



# **COBUS DREYER**

**Pr. Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist**

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

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

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED SHELLYVALE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, AT LILYVALE 2913, BLOEMFONTEIN**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The proposed residential development was visited and inspected on 12 March 2004. I was taken to the site by Dr Johan du Preez of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein.

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 site was selected and introduced by the developer.

The proposed developments are located to the north of Bloemfontien on the farm Lilyvale 2913 along the road to the Free State Botanical Gardens (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973). The land also adjoins the present residential area of Lilyvale to the south and lies east of the N1 main road west of Bloemfontein.

The area next to the road is relatively undisturbed, but higher up the slope remains of stone and brick walled structures and occupation refuse are found.

### **FINDS**

The rocky outcrop directly north of the existing power line, contains the remains of a circular stone structure (29°03'58"S. 026°12'17"E. Altitude 1410m). At least

two middens or ash heaps could be identified nearby. The origin and age of the middens is not known, but other remnants of this kind dating from the Anglo-Boer War and the subsequent occupation of the Free State capital had been investigated previously. Pieces of tin can or food containers with heavy soldering which is known from Anglo Boer war times were found nearby. A fired "kortnek" (53mm) Mauzer cartridge inscribed FN 96? was collected on the surface. According to the records these rounds were officially used during the war with other specimens recorded from Ladysmith, Paardeberg and the Brandwater Basin (Bester 2003:319).

No indication of other archaeological or historical material was found in the inspected area, neither was any stone tools or ceramic ware found.

## **DISCUSSION**

Together with the disturbances mentioned above, the close proximity of the residential area and the road, it seems unlikely that remains of any early human occupation could have survived in this area.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the outcrop where the stone wall and middens were found should be excluded from the present developments. No obvious reasons could, however, be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the rest of the site.

After examination by the archaeologist, it is recommended that the proposed developments may proceed in the area beyond the rock outcrop.

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 of the area.

It is stressed, therefore, that in case of the discovery of any stone tools, pottery and archaeological material of significance during the course of the work, all activities should temporarily be stopped in the specific area for inspection by the present archaeologist or other specialists from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed development, no mitigation measures will be needed if the indicated area is excluded from the developments.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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