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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED FEEDLOT EXTENSIONS AT ELANDSFONTEIN 412IR, HEIDELBERG, GAUTENG PROVINCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New extensions to the existing feedlot are planned on the farm Elandsfontein 412IR, Heidelberg, Gauteng Province.

Three alternative sites were selected for the developments on the farm. Site B was found to be too small and was eliminated. Site A is covered with cultivated grazing, while Site C has until recently been used as plough lands. No archaeological or cultural remains occurred at these sites.

I recommend that the planning of the extensions to the feedlot could proceed on any of the two sites selected for development.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The sites for the proposed extensions to the cattle feedlot at the farm Elandsfontein 412, Heidelberg, Gauteng Province, were visited on 8 June 2006. Elbi Bredenkamp from Enviroworks Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took me to the site. At the farm, we were accompanied by Dr Johan van Niekerk, representative of Karan Beef Feedlot, Heidelberg.

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 Elandsfontein 412IR is situated about 12km south west of Heidelberg, in the Gauteng Province. The land is situated along the R549 main road from Heidelberg to Deneysville in the Free State (Map 1).

Karan Beef operates a cattle feedlot on portion 5 of the farm Elandsfontein 412IR, Heidelberg, Gauteng Province.

The proposed developments will extend the available space of the existing feedlot and will include additional kraals and increased infrastructure.

Three areas were initially identified as possible sites for development, but one area (B) was eliminated after consideration.

Site A is located on Portion 5 of Portion 2 of the farm Elandsfontein and lies to the west of the existing feedlot (Map 2) and across the confluence of the Blesbok Spruit and the Suikerbosrand River. The area is covered with cultivated grazing (Figs.5&6).

Site B lies to the north of and adjacent to of the existing feedlot. This area proved to be too small and was abandoned.

Site C is situated on Portion 7 of Elandsfontein 412IR and on the Remainder of Portion 4 of the farm Elandsfontein 412IR. This piece of land joins the existing feedlot on the southern side. This particular area has the best potential for development and provides space for future extensions.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2628CB):

SITE A

East 26°36'59"S. 028°16'56"E Altitude 1500m (Fig.5).

South west 26°37'03"S. 028°16'39"E Altitude 1515m (Fig.6).

SITE C

South 26°37'29"S. 028°18'09"E Altitude 1497m (Fig.1).

South west	26°37'07"S. 028°17'59"E Altitude 1494m (Fig.2).
North west	26°36'56"S. 028°18'10"E Altitude 1502m (Fig.3).
North east	26°36'56"S. 028°18'46"E Altitude 1538m.
Sand mine	26°36'52"S. 028°18'13"E Altitude 1501m (Fig.4).

RESULTS

The land proposed for cattle feedlot developments at Elandfontein used to be plough lands (C) (Fig.2) and is covered with cultivated grazing (A) (Fig.5).

No indication of any archaeological or historical material was found at these sites.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed feedlot developments at Elandsfontein 412IR, Heidelberg, will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains on either of the proposed sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site and I recommend that the proposed developments at Elandsfontein 412IR, Heidelberg, should be allowed to proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, no mitigation measures will be required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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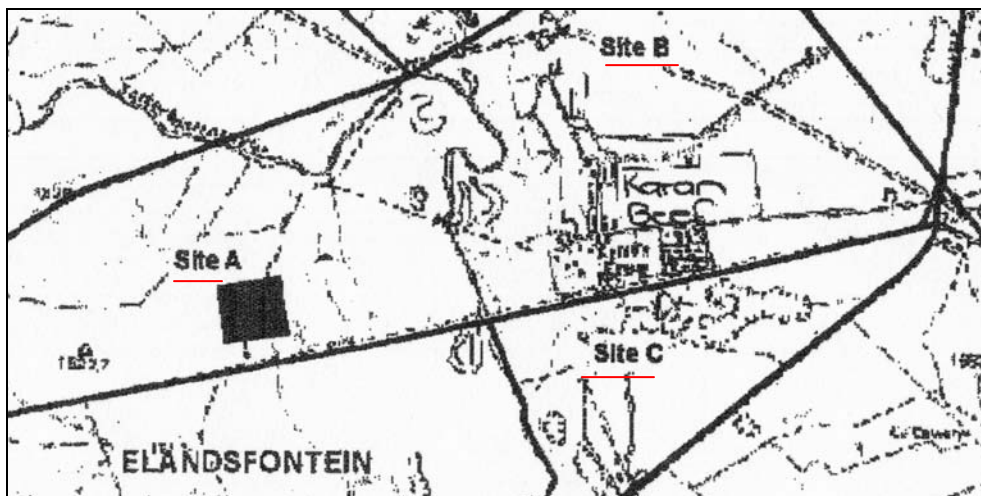
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Heidelberg in relation to Deneyville, the Vaal Dam and the R549 main road.



Map 2 Locality of the three possible sites selected for developments at Elandsfontein, Heidelberg (2628CB).



Fig.1 Site C southern point at Elandsfontein, Heidelberg.



Fig.2 Site C. Old plough lands in south western corner.



Fig.3 Site C north western corner.



Fig.4 Old sand mine near site C on the farm Elandsfontein, Heidelberg.



Fig.5 Site A eastern corner Elandsfontein, Heidelberg.



Fig.6 Site A south western corner Elandsfontein, Heidelberg.