

Department of Archaeology and Anthropology
P.O. Box 266 / 36 Aliwal Street
Bloemfontein
9300 / 9301

Tel.nr. 051-447 9609
Fax nr. 051-447 8043

Email: gerda.coetzee@nasmus.co.za



18 August 2016

SAHRA
P.O. Box 4637
CAPE TOWN
8000

To whom it may concern

**APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO CASE ID 7704 / PERMIT ID 2046 REGARDING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK ON THE FARM LEEUSPRUIT 469, ROUXVILLE
DISTRICT, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

The farm Leeuspruit 469 is situated in the Rouxville district (3026BD). Leeuspruit, also known as Waaipoort, was one of the first farms established by a Trek-farmer family in this part of the Free State. The farm was occupied in the early 1830s by one of many Swanepoel families who settled in the Rouxville area. According to Pretorius (1997:136) the first owner, P.F.R. Swanepoel, “built his house near a poort at the foot of a hill so that it overlooked the old transport road which linked Aliwal North to Lesotho and the Eastern Free State. The settlement’s strategic position allowed the Swanepoels to witness a steady stream of Voortrekkers, traders and travellers.” Leeuspruit can therefore also be described as a trading post that allowed people to obtain fresh oxen or horses for their trips ahead, as well as fresh food supplies (Nienaber, 1986:27).

We previously applied for a permit to work in the area indicated in Figs. 1-2. The fieldwork focused on the middens, specifically the surface collection of midden material, as well as excavations in the identified middens. The GPS location of the research area is approximately at S30°19’21.7” E26°50’42.6”.

During fieldwork conducted in September 2015 we realized that the site continued on the other side of the gravel road, Figs. 3-4. Although the area across the road is also known as Leeuspruit, it is actually portion 1 of Leeuspruit 469 that belongs to another farmer.

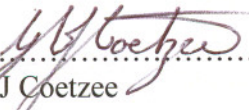
As mentioned in the first paragraph the farm also served as a trading post. The site on portion 1 was probably the camping site where travellers rested and stopped with their wagons. The area is situated at approximately:

30°19'23.77"S

26°50'44.60"E

This is the area where we would like to continue with the fieldwork during September 2016. Artefacts are scattered across the area, with parts of a wall still visible, Figs. 5-7. The ruins of an unknown structure are also visible. Erosion caused a lot of damage to the site over the years and destroyed stone walls as well as possible middens, Figs. 8-9. In order to establish whether the site was used as a trading station during the 19th century, it is important to continue with archaeological research on this portion as well.

I trust that this application will meet with your approval.


.....
G.C.J. Coetzee

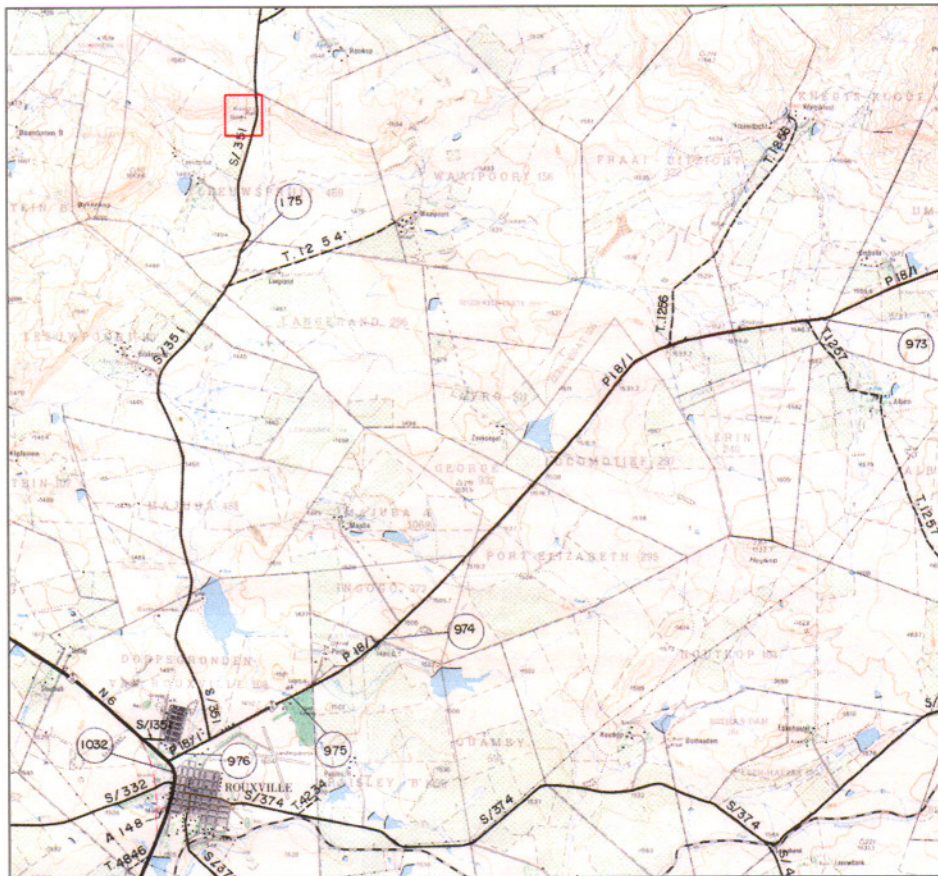


Figure 1: The location of Leesuspruit in relation to Rouxville on the 1:50 000 map (3026BD).

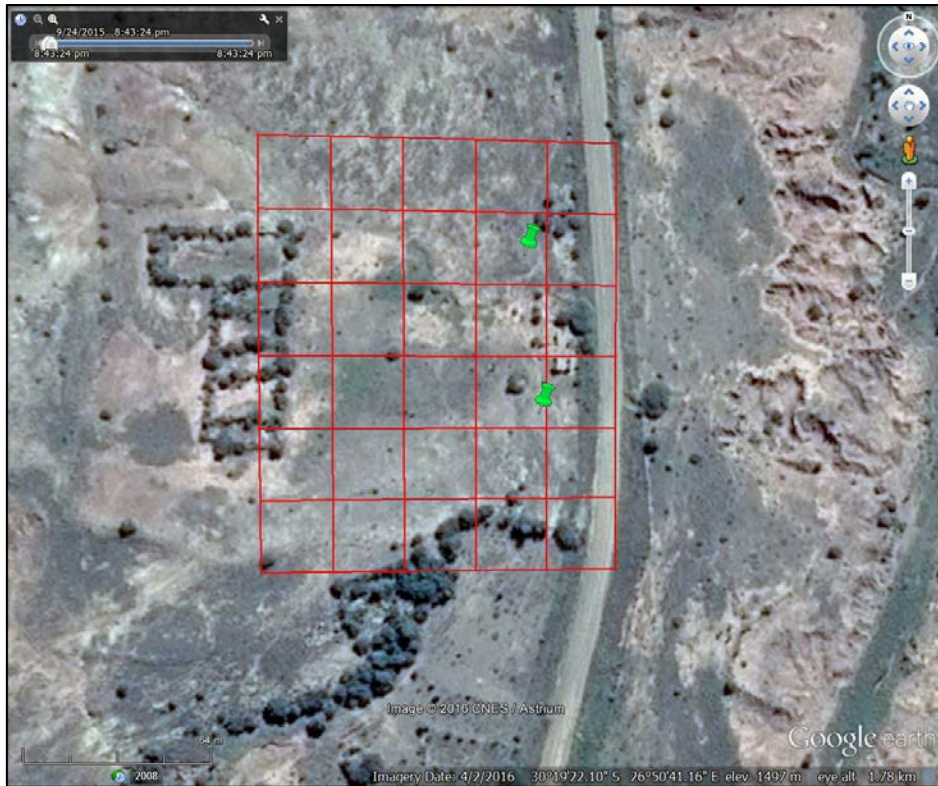


Figure 2: A grid across the area indicating the two middens



Figure 3: Fieldwork was conducted on the left side of the gravel road. The arrow indicates the area where we would like to continue with fieldwork on Portion 1.

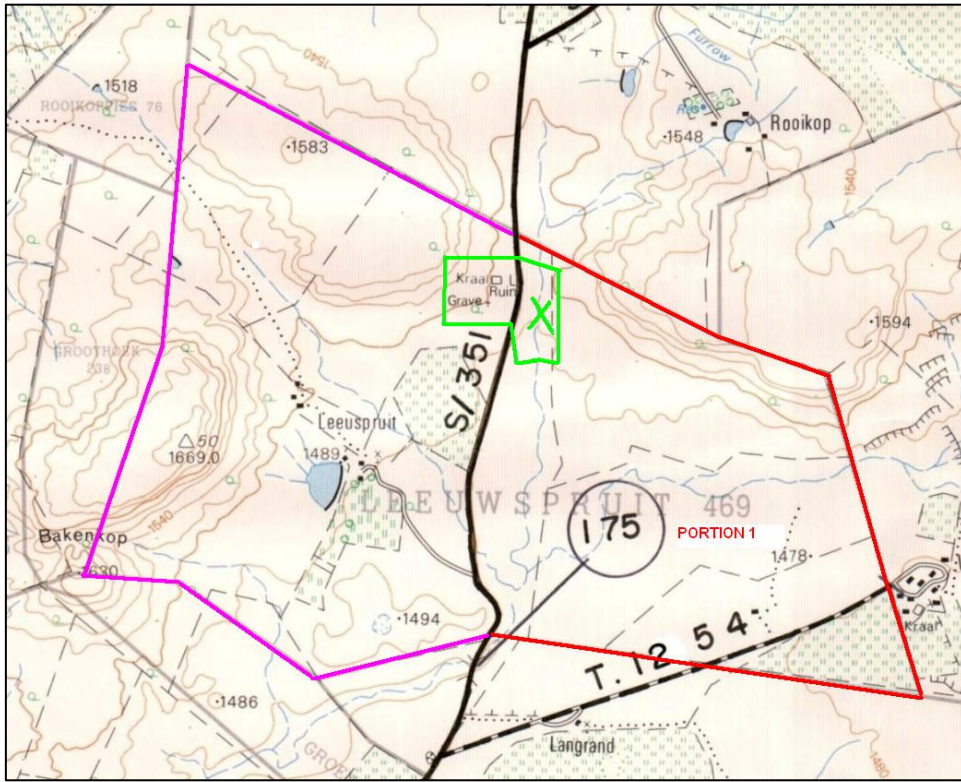


Figure 4: Map indicating Portion 1 and X indicating the area for further fieldwork.



Figure 5: An old aerial photograph indicating the location of a stone wall at the possible camping area on portion 1.



Figure 6: A view across the area on Portion 1 with some parts of a stone wall still visible.



Figure 7: Stone wall on Portion 1.



Figure 8: A possible midden in the process of being destroyed by erosion.



Figure 9: A close-up of the possible midden in figure 8.

Sources

Pretorius, A. 1997. *Our threatened heritage*. Kaapstad: André Pretorius.

Nienaber, P.J. 1986. *Pioniershuise van die Vrystaat*. Bloemfontein: Stigting NALN.