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AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

27 / 01 / 2003

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Attention: Graham Deall

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EXCERPT FROM ORIGINAL LETTER

Dear Graham

Impact assessment of Cultural Resources in the Northern Kruger National Park

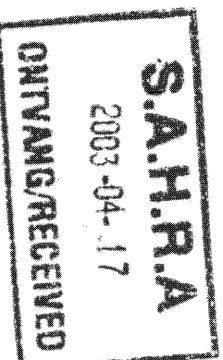
With reference to your e-mail and our telephone conversation this morning I would like to recommend the following:

- 1.. That I the visit the proposed Pafuri sites as this area has the greatest concentration of archaeological sites in the KNP. and most properly in Southern Africa. It will be possible to investigate all the sites in one day to keep the costs as low a possible. At present I am involved in, a project just east of Punda Maria gate. If I could coordinate my dates to include a visit to Pafun we can save on most of the travel costs.
2. I have also consulted Mr. Johan Verhoef of SANParks head office in Pretoria. He has been in charge of cultural resources in the K.N.P. for many years. He assured me that there is little or no chan(c)ge that any archaeological material exists in the Shingwedzi or Skukuza camps as no(w) archaeological remains have been found in these camps. What we do recommend is that Me Heidi Hansen (Cultural resource officer K.N.P.) be present at the sites if the excavations for the foundations take place. She has completed her studies in heritage and Museum Science recently and should be able to recognise any archaeological material if present.

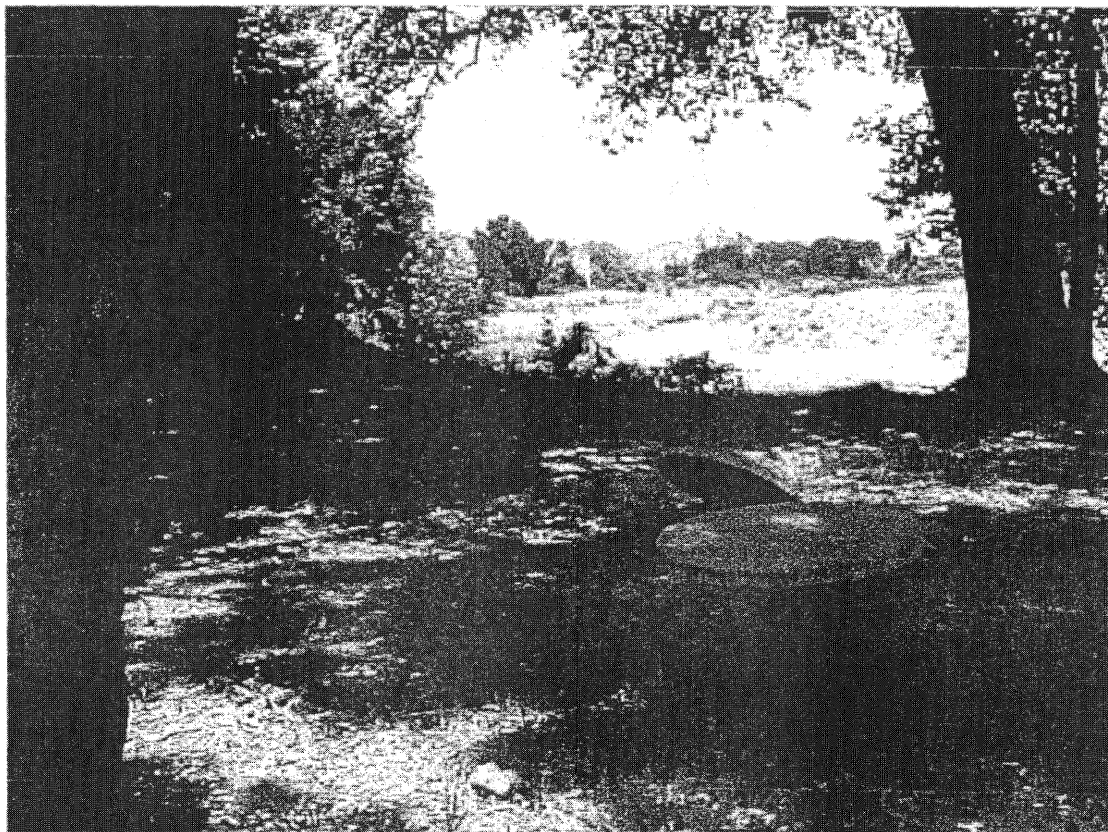
Yours faithfully

Udo Kusel

Director



**IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL
RESOURCES
IN THE NORTHERN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK**



Bobomeni after the 2001 floods



AFRICAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS CC

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IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

IN THE NORTHERN KRUGER NATIONAL PARK (K.N.P.)

1. INTRODUCTION

The sites in the Pafuri area were visited on the 17 February 2003 with Mr Kobus Wentzel of SANParks. The sites were inspected on foot to determine whether there are cultural resources.

2. DEFINITION

The broad generic term cultural heritage resources means any physical and spiritual property associated with past and present human use or occupation of the environment, cultural activities and history. The term includes sites, structures, places, natural features and material of paleontological, archaeological, historical, aesthetic, scientific, architectural, religious, symbolic or traditional importance to specific individuals or groups, traditional systems of cultural practice, belief or social interaction.

3. DESCRIPTION OF SITES

3.1 Old Picnic Site

Ranger William Henry Lamont had been instructed to construct a tent camp in 1939 on the banks of the Levuvhu River. The spot chosen was next to the existing picnic spot at Pafuri. He fenced in the area with Lebombo Iron Wood posts (some of them can still be seen on the site) and also erected an ablution complex. The camp closed down in 1948 as a result of flood damage and malaria. Dr. U. de V. Pienaar, former game warden of the K.N.P., erected a plaque on the site (see photograph 1). Except for this plaque, only a few foundations are still visible.

The proposed new tent camp will partially cover the area of the old tent camp, but the tents will be placed just outside the flood plain area on higher ground. This area has also been inspected, but no archaeological remains have been found. Stone age material does however; occur higher up the slopes, but just outside the area of the tent camp. The site will be fenced in and access to archaeological material will be prohibited to visitors.

3.2 Bobomeni

Bobomeni was first used in 1939 as an alternative camp for the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association (W.N.L.A.) for the Pafuri facility (today known as TEBA).

Recruits from Mozambique had to undergo strict scrutiny, as war with Mozambique was a possibility. Consequently it was decided to rather recruit new labour from South Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

Later Bobomeni became a research camp, especially for anthrax. The recent floods destroyed the research camp in 2001. A large portion of the riverbank on which the camp had been erected, was washed away as the site is situated on a bend in the river. Future floods will eventually wash away even larger portions of the riverbank.

Except for a few foundations and pipes nothing is left of the original camp. No archaeological or historical material of significance occurs on the site.

3.3 New Pafuri gate site

The new site for the Pafuri gate is situated on the most northwestern boundary of the K.N.P. proposed site. There was an army observation post, used considerably during the 1980s. If any cultural resources had occurred on the site they would have been destroyed by military activities. Some Middle Stone Age flakes have been found (see photograph 2) but nothing important.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 New tent campsite

There is no objection to the development of the site. The existing plaque should be incorporated into the new development as it tells the story of the original tent camp erected in 1939.

4.2 Bobomeni

This site will be flooded again in the future. In the feasibility study for the establishment of a museum/interpretive centre at Pafuri, compiled by Dr. U.S. Küsel and Prof. L. Nkadini for Gold Fields South Africa, it was recommended that a research facility be developed in one of the buildings at TEBA Pafuri. This facility will have electricity, water and proper sanitation and will be far more functional than a research camp at Bobomeni.

It is recommended that the K.N.P., TEBA and the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park arrange an urgent meeting to negotiate the future of the TEBA facilities.

It is also recommended that the Bobomeni site is cleared of all the building rubble and be developed into a viewpoint for tourists as it has one of the best views over the Levuvhu River.

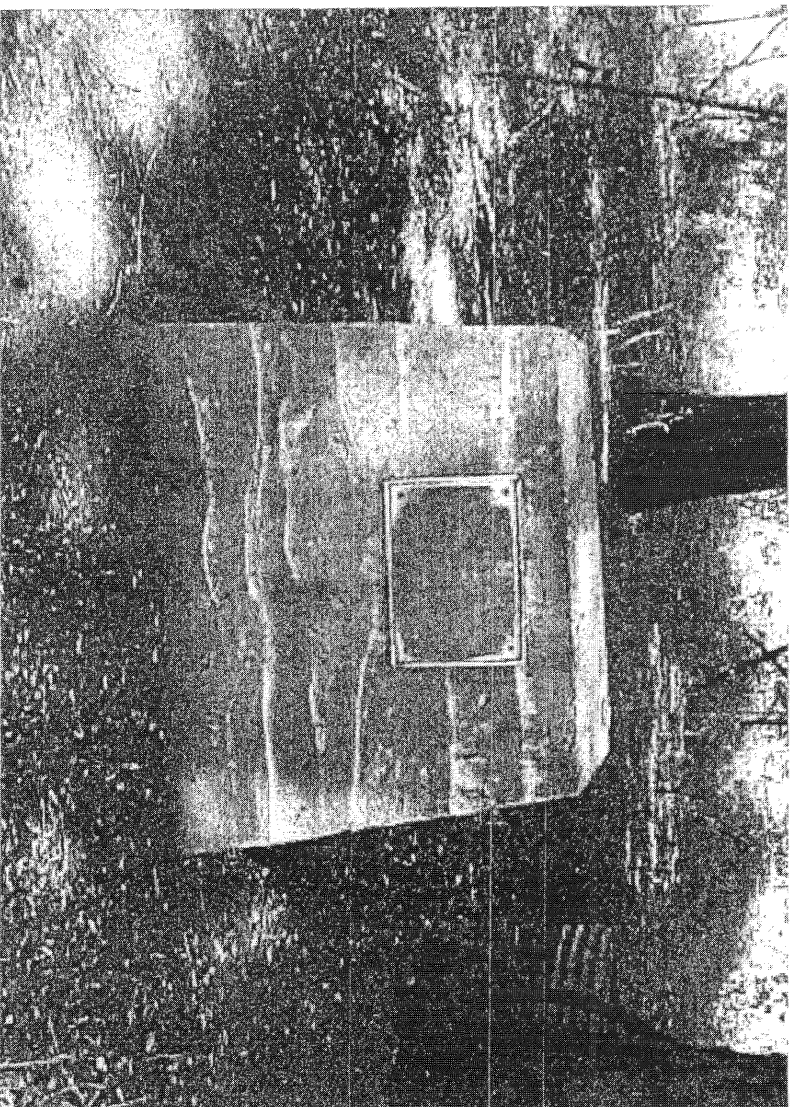
4.3 New Pafuri gate

There is no objection to the development of the new gate site.

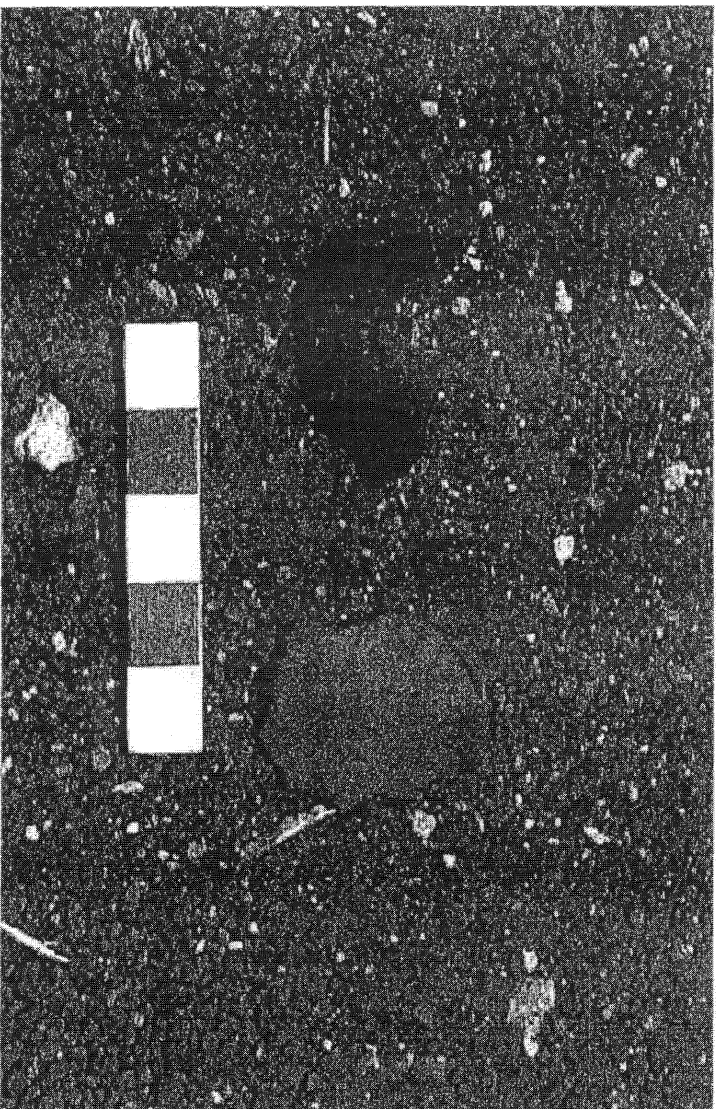
5. References

Pienaar. U. de V. *Neem uit die verlede* 1990.

PHOTOGRAPHS



No. 1. Plaque at the old Pafuri picnic spot.



No. 2. Two Middle Stone Age flakes found at the site of the new Pafuri gate.