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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT PIETERSDAL 1207, CLARENS, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New residential developments are planned on the farm Pietersdal 1207 Clarens, Free State.

Archaeological and cultural remains occurred in the form of Later Iron Age stone-walls and ash heaps with undecorated pottery.

I recommend that the planning of the residential area could proceed, but the area where the stone-walls occur should be avoided. In the case of the discovery of any cultural or human skeletal material, work should be stopped for investigation by the archaeologist.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential developments at Pietersdal 1207, Clarens, was visited on 3 March 2006. Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein and Jako Viviers of LMV Environmental Specialists, Kroonstad, took me to the site. At the farm Mr Rob Martin, the owner and Mr Jaap Boonstra, Architect from Clarens, took us to the different 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 farm Pietersdal 1207 is located to the south of Clarens along R711 main road to Fouriesburg (Map 1).

The farm lies adjacent to Clifton 530 and Letsoanastad 347 near Clarens (Map 2).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2828AD) (Surveyor-General 1973):

Stands 1	28°32'42"S. 028°25'32"E Altitude 1784m (Fig.1).
Stand 9/Quarry	28°32'48"S. 028°25'34"E Altitude 1781m (Fig.3).
Stand 7	28°32'47"S. 028°25'41"E Altitude 1744m (Fig.4).
Stone-walls	28°32'47"S. 028°25'36"E Altitude 1759m (Fig.5).
Stone-walls	28°32'47"S. 028°25'39"E Altitude 1749m (Fig.6).
Stand 4	28°32'35"S. 028°25'51"E Altitude 1735m (Figs.7&8).

Houses will be placed down the slope from the quarry down to the little stream down below (Map 3).

RESULTS

Late Iron Age stone-walls were found about half-way down the slope in the area of the proposed residential developments (Figs.1-5). Some of the walls seem to have been robbed of stone, but the bases are still clearly visible.

A stone-walled enclosure occurs on the specific locality of stand 6.

The settlement pattern resembles the Type V layout found at other places in the Free State (Maggs 1976).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed residential developments at Pietersdal 1207 will have a serious effect on the Late Iron Age stone-walled structures and other cultural remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The development of the site should be allowed to proceed, but as in the case of Clifton 530, will have to be removed from the immediate area of the stone-walls. No planning of any developments should take place near the stone-walls.

It should be kept in mind that there is a strong possibility that archaeological finds in the form of stone-walls or ash heaps with potsherds could be found. In case of the discovery of any material, it should be considered that every archaeological site is unique and should be protected as an exceptional cultural entity. Special care should be taken during the construction process not to damage any archaeological feature. In the case of the discovery of archaeological material during building operations, the process should be stopped to inform the archaeologist.

People should also be discouraged to use any stones from the walls for building purposes.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, firm mitigation measures will be required in the case of the developments near the stone-walls. In case of the discovery of stone-walls or cultural material such as potsherd or human skeletal material, control should be taken of the site for investigation by the archaeologist.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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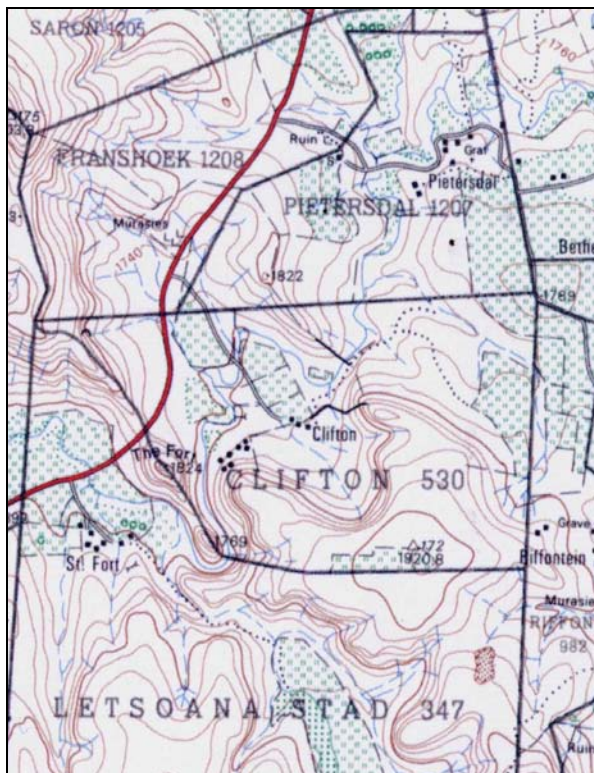
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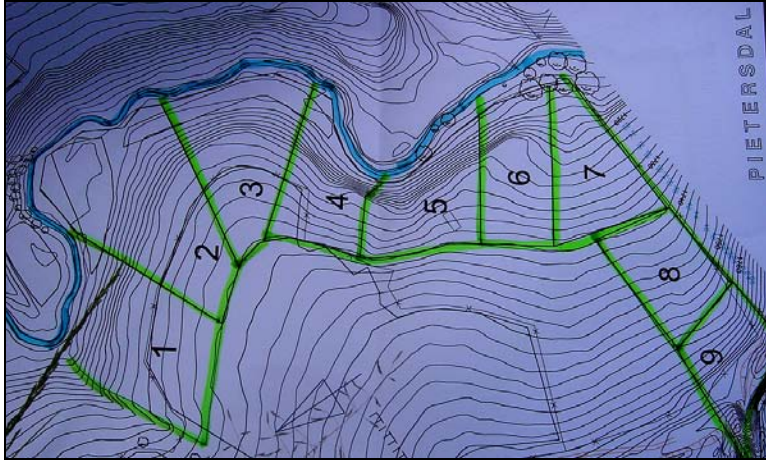
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Clarens in relation to Fouriesburg, Bethlehem and Golden Gate.



Map 2 Locality of Pietersdal 1207, south of Clarens (2828CB).



Map 3 Layout plan of the proposed residential developments at Pietersdal 1207, Clarens



Fig.1 View of the quarry at Pietersdal 1207, Clarens.



Fig.2 View at the quarry at Pietersdal.



Fig.3 View of the quarry from Stand 9.



Fig.4 View from Stand 9 facing down slope in easterly direction across Stands 9-7.



Fig.5 Remains of stone-walls at Pietersdal, Clarens.



Fig.6 Robbed stone-walls at Pietersdal, Clarens.



Fig.7 Corner of Stand 4 facing north.



Fig.8 Corner of Stand 4 facing west.



Fig.9 View on Stand 1.