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Contact/Kontak

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5 May 2006

Mrs L Gregory Bokamoso Landscape Architects P O Box 11375 MAROELANA 0161

Dear Mrs Gregory

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: CLAYVILLE

As requested, we have investigated a portion of the farm Olifantsfontein 402JR in the Kempton Park district of Gauteng. The site is located on the north-western outskirts of the town of Clayville (Fig. 1). The site is rectangular in shape and approximately 20 hectares in extent.

The scope of work consisted of conducting a Phase 1 archaeological survey of the site in accordance with the requirements of Section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999). This included:

- Conducting a desk-top investigation of the area;
- A visit to the proposed development site.

The objectives were to

- Identify possible archaeological, cultural and historic sites within the proposed development areas;
- Evaluate the potential impacts of construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development on archaeological, cultural and historical resources;
- Recommend mitigation measures to ameliorate any negative impacts on areas of archaeological, cultural or historical importance.

The geology of most of the study area is made up of dolomite and the original vegetation is classified as Rocky Highveld Grassland. However, this has been replaced by exotic trees (bluegum) and weeds (black jacks) in most of the study area. Currently, the vegetation cover is very dense, making the detection of sites and features very difficult. No features (e.g. hills, outcrops, rock shelters or rivers) that usually drew people to settle in its vicinity, occurs in the area. Rubbish has been dumped over large sections of the area, further complicating the search for sites and features.

A large, informal cemetery is located adjacent to the eastern border of the survey area. It contains at least 200 graves, most without headstones. Some of the graves look to be quite old – one of the oldest dates noticed goes back to 1955, but it is suspected that some of the unmarked graves are much older. Some headstones date quite recent, but it is accepted that they were erected on old graves.

Recently, a strip was open up by bulldozer around the cemetery, probably to assist in its demarcation. This area was inspected to determine if there are any graves that were impacted on. Only in the north-western corner were some stones and bricks found, but in all likelihood this is building rubble that was dumped here and then scattered by the bulldozer. The areas immediately outside this bulldozed area was also inspected. No graves were seen, but considering the previously stated problem of dense vegetation and dumped rubble, we cannot guarantee that 100%.

We recommend that this cemetery is formalised by fencing it in, with suitable access for descendents to visit the graves, and that the vegetation growth is controlled annually.

No sites, features or objects of cultural significance were found in the surveyed area. We therefore recommend, from a heritage point of view, that the proposed development can continue, but request that if archaeological sites or graves are exposed during construction work, it should immediately be reported to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

Yours sincerely

Behally

J van Schalkwyk Principal Investigator

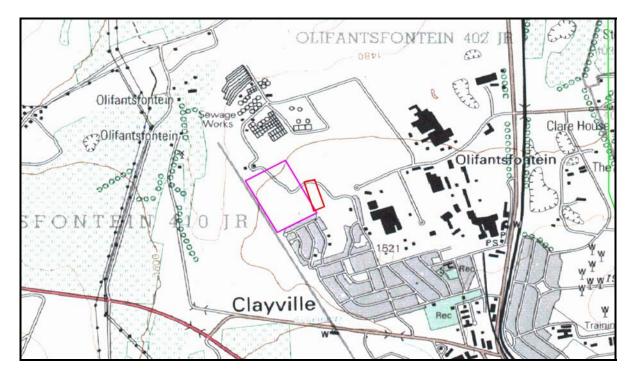


Figure 1. Showing the location of the study area (purple outline) and the cemetery (red outline). (Map, courtesy of the Government Printer.)