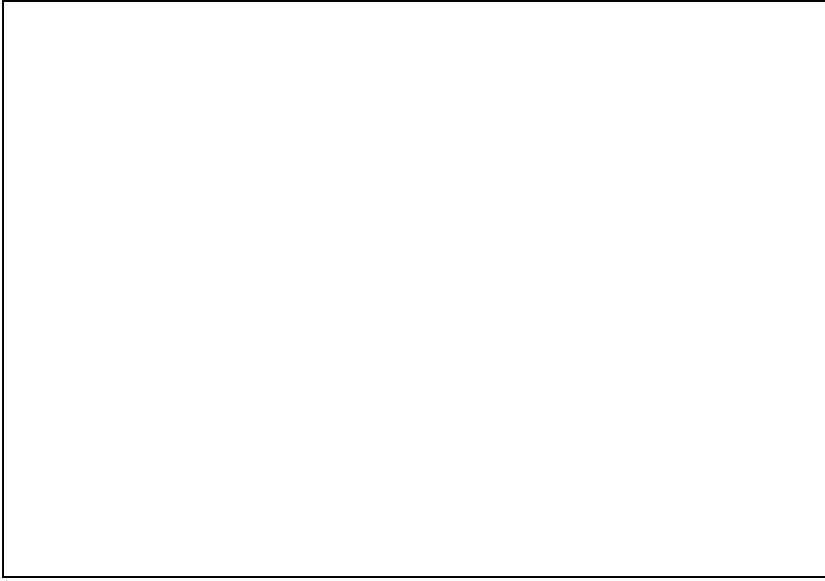


Fig.23 Point Z at Aggenbagskraal on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

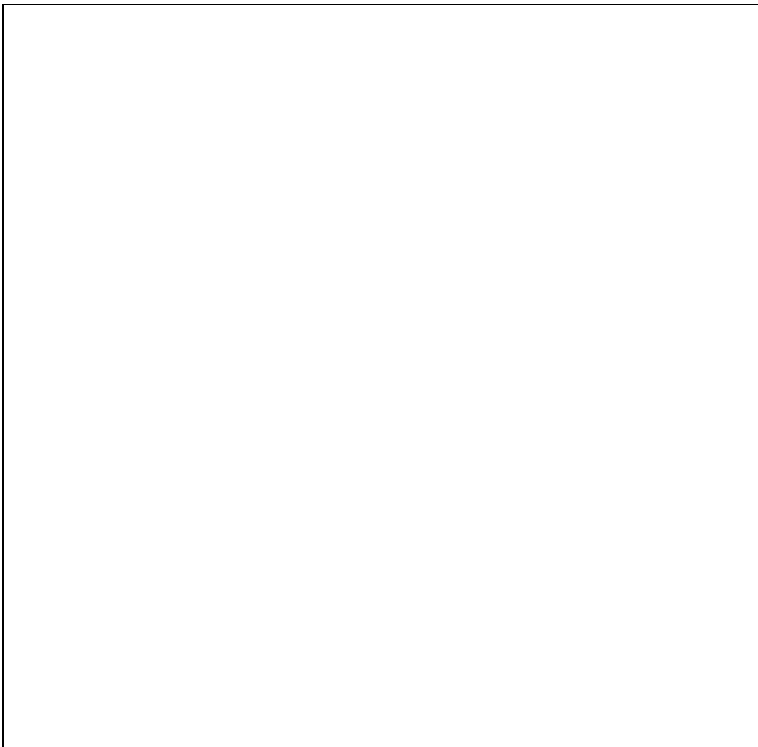


Fig.24 Graveyard at Klawervlei on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

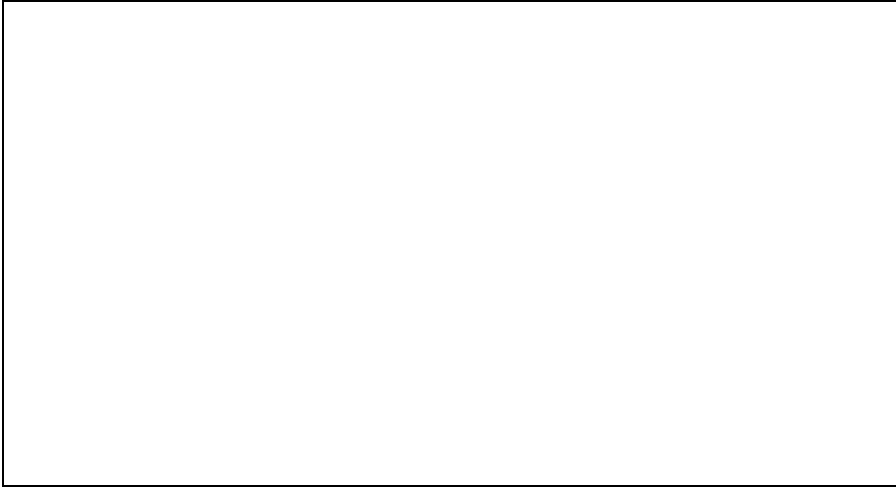


Fig.25 Air strip on Nooitgedagt on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

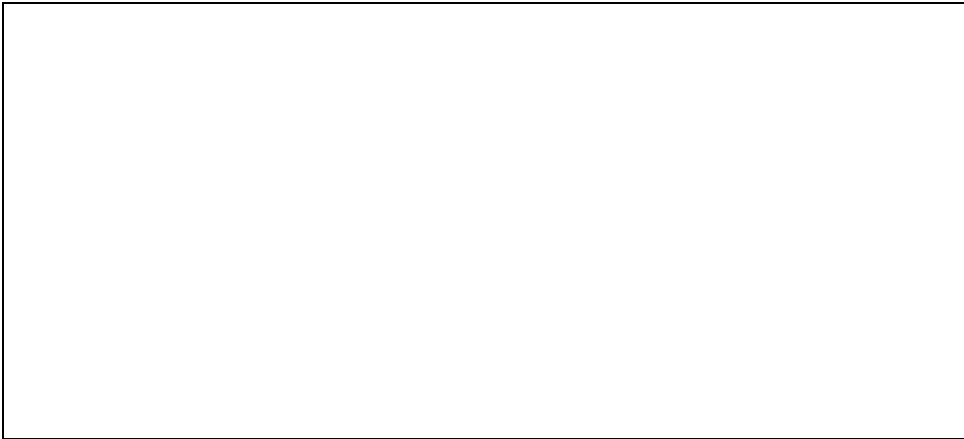


Fig.26 Graveyard at Modderfontein on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.

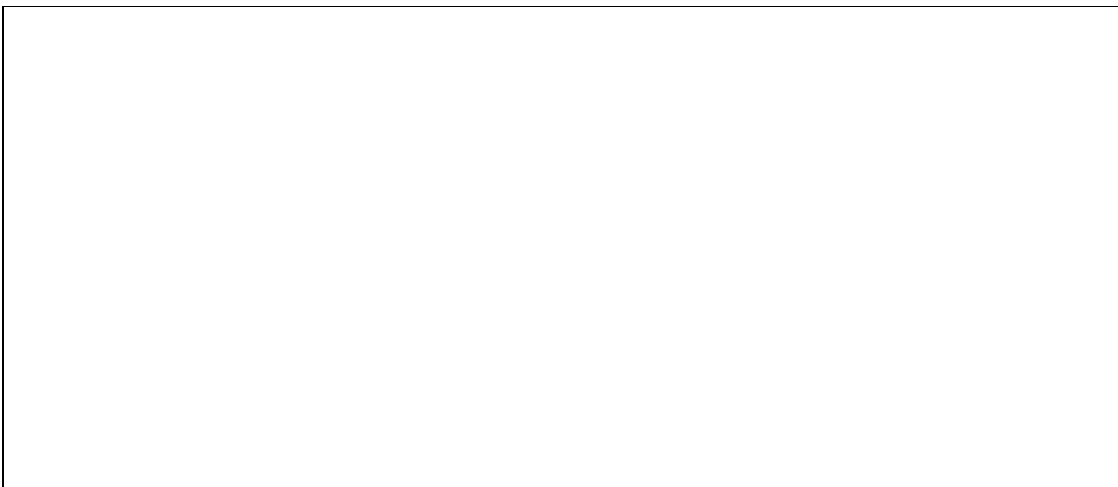


Fig.27 Historical Village at Modderfontein on N7 Citrusdal/Clanwilliam.



Fig.28 Logo of the MacGregors Citrusdal Hotel. A smiling man in floppy hat, tailcoat and knickers displays an orange in his right hand, while holding his left hand behind his back.