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21 March 2005

FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON WOLVENKOP 1238, BLOEMFONTEIN

INVESTIGATION

The area identified for residential development at Wolvenkop 1238, Bloemfontein, was visited and inspected on 20 March 2006. Dr Johan du Preez and Boom Prinsloo of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took me to the site.

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 proposed residential developments are planned on a portion of the farm Wolvenkop 1238 in the district of Bloemfontein (Map 1). The farm is reached via the N6 main road between Bloemfontein and Reddersburg and by following the S434 on to the BR20 and BR25 farm roads past Rama (Fig.12) (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973).

The layout of the proposed stands is illustrated on map 2 and will be arranged along the south facing slope of the hill.

Due to the excessive amount of rain during the past summer months the area contains a heavy grass cover, which hampered the investigation of the soil surface to a certain extent (Figs.8&9).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2824 Kimberley):

Stone walls	29°26'26"S. 026°20'30"E. Altitude 1423m (Fig.1).
Stone-walled kraal	29°26'29"S. 026°20'20"E. Altitude 1445m (Fig.2).
Rama 232 Beacon	29°26'29"S. 026°20'18"E. Altitude 1458m (Figs.3&4).
Stone wall on hill	29°26'30"S. 024°20'22"E. Altitude 1438m (Fig.5).
Bore hole	29°26'32"S. 026°20'22"E. Altitude 1422m (Fig.6).

FINDS

Several stone-walled structures which resemble stock enclosures were found along the slope at the foot of the hill and also higher up against the rise. The age and origin of these features could not be ascertained due to the absence of other associated cultural material such as potsherds and house remains.

The only indication of archaeological or other cultural material was a few stone flakes from the level area at the foot of the hill (Fig.7). A single flake resembles a Later Stone Age duckbill scraper but the sample was too small to identify the other stone tools with certainty.

MITIGATION

The stone-walls are no longer in their original state. The walls could have been an easy source for building stone during the past.

During the installation of services, care should be taken not to cause any further damage to the remaining parts of the stone walls.

Mitigation measures will be needed in the case of the discovery of cultural material such as ash heaps, clay pottery or human skeletal material. The work should immediately be stopped and reported to the archaeologist or to the National Museum in Bloemfontein.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site. I recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

However, 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. I stress, therefore, that in case of the discovery of any human skeletal material, stone tools, pottery or other archaeological material of significance during the course of the work all activities should temporarily be stopped in the specific area for inspection by an archaeologist or other specialists.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Johan du Preez and Boom Prinsloo of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

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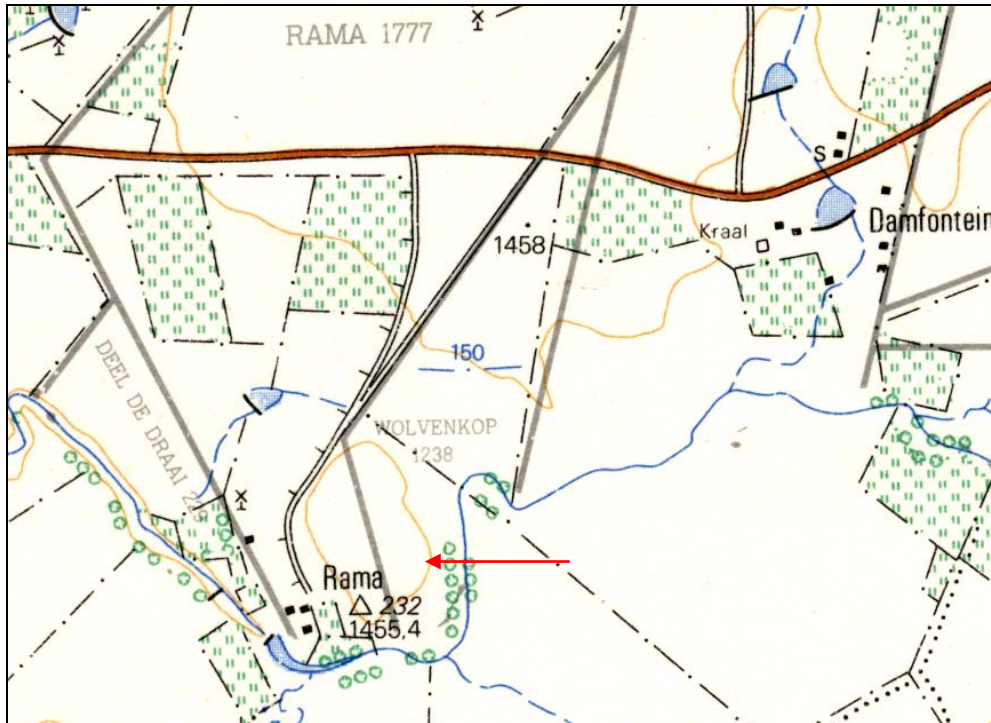
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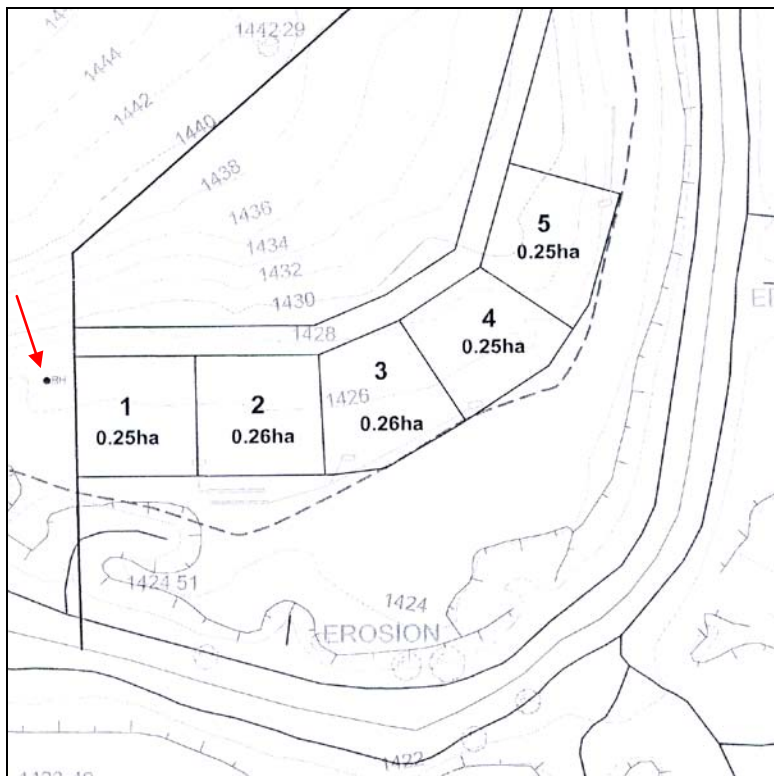
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Locality of Wolvenkop 1238 in relation to Rama 1777 and other neighbouring farms. Red arrow indicates the placing of the proposed residential developments.



Map 2 The proposed development area. Position of bore hole indicated by red arrow.



Fig.1 Stone-wall at the foot of the hill.



Fig.2 Wall is constructed with 2 sides and a centre fill of small stones.



Fig.3 Hill between Rama 1777 and Wolvenkop 1238.



Fig.4 Rama 232 trig beacon on top of the hill.



Fig.5 Remains of stone walls along the slope of the hill below the beacon.



Fig.6 The bore hole on the southern side of the hill.



Fig.7 Stone flakes from the area between the river and the foot of the hill. See figures 8 & 9.



Fig.8 View along the area between the hill and the river facing south.



Fig.9 Facing north across the area between the foot of the hill and the river.



Fig.10 View from the hill facing south across the river. Vehicle in centre of picture.



Fig.11 View from the hill facing east across proposed area of development.



Fig.12 Rama farm house on the other side of the hill.



Fig.13 View along the ridge from the beacon facing east.