

DRILLING AT FLORISBAD

During November 1981 a mobile auger drill from the Geological Survey, Pretoria, drilled 23 holes at Florisbad so that an impression of the extent and stratigraphy of the spring deposits could be obtained. The position of the holes had been pre-selected by Dr Ron Clarke and surveyed and plotted by Prof. Nic Grobler. As these deposits were lifted in one-metre sections by the auger, they were measured and sampled by Dr Clarke whilst Mrs Kathy Rubin of the University of Pennsylvania, who worked at Florisbad for a few months, recorded the stratigraphic column. Prof. E.M. van Zinderen Bakker and Prof. J. Coetzee, palinologists of the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of the Orange Free State, took 179 samples for pollen analysis. The deepest deposit (11 metres) was recorded to the west of the present excavation.

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Prof E.M. van Zinderen Bakker (left) and Dr R.J. Clarke taking samples for pollen analysis from a geological core at Florisbad.



The mobile drill of the Geological Survey, Pretoria has lifted a column of sediment at the Florisbad swamp. The sediments are being recorded and sampled.