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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT ELIM (842) 1853, CLARENS, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New residential developments are planned on the farm Elim (842) 1853 Clarens, Free State.

The developments will take place on a portion of the farm, which lies to the north of Clarens. Archaeological and cultural remains in the form of circular stone-walled structures and ash heaps with potsherds were found on a part of the proposed area of development. These features clearly date from the Later Iron Age occupation of the area.

I recommend that the proposed developments should be moved away from the stone structures and that planning of the developments could proceed on the rest of the site.

Care should be taken not to disturb the walls, either during the installation of services or during the building process.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed new residential developments at Elim 842, Clarens was visited on 9 February. 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 Marius Naude, the owner, accompanied us.

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 Elim 842 (1853) is located to the north of Clarens along the R711 main road to Bethlehem (Map 1).

The proposed area of development is located to the west of the hill (Map 2).

The area proposed for development consists of a sort dense grass cover. (Fig.2).

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

Site near R711 Rd 28°29'12"S. 028°25'17"E Altitude 1881m (Fig.1).

Stone walls 28°29'15"S. 028°25'16"E Altitude 1885m (Fig.3).

Stone walls 28°29'12"S. 028°25'14"E Altitude 1890m (Fig.9).

End of walling 28°29'05"S. 028°25'04"E Altitude 1884m (Fig.10).

Eastern limit 28°29'10"S. 028°24'56"E Altitude 1869m (Fig.11).

Western limit 28°29'12"S. 028°24'55"E Altitude 1870m (Fig.12).

RESULTS

The land proposed for residential developments is located along the northern and western slopes of the hill on the farm Elim. (Map 2).

Stone-walls were found along the eastern and northern slopes of the hill, but did not appear on the western slope of the hill.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Indistinct and fractions of stone-walls (Figs.1&3) appear on the eastern and northern sides of the hill at Elim. Ash heaps (Fig.4) which contained potsherds (Figs.5-8) were found in association with these walls. The proposed residential

developments at Elim will disturb these stone-walled archaeological remains on the northern side of the hill.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the planned residential developments should be moved to the area more to the west along the slope of the hill to avoid damaging the stone-walls and other cultural remains along the incline.

Every archaeological site is unique and should be protected as an exceptional cultural entity. I recommend that the planning of the residential developments should be allowed to proceed. Special care should be taken during the construction process not to damage any of the walls and people should be discouraged to use any of the stones from the area as building material. In the case of the discovery of archaeological material during building operations, the process should be stopped to inform the archaeologist for inspection.

MITIGATION

Mitigation measures will be required in the case of the stone-walled area of the site. Care should be taken not to disturb the walls either during building operations or the installation of services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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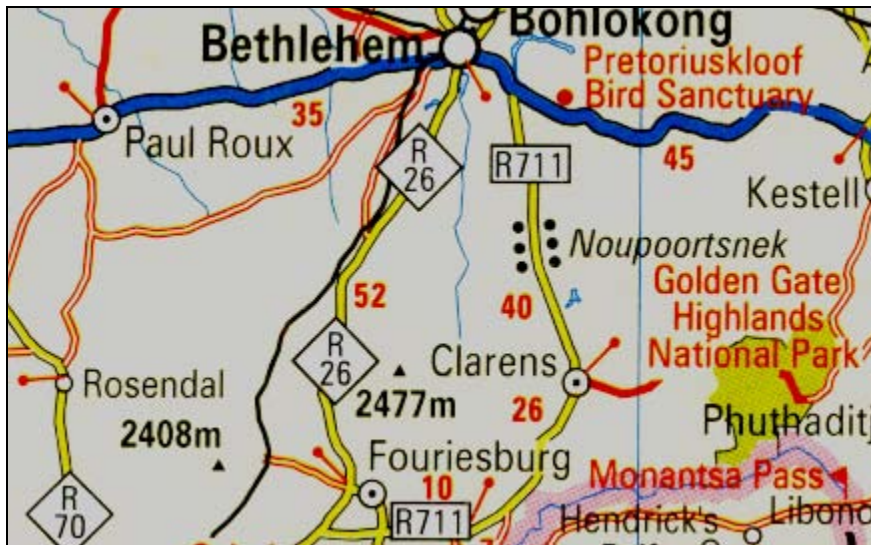
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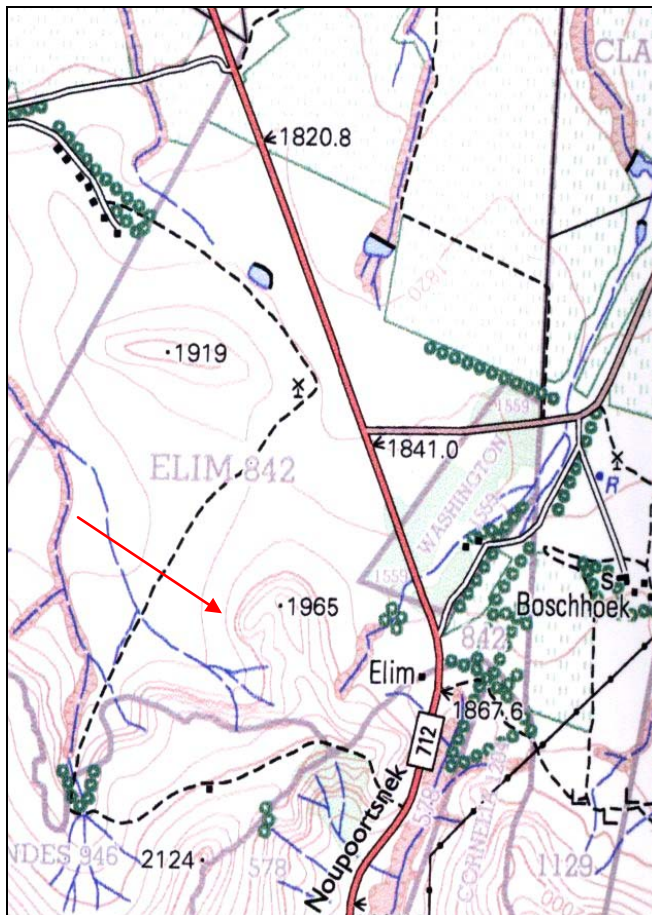
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



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



Map 2 Locality of the proposed developments at Elim 1853, Clarens (2828AD).



Fig.1 Remains of a stone wall on the eastern side of the site at Elim, Clarens.



Fig.2 View of the grass land on th farm Elim, Clarens.



Fig.3 Base of another stone wall at site on Elim, Clarens.



Fig.4 Ash heap near the stone walls at Elim.



Fig.5 Potsherd from the stone-walled site at Elim, Clarens.



Fig.6 Part of a lower grinding stone from the site.



Fig.7 Potsherds on the ash heap near the stone walls at Elim.



Fig.8 Potsherd from the ash heap at Elim, Clarens.



Fig.9 Stone wall remains at the site at Elim.



Fig.10 View of the sandstone cliffs above the site.



Fig.11 Eastern limit of the site at Elim 1853, Clarens, facing south towards the poort.



Fig.12 Western limit of the site at Elim 1853, Clarens.