

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

S24G Application, illegal vineyard development on Norriseep, Rem of the Farm Afstof No. 421, near Onseepkans, Kai! Ma Municipality, Northern Cape

Assessment conducted under Section 38 (3) of the National Heritage Resource Act
(No. 25 of 1999)

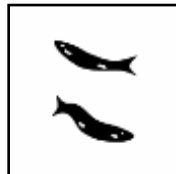
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Executive summary

1. Introduction

ACRM was instructed by GroenbergEnviro to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for an illegal vineyard development on the farm Norriseep, (Rem of Farm Afstof No. 421) near Onseepkans, Kai! Ma Municipality, in the Northern Cape Province.

The illegal vineyards, totally about 56ha in extent, were established between 2006 and 2007 without environmental authorisation.

The AIA forms part of a Section 24G Application process which is designed to legally correct an unauthorised development.

2. Legal requirements

In terms of Section 38 (1) (c) (iii) of the National Heritage Resources Act 1999 (Act 25 of 1999), a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed project is required if the footprint area of the development is more than 5000m² in extent.

A HIA of the agricultural development was not undertaken at the time.

3. Aim of the AIA

The overall purpose of the AIA is to determine the impacts that the unauthorised development had on archaeological resources.

4. Limitations

There were no limitations associated with the field study.

5. Findings

A field assessment of the agricultural development took place on 13th July 2020, in which the following observations were made:

No archaeological resources were recorded in the 56ha footprint area of the development. Combined, the three blocks of (illegal) vineyards constitute a highly transformed landscape.

No archaeological resources were encountered in the surrounding area, either. Previous archaeological assessments undertaken in Onseepkans, has noted the very low density of archaeological resources in the area.

6. Built environment

No old buildings, structures, features or equipment were recorded on the farm.

7. Graves

A small, graveyard is located on the farm, but the fenced off site is situated some distance from the vineyard development

No other graves or typical grave features were encountered during the study.

8. Impact statement

The results of the study suggest that the listed activity (i. e. an unauthorised vineyard development), has likely, not had an impact of great significance on archaeological resources.

9. Conclusion

The receiving environment (i. e. existing vineyards) comprises a severely transformed landscape.

The literature survey indicates that it is unlikely that significant archaeological resources would have been impacted by the development.

The impact significance of the illegally established vineyards on archaeological heritage is therefore assessed as LOW

10. Recommendations

1. With regard to the illegal establishment of vineyards on the Farm Norriseep (Rem. of Farm Afstof No. 421), no further archaeological mitigation is required.

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1. INTRODUCTION

ACRM was instructed by GroenbergEnviro, on behalf of CapeSpan Farms (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for an illegal vineyard development on the Farm Norriseep (Rem of Farm Afstof 421) near Onseepkans, Kai! Ma Municipality in the Northern Cape (Figures 1-3). The AIA forms part of a Section 24G Application. A S24G Application is a process in which to legally correct an unauthorised development.

The illegal vineyards, totalling 56ha, were established between 2006 and 2007 without environmental authorisation (Kühn 2019).

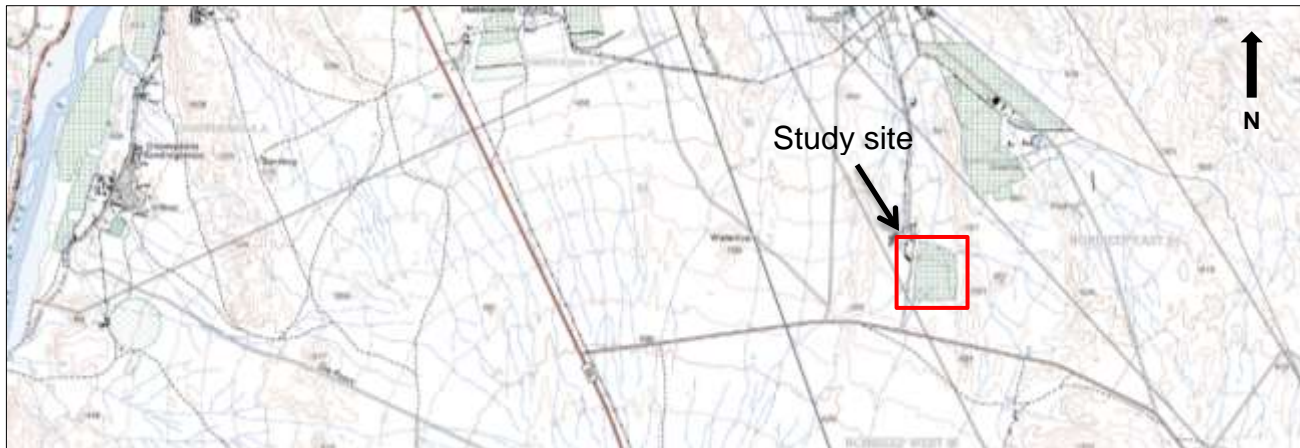


Figure 1. Locality Map (2819CB Augrabies). Red polygon illustrates the location of the study area



Figure 2. Google satellite map illustrating the location of the study site in relation to Onseepkans.

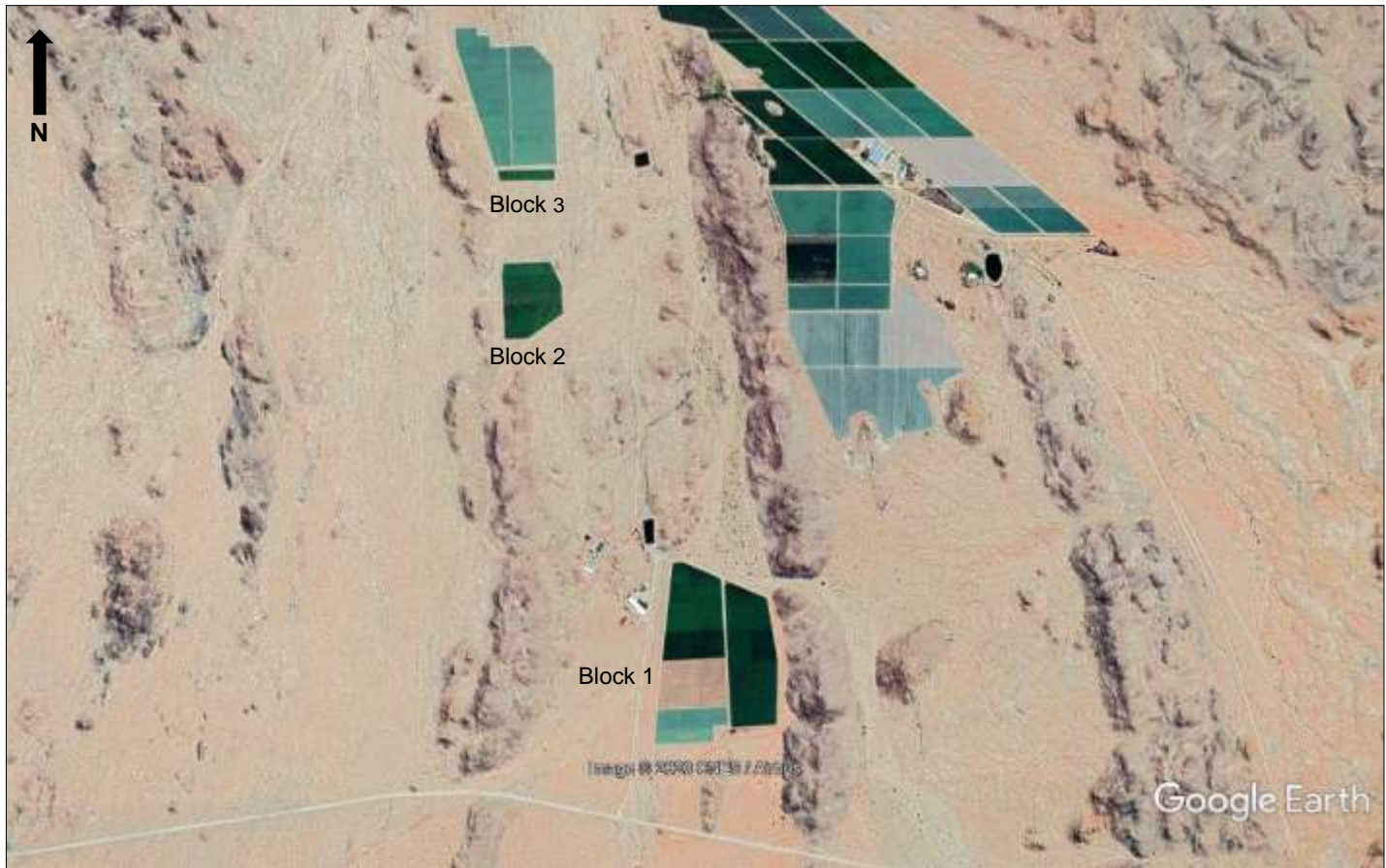


Figure 4. Google satellite map indicating the 3 Blocks of vineyards illegally developed between 2006 & 2007

2. HERITAGE LEGISLATION

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) makes provision for a compulsory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) when an area exceeding 5000 m² is being developed. This is to determine if the area contains heritage sites and to take the necessary steps to ensure that they are not damaged or destroyed during development.

The NHRA provides protection for the following categories of heritage resources:

- Landscapes, cultural or natural (Section 3 (3))
- Buildings or structures older than 60 years (Section 34);
- Archaeological sites, palaeontological material and meteorites (Section 35);
- Burial grounds and graves (Section 36);
- Public monuments and memorials (Section 37);
- Living heritage (defined in the Act as including cultural tradition, oral history, performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge)

systems and the holistic approach to nature, society and social relationships) (Section 2 (d) (xxi)).

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the archaeological study were to:

- Determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological resources that may have been impacted by the proposed development activities;
- Identify potentially sensitive archaeological areas, and
- Recommend any mitigation action.

4. THE STUDY SITE

Norriseep is located on Rem. of Farm Afstof No. 421, adjacent the Gariep/Orange River, about 5kms north-east from Onseepkans.

The three blocks of vineyards, totally \pm 56ha were illegally developed between 2006 and 2007 (Figure 4-9).



Figure 4. Block 1 (26ha). View facing south

Archaeological Impact Assessment, illegal vineyard development on the Farm Norriseep near Onseepkans, Northern Cape



Figure 5. Block 1. View facing south west



Figure 6. Block 1. View facing north west



Figure 7. Block 2 (8ha). View facing north east



Figure 8. Block 3 (22ha). View facing north east



Figure 9. Block 3. View facing north west

5. STUDY APPROACH

5.1 Method of survey

The overall purpose of the AIA is to determine the impacts that the illegal development had on archaeological resources.

To this end a site assessment was undertaken on the 13th July, 2020.

A literature survey was also carried out to assess the archaeological context of the surrounding area.

5.2 Constraints and limitations

There were no constraints or limitations associated with the study. Access to the farm was easy and archaeological visibility was very good.

5.3 Results of the desk top study

Kaplan (2013, 2017) and Engelbrecht (2015) recorded very small numbers of pre-colonial archaeological resources in the course of surveys covering large parcels of land in Onseepkans while Dreyer (2008) recorded no archaeological resources during an investigation of 14 borrow pits alongside the R362 between Pofadder and Onseepkans. Beaumont (2008) also recorded no archaeological resources during a survey of the farm Sty-Kraal near Onseepkans.

6. FINDINGS

6.1 Illegal vineyard development

No archaeological resources were recorded in the illegally developed vineyards on the Farm Norriseep. Combined, the 56ha of cultivated vineyards constitute a highly transformed and modified landscape.

No archaeological resources were recorded in the surrounding area.

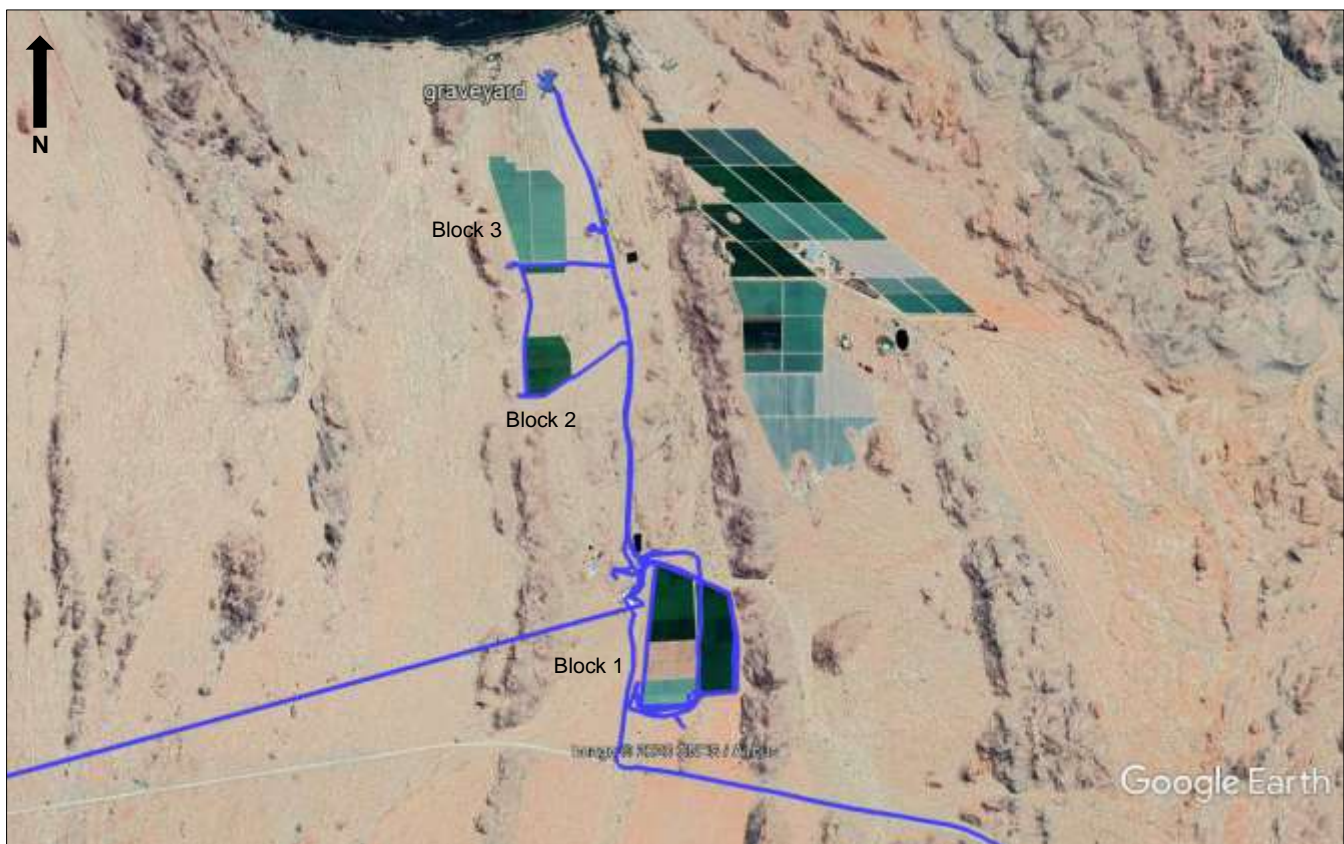


Figure 10. Trackpaths in blue (site assessment undertaken on 13th July, 2020)

6.1 Built environment

No old buildings, structures, features or equipment were recorded on the farm.

6.2 Graves

A small family graveyard was recorded on the farm, but is located a considerable distance from the illegal vineyard development (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Family graveyard

7. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

In the case of an illegal vineyard development on the Farm Norriseep (Rem of the Farm Afstof 421), it is expected that impacts on archaeological heritage are likely to have been *LOW*. This is based on a field assessment, as well as a desktop study of previous archaeological work undertaken in the Onseepkans area.

8. CONCLUSION

Cultivation of illegal vineyards on the Farm Norriseep (Rem. of Farm Afstof 421) has fundamentally transformed the receiving environment.

The literature survey indicates that it is unlikely that significant archaeological resources were impacted by the development.

The impact significance of the illegally established vineyards on archaeological heritage is therefore assessed as *LOW*.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the illegal development of vineyards on the Farm Norriseep (Rem of Farm Afstof No. 421), the following recommendations are made:

1. No further archaeological mitigation is required.

10. REFERENCES

Beaumont, P. 2008. Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment report on a portion of the Remainder of the Farm Sty-Kraal 81 near Onseepkans, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province. Report prepared for MEG Environmental Impact Studies. McGregor Museum, Kimberley. Cobus Dreyer Pr Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist.

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Engelbrecht, J. 2015. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the proposed agricultural development at Onseepkans in the Northern Cape Province. Report prepared for Enviroafrica. Ubique Heritage Consultants (Pty) Ltd. Ashkam

Kaplan, J. 2013. Archaeological Impact Assessment for the Proposed Eskom Pofadder-Luiperdshoek 11kv Powerline Project

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Kühn, E. 2019. S24G Application Form. Norriseep – Cultivation of vineyards across small streams, and development of a pack house on Remainder of Farm Afstof No. 421, Northern Cape Province. Report prepared for Capespan Farms (Pty) Ltd. GroenbergEnviro, Wellington.