



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 LEISURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT DE FONTEINE 364, UITENHAGE, EASTERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A leisure residential settlement and game farm development is planned at the farm De Fonteine 364, Uitenhage, Eastern Cape. The site was recently visited and investigated for cultural and historical the remains.

The land represents old plough lands along the Elands River.

In general, the vegetation consists of a dense growth of grass and Fynbos shrubs with scattered stands of *Aloe ferox* as a prominent feature.

An old stone-wall along the valley could have been for the control of stock in years gone by. A graveyard with a strong wall and entrance gate contains about five graves, which probably date from the nineteenth century. Both these features will not be affected by the proposed developments.

Other archaeological and historical remains were absent.

I conclude that the planned developments will have no effect on any cultural and historical heritage of the area. Further planning of the proposed project could continue.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The investigation provided the opportunity to visit the sites proposed for development. The various sites were examined on foot and sites and finds were plotted by GPS and recorded on camera.

The only limitation, if any, could have been restricted visibility on the soil surface due to the thick stand of grass, Fynbos and natural vegetation in the undisturbed areas.

Methodology

1. Site visit.
2. Study of topo-cadstral map.

INVESTIGATION

The sites selected for leisure residential developments at the farm De Fonteine 364, Uitenhage, Eastern Cape, were visited on 11 July 2007. The layout plan indicates the position of the individual stands (Fig.1).

Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took me to the farm where we were accompanied and directed by the owner, Mr Jan Werkman.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical remains 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 De Fonteine 364 is located in the district of Uitenhage, Northern Cape (Map 1). The farm borders on the Elands River (Map 2, Fig.13) and is overshadowed by the Elandsberge (Fig.8&12). The well-known Cockscomb forms a very prominent landmark in the region (Fig.15).

Vegetation in general and in the areas identified for development, consists of a dense growth of grass and Fynbos shrubs (Fig.16) with scattered stands of *Aloe ferox* as a prominent feature (Fig.17).

The following GPS coordinates were taken (Cape scale):

DW 1 33°39'31"S 024°59'16"E Altitude 418m (Fig.2).

DW 2	33°39'36"S 024°59'17"E Altitude 425m (Fig.3).
A	33°39'26"S 024°59'24"E Altitude 448m (Fig.4).
GRAVEYARD	33°39'22"S 024°59'45"E Altitude 425m (Fig.5).
B	33°39'29"S 025°00'05"E Altitude 448m (Fig.8).
FARMHOUSE	33°39'22"S 024°59'33"E Altitude 415m (Fig.10).
C (Guesthouse)	33°39'23"S 024°59'18"E Altitude 402m (Fig.11).

FINDS

A continuous stone-wall runs along the Elands River (Fig.9). Mr Johan Bakkes, the previous owner, states that the walls are found on both sides of the valley. He recalls that according to lore, these structures were built by the old people to control the movement of stock. The walls are well outside the proposed area of development.

There is an old graveyard with solid walls and entrance gate on the farm (Fig.5). The cemetery contains about four graves (Figs.6&7). Faint inscriptions on one of the graves indicate the name of Alice Palmer, daughter of TB & E Palmer, born 15 November 1861, died 16 April 1862. There are also indications of one or two graves outside the cemetery walls near the entrance gate (Fig.18).

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The stone-walls are located well outside the area of development and will not be affected by the proposed building activities.

The graveyard will be considered as part of the development and will be maintained.

No other cultural, historical or palaeontological features were found during the investigation.

MITIGATION

The impact on the cultural heritage remains of the proposed developments at De Fontaine 364 will be of minor significance.

However, every archaeological and historical site is unique and should be treated as a non-renewable commodity. All efforts should be made to avoid any unnecessary disturbance or destruction of the area. I stress, therefore, that in case of the discovery of any human skeletal material, stone tools, pottery or other archaeological material of significance during the course of the work all activities should temporarily be stopped and stabilised in the specific area. The archaeologist should be notified for an in situ inspection by an archaeologist or other specialists from the McGregor Museum, Kimberley.

No mitigation measures will be required on any of the proposed development sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the farm.

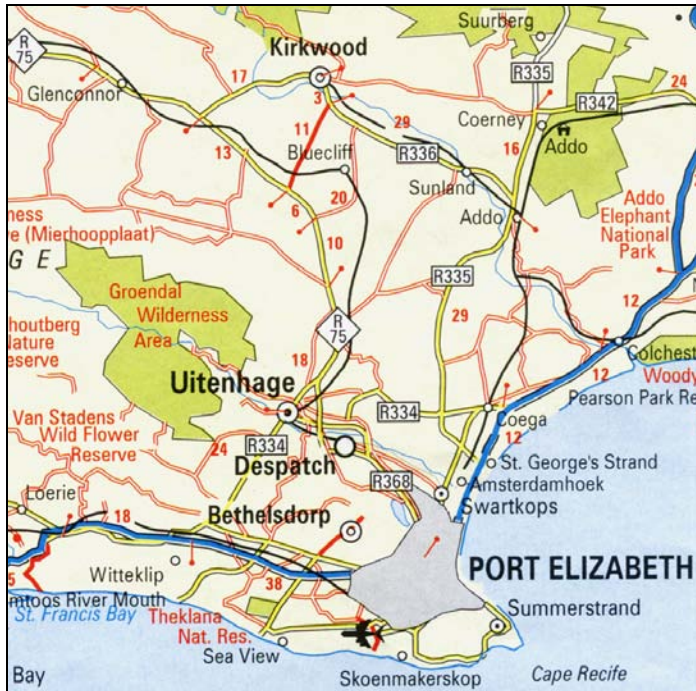
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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

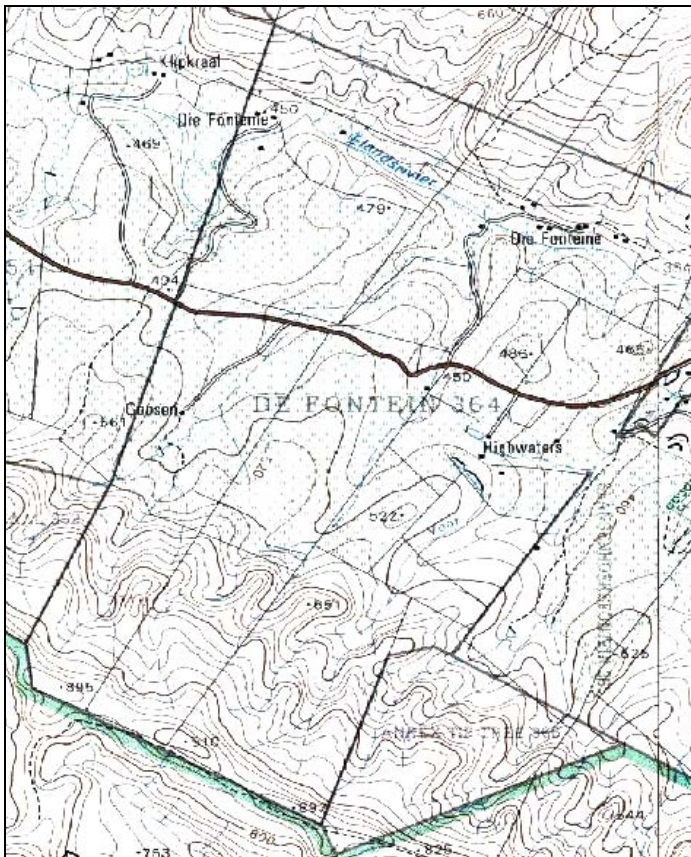
HUMPHREYS, A.J.B. 1986. Searching for the past. Cape Town: David Philip.

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

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape.



Map 2 The farm De Fonteine 364 in the district of Uitenhage, Eastern Cape.

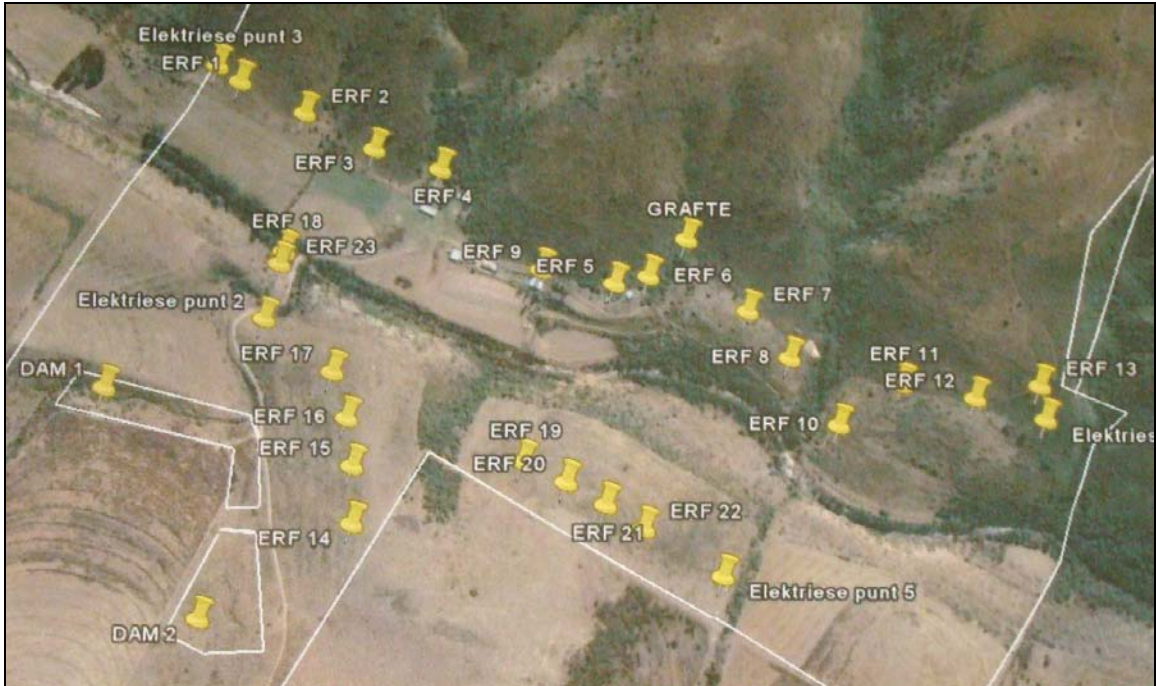


Fig.1 Locality of the proposed stands along the Elands River at De Fonteine 364, Uitenhage.



Fig.2 View at Point DW1 facing west.



Fig.3 DW2 at the farm De Fonteine 364, Uitenhage.



Fig.4 View of the mountains from Point A.



Fig.5 The graveyard.



Fig.6 One of the gravestones in the cemetery at De Fontaine 364, Uitenhage.



Fig.7 Another gravestone in the cemetery at De Fonteine 364, Uitenhage.



Fig.8 View from Point B facing the Elandsberge.



Fig.9 Remains of a stone-wall at De Fonteine 364.



Fig.10 The farmhouse (to the right) and outbuildings at De Fonteine 364.
Old plough lands and cultivated grazing cover the area along the Elands River.



Fig.11 Point C at the guesthouse.



Fig.12 The Elandsberge as seen from the farm.



Fig.13 The Elands River on its course past the farm De Fonteine 364.

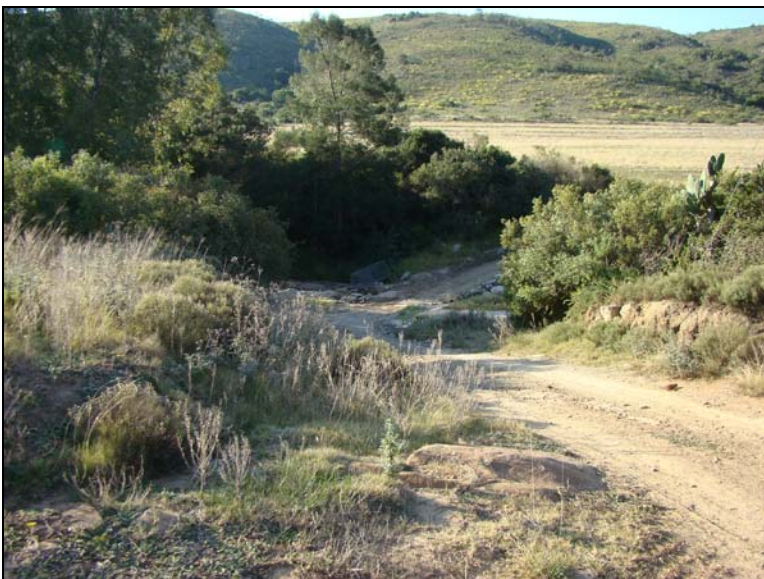


Fig.14 Drift through the Elands River on the way to De Fonteine.



Fig.15 Cockscomb forms a very prominent landmark in the region.



Fig.16 Vegetation consists of grass, shrubs and Fynbos.



Fig.17 Stands of *Aloe ferox* occur in many places.



Fig.18 Possible grave outside the cemetery.



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

4 Februarie 2008

Pastoor JJ Maarman
Posbus 196
HANKEY
6200

EERSTE FASE ARGEOLOGIESE EN KULTURELE ERFENIS OPNAME VAN
DIE VOORGESTELDE RESIDENSIELE ONTWIKKELINGS OP DIE PLAAS
DE FONTEINE 364, UITENHAGE, OOS-KAAP

Dankie vir u brief van 30 Januarie 2008. U skakeling met MDA in Bloemfontein, aangaande die bogemelde aangeleentheid is na my verwys.

Ek bring graag die volgende punte onder u aandag:

1. Reeds voordat die formele aansoek vir amptelike goedkeuring by die owerhede ingedien is, het MDA sekere dokumente ter insae aan u gestuur. Hierdie dokumente het onder andere my voorlopige argeologiese en kulturele verslag, ingesluit. Aangesien die omgewingsimpakstudie nog nie amtelik ingedien is nie, is die verslag nie finaal nie en kan wysiginge nog aangebring word.
2. Dit is 'n eerste fase verslag is en bloot op 'n oppervlakte waarneming van die gedeelte wat geaffekteer gaan word, betrekking. Tensy anders vermeld, was my primêre opdrag ook nie om die etnies-historiese oorsprong van die bewoners van die area en die betekenis van die rotstekeninge, na te vors nie.
3. Die stelling dat daar geen melding van die teenwoordigheid van vroeë bewoners van die gebied in die verslag gemaak word nie, dui nie noodwendig op 'n leemte in die verslag nie.

Ek aanvaar dat u oor voldoende wetenskaplike inligting beskik wat die aanspraak op die kulturele erfenis en Khoisan bewoning van die gebied sal bevestig. Om die saak tot u bevrediging te kan oplos, sal ek dit hoog waardeer indien hierdie inligting so spoedig moontlik aan ons beskikbaar gestel kan word.

4. Die toename in besoekers waarna u verwys sal nie noodwendig die tekeninge affekteer nie. Die bestuurplan is juis daarop gemik om toegang te beheer en te voorkom dat besoekers sonder nie 'n gids die tekeninge mag besigtig nie.