

10 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE HAKSKEENPAN

This dried lake bed in the Northern Cape of South Africa has been chosen as the ideal location to run BLOODHOUND SSC at 1000mph

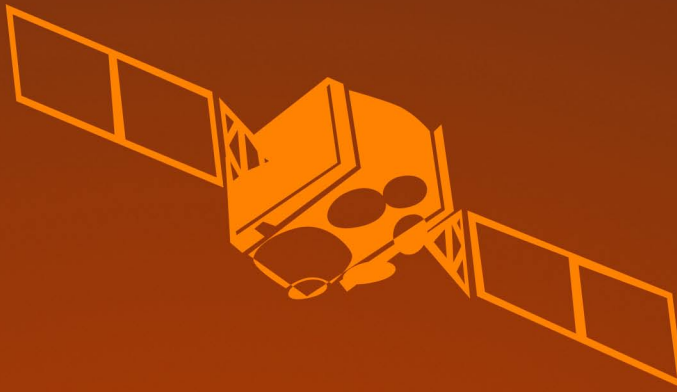
40cm ↑↓

12 MILES

With so little undulation over the full length the pan is effectively smoother than a pool table

21.5
MILLION

... square metres of desert were cleared by hand.
The same as 3,000 international football pitches!



20,000

Swansea University created a bespoke computer programme to scour satellite earth observation imagery and assessed over 20,000 potential sites



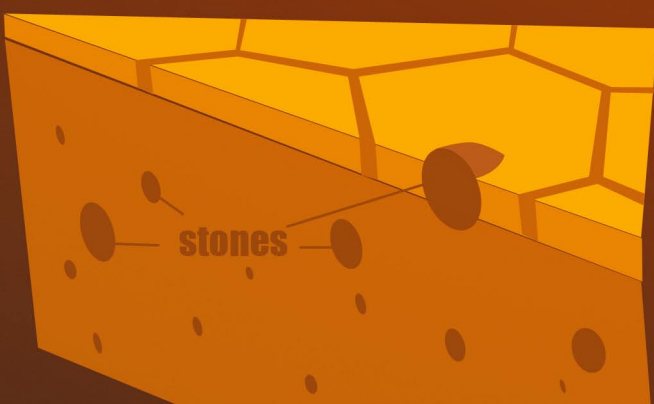
A **PAN**
is a dry lake

HAKSKEEN
means
HEEL
in Afrikaans

6,000
TONNES OF ROCKS

The team picked up every stone - however tiny!

The surface is made of 1-2cm thick plates of sun-baked mud. These sit on more mud which has built up over 1,000's of years.



The Pan's crust is so hard the sharp metal wheels of the 7.5 tonne car hardly leave a mark!

APPROX.

50CM

The pan regularly (almost every year) floods under this much water. This is what makes it so smooth.



317 PEOPLE

From the local community cleared stones for 120 days

STATS

Age.....10,000-20,000 years

Altitude.....794 metres

Av. annual rainfall.....200mm

Av. temp. range.....-6 to +45°C

This classified ad in the The Times was a take on one by Shackleton 100 years earlier* ...

People wanted to clear desert track for 1,000 mph car. No wages, constant heat, tough work in beautiful but remote Hakskeenpan, Northern Cape, South Africa. Scorpions may be present. Inspiring next generation of engineers the reward.

*Actually no one has been able to find the original & there's a \$100 prize if you do!