

9/2/02/BA

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY
PORTION 1 OF FARM KEURBOS NO. 274,
CLANWILLIAM**

Prepared for

CK RUMBOLL & PARTNERS

By

Agency for Cultural Resource Management
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**JUNE
1999**

Executive summary

Two rock painting sites were located during a baseline study of portion 1 of the farm Keurbos No. 274, Clanwilliam.

The proposed Keurbos development comprises 15 chalets.

KB 1 is located at the extreme eastern boundary of the study site among an outcrop of sandstone. The site comprises a north-facing overhang/shelter, where the paintings of two very faded, indeterminate human figures are present. Some other faded images are also present.

A medium-low density scatter of stone tools, as well as some pottery, occurs on a flatish talus slope in front of the overhang.

The site has been given a medium-low significance rating.

KB 2 is a small, inconspicuous, east-facing sandstone boulder, obscured by bushes on the boundary fence in the extreme eastern portion of the study site, about 60 metres from KB 1. The paintings comprise a small fox-like animal in red ochre. About 20 cm to the right of this image is a so-called 'cave scene'. It comprises a line of six human figures, painted in black, with a 'roof' over their heads. The paintings are well-preserved. About one metre below these paintings, is a painting of a possible 'elephant in a box'. The painting is very faded, however.

KB 2 has been given a high significance rating.

The direct impact of the proposed Keurbos development on archaeological sites in the study area is considered to be low.

Secondary impacts, however, such as increased visitation to the farm, will likely result in significant negative impacts to the sites, particularly KB 2.

With regard to the proposed Keurbos development, the following archaeological recommendations are therefore made.

- KB 2 should be recorded in detail. The paintings should be traced and photographed.
- The paintings should be monitored by a professional archaeologist on an annual basis.
- The sandstone outcrop where KB 1 and KB 2 occur, could be developed as a natural, open-air viewing site for homeowners and visitors.
- No artefacts should be collected from the talus in front of KB 1.
- The recommendations should be included in the proposed Keurbos Homeowners Association manual.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Council Plans Committee.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and brief

The Agency for Cultural Resource Management has been requested by CK Rumboll & Partners, on behalf of Mr K. de Jong of Citrusdal, to undertake a baseline archaeological study of portion 1 of the farm Keurbos No. 274, Clanwilliam.

The proposed Keurbos development comprises 15 chalets.

The aim of the study is to locate, identify and map archaeological sites that may be impacted by the planning, construction and implementation of the proposed development, and to propose measures to mitigate against the impact.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

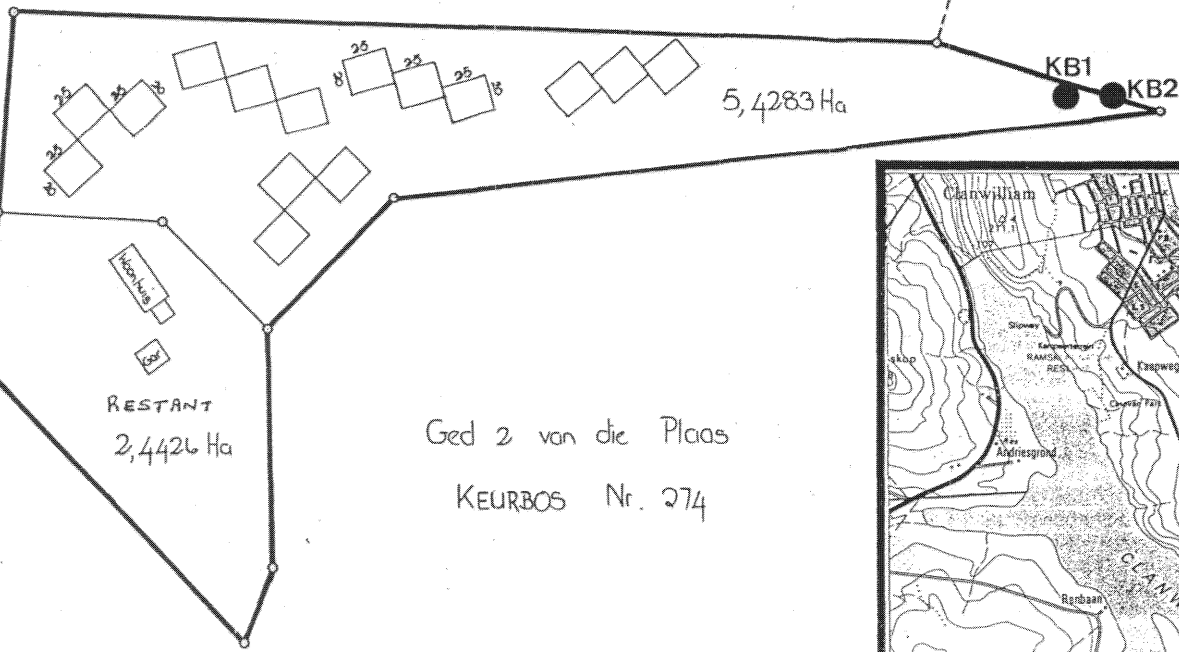
The terms of reference for the archaeological study were:

1. to determine whether there are likely to be any archaeological sites of significance on the site;
2. to identify and map any sites of archaeological significance;
3. to assess the status and significance of any impacts resulting from the proposed development, and
4. to identify mitigatory measures to protect and maintain any valuable archaeological sites that may exist.

3. THE STUDY SITE

The study site for the proposed development is illustrated in Figure 1. The property is located on the farm Keurbos No. 274, approximately 10 kms south of the town on Clanwilliam, on the eastern bank of the Clanwilliam Dam.

Ged 4 van die Plaas WOLVE BERG Nr. 268



Ged 2 van die Plaas
KEURBOS Nr. 274

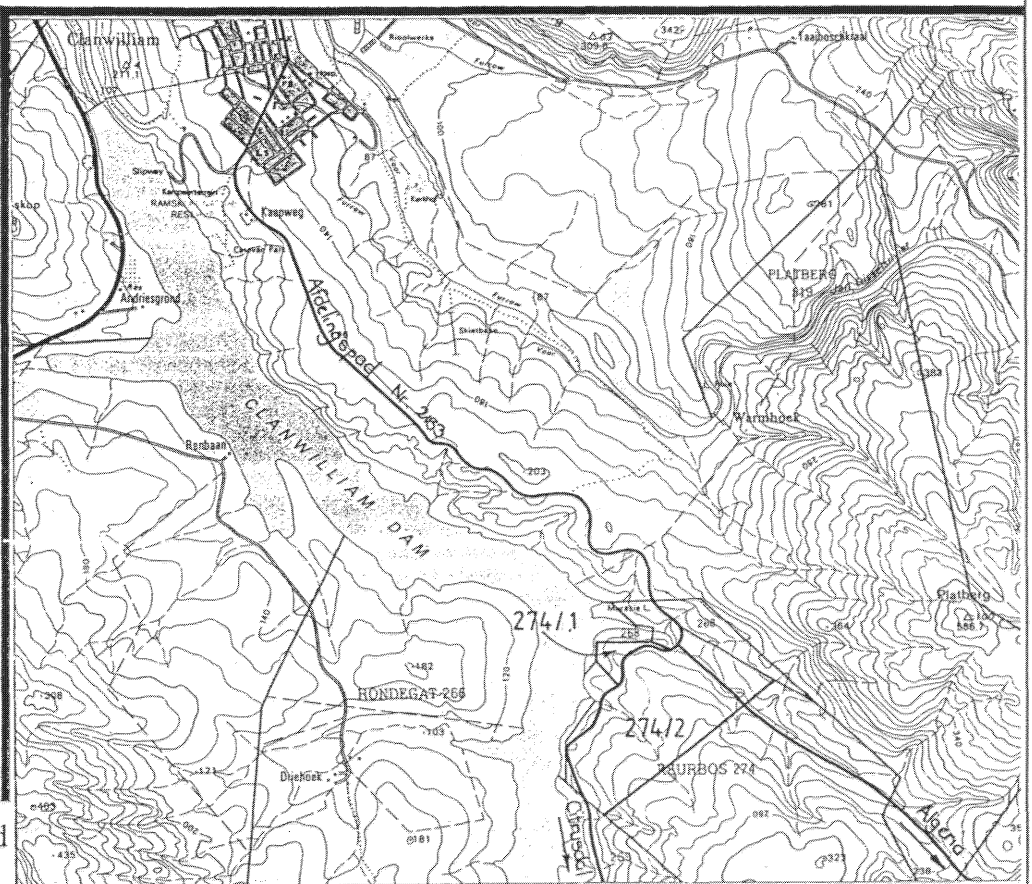


Figure 1. Archaeological study, portion 1 of Farm Keurbos No. 274: study site and location of archaeological sites.

Voorgestelde Onderverdeling
Gedeelte 1 van die Plaas KEURBOS Nr 274

Administratiewe Distrik Clanwilliam
SKAAL 1/3000

(7,8709 Ha)

L.G. Verwys
Prov. Admin
Noteer Vel
Transport Akte
L.G Kaart Nr.
Eienaar

S/



**CK RUMBOLL
& VENNOTE / PARTNERS**

PROFESSIONELE LANDMETERS STADS EN STREEKBEPLANNERS INGENIEURS EN MIJNMETERS DEELTIJDE KONSUULTANTE
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Voortrekkerstraat 70 Voortrekker Street Pookse / P.O. Box 95 Plettenberg 7120 Tel: (0761) 31203 / 31973 Tel: (0224) 21845

Professionele Landmeter

4. STUDY APPROACH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

4.1 Method of survey

The approach followed in the archaeological study entailed a detailed foot survey of the proposed site. A limited desk top study was also undertaken.

According to the records of the South African Museum Archaeological Data Recording Centre, no archaeological sites have been recorded in the study area. However, a number of rock painting sites and stone tool scatters, have been recorded on the eastern bank of the Clanwilliam Dam to the north of the study site (Tony Manhire, Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town, pers. comm.).

5. RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Two archaeological sites were located during the baseline study of portion 1 of the farm Keurbos No. 274 (Figure 1).

KB 1

KB 1 is located at the extreme eastern boundary of the study site among an outcrop of sandstone. The site comprises a north-facing overhang/shelter, where the paintings of two very faded indeterminate human figures are present. Some very faded smudges are also present in the overhang/shelter (Figure 2).

A medium-low density scatter of Later Stone Age¹ (LSA) tools, including modified and unmodified flakes and chunks mainly in siltcrete, occur on a flattish talus slope immediately in front of the overhang. One scraper/adze was found, as were at least nine small pieces of blackened unburnished pottery. A few Middle Stone Age² (MSA) flakes, chunks and one core were also found.

Significance of site: **medium-low**

Suggested mitigation: **none required**

KB 2

KB 2 is a small, inconspicuous, east-facing sandstone boulder, obscured by bushes on the boundary fence in the extreme eastern portion of the study site, about 60 metres south of KB 1. The site overlooks a dry river course (Figure 3).

The paintings comprise a small fox-like animal in red ochre. About 20 cm to the right of this image is a so-called cave scene. It comprises a line of six human figures, painted in black, with a 'roof' over their heads (Figure 4). About one metre below these

¹ A term referring to the last 20 000 years of precolonial history in southern Africa.

² A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

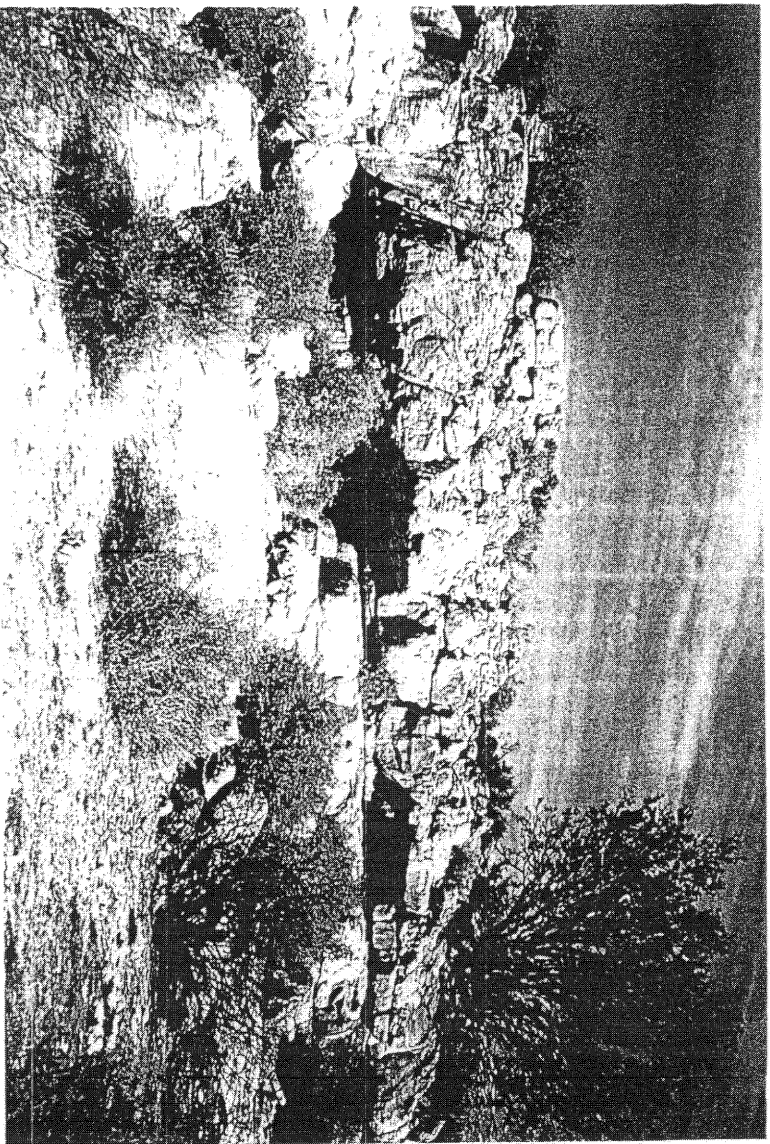


Figure 2. Archaeological study, portion 1 of Farm Keurbos No. 274. KB 1.

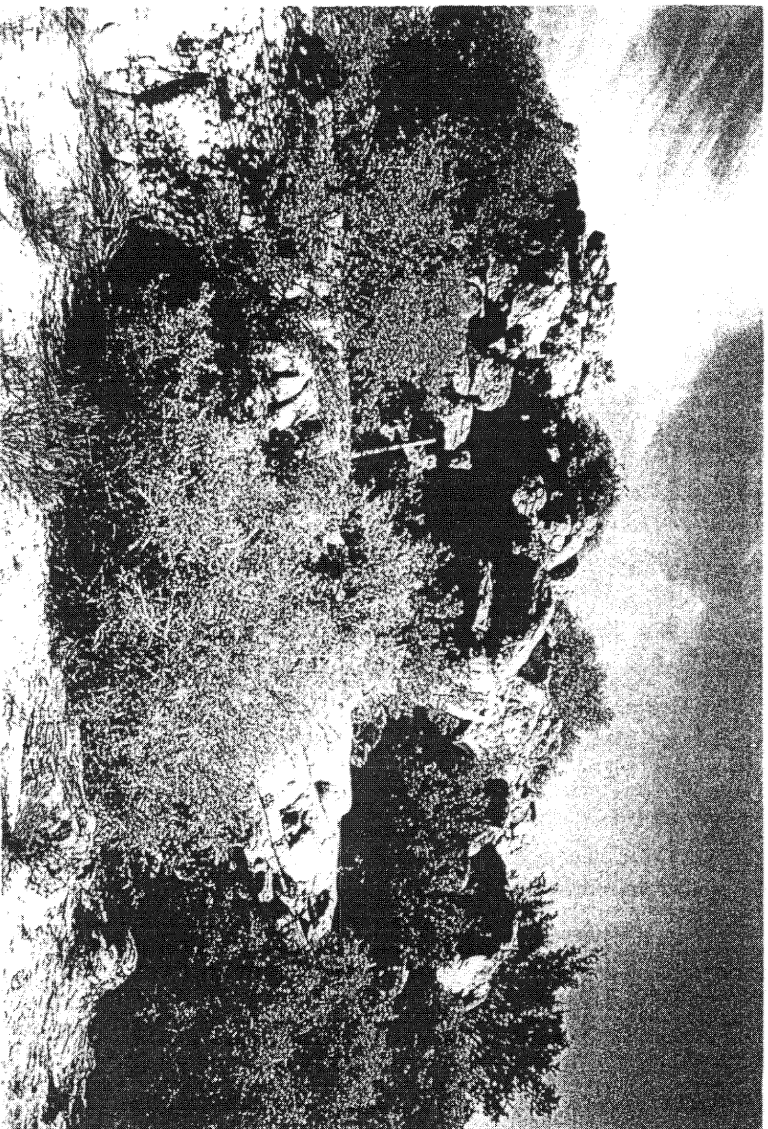


Figure 3. Archaeological study, portion 1 of Farm Keurbos No. 274: KB 2.

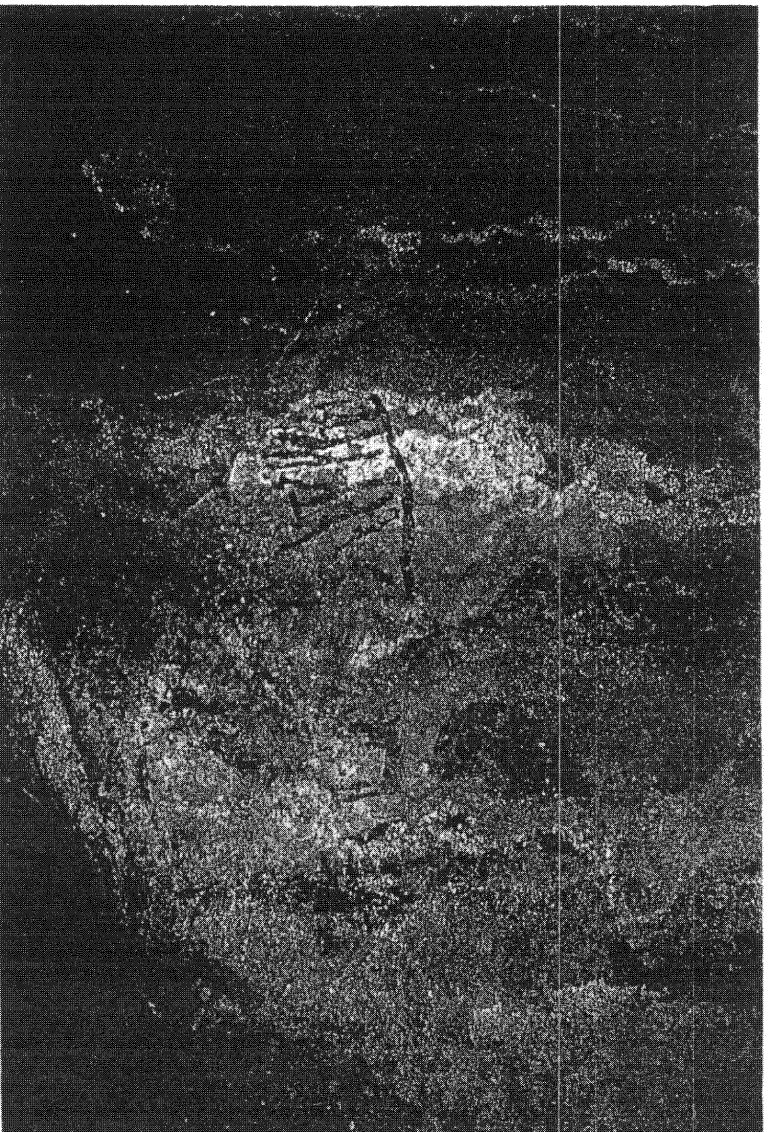


Figure 3. Archaeological study, portion 1 of Farm Keurbos No. 274: KB 2.

paintings, is a painting of a possible 'elephant in a box' (Maggs and Seally 1983). The painting is very faded, however. Some indistinguishable images also occur in the site.

A few stone tools were located on the banks of the dry river course immediately in front of the site.

Significance of site: **high**

Suggested mitigation: **the paintings should be photographed and traced in detail**

6. DISCUSSION

Bushman rock paintings are a threatened, non-renewable cultural and historical resource. The art records in a unique manner the history of southern Africa's indigenous people over at least 25 000 years.

Bushman rock art is closely associated with religious activities performed by Bushman shamans or medicine people (Lewis-Williams 1981).

Potential buyers into the proposed Keurbos development, should effectively become the custodians and managers of the Keurbos paintings. A full understanding of the importance of southern African rock art will accord the art the respect it deserves.

Understanding the religious and spiritual component inherent in rock art can play a major role in understanding the history of the Bushman people in the sub-continent and in nation building through the eradication of racial stereotypes.

7. IMPACT STATEMENT

The direct impact of the proposed development on archaeological sites in portion 1 of the farm Keurbos No. 274, is considered to be low.

Secondary impacts, however, such as increased visitation to the property, will, without effective management guidelines being implemented, likely result in a negative impact on the two sites, particularly KB 2.

8. LEGISLATION

All archaeological sites, including rock painting sites, are protected by the National Monuments Act (Act No. 28 of 1969 as amended). It is an offence to disturb, remove, alter or destroy from its original site, or excavate any such site without a permit from the National Monuments Council.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of portion 1 of the farm Keurbos No 274, the following archaeological recommendations are made.

1. KB 2 should be recorded in detail. The paintings should be traced and photographed.

The paintings should not be touched or rubbed against. Amino acids in the skin oils react with the rock and may cause the paintings to deteriorate.

The paintings should not be sprayed with water or other liquids.

The paintings should not be dusted or wiped with cloth. Any action that disturbs the rock surface will hasten the deterioration of the paintings.

The making of fires near or in the vicinity of the paintings should be prohibited.

2. The paintings should be monitored by a professional archaeologist on an annual basis.

3. The sandstone outcrop where KB 1 and KB 2 occur, could be developed as a natural, open-air viewing site for homeowners and visitors.

An information or display board could be erected near the sandstone outcrop, explaining the importance of archaeological sites in general, and rock painting sites in particular.

4. Under no circumstances should any artefacts be collected from the talus in front of KB 1, as this will substantially reduce the significance of the site.

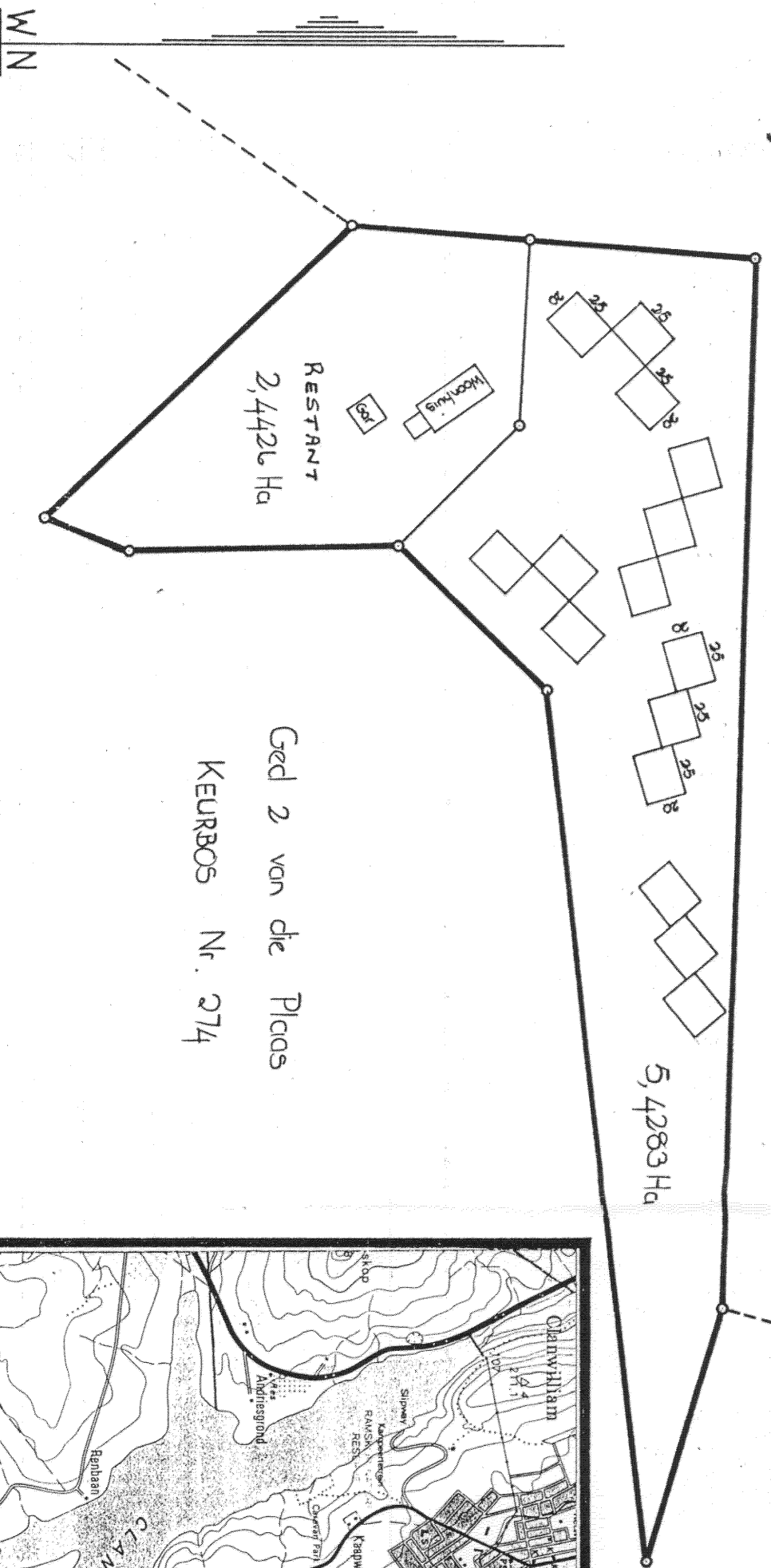
5. The recommendations should be included in the proposed Keurbos Homeowners Association manual.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Plans Committee.

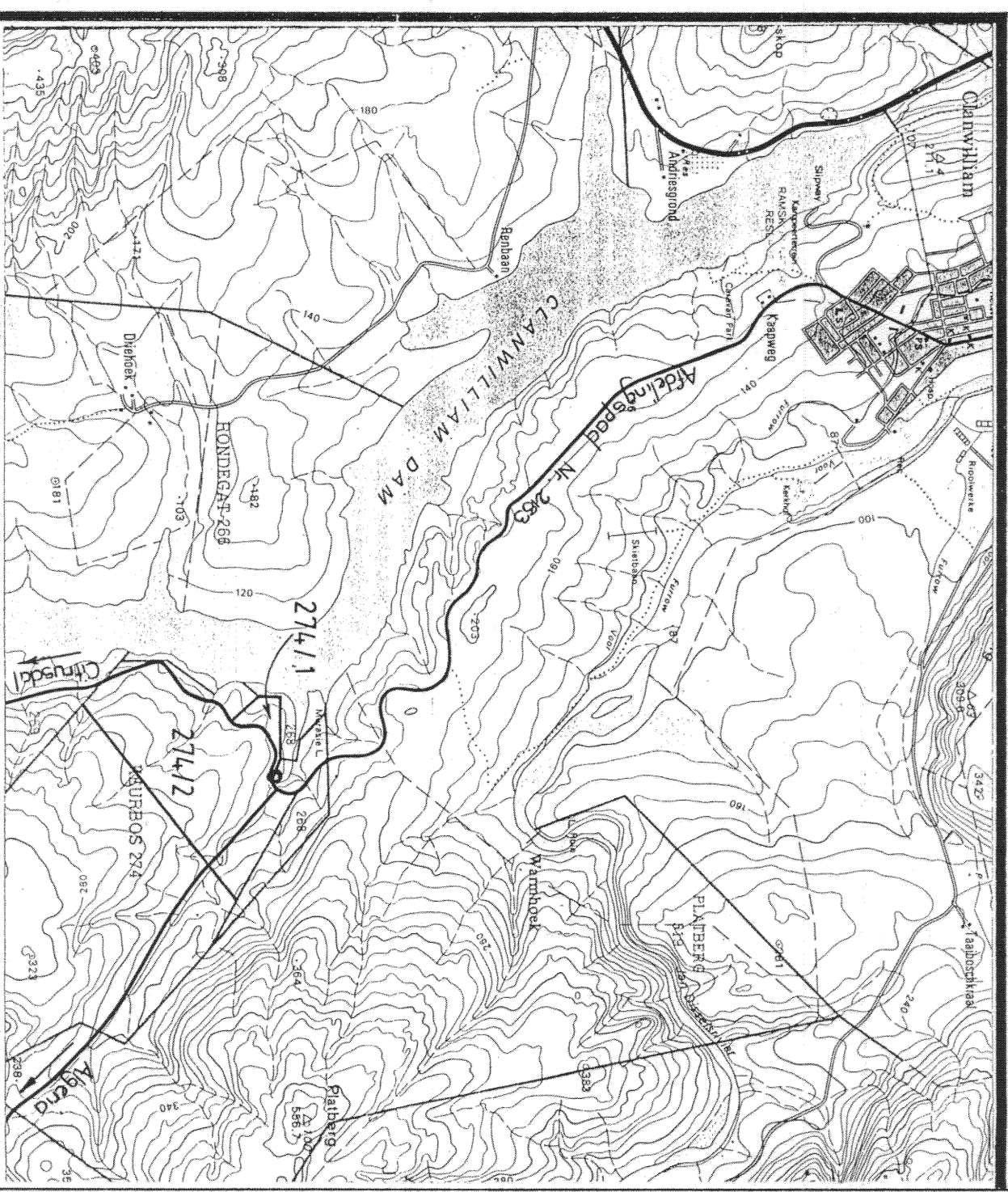
10. REFERENCES

- Lewis-Williams, J. D. 1981. *Believing and seeing: symbolic meanings in southern San rock paintings*. London: Academic Press.
- Maggs, T. M. & Seally, J. 1983. Elephants in boxes. *South African Archaeological Society Goodwin Series* 4: 44-48.

Ged 4 van die Plaas WOLVE BERG Nr. 268



5,4283 Ha



Ligingsplan

Skala 1/50000

Voorgestelde Onderverdeling

Gedeelte 1 van die Plaas KEURBOS Nr. 274

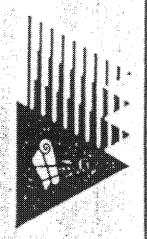
Administratiewe Distrik Clanwilliam

SKAAL 1/3000

(7,8709 Ha)

S/

L.G. Verwys
 Prov. Admin
 Noteer Vel
 Transport Akte
 L.G. Kaart Nr.
 Eienaar



CK RUMBOLL
 & VENNOTE/PARTNERS

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