



**COBUS DREYER**  
ARCHAEOLOGIST/HERITAGE CONSULTANT

**Tel: 051 - 444 1187**  
**Fax: 051 - 401 2363**  
**Cell: 083 - 357 7982**

**P.O. Box 12910**  
**Brandhof**  
**9324**  
**dreyerc@hum.uovs.ac.za**

8 April 2003

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED  
DEVELOPMENTS ON THE FARM KRANTZKRAAL 134**

**INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed township development was visited and inspected on 1 April 2003. I was taken to the site by Manie van Dyk and Jaco Petzer of Spatial Solutions Bloemfontein, who identified the area and pointed out the different points on the map. The site was again visited on Saturday 5 April for further investigation.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is done under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

The following observations were made.

**LOCALITY**

The site for the proposed development is located on subdivision 15 of the farm Krantzkraal 134, along the Modder River, directly opposite the Bergkraal 2213. The area lies adjacent to Zuurfontein 2022 and borders on the river for about 1,2km.

The site was selected and introduced by the developers.

The site consists of a heavy shrub and tree cover of mainly Doringboom (Acacia karoo), Wag-n'-bietjie (Ziziphus mucronata) and Katbos (Asparagus spp.), especially along the riverbank. The vegetation makes movement in this area almost impossible. Old plough lands are covered in grass with the remains of stone built irrigation furrows to confirm this observation.

The locality and altitude of the site among the trees, hampers any panoramic view to the north of the river or towards the hill on the opposite side.

A small area along the entrance road has a marshy appearance, thus also eliminating the possibility of cultural material.

The absence of stones on surface is characteristic of the flood area along the river and likewise of the old plough lands.

## **FINDS**

The varying degree of grass and bush cover hinders a clear inspection of the surface, especially towards the river. It seems unlikely, however, that any remains of early human occupation will be found in the area on the flood plain and old ploughed lands near the river.

No archaeological material was found in the area inspected, neither was any stone tools or ceramics ware or any traces of historical significance.

A single fragment of a lower grinding stone was found near point A14. The origin of the artefact is unclear and no explanation for its presence can be offered.

## **HISTORICAL FINDS AT THE OLD FARM HOUSE**

The old farm house (29°02'49"S 26°25'25"E) is already in a state of serious dilapidation and seems to be deteriorating rapidly. The house does not appear to be part of the present development.

However, two features at the site could be of historical importance and might require attention.

1. A single brass plate, bearing the name of Gustav Mangold Ph.D., M.D. was found discarded on the surface near the house. The origin and meaning of this feature is unknown.
2. Five or six finely decorated cast iron columns of about 2m length, obviously from a long-gone area, are still found planted around the house. These columns were clearly supports for a veranda roof or pergola. One is used as a support for the beams in the car shed.

It is my opinion that these columns may originate from some very important and prominent building in old Bloemfontein.

## **DISCUSSION**

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.

It is stressed, however, that in case of the discovery of any archaeological or historical material during the course of the work, all activities should temporarily

be stopped in the specific area for inspection by the archaeologist or other specialists.

## **MITIGATION**

A preliminary investigation as to the origin of the brass nameplate and enquiries at the several museums and other knowledgeable people in Bloemfontein did not produce any results on the identification of this specific person.

It is anticipated that these finds could be of major historical significance and it is recommended that its presence should be:

1. researched in more detail;
2. identified as to its original use and status;
3. accessioned to the collections of a museum in Bloemfontein for future preservation and/or display;

Every archaeological and historical site is unique and should be treated as a non-renewable commodity. All efforts should be made to avoid any unnecessary disturbance or destruction.

Concerning the areas for the proposed developments, mitigation measures are not needed in any of the investigated cases.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are due to Manie van Wyk and Jaco Petzer of Spatial Solutions Incorporated, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

## **REFERENCES**

- DEACON, J. 1992. Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities. Cape Town: National Monuments Council.
- HUMPHREYS, A.J.B. 1986. Searching for the past. Cape Town: David Phillip.
- PISTORIUS, J.C.C. 1994. Eskom Archaeological Site Identification Guide. Johannesburg: Eskom.