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5 OCTOBER 2007

## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DIAMOND PROSPECTING ON CYFERFONTEIN (REMAINDER GROOTRIVIERWAGENDRIF 29) ALI WAL NORTH, EASTERN CAPE:**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Diamond prospecting is planned at Cyferfontein (Remainder of Grootrivierwagendrif 29) on the Orange River, west of Aliwal North, Eastern Cape.

The farmland along the river consists of an alluvial sand deposit where centre-pivot irrigation is practiced.

The area along the river was damaged by these farming activities and no cultural or historical material was found.

I recommend that the prospecting work could continue on the lower areas along the river.

I anticipate that human burials could be discovered in the alluvial beds during the excavation work. It is important that in the case of the discovery of any burial or human remains, the work should be stopped at once, the finds should be stabilised and protected and the archaeologist should be alerted immediately.

### **INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION**

#### **INVESTIGATION**

The farm Cyferfontein in the district of Aliwal North, Eastern Cape, (Map 1) was visited on 26 September 2007. Daniel Calaca from Manhattan Mining Corporation, Benoni, accompanied me to the farm.

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 farm Cyferfontein is located on the Orange River, west of the town of Aliwal North, Eastern Cape, (Map 2).

The farm is reached along the Gryskoppan turn-off from the R58 main road from Aliwal North to Burgersdorp.

The area along the Orange River consists of a deep alluvial sand deposit, which is ideal for centre-pivot irrigation and other agricultural activities.

GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken at various features and the different points are allocated at random (2826CB):

SFTN (Farmhouse)            30°37'11"S. 026°27'48"E Altitude 1307m (Fig.1).

SFTN A                        30°37'29"S. 026°27'52"E Altitude 1303m (Fig.2).

## **RESULTS**

### **FINDS**

The land consists of an alluvial sand deposit along the river where centre-pivot irrigation is practiced.

No cultural, historical or palaeontological components were found during the investigation, nor were there any existing buildings, graves or burial grounds in the area.

### **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The proposed diamond prospecting developments at Cyferfontein, Aliwal North, will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

From previous experience, I anticipate that human burials and skeletal remains could be discovered during the excavation work on the riverbanks (Brink, Dreyer & Loubser 1992, Dreyer 1996).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

I recommend that the proposed developments at Cyferfontein, Aliwal North, may proceed.

It is important, however, that the field team should be on the lookout for the presence of human skeletal material in the area near the river. In the case of the discovery of any burial or human remains, the work should be stopped at once, the finds should be stabilised and protected and the archaeologist should be alerted immediately.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, mitigation measures will be required in the case of the discovery of any human skeletal material.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Daniel Calaca of Manhattan Mining Corporation, Benoni, accompanied me to the sites.

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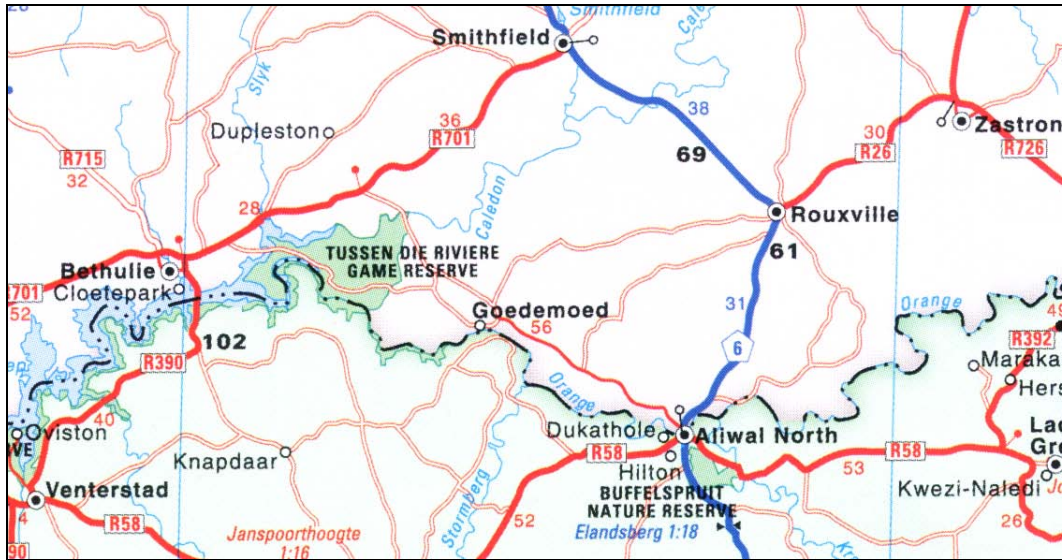
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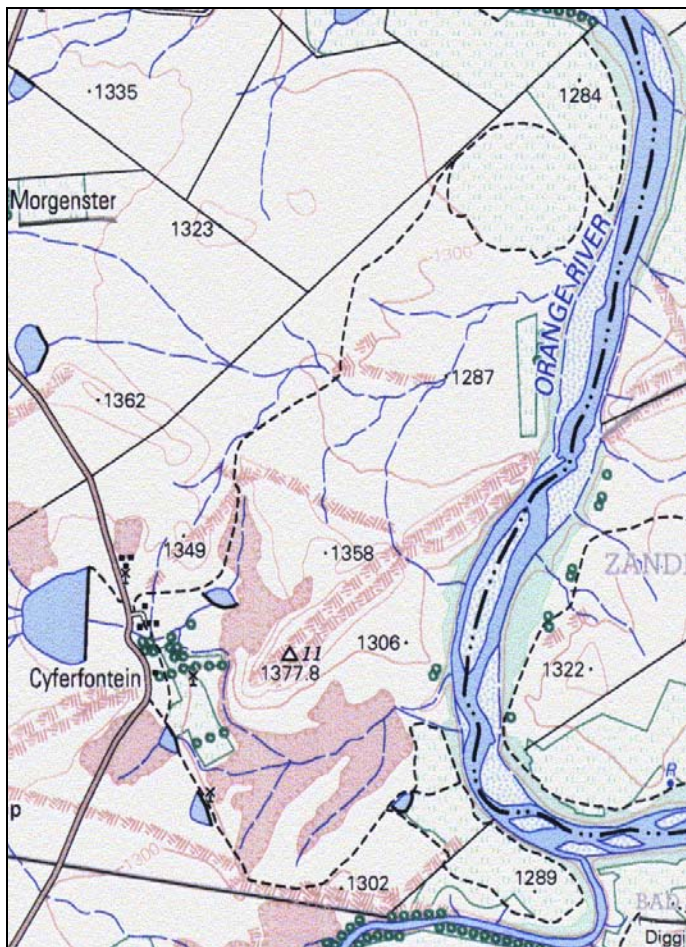
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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Aliwal North in relation to other towns along the Orange River.



Map 5 Locality of the farm Cyferfontein, Aliwal North.



Fig.1 Old farmhouse at Cyferfontein, Aliwal North..



Fig.2 SFTN A Cyferfontein, Aliwal North.