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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENTS ON THE FARM DE MOLEN 1808, CLARENS,
FREE STATE**

INVESTIGATION

The area selected for residential developments on the farm De Molen 1808, Clarens, Free State, was visited on 6 December 2005. I was accompanied by Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein. At the farm, Mr Brian and Mrs Lin Tucker took us to the different sites.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical remains 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 De Molen 1808, Clarens in the district of Bethlehem (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973) (Map 1). The land borders on the road from Clarens to Golden Gate Highlands National Park (Map 2) (2828BC). The developments will be placed to the west of the farmhouse and will cover an area of about 12 hectares.

The vegetation consists of a thick grass cover and is described as moist afro-mountain grassland (Fig.3).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

High point 28°31'11"S 028°29'46"E Altitude 1769m (Fig.8).

Graveyard	28°31'04"S 028°32'00"E Altitude 1762m (Figs.15&16).
Stone fence posts	28°31'13"S 028°29'42"E Altitude 1757m (Fig.7).
Sandstone quarry	28°31'09"S 028°29'46"E Altitude 1763m.
Eastern limit	28°31'10"S 028°29'52"E Altitude 1765m.
Edge above mill	28°31'07"S 028°29'52"E Altitude 1760m (Fig.6)
Old mill site	28°31'03"S 028°29'51"E Altitude 1748m (Figs.11&12).
High point east	28°31'15"S 028°29'52"E Altitude 1785m (Figs.5&6).

FINDS

The site was surveyed on foot in search of cultural and building remains and archaeological material.

The areas proposed for residential developments is part of agricultural land and grazing land. The site does not contain any archaeological, cultural or historical remains.

No indication of archaeological or historical material was found on the surface neither were any stone tools or ceramic ware found.

De Molen derives its name from an old water mill that used to be on the farm. The mill has now been destroyed beyond repair (Figs.11-12) and the only evidence of its existence is represented a millstone (Fig.13) and part of the water wheel (Fig.14).

An old graveyard containing about 9 graves (Figs.15-16) is located near the farmhouse. Inscriptions on the grave stones date from 1883 to 1997 and represent the burials of the Van Zyl and Heyns families. The graveyard is not part of the present developments and will not be affected in any way.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

After examination by the archaeologist, it is recommended that the proposed developments may proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed development, no mitigation measures are needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Johan du Preez of MDA/Cebo Environmental Consultants for taking me to the site. I also owe gratitude to Brian and Lin Tucker their hospitality during our visit to the farm.

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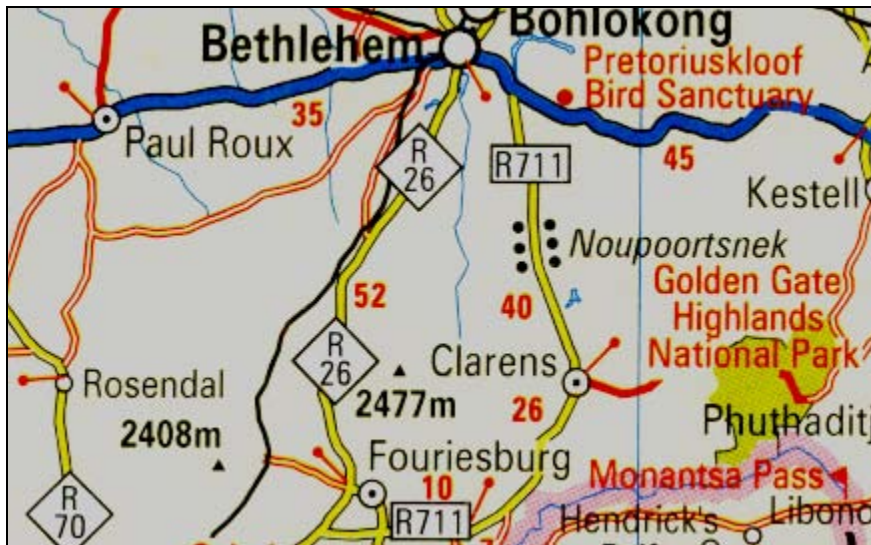
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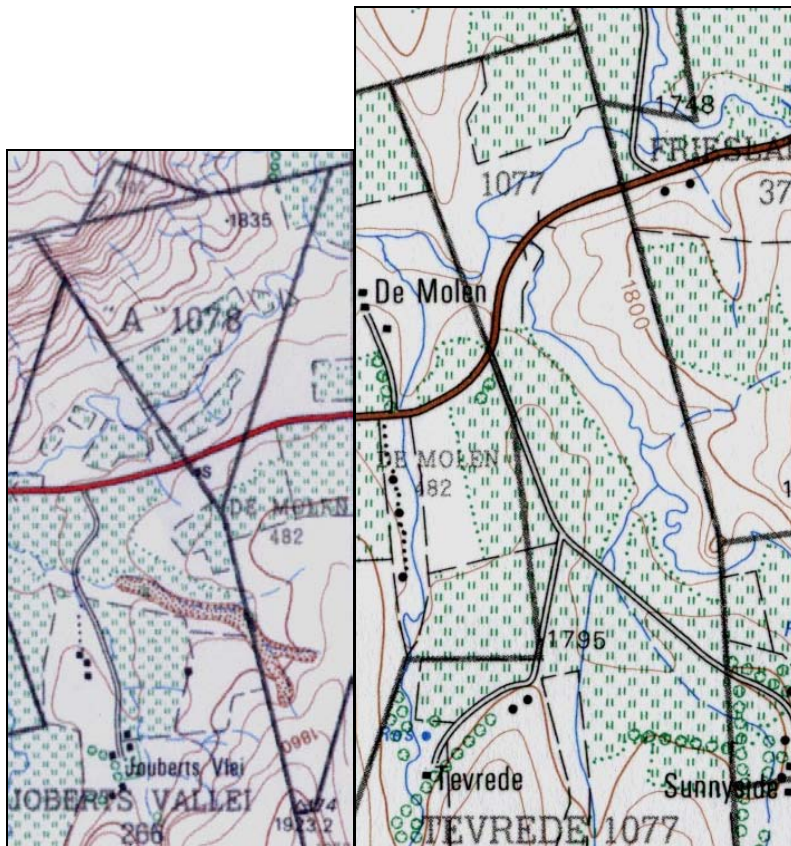
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



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



Map 2 The locality of the farm De Molen 1808 to the east of Clarens (2828BC & 2828DA).



Fig.1 Layout of the farm De Molen 1808, Clarens.



Fig.2 View across the valley at De Molen 1808, Clarens.



Fig.3 View across the area of development De Molen 1808, Clarens.



Fig.4 View towards the farmhouse De Molen 1808.



Fig.5 View across the area of development De Molen 1808 facing north.



Fig.6 Facing north across the area of development De Molen 1808.



Fig.7 Sandstone fence posts at De Molen 1808.



Fig.8 Facing the farmhouse from the highest point of development De Molen 1808.



Fig.9 View of the sandstone cave across the valley De Molen 1808, Clarens.



Fig.10 The old farm house survived the destruction during the Anglo-Boer War.



Fig.11 Remains of the old mill on the farm De Molen 1808, Clarens.



Fig.12 The water furrow that supplied the mill at De Molen 1808.



Fig.13 A mill stone which was used in the old mill at De Molen 1808.



Fig.14 Remains of the cast-iron water wheel at De Molen 1808, Clarens.



Fig.15 The well-kept graveyard at De Molen 1808, Clarens.



Fig.16 Grave of Casper D. van Zyl *17 April 1882 †18 February 1883.

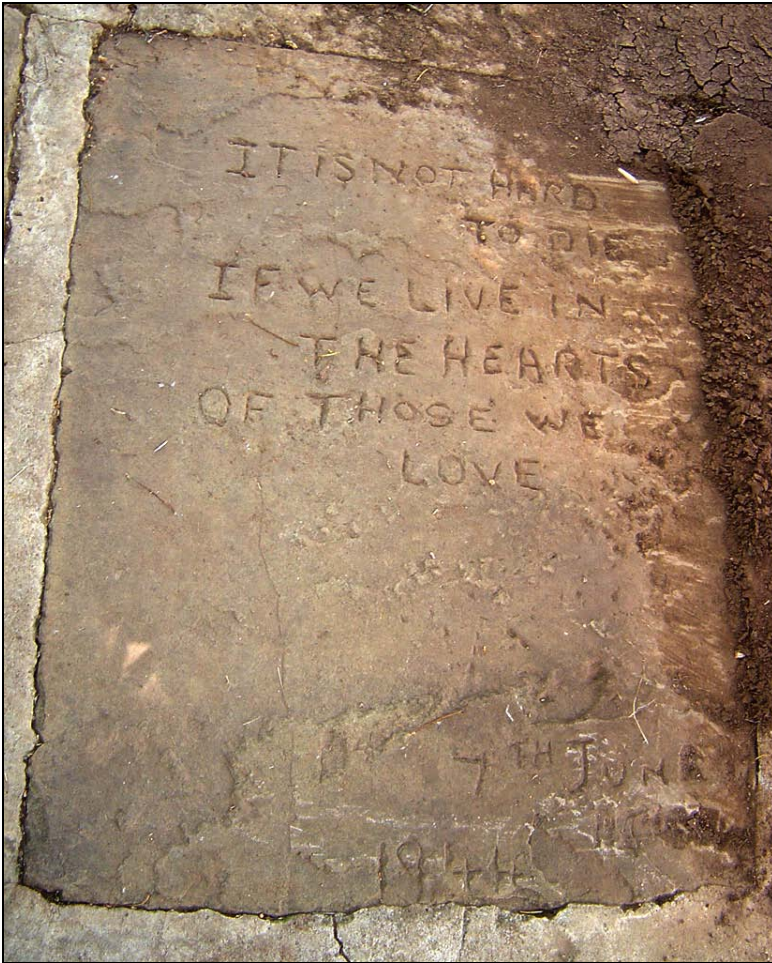


Fig.17 Inscription on sandstone paving near the house.
"It is not hard to die if we live in the hearts of those we love. 7th June 1944"