

## Site Visit, Houtkaprug, Farms 460 and various portions of 451, Clanwilliam<sup>1</sup>

This site visit was undertaken in order to assess the heritage potential of a portion of the farm Houtkaprug which has been identified for a proposed citrus orchard. The farm is situated approximately 3km to the north of Citrusdal. The Oliphants River flows through the centre of the valley. The site is within the Cederberg, an area well known for its rock paintings and associated archaeological sites. Ms Madele Mouton, one of the owners of the farm, has confirmed that there are rock paintings in the hills above the farm. Triple curved bows (John Parkington pers comm) are also found in this area.

The area under survey is dense virgin fynbos on sandy soils, which has not been burned for a very long time; the restionaceae are as tall as a person. The adjoining fallow fields had been sowed with lupins. At least two (seasonal) mountain streams traverse the area of the proposed orchard.

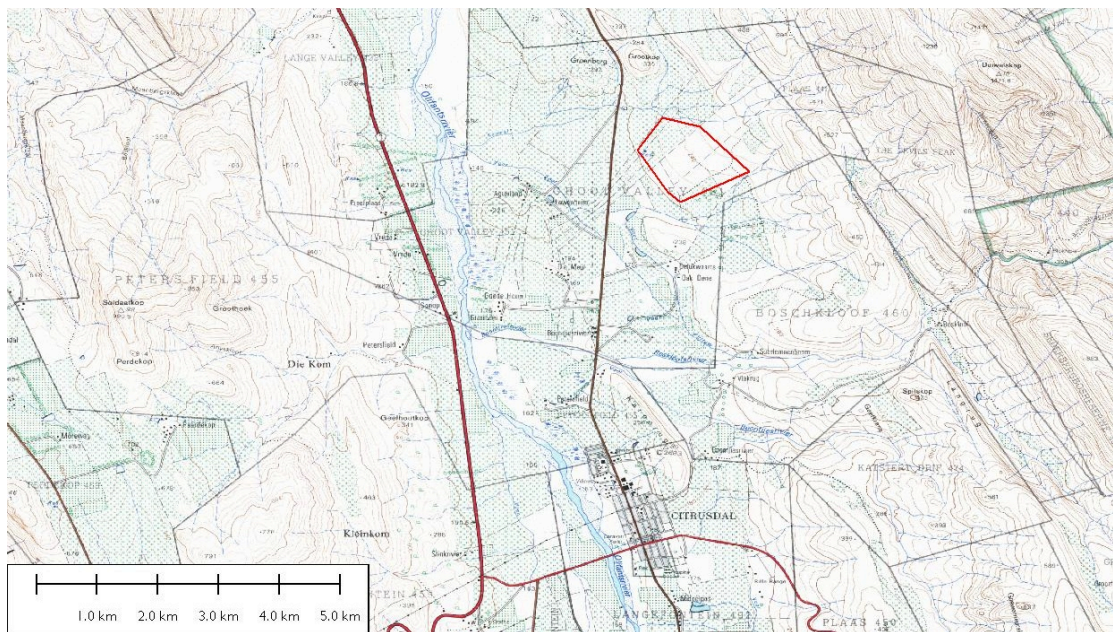


Figure 1: Location of the portion of Houtkaprug proposed citrus orchard (Map reference).



Figure 2: Views from the ridge above the proposed orchard, showing the existing dam to the south of the orchard and the valley below.

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## Methodology

The site was inspected on Monday 5 September 2011 by Prof Andrew Smith and assisted by Harriet Clift.

We walked the southeastern perimeter road, past the dam, then followed the proposed line on the northeast as far as the slope break below the ridge. We inspected dune mole hills in open areas. Following the slope break across the property, we pushed our way through the thick scrub as far as the main drainage down from the hills above. We walked downstream in the river bed to see if any artefacts were washed into the stream. On reaching the road, we followed it to the boundary of the existing orchards.



Figure 3: The location of the proposed orchard is shown by the red outline. The path walked during the survey is indicated by the yellow line.

## Results

Little to no stone artefacts were found during the site visit. A silcrete fragment was found in the road at the start of the survey. A possible large quartzite core was found in the access road next to the existing orchards (No 039).



Figure 4: Possible quartzite core (No 038) found in the access road.

A large pile of stones, roughly linear, was recorded (No 038). This feature did not appear to be natural and could have been the remains either of an old boundary beacon or an informal shepherds' shelter. It falls outside the area proposed for the new orchard.

### **Conclusions & Recommendations**

The dense vegetation made easy survey very difficult. We could, however, look carefully at open areas and dune mole hills in the sandy soils. The prehistoric heritage potential appears to be low. There were no buildings or other structures within the survey area.

There would appear to be no impediment from a heritage perspective to the orchard extensions going ahead.