

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE  
IMPACT OF REZONING**

**ON**

**PORTION A OF FARM 621 (CAIRNGORM)  
WORCESTER DISTRICT, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**for  
Mrs Louise Brodie  
10 December 2002**

**Report prepared by:**

Dr Janette Deacon  
49 Van Riebeeck St  
Stellenbosch  
7600  
[jdeacon@iafrica.com](mailto:jdeacon@iafrica.com)  
082 491 5067

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The owner of the property, Mrs Louise Brodie, has applied for rezoning of Portion A of the farm Cairngorm as a private nature reserve. She intends extending the tourism potential of the land by bringing small numbers of tourists to visit one of the three rock painting sites on the property, and possibly establishing a hiking trail and accommodation. At present the average number of tourists who have visited the site annually since 2000 is about 60. This number is not expected to increase substantially.

There are three sites with rock paintings on the property. None of these will be adversely impacted by tourism on the scale and in the manner envisaged by Mrs Brodie.

It is therefore recommended that rezoning of the property be permitted and that the proposed management plan be implemented.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the impact that guided and unguided visitors will have on three rock art sites in a proposed private nature reserve. The rock paintings are typical of those done in pre-colonial times by the ancestors of the San (Bushmen) in this region.

### LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The farm No. 621 (Cairngorm) in the Worcester District is located on the northern side of the N1 near the village of Sandhills between Worcester and De Doorns. The application is for a small portion (13.4 ha) of non-agricultural land to be rezoned as the owner, Mrs Louise Brodie, wishes to establish a private nature reserve for tourism purposes. The boundary of Portion A is outlined on the attached orthophoto at 1:5000.

Portion A extends across the foothills of the Hex River mountains that are composed of sandstone blocks of the Table Mountain Series. The natural vegetation is mountain fynbos and the property is surrounded by vineyards.

The intention is to set out a hiking trail and to build two small cottages for self-catering hikers. Visitors to the Ochre Trail rock art route that is conducted by Mrs Brodie will also use part of the hiking trail. There will be both conducted and un-conducted visits to Site 3.

### DESCRIPTION OF ROCK ART SITES

There are three known sites with rock paintings on Portion A.

#### Site 1

There are two small panels with rock paintings amongst the rocks near the south-western entrance to the property at 33.30.62S 19.32.19E. Both face west. The floor is rocky and there is no sign of precolonial habitation. The first panel is very faded and the paintings are indistinct. The second panel, low down in a narrow crevice, has one well preserved antelope and a paint 'palette'.

Unfortunately the sandy ground in the approach to the site, a few metres from the farm road, is being used as a sleeping place by vagrants and as an open toilet. Thus far these activities have not impacted negatively on the rock paintings, but they do present a management problem.

The *significance* of the images is low to medium and the site will probably not be on the tourist route.

#### Site 2

This site is about 50 m east of Site 1, near the top of the rock outcrop. The rocky terrain precludes the formation of a well-defined path. The paintings are on two almost horizontal rectangular blocks, one above the other, that face east and receive some shelter from a narrow overhang above them. The 'floor' is another rock surface that angles inwards and has prevented the accumulation of soil and deposit.

There are about 14 individual paintings. Apart from a well defined red antelope of indeterminate genus on the upper left and a small but well-defined elephant and two yellow felines or jackals under the upper block on the right, most of the other paintings are not clearly discernible. Natural flaking of the rock has caused some damage to an intriguing image of what appears to be a seated human figure with red lines radiating from its head.

There are no graffiti and the paintings are not vulnerable to dust or accidental touching or rubbing by visitors.

The *significance* of the site is rated as medium. It will probably not be on the regular tourist route.

### Site 3

Access from the farm road alongside the vineyard is via a steep but short 4x4 path that leads to the crest of the hill where it is planned to erect two self-catering cottages. The rock art site is about 50 m to the east on a high (+5 m) vertical rock face about 26 m long at 33.30.50S 19.32.38E. There is no shelter for the paintings that face northwards and get the full afternoon sun. Water runs down the rock face during and after rain and there has been some silica formation over paintings as a result. The floor is littered with small rocks interspersed with bushes. No artefacts were noted.

There are 7 'panels' of paintings with a total of about 35 discernible images. At the eastern end is a small, clear image in deep red, but the subject cannot be ascertained with certainty. It could be an antelope leaning forward with its nose on the ground. The clearest painting in the next panel to the west is a human figure with a tasselled bag. There are three other associated paintings that could be on the same theme, but they are too faded for one to be certain. The next panel has a few traces of paint from images that cannot be identified. The next two panels are close to each other and could be part of the same set. The eastern half is less distinct than the western side as there are many superpositionings and the background rock has a natural red stain. There are at least 6 identifiable animals and at least 3 human figures. To the east along the top of the panel are at least 7 large animals, probably eland bodies from which the necks, heads and legs have faded. Partially superimposed on the lower part of their bodies on the western side are 5 bichrome antelope of which only the legs are clearly discernible. There is in addition at least one animal painted in yellow, two in yellow/white and a finely striped zebra in white and red. The name MARIO was scratched over the top of part of the panel many years ago. To the west are two identifiable animals in red painted on a water stain. Finally on the western end is a large human stick figure.

Since the opening of the Ochre Trail, small groups of people have visited the site on average once a month. There has been no apparent adverse impact.

The *significance* of the site is rated as medium to high. It will be on the regular tourist route but there is no threat from dust. Vandalism has been minimised as all visitors are at present accompanied by Mrs Brodie. The effect of visitors from the accommodation that is planned nearby will have to be carefully monitored.

## MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The following issues were identified during the identification and assessment phases and need to be addressed in the conservation management plan.

- Littering
- Use of Site 1 by vagrants
- The inappropriate use of Site 1 as a toilet by farm workers
- Placement of self-catering accommodation in relation to Site 3
- Natural flaking of rock surface at sites 2 and 3
- Fire hazard from vegetation close to paintings at Sites 1 and 3
- Visitor numbers
- Site significance
- Mitigation of possible vandalism and graffiti in future

## CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of the conservation management plan for the three rock art sites on Portion A of Cairngorm is to retain their significance.

The plan should be instituted once the property has been rezoned.

ISSUE	STRATEGY	WHEN	HOW	BY WHOM
1. Littering	Collect and dispose of litter	Quarterly	Pick up litter on every visit or do a quarterly clean-up. Bury litter on site.	Mrs Brodie
2. Use of site 1 by vagrants	Make site less attractive for sleeping	Monitor every month	Prune vegetation to reduce privacy and add rocks to sandy areas to cut down on availability of sleeping places	Mrs Brodie
3. Use of Site 1 as toilet by farm workers	Reduce privacy	Monitor every month	Prune vegetation to reduce privacy and add rocks to sandy areas. Discuss possibility of installing a portable toilet near the vineyard.	Mrs Brodie

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>HOW</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>
4. Placement of self-catering accommodation near Site 2	Do not situate within 50 m of the rock art site. Educate people who stay in the accommodation	Discuss with planner and architect immediately	Place cottages beyond 50 m. Plant indigenous shrubs between cottages and rock art. Place notice in accommodation indicating do's and don'ts of rock art conservation. Report transgressions to SAHRA	Mrs Brodie and planner/ architect
5. Natural flaking of rock surface at sites 2 and 3	Avoid touching surfaces	During every visit to the sites	Warn visitors of problem and make sure they do not touch surfaces	Mrs Brodie
6. Fire hazard from vegetation close to paintings at Sites 1 and 3	Trim woody vegetation away from painted surfaces	Every six months	Cut back bushes that touch the rock face or that could cause high heat during a veld fire	Mrs Brodie
7. Visitor numbers provide useful information for planning at this and other sites	Keep a visitors book and summarise information from it	Every month	Make a summary of data from visitors book on numbers per month and where visitors come from and submit annually to SAHRA	Mrs Brodie
8. Retain site significance and keep visitor interest high	Keep a high standard of tour guiding and information for visitors	All visits	Read relevant books, invite experts to share knowledge and regularly up-date information	Mrs Brodie
9. Mitigation of future vandalism and/or graffiti	Note, photograph and keep a written record of any vandalism	Whenever necessary	Report all cases to SAHRA	Mrs Brodie and SAHRA

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- Rezoning as a private nature reserve be permitted
- The rock art sites be registered with SAHRA
- The rock art conservation management plan be implemented by Mrs Brodie
- Mrs Brodie reports annually to SAHRA with a summary of the records from her visitors book and on any incidents of vandalism or deterioration in the state of the rock paintings.



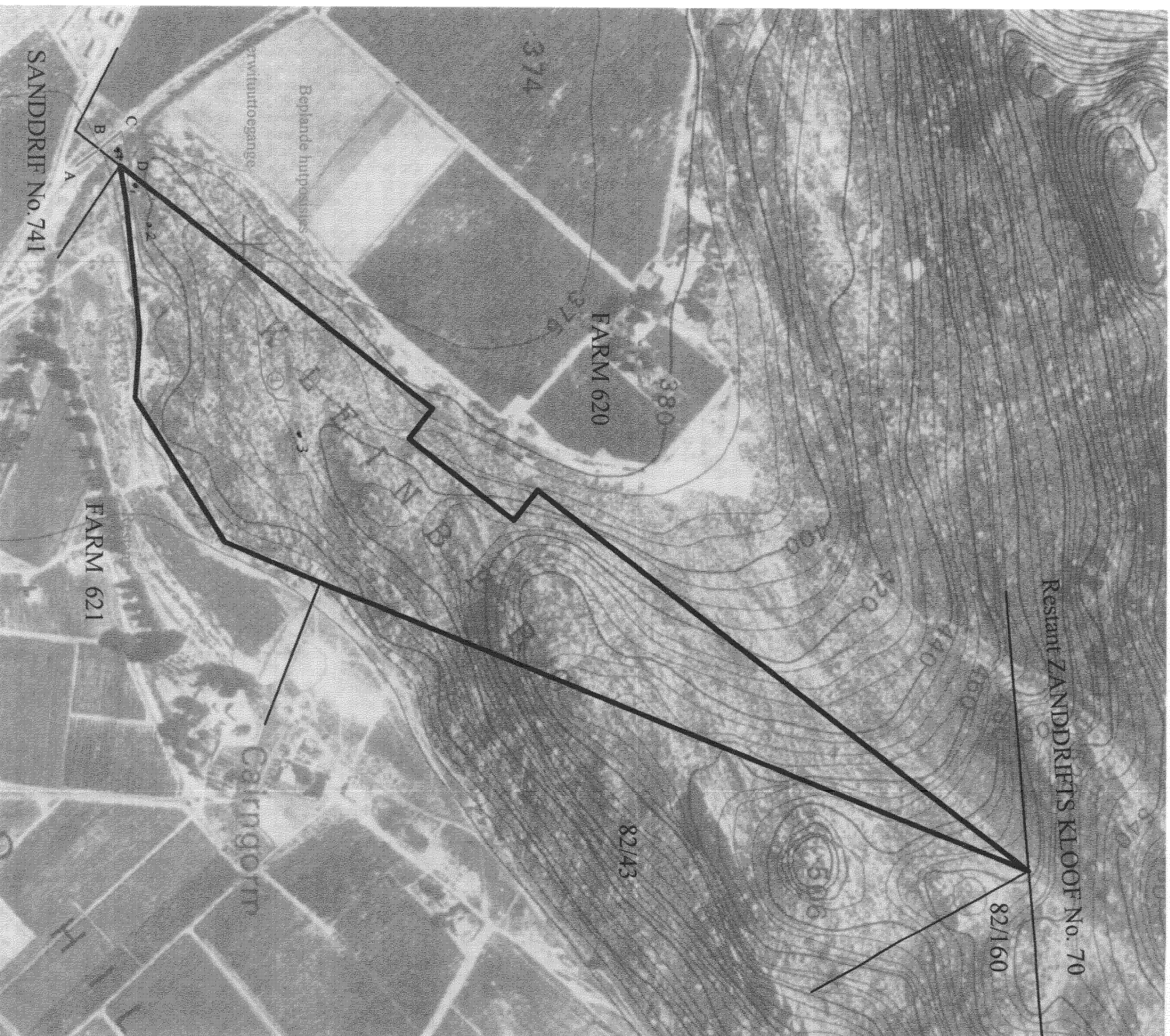
# UITLEGPLAN

Voorgestelde Ontwikkeling op Gedeelte A  
van die PLAAS 621 ( CAIRNGORM)

Distrik: Worcester

Provinsie: Wes Kaap

Skaal 1/5000





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