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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON A PORTION OF THE FARM HILLSIDE 2830, BLOEMFONTEIN

INVESTIGATION

The proposed area for residential developments on a portion of the farm Hillside 2830, Bloemfontein, was visited and inspected on 12 October 2005. Boom Prinsloo of MDA/Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, described the layout and borders of the specific land.

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 a portion of the farm Hillside 2830, Bloemfontein (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973). The land borders on the R700 main road (Map 1) and the Bayswater residential area to the south. The area lies between the Noordstad Shopping Mall and the Municipal Landfill site and the Petra stone crusher (Map 2) (2926AA).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

Corner Bayswater & R700 (29°04'21"S 026°14'12"E Altitude 1417m) (Figs.1-3).

Street from Bayswater (29°04'24"S 026°14'27"E Altitude 1408m) (Fig.4).

- Stream (29°04'20"S 026°14'29"E Altitude 1400m).
- Stone-wall (29°04'13"S 026°14'33"E Altitude 1406m) (Fig.7).
- Stone poles (29°04'10"S 026°14'26"E Altitude 1412m) (Fig.9).
- Stone-walled weir (29°04'10"S 026°14'17"E Altitude 1409m) (Fig.10).
- Broken stone-walled weir (29°04'12"S 026°14'15"E Altitude 1414m) (Fig.11).

The area is grass covered with sparse scatters of shrubs and trees and stony dolerite outcrops.

The little stream that runs from the Noordstad Shopping Mall polluted with trash from the mall and the whole area is littered with rubbish and plastic bags from the rubbish dump nearby (Fig.12).

FINDS

The site was surveyed on foot and cultural material, building remains and other features were plotted by GPS and recorded on camera. The finds are listed below.

The remains of a stone-wall about 15m long was found on the little ridge in the centre of the site (Fig.7). The age, origin and purpose of this structure could not be ascertained. Judging from the dilapidated state of the wall it is worthwhile to preserve the feature.

A collection of Later Stone Age (LSA) flake scrapers was found near the stone-wall (Fig.8).

It is notable that no remains of Anglo-Boer War origin were found to the east of the R700 road.

DISCUSSION

It is unlikely that remains of cultural or historical origin will have survived in this area so close to the stone crusher and the landfill site.

Unwanted elements that are attracted by the rubbish dump are roaming about and are seriously polluting the land.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After examination by the archaeologist it seems that no obvious reasons could be found to delay the proposed developments in the area, or to postpone the commencement and planning of the work.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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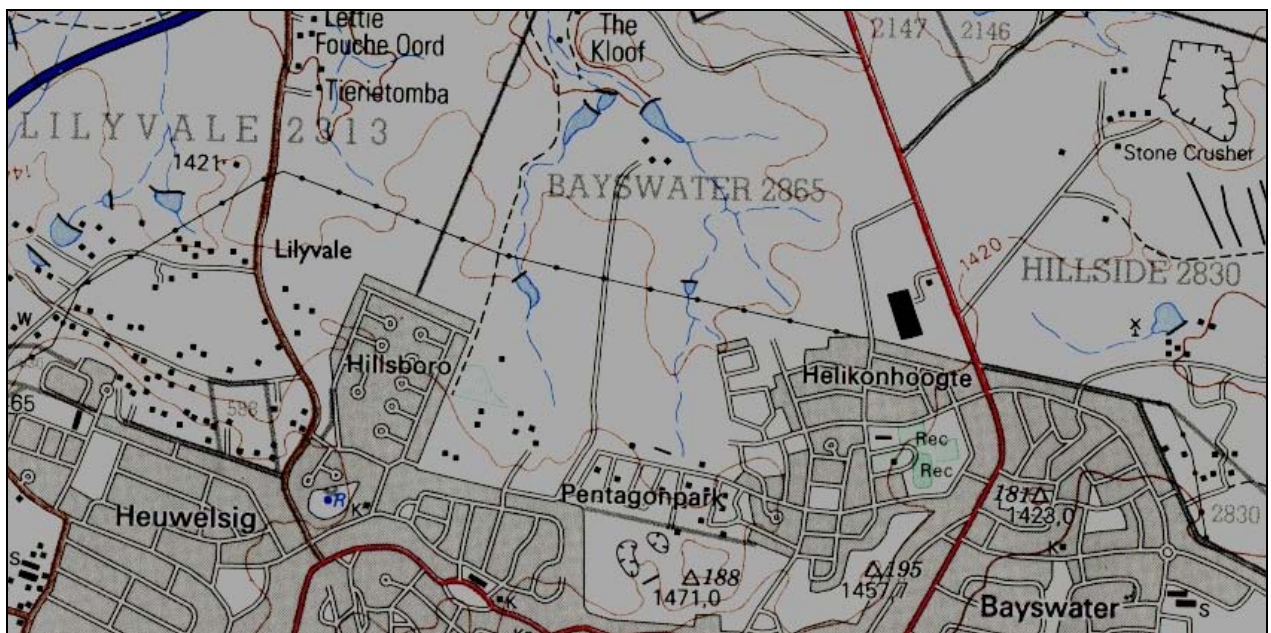
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Locality of the R700 from Bloemfontein to Bultfontein via Soutpan.



Map 2 Locality of Hillside 2830 adjacent to the Bayswater suburb and the R700 road (2926AA).



Fig.1 The south eastern corner of the property between Noordstad business complex and the R700 main road facing north west.



Fig.2 The same locality facing west.



Fig.3 View backwards towards the Noordstad shopping mall.



Fig.4 A view from the entrance street from the Bayswater residential area facing north.



Fig.5 View across the Valley of Seven Dams facing east.



Fig.6 Facing the hill along the entrance road to the Petra Stone Crusher.



Fig.7 Remains of a stone wall about 15m long.



Fig.8 A collection of flake scrapers found near the stone-wall.



Fig.9 A few stone poles left from a fence of long ago.



Fig.10 A stone-walled weir in the little stream bed.



Fig.11 Broken stone-walled weir in the stream bed.



Fig.12 Run-off water from the Noordstad shopping mall provides water for the homeless people living in the bushes and on the rubbish dump.