

**HERITAGE SURVEY FOR DE BEERS
CONSOLIDATED MINES,
KOFFIEFONTEIN MINE**

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Two surveys were undertaken of the mining area and game farm of De Beers Consolidated Mines, Koffiefontein Mine. An archaeological survey was undertaken on 17 and 18 October 2001, and the survey was expanded to include historical heritage sites on 4 August and 1 September 2004. No archaeologically sensitive areas were identified within the mining area, as this area has been mostly disturbed. However, the remains of various historical structures were identified within the mining area, no-man's land and other areas on the De Beers property, such as the Eskom Dump and the game farm. Various sites of archaeological importance were also identified on the game farm. All historical and archaeological sites discussed in this report fall within the description of heritage resources as defined by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no. 25 of 1999).

Heritage sites identified during the course of the surveys mentioned fall into five categories. These are: archaeological sites, historical sites relating to the early workings of the mine (industrial sites), military sites (Anglo-Boer War and World War II), domestic historical structures, and burial grounds.

Appendices include information on the black eagles nesting in the Koffiefontein pipe and SAHRA contact details.

This report incorporates a previous report (Henderson 2001) on the archaeological survey of the mine area.

INTRODUCTION

The results of the two surveys carried out in 2001 and 2004 are discussed in terms of the sites located, and the implications, in accordance with the National Heritage Resources

Act no. 25 of 1999, of the sites for future activities on the De Beers property in Koffiefontein. This is particularly in the context of Section 44 (1) (a) of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act no. 28 of 2002.

AREAS SURVEYED

THE MINING AREA

This area consists of the Koffiefontein and Ebenhaezer pipes, the mining and administration buildings, the tailings dumps, the slimes dams and settling dams and the old hostel buildings (Fig. 1). The area known as no-man's land, specifically in the region of the old Whitworth House, is included in this designation.

THE ESKOM DUMP AREA

This area comprises the fenced-off area around the Eskom Dump, as well as the region of the Guard House and surrounding area.

THE GAME FARM (comprising Koffiefontein 733 and Ebenhaezer)

This area comprises the land owned by the Mine around the Koffiefontein and Ebenhaezer pipes, but outside the mining area. The game farm is well known to the managers at the mine as culling takes place on the farm at least once a year. There are several known sites of archaeological and historical importance on the game farm. An exhaustive survey of heritage sites was not carried out, but the known sites were visited. A few random areas were also surveyed, as well as a couple of the koppies on the game farm.

MIDDELFONTEIN/RIVERCAMP

Although the Mine is in the process of selling this property the archaeological engravings on a ridge near the river will be mentioned here.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

All archaeological sites were located on the Game Farm, or on the Rivercamp/Middelfontein property.

General:

Middle Stone Age artefacts were found in the areas between the koppies on the Game Farm. It seems that there is a light scatter of these artefacts over much of the farm. None of the koppies examined had rocks suitable for engravings on them, apart from those behind the mine manager's house.

Engravings behind the mine manager's house (29° 25'417''S, 25° 00'761''E):

These four engravings occur on a koppie behind the mine manager's house (Fig. 2). Two engravings occur towards the base of the koppie and two towards the top. These engravings are well executed, and one in particular is unusual. The engravings have been pecked, and some occur in outline while others have been filled in.

Rock engravings and paintings are believed to be part of the religious experiences of the Bushman or San (Lewis-Williams 1981). The images are depictions by San shamans of their experiences while in trance. San shamans were believed to cure sickness, make rain and control game movements. They would also fight evil spirits and were powerful individuals. The shamans would go into an hallucinatory state during a trance dance. During their excursion to the spirit world they would often become half human and half animal, taking on the characteristics of powerful animals.

The eland was the most symbolically significant animal in Bushman (San) ritual and was depicted the most often. Unlike most other animals the male has more fat than the female, and this fat was supposed to be very powerful, containing supernatural potency. San

shamans used eland power to pass from this world to the spirit world. The transition between these two states is often represented by an eland (Dowson 1992).

The engraving at the base of the koppie is of a black wildebeest in outline (see Fig. 3). Near it is an engraving of a warthog with its tail in the air (Fig. 4). This engraving is filled in. The two engravings near the top of the koppie consist of two antelope, one an eland, and the other possibly a blesbok. Both of these engravings are significant.

The engraving nearest the top of the koppie is of an eland in outline, but with the nose filled in (Fig. 5). Above the eland a series of scratch marks have been made. These are probably more recent and could indicate that the site was used over a period of time. One nineteenth century bushman informant explained that the rain animal had to be cut for the rain (Dowson 1992), and it could be that these scratches represent a similar sort of ritual.

The fourth engraving is unusual in that near to the antelope's nose there is a fish depicted (Fig. 6). Engravings of fish are very rare, and only seven others are known. Four of these are also found on De Beers' property, and two are located in the old western Transvaal, one near Schweizer-Reneke (Schoonraad 1962, Appendix 3). It is not stated whether the latter two engravings were associated with other animals as this one is. The fish has been identified as a yellowfish.

Depictions of fish can represent the feeling that the San shaman has while he is in an hallucinatory state (Lewis-Williams 1981). The shaman has feelings of weightlessness, and that his breathing has been affected. Distortions of hearing and sight also occur. Some informants have described the state as being underwater (Ouzman 1995). The rock engraving is therefore of significance, as it is a metaphor for a shaman in a ritual context.

The koppie on which the engravings occur looks out over the current mine lake (Fig. 2). It is likely that the lake is in a hollow, which could in the past have been a natural pan. On a map of the Koffiefontein mine dating to 1950, the area is marked as a vlei (Fig. 7). The association of the hill with water might have had some significance as well.

Other, historical, engravings occur in the vicinity. These include depictions of men on horseback, together with a whole series of arrows, and instructions such as *Volg die pyle*.

Stone artefacts, mostly from the Middle Stone Age (dating to between 250 000 and about 30 - 25 000 years ago), were found scattered randomly over the surface between the koppie with the engravings, the slimes dams and the fence along the Luckhoff Road. They also occur around the pan on the game farm (see below), and also on the koppies where the hill structure is, as well as the inscriptions discussed below. Artefacts occur scattered over large areas of southern Africa, and it is probable that they would have occurred in the mining area as well.

The koppies above the golf course (29° 24'101"S, 24° 59'803"E):

The koppies behind the golf course were examined (Fig. 8). A cross has been erected at the highest point of the koppies. Many of the rocks at the base of the cross are covered with engravings and graffiti. Apart from two San engravings on a split rock (one of an eland and the other of an unidentified quadruped, possibly a feline) all the other engravings were done by Europeans. Most of them are single words or sentences expressing moral thoughts or thoughts of the difficulties people were encountering at the time. Some examples are:

Het smart my leven in my hart

Die liefde

Zeet ongelukige op die aarde (Fig. 9a)

Pynlyk

Smartlyk

Knagend

10 Jaar

Tvd 1895

24.3.31

Verdrukking

Die bitter lot

17307

Uuren

Smart (Fig. 9b)

een harde proeft

2 Jaar van smart

M... 23 Don

De Rozen Dees Aard

One rock contains a homily:

Die reizies paarden valsheid

bedrag vervolg roverachten

Klaper oorblazer sweiger

niewsdragen kwaadsteken

landpaal verrukken Vlijers

Arme verachten haat nyd

leugentaal lasterbaal drunker

Wie deze paarden ry

gaan Hel toe als hy aan houd

welgy zaait zult gy maait

The racing horses' deceitfulness*

swindling/ follow the robbers who have
stolen an amount

?, whisperer, someone who keeps quiet
carrier of news, mischief maker

to move someone's property boundaries,
(i.e. steal land), flatterers

poor, despised, hated, envy

lies, slander, ?drunkenness

whoever rides these horses

will go to hell if he carries on

what you sow so shall you reap

(*English translation from the Afrikaans translation provided by Dr H. Haasbroek and Dr D. van der Bank.)

Dates associated with these inscriptions range from 1895 to 1910, 1928, 1929 and 1931. Another possible date is that of 17.3.07. The name M.F. Pretorius occurs with dates of 28.3.29 (Fig. 10) and 27.6.1931 (Henderson 2003b, Appendix 4). Most of the inscriptions are in the same writing, including those with the 1931 dates, and different to that of the 1910 date and initials. The 1910 date relates to the initials J.E.M.A. (Fig. 11), and the 1895 date probably relates to date of birth as it occurs with a date of 24.3.31. M.F. Pretorius was the likely author of most of the inscriptions. He had been employed on the mine from 1905 until it had closed in 1915, but had not been re-employed when the mine re-opened (Henderson 2003b, Appendix 4). His brother, however, was employed at the mine between 1923 and 1930, and it is likely that Pretorius was staying with his brother at the time he was chiselling out the inscriptions.

According to D.C. McGill the years between 1912 and 1930 were good years for Koffiefontein. During this time it flourished socially and mining activities continued (McGill, n.d, 1991.). However, the Depression of November 1929 hit the mine hard. Diamond production stopped although most white workers on the mine were kept on until the end of 1931. The mine closed finally in 1932 (McGill 1991). It would seem that most of the inscriptions were done in 1931 and possibly in 1928. The impending closure of the mine would have brought uncertainty. This could explain the two years of pain (*smart*) that one rock inscription records (1929-1931).

These rock inscriptions are part of the social history of Koffiefontein and as such need to be preserved.

The Pan area:

The pan lies on the edge of the game farm property on the opposite side to the mine (Fig. 12). At one point the edge of the pan was investigated and stone artefacts of hornfels were observed scattered on the surface. It is likely that the pan was a source of water and game in prehistoric times, and it is likely that artefacts will be found scattered around its edges.

Rivercamp/Middelfontein:

This property has rock engravings, which are located on a koppie near the Riet River. These engravings were recorded by Sven Ouzman of the National Museum, Bloemfontein, Rock Art Department in August 1996. The site is known as Middelfontein in the Museum records and consists of three groups of engravings. The first group (29° 25' 18"S and 25° 01'31"E) contains a couple of human figures. The second group (29° 25'17"S and 25° 01'37"E) is the largest including eland (Fig. 13) and other unknown antelope (Fig. 14). One particularly interesting animal is an eland which has had later additions to it in the form of a nuchal hump, lines from the tail and the nose, and an extension to the nose. This can clearly be seen in the tracing that was made of the engraving (Fig. 15). The engravings from this group also include some European graffiti and some attempts to copy the San engravings. There is also an attempt to capture a woman or a Scottish soldier on a rock (Fig. 16). There are over 30 images in this group and the engravings are all pecked.

The third group of engravings (29° 25'09"S and 25° 01'31"E) is of three human or baboon-like figures with bags on their backs. One carries a bow and one a 'bat'. These are interesting figures but are difficult to see.

Recommendations:

- The engravings behind the mine manager's house should not be moved and access to them should be under supervision to prevent any damage to them.
- Further developments in the area of the cross on the koppie behind the golf course should be limited. Already the cross has impacted on the site, although fortunately it appears to be towards the edge of the area of inscriptions. Should anything further be planned for that area then an archaeologist should be part of the planning process. The inscriptions are part of the history of Koffiefontein and should be preserved. The fact that there are San engravings on the hill attests to the depth of spiritual association with the hill. The cross is the most recent example of this and does not detract from the site, however.

- The Rivercamp/Middelfontein property is in the process of being sold, so will no longer be De Beers concern. However, it would be the correct thing to inform the new owner that there are engravings on the site which must be protected. The owner can obtain further information about the engravings from the Rock Art Department of the National Museum (P.O. Box 266, Bloemfontein, 9300, tel: 051-4479609).

INDUSTRIAL HISTORICAL STRUCTURES

The old Ebenhaezer Plant (29°24'465"S, 24°59'295"E):

This complex of structures is located within the mining area to the north of the Ebenhaezer pipe and also within the game farm (Fig. 17). The fence and a road cut through the complex of structures. For ease of reference the complex of structures will be referred to as the Ebenhaezer Plant, although it has not yet been possible to identify the structures individually on the evidence found so far.

The most prominent of the structures is a red brick wall (Fig. 18), 18.8 m long. The wall stands nearly 6 m high and consists of a lower dolerite packed wall with a red brick upper portion (Fig. 19). Two roughly 3.2 m long cement slabs (one at each end) extend through the wall in an easterly direction and mark the distinction between the dolerite and brick walls (see Fig.20).

It is clear from the construction of the wall and of the other structures near by that this complex of buildings relates to the industrial activity at the mine at some stage.

On the easterly side of the wall a dump of fine material is packed against the wall, and also stretches away from the wall (Fig. 21). Where parts of the wall have collapsed, the material is eroding through the openings (Fig. 22). The dump also seems to contain some coal cinders, as does the dump to the west of the wall (G. Anderson and pers. observation). This would seem to indicate that machinery of some kind was being worked in this area.

Cement structures, various foundations, and sunken brick structures all indicate the presence of industrial buildings (Fig. 23).

Further away on the Game Farm to the north is a series of broken down cement pillars and bases (29°24'42"S & 24°59'35"E, Fig. 24). It is not possible at present to identify what the structure was, but the method of construction is the same as that for the "bins" at the Eskom Dump, discussed below.

It does not seem as if the Ebenhaezer Mine was profitable enough for continuous mining in the past. However, certain attempts were made before 1935 when De Beers took over the various companies involved in the mining in Koffiefontein.

In 1880 *The London and Orange Free State Exploration Company Ltd* (LOFSEC), a subsidiary of De Beers bought the farms Koffiefontein and Ebenhaezer from S.F.G. Rörich. LOFSEC was the owner of the land, and although the mines were declared public diggings by the Free State Government and part of the revenue from the claim licences went to them, the LOFSEC were in control of renting out land for erecting machinery, washing plants, offices and dwellings. They also rented out depositing floors, and were responsible for providing the mining companies with water. The company also rented out stands in the township of Koffiefontein. LOFSEC's income was made up of rentals, claim licences and De Beers shares (investment made in 1891). The name of the company was changed to *Koffyfontein Estates Ltd* (KEL) on 15 March 1902.

The history of working the Ebenhaezer Mine appears to be as follows:

- Ebenhaezer Mine surveyed in 1881. The reef was defined and a few trial pits sunk.
- August 1883 to March 1884 about 15 claims were worked by Mr Osborne. They are referred to as Osborne's Prospect in the KEL minutes of 12 May 1905. A Thomas Osborne was the manager of LOFSEC in Koffiefontein, and it is likely that he is the Osborne referred to. Three shafts were sunk at these workings.

- Ebenhaezer Mine proclaimed a public diggings from 1 March 1897 (Gov. Gazette no. 207-1897, 12 March 1897)
- In June 1904 “a block of 400 claims was taken up” by the *Ebenhaezer Mining and Development Syndicate Ltd*, a Johannesburg-based syndicate. Their manager in Koffiefontein was Peter Ellis.
- By March 1905 the EMDSL had taken up all the claims.
- In March 1906 it was reported that the EMDSL was “erecting machinery to work the mine on a larger scale” (KEL minute book, minutes dd 15 March 1906).
- November 1906 the mine was closed down “for a time” (KEL minutes dd 11 December 1906), in spite of EMDSL “spending a considerable sum of money in prospecting the mine and erecting machinery” (KEL minute book, minutes dd 11 March 1908).
- March 1907: a mine shaft was being sunk for “some party in Johannesburg, who will wash the ground when fit” (KEL minutes dd 19 March 1907).
- March 1910: prospecting had taken place and 23 claims had been applied for and capital was being sought by the *New Orion Company*.
- March 1911: 790 claims were being tendered for.
- March 1912: 500 claims had been taken up by T.G. McLelland, and machinery was being erected.
- By March 1913 the mine had been abandoned.
- Tenders advertised for working Ebenhaezer Mine (Gov. notice no. 1111 of 1913. Tenders closed 5 September 1913. 790 claims were available.
- Tenders advertised for working Ebenhaezer Mine (Gov. notice no. 1713 of 1917). Tenders closed on 17 February 1917. 790 claims were available.
- By March 1921 the *International Diamonds Ltd* were sinking a shaft, and had been allocated floors in preparation for mining. Peter Ellis was also involved in this venture.
- By February 1925 the *IDL* were in “considerable” arrears in floor rentals
- Tenders advertised for working Ebenhaezer Mine (Gov. notice no. 1833 of 1925). Tenders closed 21 December 1925. 790 claims were available.

- January to June 1927 the mine was re-opened and washing operations were undertaken by the *Union Prospecting and Mining Syndicate*.
- 3 September 1935 KEL purchased by De Beers.
- In 1950 permission was refused De Beers to sample the mine as the Government regarded the mine as forfeited due to non-payment of claim licence fees by the previous claimholder (the UPMS).

The Ebenhaezer Plant structures are too extensive to have been erected by a small-scale operation. One can therefore discount the mining companies who worked the mine in 1883/4, 1907, 1910, 1927 and probably also 1912. The two most likely candidates for erecting the machinery would be the companies working the mine in 1904-6 and 1921-25. Both companies were Johannesburg-based syndicates, and their manager in Koffiefontein was Peter Ellis.

The *Ebenhaezer Mining and Development Syndicate Ltd* erected machinery in 1906, but it appears that they had abandoned the mine by the end of that year. In September of that year Ellis had applied to the KEL for “a hauling site, washing site and a site for employees quarters” (KEL minutes dd 20 September 1904). In April 1905 Ellis applied for “200 acres of land for flooring purposes and machine sites”. The area between the Ebenhaezer and Klipfontein Mines was declared the most suitable (KEL minutes dd 4 April 1905). A special meeting of the Directors was called on 12 May 1905 to discuss the location of the floor as Ellis had wanted the “Old workings” (ie Osborne’s Prospect) to be included in his flooring area, and not reserved as the KEL stipulated. The KEL Directors, however, would not accede to his request. It appears that an agreement was reached, and the mine was worked until November 1906, when the mine closed down. An inventory of the machinery was supposed to have been taken in July 1907 in anticipation of a sale of the plant to cover claim licences in October 1907. The manager was instructed to push up the bidding to £2 500.00 for the whole plant to cover the claim licences owed by the company (KEL minute book dd 30 July 1907). The plant and machinery were obviously fairly extensive for the Directors to anticipate an amount of that magnitude being reached on the sale.

The Government Tender notices of 1917 and 1925 stated that the amount of capital that was required as “sufficient for the proper working of the mine” was £30 000.00. One must therefore assume that for the *International Diamonds Ltd* to be granted the tender, they must have raised that sum at least. It was therefore a large venture. Peter Ellis again seems to have been an major player in the venture.

In 1924 a claim was put in by John William Hazeldine against the *International Diamonds Ltd* for non-payment of his salary (Notice in *The Friend* on microfilm in the De Beers Archives). He is described as the Mining Engineer, and the sale of “various machinery, including the Diamond Washing Plant” was scheduled for 11 April 1924. This is an indication that the venture was already not going very well.

By July 1925 the company was in liquidation. A “HUGE PUBLIC SALE of a complete and modern mining plant, recently erected at a cost of £30 000.00” was scheduled for 28 July 1925. The items up for auction are listed as follows:

“Power and Washing Plant: complete, consisting of: - Babcock & Wilcox Tube Boilers; Greens Economizer; new steel stack; feed pumps; tank and high speed engines; washing pans on steel girders; crusher; disintergrators; grizzlys; elevators on heavy timber frames; mechanical haulage; etc.” (De Beers Archives, microfiche)

There were various items of machinery, including a dismantled steam engine, fencing, tracks, rails & sleepers.

According to the tender notice of 1917, if a company ceased operation at the mine and its claim licences were paid, it could remove all its machinery and structures within three months. However, in the case of IDL, claim licences were not up to date, and the plant was therefore sold to recover the outstanding licences.

The sale seems not to have taken place as a Johannesburg company took an option on the plant. The company is not named, but it was presumably the *Union Prospecting and Mining Syndicate* who worked the mine for 6 months in 1927. It has not been possible to

trace what happened next, but the buildings must have been dismantled at some point. Whitworth, manager of the *Koffyfontein Mines Ltd*, notes in 1925 that the Ebenhaezer Mine manager's house was in ruins, but it is not known where this house was located.

The Ebenhaezer Mine is recorded to have produced 2 408 carats between November 1904 and November 1906, and 2.47 carats between May and July 1912. No further information on this has yet been traced.

It has not been possible to put a precise date on the structures at the Ebenhaezer Mine, but it is most probable that some date to the working of the mine in 1904-6 and the rest to the 1921-25 era. In both cases, the structures are older than 60 years, and would be covered by the NHRA.

Hill structures (29°24'198"S & 24°59'491"E):

This collection of structures is located on a ridge near the fort, overlooking the canal. The main construction consists of a series of concrete blocks with iron bolts (Fig. 25). The blocks are arranged symmetrically and obviously acted as a foundation for machinery of some kind. A long, low, dump of fine shale gravel (Fig. 26) extends away from the structure in the direction of the Ebenhaezer pipe. The co-ordinates for the two ends are 29°24'237"S & 24°59'476"E and 29°24'211"S & 24°59'486"E.

There are also other concrete and brick blocks nearby (Fig. 27), although it is difficult to determine shape and function. A series of low, rectangular blocks with iron "ties" (possibly to hold a pipe or gutter) is also in this area (Fig. 28).

The concrete mixture which was used is reminiscent to that used in the Eskom Dump 'bins' (see below). It also conforms to the specifications given to Frederick Morton Garrett when he was contracted to construct a weir across the Riet River for the *Koffyfontein Estates Ltd* in May 1912. These included the following: "Stone for concrete shall be composed of sound, durable, clean sharp stone to approval, with all soft weathering excluded. ... The proportions of ingredients for plain concrete is to be 5 parts

of stone, 3 of sand and 1 of cement.” (De Beers Archives *Koffyfontein Estates Ltd* Legal file). The stones mixed with the cement (Fig. 29) include numerous archaeological artefacts. These artefacts are locally found, and litter the hills and koppies in the area. On the basis of the concrete, it could be suggested that the structure dated to the first half of the previous century.

The location of this set of structures suggests that it might have been part of the provisioning of the water supply for the Ebenhaezer Mine (Ben Snyman, pers. Comm.). The main structure is located on the edge of a ridge overlooking the canal, and further on, the Riet River. The old wall on the Ebenhaezer Mine can be seen in the far distance to the south of the structure (Fig. 30). Water would have had to have been pumped from the Riet River for the Ebenhaezer Mine workings. It has not been possible to establish an exact date for the structures, but they would all seem to be older than 60 years.

The Eskom Dump “bins” (29°25’121”S & 25°00’495”E):

This is a series of 10 “bins” built of concrete in a line, about 47 m long, at the base of the eastern side of the Eskom Dump (Fig. 25). Two of the bins are on one side and are joined to the other eight bins by a low wall (Fig. 26). A plaque, which reads *KML 1919*, is set towards the top of the left hand one of the two bins (Fig. 27) on the wall away from the dump.

The bins are constructed of large concrete slabs with an internal framework of iron cables covered by the concrete (Fig. 28). There is an outlet at the base of the back wall of each bin (Fig. 29). The wall between the two sets of bins has a horseshoe set into it on the southern side (Fig. 30).

The *KML* on the plaque refers to the *Koffyfontein Mines Ltd*, the main company mining the pipe between 1893 and 1935, when De Beers bought the mine. This structure appears on the 1929 map of the mine (Figs 31 & 32). A coal shed appears in more-or-less the same area on the 1910 map (Fig. 70), and was probably superceded by these bins in 1919. The railway line extended to the bins. Coal was taken to the bins and then used to power

the washing machine and pulsator nearby. There are large ash heaps marked on the map. These heaps would be the result of burning the coal.

The Pulsator foundations (29°25'232"S & 25°00'573"E)

The large concrete slab of the pulsator with its iron bolts (Fig. 33) is still visible. Part of the tailings are also preserved in the area. The pulsator is marked on the 1929-51 map (Figs 31 & 32), and it is marked as a concrete slab on the 1968 map (Fig. 34).

Recommendations:

- The old Ebenhaezer Mine complex of structures consists of a brick wall, various brick and cement foundations, and a demolished series of pillars and bases. The brick wall should be left standing, as it is older than 60 years, unless a permit is obtained to demolish it. The wall is beginning to fall down, and may in the future pose a safety hazard if it starts to become unstable. However, if the area is not going to receive many visitors, the wall should be left as part of the historical development of the mine. It will have to be monitored, however, to ensure that it is cordoned off should the structure start to fall down. The remaining foundations and walls near to the brick wall can be left as they are, as they do not pose any hazards, and are mostly covered by vegetation. The line of demolished pillars and bases obviously indicates a construction of some sort, but it is difficult to determine what it was at present. The structure is no longer intact, and would not be covered by legislation. It is therefore possible to remove the rubble, should the mine wish to clear the area.
- The Hill structure could be left as it is, as it is hardly visible a present. People, however, should be discouraged from vandalising or removing the ruins.
- The Eskom Dump “bins” do not pose a hazard at present. They are older than 60 years, and would therefore be covered by the National Heritage Resources Act. If there is no reason to demolish the structures, they should be left as they are.
- The pulsator foundations could be left as they are.

MILITARY SITES

The fort or *skans* on the koppie above the golf course (29° 24'101"S, 24° 59'803"E):

On the high point of the koppie above the golf course nearer to the town is a small fort (Fig. 41). This fort, or *skans* in Afrikaans, consists of a dry stone wall enclosure divided in half (Henderson 2001). One half has been further divided into two small enclosures (Fig. 42). McGill (n.d., 1991) records that Koffiefontein was taken over by the British during the Anglo-Boer War on 29 March 1900. Shortly afterwards a Captain J.W. Robertson was appointed magistrate and commander of the town. In September 1900 Boer commandos appeared in the vicinity and Robertson had small forts erected around the mine (Fig. 43). This fort is one of them (Marked *No. 1 K.O.S.B. FORT, 17 men* on the 1901 map), and as such has historical significance. It should be preserved as part of the history of the mine and town, especially as the forts saw action on 26 October 1900.

On one of the rocks on the inside of the fort the words *De Swygend Eeuwigheid* have been inscribed. This is no doubt a later addition, as during their use the forts were in British hands. The engraving probably relates to those done by M.F. Pretorius (see section under Archaeology above).

The Eskom Dump area - The Guard House and World War II internment camp:

The Great Depression of 1929 caused a significant drop in the prices of diamonds in the early 1930s. As a result the diamond mines scaled down operations, and many were closed. De Beers had ceased all the operations on their mines by 1932. It was also decided to stop work on the mine at Koffiefontein at the end of June 1932. The mine was still owned by the Koffyfontein Mines Ltd, but this changed in September 1935 when De Beers bought the mine (McGill 1991).

The diamond price improved, and washing of the Blue ground at Koffiefontein was commenced in 1937. This was completed in 1940, by which time the Second World War had broken out. The mine was once again closed (McGill 1991). However, De Beers placed the compound buildings of Jagersfontein and Koffiefontein mines at the South African Government's disposal. Both mines were inspected, and the decision was made in favour of Koffiefontein, as the facilities were better, there was more space to increase the size of the camp and recreation areas, and the area around the camp was clear and open, making escapes by the internees more difficult (FS Archives DOW 1/37). The property was rented from De Beers for £50 per month, commencing 1 January 1942 (DOW 1/37).

Various additional structures were built, including a new mess and accommodation for a further 1200 internees. These additional structures were mostly of wood and iron on cement foundations (Fig. 44 a - c). A Department of Public Works map of the internment camp was located in the Free State Archives (Fig. 45), and the original compound buildings (Fig. 46) as well as the camp extensions are evident on the plan. An aerial photograph taken in 1942 (Fig. 47) indicates that the camp was built more-or-less according to plan.

Very little of the internment camp survives. At the end of the War there are 133 structures plus 26 sentry boxes listed in the inventory (DOW 1/37). The value of the buildings was given as £7 085-0-0. An agreement was reached between the mine and the Department of Public Works that various buildings and extensions to existing buildings would be taken over by the mine, and that the swimming baths and "numerous concrete floors of buildings which [DPW] will be removing" could be left as they were (DOW 1/37, letter dated 20 June 1946). An aerial photograph taken between 1946 and 1970 indicates that these cement foundations were not removed (Fig. 48). A photograph taken in 1970 during development work preceding the re-opening of the mine also illustrates some of the remaining cement slabs (Fig. 49). Some of these cement floors are still visible today, especially in the area of the caravan park, and near the remaining guard house (for example, the cement floor at 29°25'086"S & 25°00'162"E, Fig. 50a & b,

although this floor may be later). An overlay of the DPW map of the camp (Fig. 45) with a current map of the area indicates that most of the area where the buildings of the intern camp were, is now under the houses built in the early 1970s (Fig. 51). However, those features which can still be located are indicated on an overlay of the 1968 map (Figure 52).

During the Second World War South Africans, Italians, French and German prisoners were interned in the Koffiefontein camp (B.O.P.G. 1953). The interned South Africans were mostly members of the Ossewa Brandwag, who were against South Africa's participation in the war, and largely Nazi sympathisers. One prominent person who was interned was B.J. Vorster, who later became Prime Minister of South Africa (D'Oliveira 1977, Terblanche 1983). The Italian, German and French were a mixture of nationals living in South Africa who were kept in the camp so as not to be a danger to the state, and prisoners of war who had been captured during campaigns in Africa. According to sketch maps made by South African internees (Figs 53 & 54), the prisoners were distributed separately in the camp by nationality. The Italian prisoners were housed in the old compound. The South African internees were kept in the newly constructed corrugated iron buildings to the south of the old compound (Fig. 55).

The old compound buildings were demolished in about 1970, and very little remains to indicate their presence in the area, apart from some cement slabs and gutters in the caravan park (Figs 56 & 57). The long cement strip (Fig. 56) would appear to have possibly been the cement apron of the northern wing of the compound. Embedded in the cement strip are words constructed out of bottle-tops, which read *Palazzo Venezia* (Fig. 58). Between the words is a symbol (Fig. 59). The embedded bottle-tops are obviously linked to the Italian internees. Like the murals which are preserved at the entrance to Koffiefontein, they are a reminder of the Italian presence in the town during the Second World War.

Various other indications of the intern camp include a cement block with a date of 1942 (Fig. 60a & b). This block is in the vicinity of the watchtower, and presumably was part

of the foundations for this structure. A gutter was also located (Fig. 61) and this appears to have been inside the compound area. The gutter leads to a cement block which may have been part of the drainage system (Fig. 62).

Apart from two buildings, one used as an ablution block, in the caravan park (Fig 63a & b), very few other structures are still standing above foundation level. One of these is the Guard House (Fig. 64a & b). This guard house was part of the structures at the main entrance to the camp. It has been circled on the aerial photograph in Fig. 48. A photograph taken sometime between 1940-46 of the entrance to the camp shows the guard house with a road leading up to it, which runs along a long building constructed of (unbaked) bricks and corrugated iron (Fig. 65). This building can also be seen in Fig. 48. A photograph taken from the same position today indicates where the road would have been (Fig. 66). The railway line was changed sometime after the war and now runs across where the road was. From the photograph in Fig. 65, it can be seen that the guard house had a chimney at the time. This chimney has been subsequently removed, but the traces of it can still be seen (Fig. 64b). The Guard House was restored a few years ago (this is possibly when the chimney was removed) and used for a while as a pub, but is now no longer in use.

Recommendations

- The Anglo-Boer War fort on the top of the koppie behind the golf course should be preserved. People should be discouraged from climbing on the walls, and from vandalising the site with graffiti. Any road-building or work on the koppie should be away from the area of the fort and the engravings. This area should be marked as sensitive, and maintained as it is.
- The guard house is protected under the National Heritage Resources Act as the structure is older than 60 years. It should be maintained, and any further extensions to the building must receive prior authorisation from SAHRA.
- The cement foundations should be left, as, although they are not structures as such, they are linked to the history of the Koffiefontein Internment camp from the Second World War.

DOMESTIC HISTORICAL STRUCTURES

Whitworth House ruins (29°24'671"S & 24°59'734"E)

The Whitworth House ruins are located in no-man's land near the Whitworth Dump. The house was originally a cottage, and was standing in 1894. It was later expanded, and by 1908 was a large house with extensive, terraced gardens (Fig. 67a, b & c). The house was lived in until 1970, when it was considered unsafe due to its proximity to the mine and blasting operations. It was then used as storage, and finally demolished in 1987 (B. Snyman, pers. comm.).

It appears that the house walls were pushed over, and the rubble left *in situ* (Fig. 68). The GPS reading was taken at the mouth of the cellar opening, which is still visible (Fig. 69). There were various other small buildings in the vicinity of the house, which are also indicated on the 1910 and 1929-51 maps (Figs 70 & 71 respectively). These buildings were offices and stores, and one of these may have been used to store cores from the mine.

The structure of the garden is still evident with terraces, steps and arches still standing (Fig. 72). A low shed, used to house machinery of some kind, is still standing to the west of the house ruins.

The kraals and structures on the Game Farm at shotists points 26 and 27:

These kraals and structures are located in the springbok camp near to the pan (Fig. 12). They are probably the remains of the original farm house and kraals on the property. As such they should be preserved as they are over 60 years old. The complex consists of a large kraal (probably in the region of 2-3 hectares), two smaller kraals and three structures, which were probably dwellings (Fig. 73). The large kraal is located near shotists point 27 and stretches up to a shallow dam which has been scraped out on the

slope above the kraal. The GPS reading at the north-west corner of the kraal is 29° 26'166"S and 24° 56'769"E.

The second largest kraal (Fig. 74) is located upslope from the dwellings at 29° 26'092"S and 24° 56'832"E. It consisted of two rectangular enclosures about 20 m long and 7-8 m wide sometimes reaching up to a metre in height. The entrances to the kraals were downslope. The third kraal (at 29° 26'139"S and 24° 56'834"E, near shotists point 26) was the smallest of the three, only a few metres across. It was square with a rounded wall across one corner. Porcelain and metal fragments were scattered around nearby the kraal.

Only the foundations of the three dwellings were still visible, although at the largest a few fragments of mud bricks were observed. The smallest of the three dwellings consisted of a rectangular structure with a heap of stones in one corner. It was probably a store of some sort. The other two dwellings were quite clearly houses. The larger one is upslope from the other two structures at 29° 26'111"S and 24° 56'840"E. It consisted of a large room and two smaller rooms. The smallest room still has signs of a mud floor (Fig. 75). The house had a veranda. There was the broken bottom half of a grinding stone a few metres away from the veranda of the large house (Fig. 76). The other dwelling (at 29° 26'117"S and 24° 56'853"E) consisted of four rooms, one large one and three smaller rooms. It also had a veranda. Both dwellings faced the same way and were located a few meters apart from each other side by side. The third small structure was located behind the smaller of the two houses.

Earthenware (coll. porcelain), metal and glass fragments were scattered around in the area of the dwellings, as were some prehistoric stone tools. All fragments of earthen ware found were refined white-bodied industrial white wares (Klose & Malan 2000).

Earthenware noted included sponged ware, industrial slip, coloured transfer ware, relief moulded ware and painted (harsh colours) ware (Fig. 77). The earthen ware all points to a mid nineteenth to early twentieth century date. Sponged ware was in use from about 1840 to 1940, and was a cheap ware for daily use particularly in the latter part of the nineteenth century (Trehaven 1996). Transfer printed underglaze coloured ware was in use from the

1830s onwards (Klose & Malan 2000), as were the "harsh" underglaze colours and the industrial slip wares.

On the basis of the earthen ware I suggest that the farm buildings were occupied between the mid nineteenth century and possibly up until the early twentieth century. They could have been occupied after this, but occupation certainly dated back to the mid nineteenth century. As such the building remains are historical and should not be disturbed.

House in Moseley Street:

The house at no. 6 Moseley Street (Fig. 78), used by the Mine to accommodate visitors, dates back to the early part of the last century. The houses do not appear on the 1910 map of the mine buildings (Fig. 70), but do appear on the 1929-51 map (Fig. 79). This would support a date of the earlier part of the previous century.

The house has been maintained by De Beers, and the inside still retains many of the original fittings.

Recommendations:

- The Whitworth House ruins consist of building rubble and foundations. Some of the rubble has already been scraped into a pile. The building as such does not exist. However, the foundations indicate where the house was, and the form of the garden has been retained to a certain extent. The house forms an integral part of the history of the mine, particularly as it was related to the manager of the mine for many years, Walter Whitworth. In view of its historical association, if the rubble is cleared away, the foundations should be left as an indication of the position of the house. It is also not necessary to destroy the shape of the garden, and the area could be kept more-or-less as it is. The large trees also provide a landmark
- The kraals on the game farm near shotists points 26 and 27 are also a part of the historical landscape use of the area. As such, they should not be dismantled any

- further. Care should be taken when operating in that area, and people involved in culling activities should be encouraged not to clamber on the walls. Rocks should not be removed from the walls. If the dam near to the large kraal is extended it should be preferably extended in the area away from the kraal. Care should be taken not to damage the kraal any further on the western side.
- The house in Moseley Street is protected by the National Heritage Resources Act, which indicates that all structures older than 60 years may not be demolished or altered without a permit. The building will have to be retained (ie not demolished) and maintained. It can be sold, but cannot be altered without permission from the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority.

BURIAL GROUNDS

Two areas in which burials have been discovered have been identified during the course of previous work at the mine (Henderson 2001, 2003a). These areas are the Whitworth Dump and where the Workshop shed stands near the Administration Block within the mining area (Fig. 80).

Whitworth Dump burials:

In 2001 the remains of three skeletons were dug up from the Whitworth dump. These skeletons came from about 10m down in the dump. A report on the skeletons was written by J.B.C. Botha and was submitted to the police in Koffiefontein. All of the skeletons were male.

Further skeletons were uncovered in the Whitworth Dump in April 2002. These skeletons were removed under permit (Henderson 2003a), and appeared to represent part of an informal graveyard or burial ground dating back to 1896. The skeletons were those of 36 males and two females and related to a typhoid epidemic at the mine. Only those skeletons which had been disturbed, or which were in the area where the overlying ground had been removed were excavated. It appears that the graveyard continued in an

easterly direction, and that part of the dump adjoining the excavated area has been left undisturbed as a result.

The location of the graveyard is explained by the presence of the Mine Compound near the Whitworth House (Figs 70 & 81). The deceased miners would have come from the Mine compound (as opposed to the Floor compound located near the Eskom Dump), and their burial in the tailings would therefore have been near to the compound.

Workshop burials:

These burials were discovered in 1969 when the construction of buildings was planned preceding the reopening of the mine (Fig. 82). According to a report by L.H. Drury, dated 26 February 1968, there were two graveyards visible on the property in 1968:

“Two cemeteries are visible at present. My Bayley expressed the opinion that the one situated on the western side of the open mine no doubt served hostel no. 1, which was erected in this area at the time, whilst the cemetery south-east of the mine would have been established for no’s 2 and 3 hostels, which were built subsequent to no. 1. The buildings of no’s 2 and 3 hostels are still standing.” (De Beers Archives).

The south-eastern cemetery is where the workshops now stand (Fig. 83). No map could be located indicating the position of the western cemetery, but it is likely that these graves are now covered by the rock dump.

The south-eastern or workshop cemetery covered an area of “120 yards by 30 yards containing an average of 9 rows each of which comprises approximately 60 graves; indicating that between 500 and 600 bodies are buried in the area.” (letter dated 19 May 1969 from the Project Manager to the Acting General Manager, De Beers Archives). The remains of forty people were exhumed by Mr Reay from Davies Funeral Services in Kimberley on 13 May 1969 (correspondence dd 19 May, 30 May & 9 June 1969, De Beers Archives). These remains were re-buried, apparently on the De Beers property: “... I attach hereto a certificate by a firm of undertakers in Kimberley that the remains of forty persons buried on Koffyfontein Mine property, have been exhumed and re-interred

under his [the undertaker's] supervision, together with a detailed plan of the area whereon is depicted the new graveyard area.” (letter dd 9 June 1969 from D.K. Oliver, Deputy Assistant Secretary to The Provincial Secretary, Orange Free State Province, De Beers Archives).

A set of recommendations by the Project Manager (dd 19 May 1969, Appendix 6) included that “the graveyard should be surveyed in and clearly marked on the mine plans”, and that the “area should be covered with red soil and no further exhumations take place except along the inner fence line.” The Project Manager also recommended that the area should “be used for hardstandings or other purposes for which foundations are not required” (ibid).

The conclusions which can be drawn from the correspondence are that there are probably still over 500 graves in the area of the workshops, and that there are two other graveyards still on the mine. These would be the “new” graveyard where the 40 people were re-interred, and the graveyard to the west of the open mine. If possible the extent of the workshop graveyard, and the locations of the other two graveyards should be established and demarcated on mine plans.

During the early years of the working of the pipe, an area was set aside for the graves of workers who had died at the mine (see letter to Orange Free State Government Secretary from London and Orange Free State Exploration Company, 20 May 1896, Fig. 19 in Henderson 2003). It is possible that the rows of graves discovered in 1969 were part of this graveyard, but it cannot be stated so for certain on the evidence available at present. The numbers of graves would, however, fit the supposition that this was the established cemetery of the mine. When the mine closed in 1935 it had been in operation for much of the preceding forty years. If there were 600 graves, and it was assumed that the mine was only operational for 30 of the 40 years, this would give a rate of 20 deaths per year. This death rate is very much lower than the figures recorded for the early years of the mine for instance.

Other human remains:

A human skull was found in the quarry on the Game Farm in 2001 (Henderson 2001:16). It is impossible to determine where the skull came from, but it probably came from a burial in the vicinity of the quarry.

Two other locations of burials were suggested in the report submitted on the excavations of the informal graveyard (Henderson 2003a). It is now felt that the collections of stone probably do not indicate burials. A photograph from the Whitworth Album, dating to 1908, suggests that piles of stones were placed in the veld (Fig. 84). It is not possible to determine where the photograph was taken, but it may explain some of the heaps, particularly those in the area near to the soccer field and mine hostel.

Recommendations on burials, graves and other human material

- The undisturbed portion of the burial ground in the Whitworth dump should be fenced off and clearly marked with a plaque. A directive on this is awaited from SAHRA, but it is important that this area is clearly marked, and not disturbed during rehabilitation of the Whitworth Dump area.
- Any construction work in the vicinity of the Workshops should be undertaken with care. It is possible that further graves could be discovered in that area. If these graves date back earlier than 60 years, they may not be disturbed unless a permit has been issued by SAHRA in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act.
- The Mine should try and establish whether maps exist indicating the second graveyard located in 1969, and the graveyard where the 40 skeletons removed were re-interred, as these areas should be demarcated.
- Earthmoving work in the vicinity of the quarry on the Game Farm must also be undertaken with care. It is possible that other burials could be found in the area, and these may very well also date back to more than 60 years ago.

OTHER REMAINS ON THE PROPERTY

Various other small structures on the property, such as the small dynamite store near the Ebenhaezer open mine, should be noted, as they can perhaps be related to the old maps of the mine, such as the 1910 and 1929-51 maps in Appendix 7. As such they form part of the history of the mine, although they do not have much value in themselves. The old abandoned engine (Fig. 85 a & b) could be placed under cover to prevent further deterioration, and could be kept for display purposes.

CONCLUSION

An audit of cultural remains on the property belonging to De Beers in Koffiefontein indicates that there are five different categories of heritage resources. The remains relate either to the prehistoric settlement of the Koffiefontein area, or to the history of the mine and town. Most of the remains are older than 60 years and their preservation is covered by the National Heritage Resources Act. Under this Act permits are required to destroy these remains, which otherwise must be retained. Koffiefontein has a rich and varied history, and De Beers as custodian of many of the sites relating to the history, can do much in terms of preserving the sites and the history of human endeavour in the area.

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The Whitworth photograph album, 1908

Koffiefontein Mine photograph album, 1969/70

Microfiche records of the Koffiefontein and Ebenhaezer Mines

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