



# **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**

25 MAY 2006

## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS ON THE FARM WELGELEGEN 102, CLARENS, FREE STATE**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed residential developments at Welgelegen 102, Clarens, are planned in two clusters spread out over different parts of the farm.

Archaeological remains in the form of stone-walls do not occur on this part of the farm. Paintings were found in the rock shelter but there is no deposit on the cave of the rock shelter. A short piece of stone-walling occurs inside the cave.

I recommend that the housing developments should be placed clear of the cave. The rock shelter and stone-walling should be avoided during formal planning.

I propose that the planning of the site should proceed in close association with the archaeologist, in case of the discovery of other finds of cultural historical importance.

### **INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION**

#### **INVESTIGATION**

The sites for the proposed residential developments on the farm Welgelegen 102, Clarens, were visited on 24 February 2006 in the company of Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, and Jako Viviers of LMV Environmental Specialists, Kroonstad. At the farm, the landowner, Mr Marius Naude took us to the different various sites.

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 proposed residential developments are planned on the farm Welgelegen 102, Clarens, in the district of Bethlehem, Free State, (Map 1) (Surveyor-General 1973).

The farm lies to the north of the town of Clarens and can be reached from the R711 road from Clarens to Bethlehem (Map 2). The total development will cover about 300 hectares.

Vegetation of the area is described as cool moist afro-mountain grassland.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2828AD & 2828CB):

**Zone A**                    28°29'09"S 028°24'06"E Altitude 1876m (Fig.).

28°29'06"S 028°24'07"E Altitude 1866m (Fig.1).

28°29'02"S 028°24'08"E Altitude 1865m (Fig.2).

28°29'02"S 028°24'04"E Altitude 1855m (Fig.3).

28°29'04"S 028°24'00"E Altitude 1851m (Fig.4).

**Zone B**                    28°29'10"S 028°24'11"E Altitude 1866m (Fig.5).

28°29'10"S 028°24'13"E Altitude 1870m (Fig.6).

Fence                    28°29'09"S 028°24'16"E Altitude 1864m.

Rock shelter 28°29'15"S 028°24'09"E Altitude 1884m (Figs.11&12).

## RESULTS

Except for the rock paintings inside the shelter and vague stone-walling on the slope, no other cultural material was found at the site.

No further indications of any other archaeological or historical material were found.

## **FINDS**

### **ROCK PAINTINGS**

About four clusters of paintings (Figs.13-17) were found on the rear wall of the shelter (Figs.11-12). The paintings represent humans, animals and parallel lines. Some of the paintings are in a deteriorating condition, mainly because of the soft brittle and crumbling state of the sand stone back wall (cf. Figs.16&17).

It is not clear if the low short stone-wall closing the one end of the shelter is a contemporary feature from the same time span as the paintings. It is possible that it could be the result of other occupations, during either Later Iron Age times or even being made by European farmers (Fig.18).

### **ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT**

The proposed developments at Welgelegen 102, Clarens, have no direct impact on the paintings in the rock shelter. This cultural feature is not included in the plan for the development of the site.

The planners and developers should be informed that no development should be planned near the site and that no damage should be done to the paintings, either during the planning building stage or after that.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

I recommend that the proposed developments at Welgelegen 102, Clarens, should proceed.

I also suggest that the planning should be adapted to take the proposed developments away from the rock shelter at Zone B. The necessary arrangements to preserve and protect the rock art site as an historical feature should also be made. I recommend that the Rock Art Department at the National Museum, Bloemfontein, should be invited to record and trace the paintings.

### **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, mitigation measures will only be required in the case of the rock paintings in the shelter in Zone B.

The stone-walls should be avoided and occupants should be discouraged to exploit the stone-walls during the building stage.

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

After examination I recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, and Jako Viviers of LMV Environmental Specialists, Kroonstad, for taking me to the site.

## **SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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

DREYER, J.J.B. 1992. The Iron Age Archaeology of Doornpoort, Winburg, Orange Free State. Navorsing van die Nasionale Museum, Bloemfontein, Vol.8(7):262-390.

DREYER, J. 1996. Introduction to Free State Iron Age Archaeology. In: Guide to archaeological sites in the Free State and Lesotho. Southern African Association of Archaeologists (SA3), 14th Biennial Conference, Bloemfontein, Post-conference tour 5-8 July 1996. Bloemfontein: National Museum.

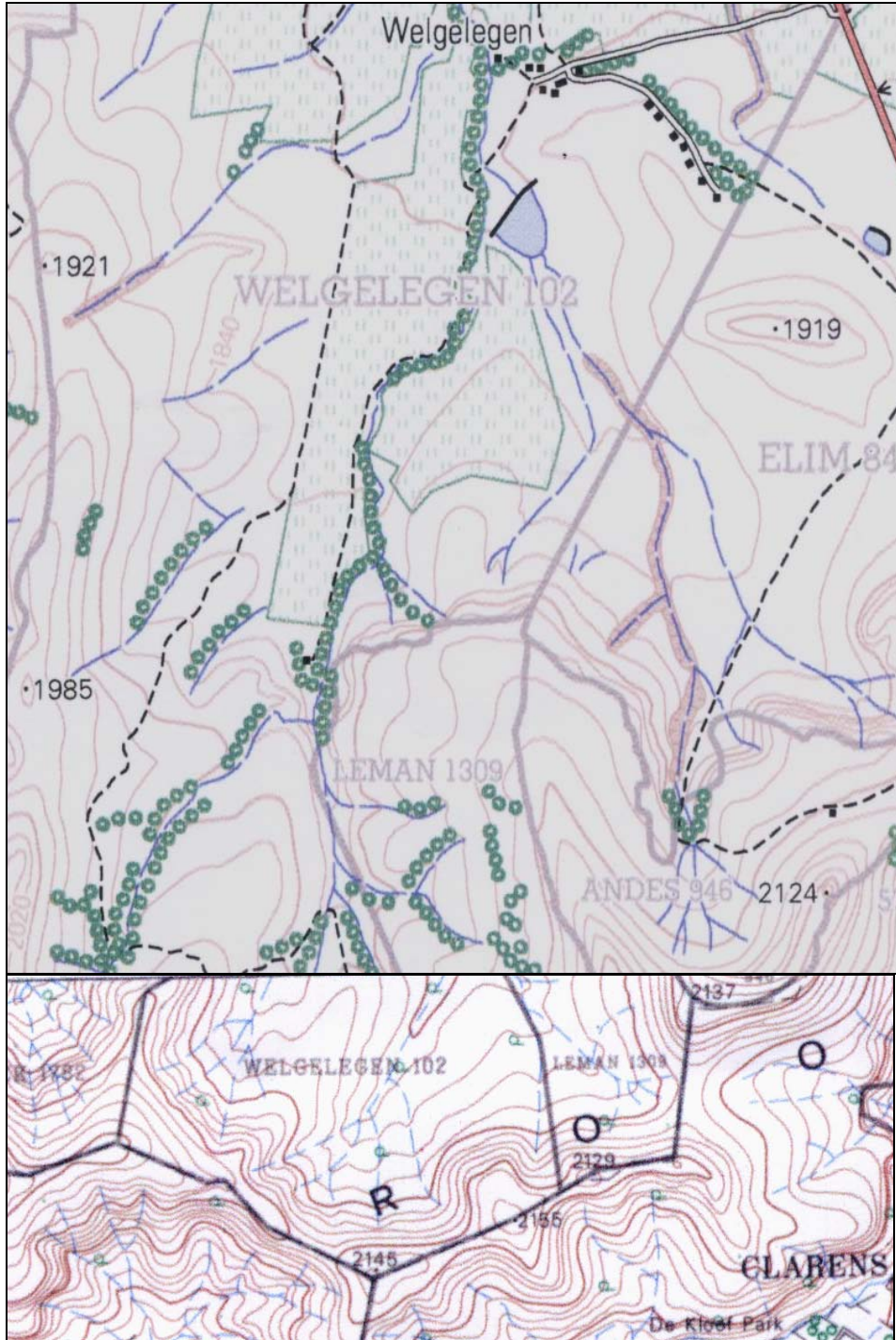
DREYER, J. 2000. Mountains and Rivers of the Free State - Manual for field research / Berge en Riviere van die Vrystaat – Handleiding vir veldnavorsing. Bloemfontein: University of the Free State, Department of Anthropology, Occasional Paper No. 2.

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

MAGGS, T.M. 1976. Iron Age Communities of the Southern Highveld. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Museum.

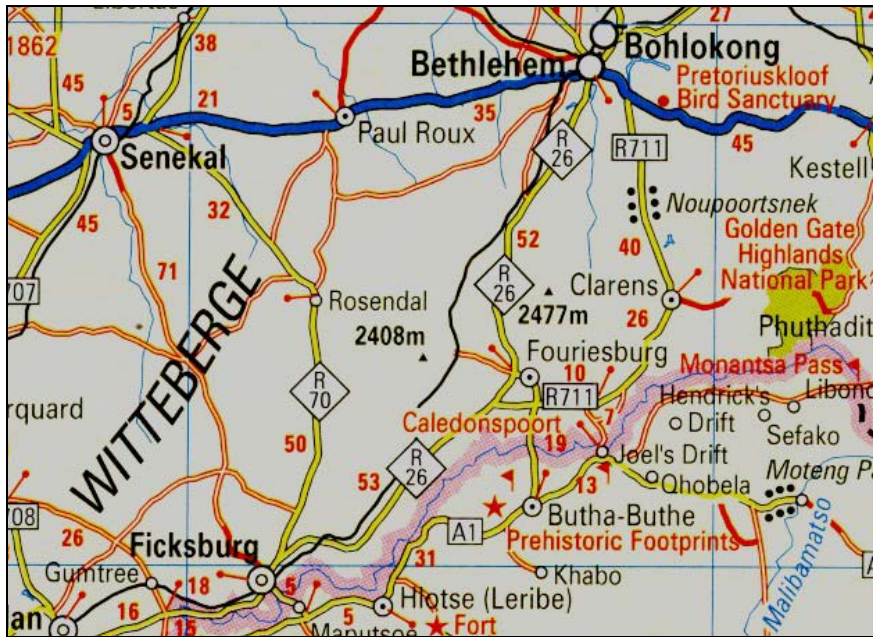
PISTORIUS, J.C.C. 1994. Eskom Archaeological Site Identification Guide. Johannesburg: Eskom.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL O.F.S. 1973. Index of Orange Free State Farms. Bloemfontein.

**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Map 1 The locality of Welgelegen 102, Clarens (2828AD&2828CB).





Map 2 Locality of Clarens in relation to other towns in the area.



Fig.1 Zone A. Development on sandstone outcrop at Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.2 Zone A. View of the proposed area of development, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.3 Zone A, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.4 Zone A, Welgelegen 102, Clarens as seen from Zone B.



Fig.5 Zone B at Welgelegen 102, Clarens.





Fig.6 Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.7 General view of Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.8 Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.9 Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.10 Quarried sandstone against slope at Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.11 Rock shelter, Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.





Fig.12 Rock shelter, Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.13 Rock paintings in shelter, Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.14 Rock paintings in shelter, Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.15 Rock paintings in shelter, Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



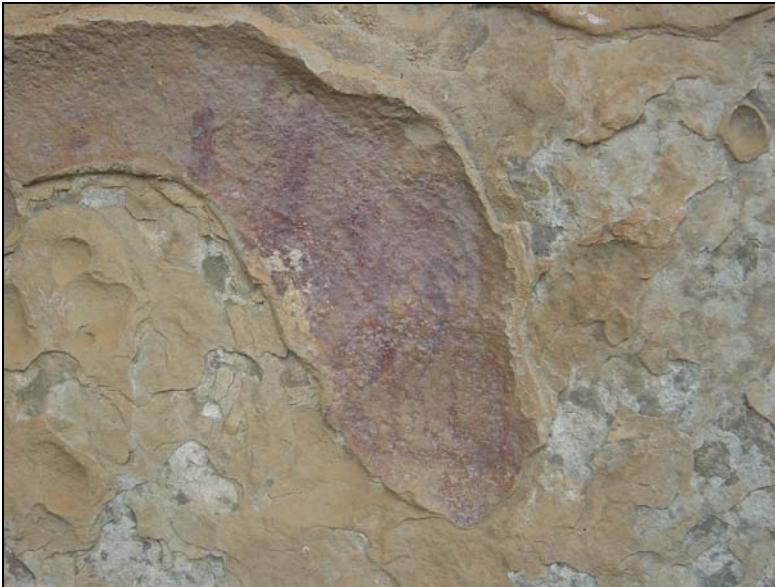


Fig.16 Rock paintings in shelter, Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.17 Rock paintings in shelter, Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens.



Fig.18 Stone wall in shelter, Zone B, Welgelegen 102, Clarens..