COBUS DREYER
Pr. Archaeologist / Heritage Resource Specialist

P.O. Box 12910
BRANDHOF 9324
Bloemfontein
dreyerj@telkomsa.net

Tel: 051-444 1187
Fax: 051-444 4395
Cell: 083 357 7982

2 OCTOBER 2007

FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED NEW CEMETERY, ACCESS ROAD AND WATER SUPPLY PIPELINE AT ALIWAL NORTH, EASTERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new cemetery with access road and water supply pipeline are planned at Aliwal North, Eastern Cape. The site is located to the south of town. Access will be gained from the R58 road to Burgersdorp.

Scatters of stone flakes were found on the surface, in the area from the planned cemetery in an eastern direction to the R58 road. The lithic finds consist of stone flakes only and no retouched tools were found. The collection is too small for proper identification and seems to be a general scatter in a specific area where dongas and soil erosion occur.

No other archaeological and cultural remains were found in the proposed area of development.

I recommend that the developments and planning of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the new cemetery, access road and pipeline at Aliwal North was visited on 26 July 2007. Cedric Nelson from Bokamoso Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, accompanied me to the site.

The new cemetery will cover about 10 hectares of land.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

The new cemetery at Aliwal North, Eastern Cape (Map 1) will be located to the south of the town. Access and water will be supplied from the R58 road to Burgersdorp, past the (Maps 2&3).

The area consists of a deep alluvial sand deposit (Fig.1), which was disturbed by previous agricultural activities (Fig.2). To the west, the land surface contains a substantial grass cover (Fig.3), but several dongas (Figs.5,6,11,16) cut through the plane towards the railway line (Fig.17) and the R58 main road to Burgersdorp (Fig.19).

GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken to plot the various features (2826BC) (Map 4):

Different coordinate points are given at random. A-D represents the four outer corners of the proposed cemetery developments. Likewise the symbols ↟R, ↟ and 🡻 denote the access road from the R58 (Maps 2-4).

A	30°41’51”S. 026°39’38”E Altitude 1323m (Figs.1&2).
B	30°41’46”S. 026°39’49”E Altitude 1312m (Figs.3&4).
C	30°41’48”S. 026°39’56”E Altitude 1333m (Figs.5&6).
D	30°41’53”S. 026°48’38”E Altitude 1324m (Figs.7&8).
↟R (+P)	30°41’54”S. 026°39’42”E Altitude 1325m (Figs.10-11).
↟ (R+P)	30°42’11”S. 026°40’03”E Altitude 1334m (Figs.14-15).
🡻 (Access from R58)	30°42’28”S. 026°40’33”E Altitude 1342m (Figs.18-19).

RESULTS

FINDS

A variety of stone flakes occurs on the surface in the area between Point D, Point ↑R and Point ↑. Lithic source material possibly originates from the Orange River gravels nearby.

The flakes are smooth and without any patination. Artefacts display no scars or secondary trimming. Flakes are unutilised and cannot be described as “tools”.

Some of the splinters resemble points with convergent edges and single or multiple flaking on the dorsal surface. Percussion bulbs are clearly recognisable and prepared platforms are plane and narrow.

The collected sample is relatively small and it is difficult to classify the cultural material through the application of the standard tool typology and basic characteristics.

Flaked stone artefacts are limited to a specific area.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

> The lithic assemblage seems to be a general distribution of unutilised flakes. The impact on the cultural heritage remains on the proposed sites at Aliwal North will be of minor significance.
>
> No other cultural, historical or palaeontological components were found during the investigation, nor were there any buildings, graves or burial grounds in the area.

The proposed cemetery developments at Aliwal North will have an insignificant impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site and I recommend that the proposed developments at Aliwal North should proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, no mitigation measures will be required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Cedric Nelson of Bokamoso Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:

BERGH, J.S. & VISAGIE, J.C. 1986. The Eastern Cape Frontier Zone 1660-1980: a cartographic guide for historical research. Durban: Butterworth.

BRANCH, B. 1991. The life and leguaans of “Gogga” Brown. African Wildlife Volume 45, No.4: 172-175.

DEACON, J. 1992. Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities. Cape Town: National Monuments Council.

DRENNAN, M.R. (n.d.). Gogga Brown. The life-story of Alfred Brown, South Africa’s Hermit-Naturalist. Cape Town: Maskew Miller.`

DU PLOOY, F.J. 1977. Aliwal-Noord - Eenhonderd Jaar.
Aliwal North Municipality and Divisional Council.

HUMPHREYS, A.J.B. 1986. Searching for the past. Cape Town: David Philip.

PISTORIUS, J.C.C. 1994. Eskom Archaeological Site Identification Guide. Johannesburg: Eskom.

SAMPSON, C.G. 1968. The Middle Stone Age Industries of the Orange River Scheme Area. Bloemfontein: National Museum Memoir Nr. 4.

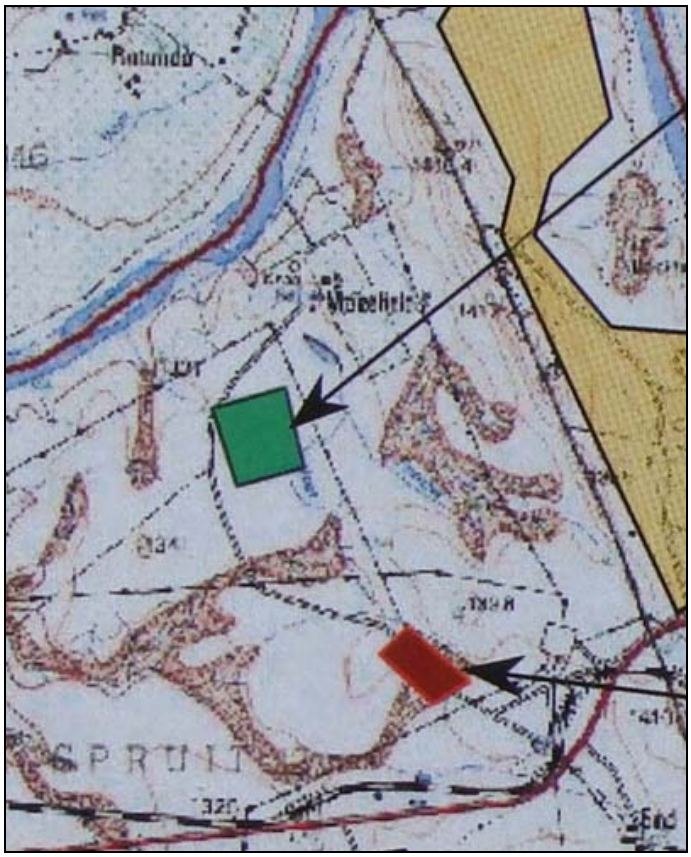
SAMPSON, C.G. 1970. The Smithfield Industrial Complex: Further Field Results. Bloemfontein: National Museum Memoir Nr. 5.

SAMPSON, C.G. 1972. The Stone Age Industries of the Orange River Scheme and South Africa. Bloemfontein: National Museum Memoir Nr. 6.

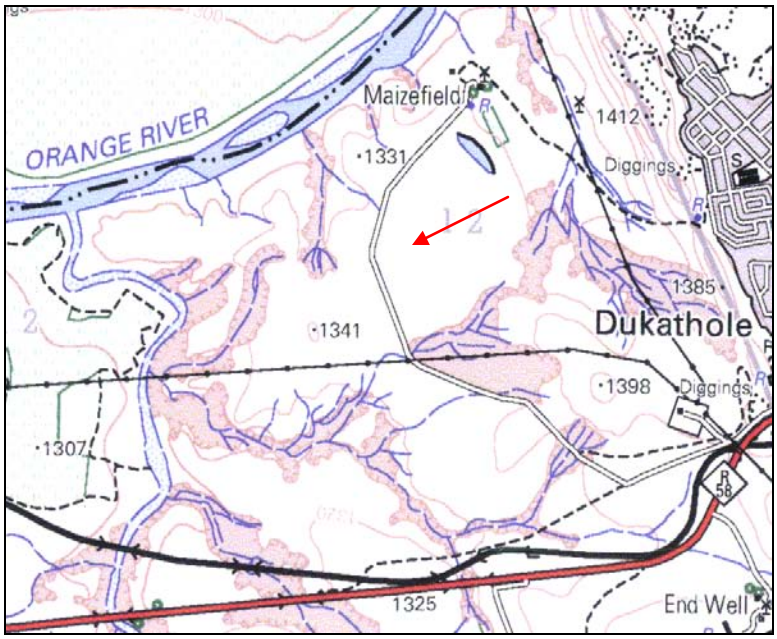
SMITH, C. 2000. Bewys van vergete Vrystaatse dorp gekry.
Volksblad 14 Februarie 2000.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

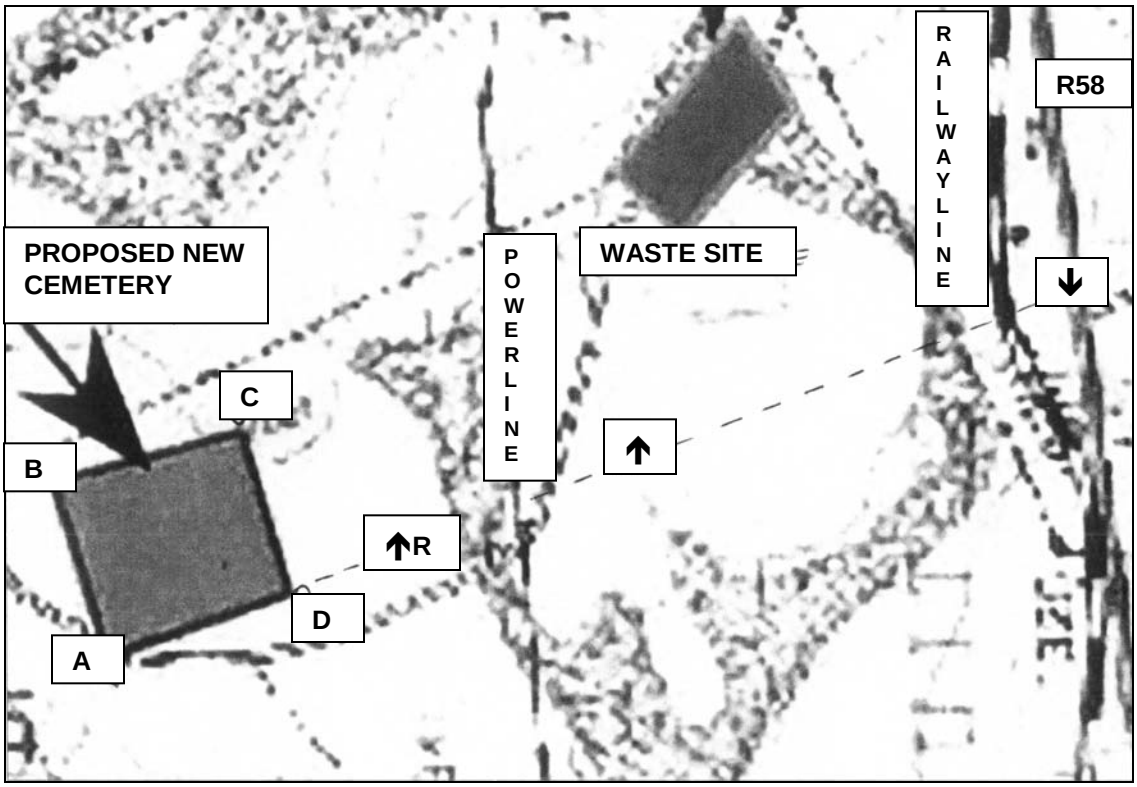
Map 1 Locality of Aliwal North in relation to Smithfield, Rouxville and Lady Grey. R58 = Main road to Burgersdorp.



Map 2 Locality of the proposed cemetery developments at Aliwal North (3026DA). Green = Proposed cemetery site. Red = Solid waist site.



Map 3 Locality of the proposed cemetery developments at Aliwal North (3026DA).



Map 4 Locality of the different features and GPS coordinate points.

Fig.1 Point A facing north.

Fig.2 Point A facing east.

Fig.3 Point B facing east.

Fig.4 Point B facing south.

Fig.5 Point C facing north.

Fig.6 Point C facing south.

Fig.7 Point D facing in the direction of Point C.

Fig.8 Point D facing east towards the R58 main road to Burgersdorp.

Fig.9 Stone flakes found between Point D and Point ↑R. (Pocketknife=83 mm).

Fig.10 Point ↑R facing east towards the R58 main road to Burgersdorp.

Fig.11 Bare soil surface at Point ↑R.

Fig.12 Stone flakes found between Point ↑R and Point ↑. (Pocketknife=83 mm).

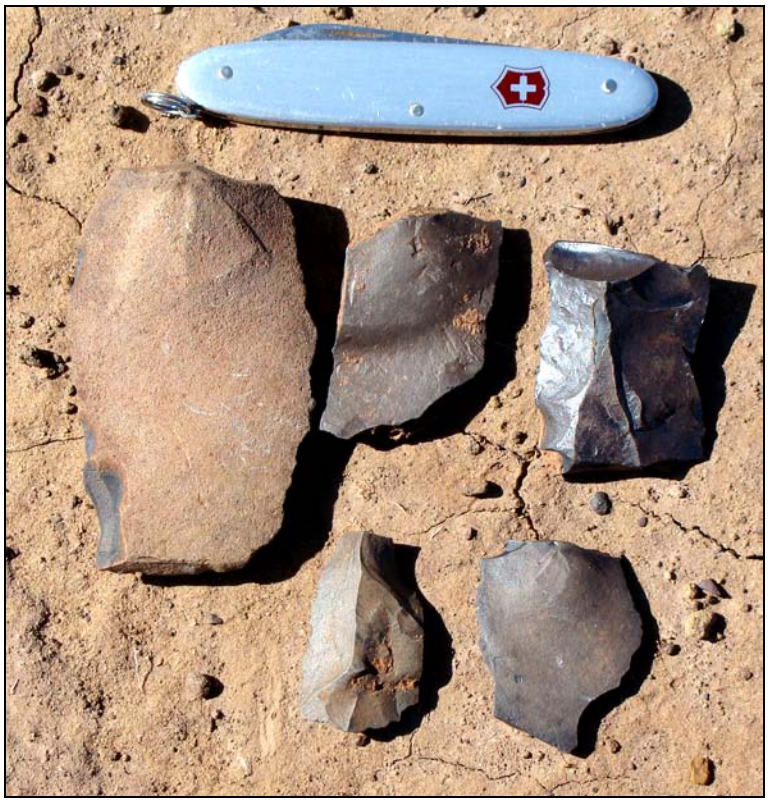


Fig.13 More stone flakes found between Point ↑R and Point ↑. (Pocketknife=83 mm).

Fig.14 View from Point ↑ facing the R58 main road.
Smoke from the waste site visible on the left.

Fig.15 View from Point ↑ facing the R58 main road.

Fig.16 Donga between Point ↑ and the R58 main road.

Fig.17 The railway line next to the R58 main road to Burgersdorp.

Fig.18 Point ↓ on the R58 road across the railway line facing west. Smoke from the waste site visible on the horizon.

Fig.19 Point 🡻 on the R58 main road facing south.