

# **AN INITIAL SCOPING STUDY OF THE SANBONA WILDLIFE RESERVE, BARRYDALE**

Prepared for

**Earthworks**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1997, the Archaeology Contracts Office (ACO) at UCT submitted a proposal to Linton Projects (Pty) Ltd to undertake a heritage assessment of what was then known as the Cape Wildlife Reserve. Linton Projects has since been taken over by Shamwari Holdings (Pty) and the name changed to Sanbona Wildlife Reserve. A major change from the original proposal is that the total size of the landholdings has been increased from approximately 27 000 Ha to about 60 000 Ha. Although aspects of the nature of public access to the facility has altered, the original concept remains largely the same, namely:

- to provide a remote experience for tourists;
- to realise the economic opportunities arising from conservation oriented tourism in the Kareevlakte;
- to pursue income generating and educational activities compatible with the broad conservation principles of all aspects of the reserve.

As it would appear that no Heritage Impact Assessment has been undertaken, the Archaeology Contracts Office was approached to rectify this omission. It was suggested that prior to committing to a full-scale heritage assessment that we be permitted to undertake a scoping study to gauge the logistic and financial requirements of a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA).

### ***1.1 Purpose of the scoping study***

As no systematic archaeological or heritage surveys of the reserve have ever been undertaken there were no existing observations to assist us in assessing the logistical requirements of a full-scale Heritage Assessment. The scoping study was intended to assist us to:

- get a sense of the topography of the reserve;
- make some preliminary observations about the range, density and distribution of heritage sites to allow more accurate budgeting and planning of a comprehensive HIA;
- assess the logistical requirements of the project;
- assess how the project could be phased.

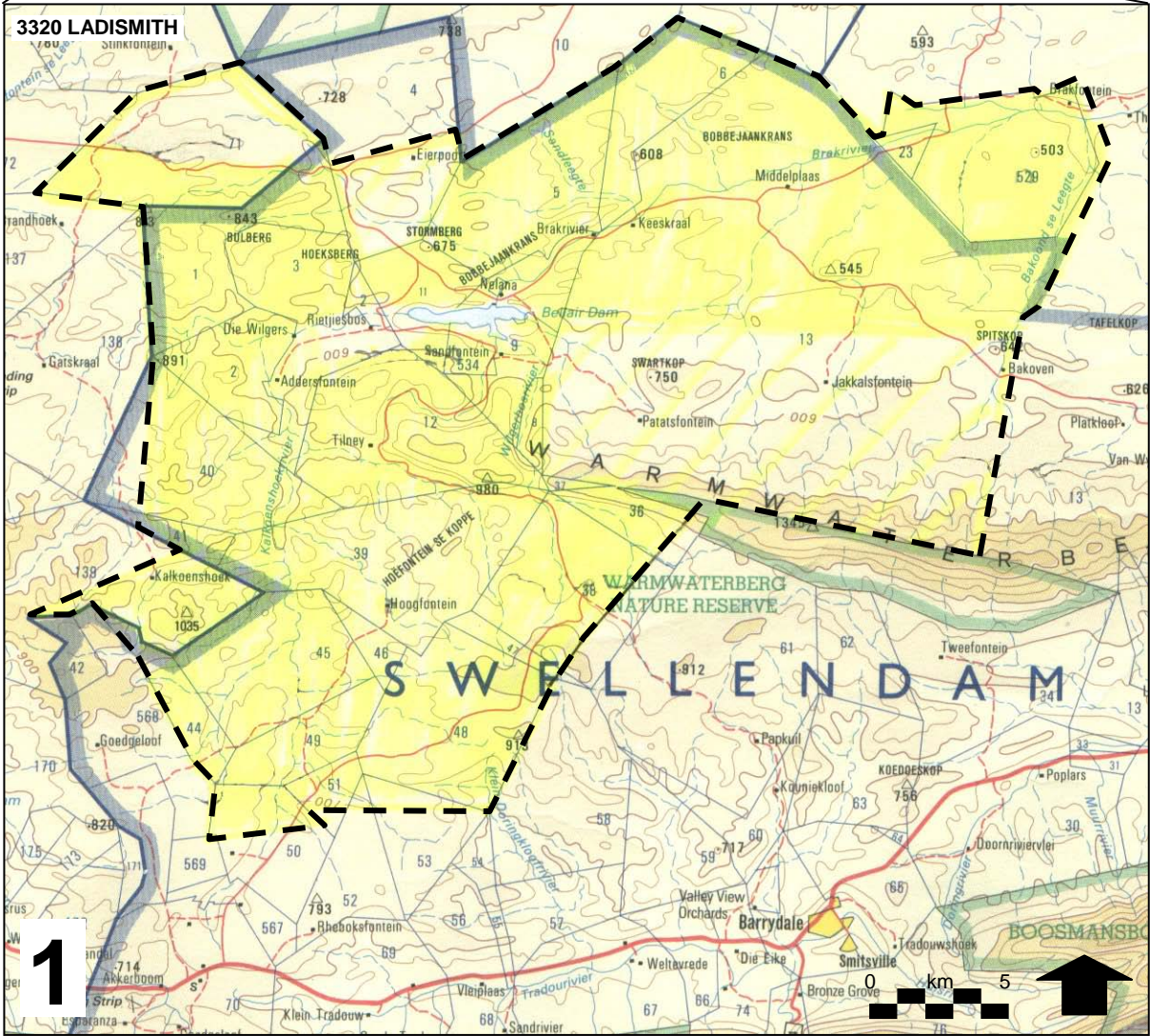
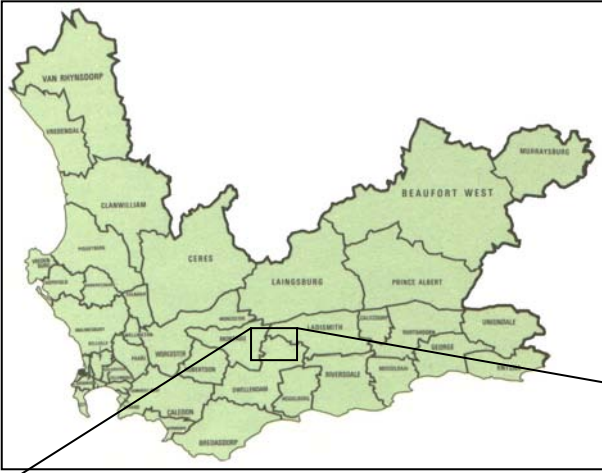
## 2. METHOD

A set of maps showing the extent of the reserve was supplied. The area is shown on an extract of the 1:250 000 map in Figure 1. Through a combination of information received from people working at Sanbona Wildlife Reserve, and by perusing the topographic information on the maps, a number of locations were identified for closer inspection. These included identified buildings, ruins and other colonial features, and geographic features where it was believed Stone Age sites may be located.

The identified localities were visited and inspected by limited foot searches. Notes were made of heritage features and in many cases these were also photographed. Locations were recorded using a handheld GPS receiver where possible<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> It is sometimes difficult to get a signal at the base of deep ravines



## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1 *General observations*

This scoping assessment has revealed that there is an extensive range of heritage sites in the Sanbona Wildlife Reserve. Not only do these include fossil-bearing deposits<sup>2</sup> and places of geological interest, but also in one form or another include the entire time range of archaeological material found in South Africa. These sites date from the Early Stone Age through to buildings and agricultural features of the recent colonial period. A detailed inventory of identified heritage sites identified during this scoping study is presented in Section 4.

#### 3.1.1 *Early Stone Age (ESA) open sites*

While only few formal artefacts relating to the Early Stone Age were found, the entire area is littered with the diffuse stone waste by-products of millions of years of occupation. Fragments of flaked quartzite, and the occasional spheroid and cores were found in most localities that we visited. There are no doubt focused areas in the game reserve where clusters of artefacts representing occupation sites occur, but none were located in the comparatively small areas that were examined.

#### 3.1.2 *Middle Stone Age (MSA) open sites*

Middle Stone Age artefacts were found in virtually every area we visited. While most of this material is widely broadcast over the landscape, we did notice a number of localities where the material was highly concentrated, showing that there may have been specific areas where Middle Stone Age people congregated. The calcareous deposits around the eyes of springs on the edges of the Warmwaterberg contain large quantities of stone tools indicating that people favoured these and indicate a focus around water bodies. Specific site locations are indicated in detail on the site inventory pages of this report.

#### 3.1.3 *Late Stone Age (LSA) sites*

Scatters of stone artefacts and shelters from this period (after 40 000 years BP [before present]) were not frequently seen. Those that were found are largely confined to the foothills and kloofs of the Warmwaterberg. Several small rock shelters were found that contain archaeological deposits, microlithic artefacts, grinding stones and pottery. The presence of pottery indicates that hunter gatherers were present in the area after 2000 years ago. Curiously, the shale landscape of area which was so heavily utilised during the Middle Stone Age, apparently contains very little evidence of Late Stone Age sites. Extensive survey will however be required to verify this initial observation.

##### 3.1.3.1 *San rock paintings*

Rock paintings are among the most common manifestation of the Late Stone Age in the area. Like other Late Stone Age sites, rock paintings appear to be confined to the kloofs and foothills of the Warmwaterberg. The presence of ochre staining on a number of rock surfaces indicates that some areas were extensively painted in the past, but unfortunately, many of the paintings are not well preserved. This may be due to the painting surfaces

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<sup>2</sup> A palaeontological study has been made by Dr. J.A. van der Heever, Dept of Zoology, University of Stellenbosch.

being composed of hard quartzite, perhaps not having the absorbent qualities that favour preservation over time. While most rock paintings tend to be found in rock shelters where there are expanses of smooth rock wall, rock art surveys across the broad spectrum of localities in South Africa has revealed that in reality it is very difficult to predict where they may be found. Paintings have been found on open rock faces, on the sides of large boulders, in small hidden hollows and holes and even on the ceilings of overhangs. There is little doubt that further survey work will increase the count of rock paintings in the reserve.

### **3.1.3.2 Khoekhoen herders**

Groups of herding peoples moved into southern Africa about 2000 years ago, bringing with them the technology for making pottery, and herds of fat tailed sheep and goats. Later, cattle were also added to the economy. They responded to seasonal variations in rainfall, moving herds on a transhumant cycle. When cyclical weather patterns permitted, they occupied dry areas of the country, even moving herds into the Great Karoo during the wetter phase c1300 AD.

Recent research on the Vredenburg Peninsula and in the Richtersveld has enabled archaeologists to identify the characteristics of Late Stone Age herder sites on the landscape. Such sites contain very large quantities of broken potsherds, ostrich eggshell beads of a variety of sizes including some that are more than 8mm in diameter.

The presence in the reserve of at least one site displaying these characteristics indicates that prehistoric herders were active in the area sometime during the last 2000 years. This means that the herding of goats, and the effects these animals have on the landscape, is not just a phenomenon associated with recent colonial occupation of the land.

### **3.1.3.3 Colonial period and settled farming**

Ruins and farmsteads of the colonial era are among the most visually prominent aspects of the archaeology of Sanbona Wildlife Reserve. Some of the early ruins probably date to the later part of the 18th century when pioneer *trekboer* farmers first occupied the land. These vernacular structures, built with sun-dried mud brick and stone, and rough-cut timber roof joists and joinery, are among the most vulnerable archaeological sites at Sanbona Wildlife Reserve. Once the roofs and *solders* (often made with *dakriet*) collapse, wind and rain quickly erode the exposed mud brick walls. Some of these have been recently demolished, presumably to rehabilitate the "natural" qualities of the landscape. Similarly, buildings constructed from local stone are vulnerable, as the very fabric may be recycled for construction of other buildings and kraals.

Several farm buildings that have escaped demolition are significant in terms of their vernacular architectural style which is specific to the Montague-Barrydale region (Marx pers comm.). These remain vulnerable to demolition or inappropriate or insensitive re-use. Over-restoration can detract from their historic significance. Despite these factors, the remains of the early farmsteads and standing structures at Sanbona Wildlife Reserve are important heritage assets. Like the precolonial archaeological sites, suitably conserved and explained, the historic structures and features have the potential to add intrinsic value to the reserve.

#### 4. INVENTORY OF SITES LOCATED DURING THE SCOPING STUDY

**Site name:** KALKOENSHOEK 1 (KH 1)

**Position:** 33°49'08.4"S 20°29'13.6"E

**Type of site:** Structure

**Period of use:** Historical

**Description:** Small, largely intact, stone building with corrugated iron roof. Single room with chimney breast to rhs of door. Single small window in back wall. Wooden beams, lintels and frames. Earth floor. Mud mortar.

**Use:** This is a shepherds hut built at a remote stockpost or sheep camp.

**Sensitivity:** Vernacular building style representing an aspect of traditional farming practices. Almost certainly older than 60 years. Vulnerable to being plundered for building materials.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Not established



**Site name:** KALKOENSHOEK 2 (KH 2)

**Position:** 33°50'21.6"S 20°31'32.0"E

**Type of site:** Structures (partial ruin); farm complex.

**Period of use:** Historical

**Description:** Remains of a large farmhouse in ruinous state with extensive stone walled "double" kraal at rear. Originally a 3 roomed dwelling, 2 were added later on either side of the stoep. Chimney breast on south side. Use of sun-dried mud brick throughout with thin cement plaster skim in places. Wooden lintels, rafters, frames. Roof collapsed – probably originally thatched. Traditional features include a "muurkas". Floor surface not visible but probably compacted earth.

**Use:** Main farmhouse for Kalkoenshoek. Probably located near a permanent water source.

**Sensitivity:** Vernacular building style. Certainly older than 60 years (19<sup>th</sup> century).

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Large stone walled kraal divided into two parts. Milking? shed attached to south wall. Additional stone walling to the south of the farmhouse (old boundary wall?).

Traces of a household dump are located to the rear of the house containing 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics, glass, ostrich eggshell fragments and bone and hearth debris. 2 smaller ruins (one brick and one stone) are also found to the rear. Remains of ox wagon are in the field in front of the ruin.



**Site name:** KALKOENSHOEK 3 (KH 3)

**Position:** 33°50'21.6"S 20°31'32.0"E

**Type of site:** Stone artefact scatter

**Period of use:** Precolonial – post 2000BP?

**Description:** Stone artefacts including those made on silcrete are present on the surface in the ploughed field at the front of the farmhouse at KH2. One end scraper was observed. A single potsherd of indigenous manufacture was present.

**Use:** Probably the location of an old campsite located near a water source.

**Sensitivity:** Disturbance by ploughing has diminished the value of the site. Information derived from the artefactual content can still be useful.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** European ceramics found in association are probably intrusive.

**Site name:** KALKOENSHOEK 4 (KH 4)

**Position:** 33°50'30.6"S 20°31'34.3"E

**Type of site:** Structure (partial ruin)

**Period of use:** Historical

**Description:** Remains of a small, 2 roomed stone labourer's cottage. Roof missing. Chimney breast on east wall.

**Use:** Accommodation for farm labour.

**Sensitivity:** Vernacular building style representing an aspect of traditional farming practices. Almost certainly older than 60 years. Vulnerable to being plundered for building materials.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Stone boundary wall to the east continues towards KH2. A household dump is found between the wall and the cottage containing a small amount of refined earthenware and bone. To the front (north) is a small stone feature which may have been a "lammerkraal" or chicken coop, the remains of a "longdrop" toilet, and a mound of stone which may be the base of a clay oven or even possibly a grave.



**Site name:** KALKOENSHOEK 5 (KH 5)

**Position:** 33°49' 56.2"S 20°32'20.2"E

**Type of site:** Structure (partial ruin)

**Period of use:** Historical

**Description:** Remains of a small stone cottage(?) of which only a corner is left standing. A pile of stone nearby suggests salvage for re-use.

**Use:** Probably a labourer's cottage or stockpost.

**Sensitivity:** Stone building platform and a corner of the cottage are all that remain. The building is probably older than 60 years. The building marks an aspect of traditional farming practices.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes.

**Related features:** Nothing immediately observed.





**Site name:** KALKOENSHOEK 6 (KH 6)

**Position:** 33°49'10.8"S 20°31'30.0"E

**Type of site:** Structure (partial ruin)

**Period of use:** Historical

**Description:** Remains of a small single roomed stone cottage.

**Use:** Probably a labourer's cottage or stockpost.

**Sensitivity:** The building is probably older than 60 years. The building marks an aspect of traditional farming practices.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Another square feature exists at the rear, the purpose of which is unknown. A very extensive, though not very dense, Middle Stone Age artefact scatter is found in the area between the cottage and the road. Some European ceramics dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century are also present near the cottage.



**Site name:** HOOGFONTEIN 1 (HF1)

**Position:** 33°48'22.3"S 20°33'29.6"E

**Type of site:** Structures – farm complex

**Period of use:** Historical

**Description:** A well preserved dwelling, barn and various small outbuildings including 2 labourer's cottages. Two outbuildings are of more recent construction, as are two additions to the main house (sitting room and kitchen). Both the main house and barn retain many of their original architectural features, such as wooden floors windows, doors, frames etc. A well preserved feeding crib is found in the barn, also joinery and *rietdak*. The interior colour scheme of the house appears original. The present corrugated iron roof has probably replaced a thatched one. Both barn and dwelling have attics. No fireplace was evident.

**Use:** This appears to have been the main settlement on Hoogfontein. It was probably located at a spring point located toward the rear of the house.

**Sensitivity:** Very fine examples of the vernacular building style incorporating Georgian elements. Certainly older than 60 years, likely mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Vulnerable to illegal and/or uninformed alteration, plundering for joinery and other building materials.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Four other buildings including 2 labourer's cottages and 2 sheds.

**Comment:** A boma used in the introduction of black rhino to the reserve has recently been insensitively constructed in front of the barn.



**Site name:** RIETHUIS 1 (RH1)  
**Position:** 33°50'29.7"S 20°35'07.2"  
**Type of site:** Structure

**Period of use:** Historical

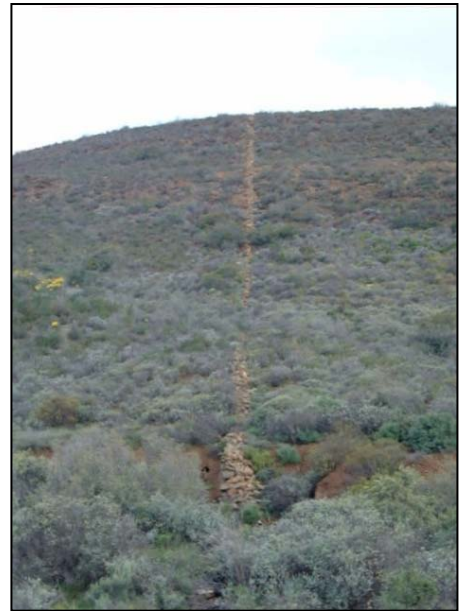
**Description:** Dry packed stone "ostrich" wall (T. Hart, pers comm.).

**Use:** In the Karoo where similar features cross the veld, it is believed that they were constructed to keep ostriches out of stock enclosures. The idea being that an ostrich is reluctant to climb over a feature higher than the knee.

**Sensitivity:** This is an example of a common feature of the area associated with early farming. Certainly older than 60 years (late 19thC). Vulnerable to plundering for building stone and joinery.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Not established



**Site name:** RIETHUIS 2 (RH2)  
**Position:** 33°50'21.7"S 20°35'31.1"E  
**Type of site:** Structure (partial ruin)  
**Period of use:** Historical

**Description:** Small 3 roomed stone and mud brick cottage. Chimney breast to rhs of entrance door. Appears that mud brick has been used for the central room whereas the two ends are composed of stone. Wooden frames and lintels are still present. The use of brick in the center suggests that this may have originally been 2 stone buildings joined through construction of a central room.

**Use:** Labourer's cottage or stock post.

**Sensitivity:** Vernacular building style representing an aspect of traditional farming practices. Almost certainly older than 60 years. Vulnerable to plundering for building materials.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** An old well point was located across the road from the cottage and may indicate the position of a spring.



**Site name:** RIETHUIS 3 (RH3)  
**Position:** 33°49'59.9"S 20°36'23.2"E

**Type of site:** Recently demolished building

**Period of use:** Probable 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Description:** Little evidence of structure remaining, evidence on site indicates recent removal of rubble.

**Use:** Unknown

**Sensitivity:** Low due to possible unauthorized demolition

**Protected by legislation:** Any remaining sub-surface foundations are protected provided that they are over 60 years of age.

**Related features:** n/a

**Site name:** KLEINVLEI 1 (KV1)  
**Position:** 33°48'4.4"S 20°37'33.3"E  
**Type of site:** Historical site with remains of recently demolished structures.  
**Period of use:** 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.  
**Description:** Remains of a farmstead located close to dam. There were at least two buildings on the site that have been recently demolished. The remaining rubble indicates that these were built with vernacular materials including mud bricks and reeds. It is likely that one of the buildings may have been a dwelling, the other a barn.  
**Use:** Small farmstead and outbuildings.  
**Sensitivity:** Despite un-authorised demolition of structures, the site remains sensitive as elements of the historic landscape are preserved, as are foundations of the demolished structures.  
**Protected by legislation:** Yes  
**Related features:** A fairly well preserved *trapvloer* (threshing floor) is evident, there is also a household midden/dump containing 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics.



**Site name:** TILNEY 1 (T1)  
**Position:** 33°46'13.6"S 20°36'46.0"E  
**Type of site:** Prehistoric rock art site.  
**Period of use:** Later than 2000 years ago  
**Description:** Several rock paintings (1 human figure and several other daubes of red paint) located on the side of a large quartzite boulder. A fragment of Cape Coastal Pottery was found close to the boulder.  
**Use:** A San painting site, possibly associated with a short term camp site.  
**Sensitivity:** Site is vulnerable to inappropriate treatment by visitors such as wetting and touching, or even graffiti.  
**Protected by legislation:** Yes  
**Related features:** Not established



**Site name:** TILNEY 2 (T2)  
**Position:** 33°46'14.4"S 20°36'36.4"E  
**Type of site:** Middle/early stone age artefact scatter.  
**Period of use:** 100 000 – 800 000 years ago.  
**Description:** A scatter of stone artefactual material (cores and waste made from quartzite and silcrete) located at the entrance to the kloof close to a leopard hide. The scatter contains artifacts from a very broad period of time indicating that the entrance to the kloof served as a focal point for many thousands of years.  
**Use:** A camping / gathering place where early humans were making and using stone artifacts.  
**Sensitivity:** Site is vulnerable to souvenir collection by visitors.  
**Protected by legislation:** Yes  
**Related features:** n/a

**Site name:** TILNEY 3 (T3)

**Position:** 33°45'28.0"S 20°31'47.1"E

**Type of site:** Historic burial ground

**Period of use:** (?) 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Description:** 18 or more low burials mounds situated on an outwash pan. Some of these have crude head and foot stones, some have been disturbed.

**Use:** A burial ground for paupers, laborers.

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive to disturbance by flooding or development activities.

**Protected under current heritage legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** No obvious related features apart from furrows and weirs in the nearby river valley. May be related to nearby Tilney farm.



**Site name:** TILNEY 4 (T4)

**Position:** 33°45'18.8"S 20°33'15.6"E

**Type of site:** Historical farmstead

**Period of use:** Early – Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century

**Description:** Historical Georgian period vernacular farmstead with some outbuildings. Previously one of the larger farming complexes in the area with a very well preserved flat roof Georgian farmhouse with a soldier and gable. The structure has been very recently rehabilitated to accommodate a tourist lodge, additions have been built onto the rear. A number of outbuildings have been demolished and replaced with contemporary structures (Luxury accommodation). Surrounding area has been extensively re-landscaped. It is unclear whether the structure was professionally recorded before modification, or whether any formal liaison was carried forward with SAHRA.

**Use:** Farm and outbuildings, now used for luxury accommodation.

**Sensitivity:** Important vernacular structure, the significance of which has been, and will be impacted further by un-established conservation policies, and unauthorized alteration.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** This aspect is unclear due to recent modifications of the surrounding landscape. A number of small labourers cottages still remain along with remnants of fields and graveyards.



**Site name:** TILNEY 5 (T5)

**Position:** 33°45'3.7"S 20°33'37.3"E

**Type of site:** Rock shelter with rock paintings

**Period of use:** Likely to be within last 2000 years

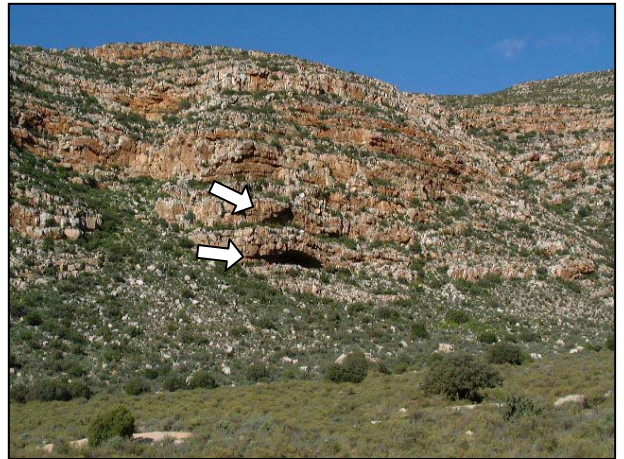
**Description:** A largish domed rock shelter (the lower of the two shown in the photograph) with several images including a panel of trance figures, and a further panel of faded human figures in red-ochre. There is one possible animal-like image which may be a therianthrope. The floor of the shelter contains a small amount of deposit along with artefactual material (quartzite and silcrete flakes, Cape Coastal pottery).

**Use:** A ritual painting site used by San hunter gatherers, artefactual material also indicates that people were living in the shelter from time to time.

**Sensitivity:** Rock art is vulnerable to impacts by visitors, especially touching or wetting the painting. The deposits can be crushed underfoot and artefacts illegally removed from the site as souvenirs.

**Protected by legislation:** yes

**Related features:** TILNEY 6 which is another shelter directly above.



**Site name:** TILNEY 6 (T6) (see photo above)

**Position:** 33°45'3.5"S 20°33'38.7"E

**Type of site:** Rock shelter (Late Stone Age)

**Period of use:** After 2000 years ago

**Description:** A rock shelter with a shallow deposit and artifacts (the upper shelter on the photograph). Rock art is very faded and difficult to discern. Two chert thumbnail scrapers, flakes and potsherds were noted on the surface. There are two lower grinding stones, one of which is stained with ochre.

**Use:** An occupation shelter where people (most likely San) lived.

**Sensitivity:** Not a very accessible site, however remains vulnerable to illegal collection of material.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Tilney 5

**Site name:** Tilney 7a (T7a)

**Position:** 33°45'2.7"S 20°33'22.4"E

(immediately opposite Tilney 5)

**Type of site:** Rock shelter (late Stone Age)

**Period of use:** Unknown but most certainly within 10 000 years, but likely within 2000 years.

**Description:** A highly visible rock shelter (indicated by right arrow) with one faded painting at lower left, possibly human figure. No artefactual material visible.

**Use:** Used as ad hoc painting site/shelter by San

**Sensitivity:** Not a very sensitive due to faded painting and lack of deposits.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Tilney 7b



**Site name:** Tilney 7b (T7B)

**Position:** (immediately opposite Tilney 5 and to the left of T7a)

**Type of site:** Rock wall painting site (Late Stone Age)

**Period of use:** Most likely after 2000 years ago.

**Description:** Immediately left of Tilney 7a, a painted rock wall located behind a large boulder (indicated by left arrow on the above photograph). There is evidence that it quite heavily painted but much of this has faded. Images are dominated by human figures. There is at least one eland torso, a further possible eland with a black line on its back and a definite hartebeest. There is also a complex of human figures associated with lots of short lines, also 3 possible therianthropes. These appear to be attenuated and suggest a trance scenario. Site contains a small amount of deposit. Some ostrich egg shell, and an adze, scraper and miscellaneous retouched piece made on a cryptocrystalline (ccs) material were observed.

**Use:** A sheltered area – living and painting site.

**Sensitivity:** Site is vulnerable to mistreatment, touching and wetting of paintings, illegal collection of artifacts.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Tilney 7a

**Site name:** Tilney 8 (T8)

**Position:** 33°44'49.0"S 20°33'27.0"E

**Type of site:** Painting site

**Period of use:** Older than 200 years

**Description:** A small rock painting site in a marginal shelter. Paintings depict some faded figures (red), a black painted figure and two possible antelope. No artefactual material was noted.

**Use:** San painting site

**Sensitivity:** Paintings vulnerable to mistreatment such as touching and wetting of paintings.

**Protected by legislation:** yes

**Related features:** n/a

**Site name:** Tilney 9 (T9)

**Position:** 33°44'41.9"S 20°33'20.5"E

(in flat land below Tilney 8)

**Type of site:** Rock shelter with painting (late Stone Age)

**Period of use:** Older than 200 years

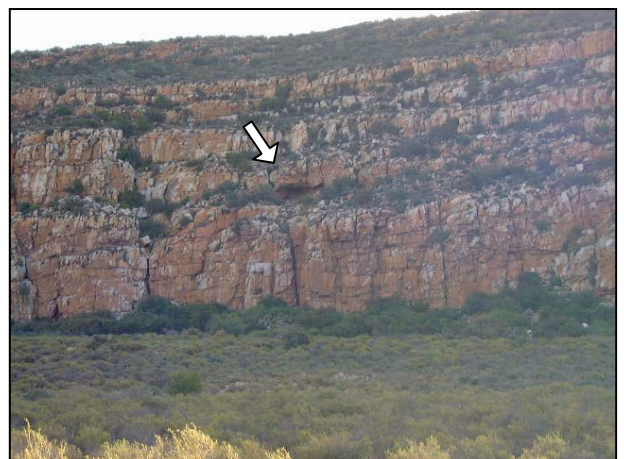
**Description:** Rock painting consists of a faded line of about 9 human figures, a small human figure, 2 eland torsos. No artefactual material was noted.

**Use:** San painting site

**Sensitivity:** Paintings vulnerable to mistreatment such as touching and wetting of paintings.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** n/a



**Site name:** Tilney 10 (T10)

**Position:** 33°44'21.4"S 20°33'42.1"E

**Type of site:** Painting site (late Stone Age)

**Period of use:** Older than 200 years

**Description:** Rock paintings on a rock wall at the base of a cliff. Images consist of a possible human, an eland torso, some double lines and an indiscernible shape. No artefactual material was noted.

**Use:** San painting site.

**Sensitivity:** Paintings vulnerable to mistreatment such as touching and wetting of paintings.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** n/a

**Site name:** Tilney 14 – 17 (T14 -T17)

**Position:**

T14 33°45'31.9"S 20°33'22.8"E

T15 33°45'27.9"S 20°33'20.3"E

T16 33°45'30.9"S 20°33'15.6"E

T17 33°45'26.5"S 20°33'18.8"E

**Type of site:** 4 small grave accumulations located on earth mounds (possibly old termitaria) T14 pictured at right.

**Period of use:** 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Description:** The mounds contain enough soil depth to inter human burials and were therefore targeted by local communities for this purpose. The mound at site 14 contains at least 30 burials marked by accumulations of pebbles and head and foot stones. Mound 15 is similar but has been cut through by the road. Mounds 16 and 17 are smaller and contain less graves.

**Use:** Sources at Sanbona Wildlife Reserve suggest that the burials date back to the flu epidemic of 1918. There is no evidence on site that they are actively commemorated by anyone.

**Sensitivity:** Mounds are vulnerable (as demonstrated) to disturbance by road construction and related activities. Natural forces, erosion and vegetation are having a gradual effect on the sites.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Possibly related to workers employed at Tilney.



**Site name:** Tilney 18 (T18)

**Position:** 33°45' 30.6"S 20°33' 16.6"E

**Type of site:** Middle Stone Age open site.

**Period of use:** As this is a mixed scatter it has been revisited by people for 100 000 years.

**Description:** A scatter of artifacts of a variety of forms and raw materials associated with calcretes that originated at the eye of a spring.

**Use:** Spring created a focal point for prehistoric people.

**Sensitivity:** Vulnerable to illegal collection of artifacts.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Not established.

**Site name:** Zandfontein 1 (ZF1)

**Position:** 33°43'39.2"S 20°35'44.7"E

**Type of site:** Historical site, prehistoric scatters.

**Period of use:** 19<sup>th</sup> century, Late Stone Age, Middle Stone age

**Description:** The remains of an historic farming settlement associated with a spring (dry). One of the farm buildings has been recently demolished – the building rubble contains mud brick and other vernacular materials. There is also a ruined stone and mud structure, the remains of some walled



fields, a circular stone kraal (which may have started out as a *trapvloer*). Much of the material used in the stone walls consist of calcrete (or manganese?) that has been excavated from the area of the nearby spring. The spring itself has been excavated out and diverted into a channel. A single sherd of Cape Coastal pottery was observed. Around the spring and solidified into the calcretes is a blade rich Middle Stone Age assemblage. Most of the material of this extensive dense scatter is made from a light grey quartzite.

**Use:** A historic farm centered on the spring which provided water for the settlement and may also have been used for irrigation of crops. The presence of MSA artifacts indicates that the spring functioned for many thousands of years.

**Sensitivity:** An important site from the both the historical landscapes aspect, and potentially high Middle Stone Age research potential. The site is vulnerable to further demolition, illegal collection of artifacts.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** The grave yard (Zandfontein 2), the structures that make up the Sanbona Wildlife Reserve staff residence and mess (renovated vernacular structures).

**Site name:** Zandfontein 2 (ZF2)

**Position:** 33°43'46.4"S 20°35'41.2"E

**Type of site:** Grave yard

**Period of use:** 19-20<sup>th</sup> century

**Description:** A small graveyard (about 20 graves) enclosed by a wire fence. Some of the graves bear inscriptions (surnames Davids, Van der Braaf). Others are characterized by simple head and foot stones (cement, shale or granite). Indications are that the some graves continue to be visited by next of kin.



**Use:** Burial

**Sensitivity:** Graveyards can be socially sensitive, especially if they are celebrated by any given community who may require rights of access. Grave stones are vulnerable to vandalism. While simple graves do erode naturally over time, increased erosion as a result of surrounding activity can speed up the process.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** Zandfontein settlement (ZF1)



**Site name:** Zandfontein 3 (ZF3)

**Position:** 33°44'14.3"S 20°36'50.1"E

**Type of site:** Rock shelter (late Stone Age)

**Period of use:** Older than 200 years

**Description:** A small rock shelter in a narrow kloof about 50m above a stream. The site contains no rock art. A lower grindstone and manuport indicate that it was occupied by San Hunter gatherers in the past.

**Use:** San occupation site

**Sensitivity:** Site is not very accessible, and of only moderate significance in terms of the materials it contains.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** n/a

**Site name:** Zandfontein 4 (ZF4)

**Position:** 33°44'27.3"S 20°36'41.2"E

**Type of site:** Rock shelter and painting site (late Stone Age)

**Period of use:** Older than 200 years, less than 2000 years. Possible recent use by hikers/shepherds.

**Description:** A rock shelter 20–25m above the stream in a narrow kloof. The site contains painted images – daubes of red paint and a cluster of finger dots. Indications on the surface (flakes of various raw materials, an adze, some pottery) show that the cave contains a good archaeological deposit. There is a rough stone wall along the drip-line of the cave.

**Use:** San painting and occupation site.

**Sensitivity:** An important site of high research value, vulnerable to illegal excavation and collection of artifacts. Paintings are sensitive to touch and wetting.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** n/a

**Site name:** Jakkalsfontein 1 (JKF1)

**Position:** 33°45'15.5"S 20°42'22.1"E

**Type of site:** Rock shelter with deposit and open scatter

**Period of use:** Within the last 2000 years, however may date to historic contact period after 1700 AD.

**Description:** A low north west facing shallow rock shelter around which is a dense archaeological deposit containing a great many artifacts. This includes large amounts of Cape Coastal pottery (decorated rims), ostrich egg beads many of which several are greater than 8mm in diameter, glass trade beads, marine shell. Stone artifacts are profuse, formal tools made on hornfels, chert, ccs and quartz crystal include thumbnail scrapers, adzes and MRP's

**Use:** A camping area sheltered from wind likely to have been used in part by San hunters and Khoekhoen pastoralists.

**Sensitivity:** A highly sensitive site with excellent educational and research potential. Extremely vulnerable to illegal collection of artefactual material, trampling of fragile material underfoot. Conservation will require access restriction.

**Protected by legislation:** Yes

**Related features:** JKF2-4.



**Site name:** Jakkalsfontein 2 (JKF2)  
**Position:** 33°45'23.0"S 20°42'22.6"E  
**Type of site:** Rock shelter and painting site (late Stone Age)  
**Period of use:** Older than 200 years  
**Description:** A small rock painting site in a narrow kloof about 10m above a stream. The site contains several painted images, some of which have enigmatic streamer-like attachments. Other images include an eland, some black painted figures.  
**Use:** San painting site.  
**Sensitivity:** Paintings vulnerable to mistreatment such as touching and wetting of paintings.  
**Protected by legislation:** Yes  
**Related features:** n/a



**Site name:** Jakkalsfontein 3 (JKF3)  
**Position:** 33°45'23.0"S 20°42'23.3"E  
**Type of site:** Painting site (late Stone Age)  
**Period of use:** Older than 200 years  
**Description:** Directly opposite site 2 in the kloof, site is a small hole in the cliff. Images consist of a meandering line composed of red dots.  
**Use:** San painting site.  
**Sensitivity:** Paintings vulnerable to mistreatment such as touching and wetting of paintings.  
**Protected by legislation:** Yes  
**Related features:** n/a

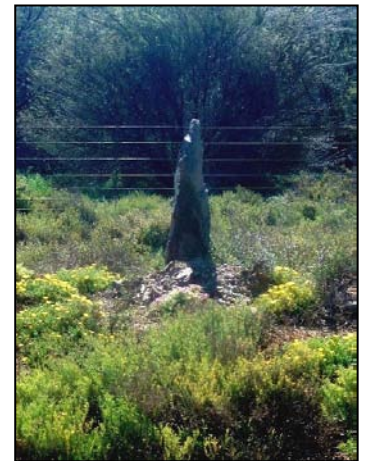
**Site name:** Jakkalsfontein 4 (JKF4)  
**Position:** below site 3 and opposite site 2.  
**Type of site:** Painting site (late Stone Age)  
**Period of use:** Older than 200 years  
**Description:** A prominent shelter containing a prominent black figure painted on the ledge to the right. A single potsherd was noted outside the site.  
**Use:** San painting site.  
**Sensitivity:** Paintings vulnerable to mistreatment such as touching and wetting of paintings.  
**Protected by legislation:** Yes  
**Related features:** n/a



**Site name:** Keeskraal 1 (KK1)  
**Position:** 33°41'08.8" S 20°38'51.7"E  
**Type of site:** Vernacular farm workers house  
**Period of use:** 20<sup>th</sup> century (1930 –1950).  
**Description:** Simple single room dwelling, flat roof, cooking hearth on end, steel window frames.  
**Use:** Typical housing for farm workers, stylistic origin in 19<sup>th</sup> century structures.  
**Sensitivity:** Often demolished without assessment of significance, such structures are typical of farm workers accommodation in the Karoo and other parts of South Africa.  
**Protected by legislation:** Yes, if structure is older than 60 years.  
**Related features:** n/a



**Site name:** Keeskraal 2 (KK2)  
**Position:** 33°41'14.4" S 20°38'38.7"E  
**Type of site:** Typical historic boundary marker/beacon  
**Period of use:** 18-20<sup>th</sup> century  
**Description:** Typical boundary marker/beacon, elongated slab of shale placed upright in the ground.  
**Use:** Boundary marker, fence support.  
**Sensitivity:** These markers are evidence of the way that the landscape was partitioned in historic times. They are vulnerable to demolition or removal during fencing operations.  
**Protected by legislation:** Yes  
**Related features:** Fences, other farm boundaries.



**Site name:** Brakrivier 1 (BR1)  
**Position:** 33°41'26.4 "S 20°37'48.7"E  
**Type of site:** Historic building  
**Period of use:** Early – mid 19<sup>th</sup> century  
**Description:** Vernacular flat roof house with Georgian elements. Low parapet along front of roof, possible low solder under roof. Interior consists of 6 rooms laid out in typical vernacular style (*voorkamer*, *agterkamer*, side rooms and rear kitchen). Ceiling consists of heavy imported pine boards supported by joists (in original condition). Some architraves have been bricked up.  
**Use:** Recent use is unknown, originally a dwelling house.  
**Sensitivity:** Well preserved structure, excellent example of regional architectural style. Vulnerable to neglect and decay, illegal removal of woodwork and vandalism.  
**Protected by legislation:** Yes  
**Related features:** Not established



## 5. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

In cases of development where the size and nature of the activity require that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be undertaken, heritage issues are covered in sections of the relevant environmental legislation. I present below extracts from the relevant acts and highlight sections of text that are relevant.

### **5.1 Environmental Conservation Act: No. 73 of 1989**

Part VI: Regulations

26. Regulations regarding environmental impact reports

The Minister or a competent authority, as the case may be, may make regulations with regard to any activity identified in terms of section 21(1) or prohibited in terms of section 23(2), concerning-

- a) the scope and content of environmental impact reports, which may include, but are not limited to--
  - iii) an estimation of the nature and extent of the effect of the activity in question and of the alternative activities on the land, air, water, biota and other elements or features of the natural and man-made environments;
- b) the drafting and evaluation of environmental impact reports and of the effect of the activity in question and of the alternative activities on the environment; and
- c) the procedure to be followed in the course of and after the performance of the activity in question or the alternative activities in order to substantiate the estimations of the environmental impact report and to provide for preventative or additional actions if deemed necessary or desirable.

### **5.2 South African Heritage Resources Act: No. 25 of 1999**

Chapter II Protection and Management of Heritage Resources

Part 2: General protections

38. Heritage resources management

8) The provisions of this section do not apply to a development as described in subsection (1) if an evaluation of the impact of such development on heritage resources is required in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989), or the integrated environmental management guidelines issued by the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, or the Minerals Act, 1991 (Act No. 50 of 1991), or any other legislation: Provided that the consenting authority must ensure that the evaluation fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority in terms of subsection (3), and any comments and recommendations of the relevant heritage resources authority with regard to such development have been taken into account prior to the granting of the consent.

## 6. HERITAGE CONSERVATION AT SANBONA

To date it would appear that no comprehensive studies as envisioned by either act have been undertaken. A palaeontological study was carried out by a Dr. J.A. van Der Heever of the Department of Zoology at the University of Stellenbosch but this represents a very small part of the overall Heritage Resources of the reserve. On return from the scoping trip a document highlighting problems with the treatment of heritage resources was prepared and sent to the client via Earthworks<sup>3</sup>. Portions of that document are reproduced below and include recommendations on how best to proceed.

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<sup>3</sup> David Waddilove, 2 Chalfont Road, Newlands.

## **6.1 Issues**

In our opinion certain activities have already taken place that have contravened legislation. There is no evidence that the following activities have been preceded by any form of Heritage Impact Assessment -

- demolition of numerous buildings believed to be older than 60 years;
- alteration of several buildings believed to be older than 60 years;
- addition of new buildings to historic farm *werfs*;
- extensive landscaping of historic farm *werfs*;
- construction of new roads;
- facilitation of access to a rock art site.

As we have no formal statement from Sanbona with respect to policies that have been adopted in regard to Heritage Resources, we suggest that pending the preparation of a comprehensive Heritage Management Plan -

- that there be an immediate moratorium on the demolition or alteration of any buildings, structures and man-made features older than 60 years;
- that no further attempts be made to facilitate access to rock painting sites.

## **6.2 Heritage Management Plan**

A Heritage Management Plan should be prepared as a matter of urgency. This plan should cover the following topics:

(a) An understanding of the importance of the heritage of the area and its proposed use including -

- a description of the range of heritage resources;
- a description of significance of various resources;
- a description of attitudes to heritage resources in terms of new land use;

(b) What are the vulnerabilities -

- define the potential impacts for different heritage resources;

(c) Legislation -

- describe the existing legislation;

(d) Measures to protect and maintain significance -

- define general policy to assess impact on heritage resources;
- describe existing policies for specific heritage sites;
- maintain an ongoing inventory of heritage sites.

## **6.3 Interim measures**

Pending the completion of such a plan, Sanbona must agree to adhere to the legislation with respect to potential impacts on Heritage Resources. Any new developments, as

defined in either the Environmental Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989) or the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999) must be preceded by impact assessments.

Heritage impact assessment is generally a two stage procedure:

- Phase 1 – impact assessment (field work and report);
- Phase 2 – mitigation of impact (excavation, photography, mapping, analysis of finds, reporting)<sup>4</sup>

The Phase 1 is generally seen as an investigation phase, whereas the Phase 2 is mainly implementation of any recommendations arising from the Phase 1 study. Phase 2 work will generally take more time than Phase 1.

#### **6.4 Composition of the study team**

As there is a wide range of heritage resources, from fossils that are several millions of years old, through to structures of the colonial period which are relatively recent, it is suggested that a multidisciplinary team be assembled to deal with heritage impacts. The team should include -

- a palaeontologist (with experience of the fossils of this area and in heritage resource management);
- an architect (with experience in vernacular architecture and heritage resource management);
- an archaeologist (with experience of rock paintings, Late Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, Early Stone Age and colonial period sites and heritage resource management).

## **7. CONCLUSION**

Our distinct impression formed during the scoping study is that it is the policy of the developers based on the numerous demolitions that have already occurred, to rid the reserve of the most visible structures. In our opinion this is misguided for if one is to view the reserve holistically, then one cannot try and hide the fact that this land has been used for farming over many years and is a product of that use. In fact, human modifications should be seen as reminders of its rich historical past and markers by which the reintroduction of wild animals and invigoration of the flora can be judged in the future and in keeping with a sentence in the "Vision document": *to pursue income generating and educational activities compatible with the broad conservation principles of all aspects of the reserve.*<sup>5</sup>

We do feel that there is potential for the exploitation of heritage resources on the reserve for the overall tourist experience, but it should include all aspects of its past. In terms of the Stone Age, the Warmwaterberg and adjacent areas offers most potential as it is in the caves and shelters of this rocky massif where most of these sites occur. There are some excellent examples of the vernacular building style of the colonial period in the reserve too. Buildings such as the farm complex at Hoogfontein is an example where the original barn

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<sup>4</sup> The second phase is not required if it is found that there will be no impacts to heritage resources.

<sup>5</sup> Sanbona Wildlife Reserve: Realising the conservation and development potential of the Karoo wilderness. Environmental Management and Development Plan (first draft). Prepared by Earthworks, June 2002.

and dwelling show most of their original form including fittings and joinery (despite some modern additions which could easily be removed).

We urge the owners to reconsider what seems to be a policy to remove traces of later heritage from the reserve without having undertaken proper consultation with the relevant authorities as required by legislation. Continuing in this way will undoubtedly lead to conflict and possible disruption to the development if and when it comes to the attention of the authorities.