



COBUS DREYER

Pr. Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist

**P.O. Box 12910
BRANDHOF 9324
Bloemfontein
dreyerj@telkomsa.net**

**Tel: 051-444 1187
Fax: 051-444 4395
Cell: 083 357 7982**

20 January 2008

FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS AT THE BLOEMFONTEIN TURF CLUB, BLOEMFONTEIN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New residential and commercial developments are planned at the Bloemfontein Turf Club and race course.

The property represents an area where many activities took place over the years and numerous alterations were done, resulting in damage to the environment.

The Bloemfontein Race Course has fallen into disuse and some of the buildings and structures are showing signs of neglect and deterioration. None of these structures seems to be unique specimens of their times, demanding preservation and protection, however.

No archaeological and cultural remains were found in the proposed area of development either.

I recommend that the proposed planning and development of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential and commercial developments at the Bloemfontein Turf Club and race course outside Bloemfontein was visited on 18 January 2008. Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions Incorporated, Bloemfontein, accompanied 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 the Bloemfontein Turf Club and race course situated about 8km to the west of the City on the N8 main road between Bloemfontein and Thaba Nchu (Map 1) (Surveyor-General 1973).

The land also borders on the Bloem Spruit in the east (Map 1).

The layout plan for the proposed development is indicated on Map 2.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2926AB):

The different coordinate points were selected at random to indicate the extent of the land and other features.

A	29°06'56"S 026°16'17"E	Altitude 1364m (Figs.1-3).
B	29°07'11"S 026°16'22"E	Altitude 1354m (Figs.4-6).
C	29°06'49"S 026°16'58"E	Altitude 1355m (Fig.8).
D	29°06'47"S 026°17'04"E	Altitude 1360m (Fig.9).
E	29°06'56"S 026°17'31"E	Altitude 1347m (Figs.10-12.).
F	29°06'40"S 026°17'32"E	Altitude 1350m (Figs.13&14).

RESULTS

No indication of any archaeological or historical material was found in the proposed development area.

The whole area represents the structures and buildings of the Bloemfontein Equestrian Centre and the Bloemfontein Turf Club, as well as the Bloemfontein Race Course.

FINDS

The Bloemfontein Equestrian Centre consists of a cluster of stables for horses and ware houses for fodder storage (Fig.7) and a Club House (Figs.15&16).

The Bloemfontein Turf Club consists of a variety of buildings and structures, which include at least two stands (Fig.17), a Club House with staff accommodation and other buildings (Figs.9&10).

The Bloemfontein Race Course consists of two race tracks (Map 1), a cluster of stables (Fig.10) and at least one large Ware House (Fig.18).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The property represents an area where many activities took place and numerous alterations were done over the years, resulting in damage to the environment.

The Bloemfontein Race Course has fallen into disuse and some of the buildings and structures are showing signs of neglect and deterioration. None of these structures seems to be unique specimens of their times, demanding preservation and protection. It is so sad to witness how another old stalwart of the past is entering its final phase.

No archaeological and cultural remains were found in the proposed area of development.

The proposed residential and commercial developments at the Bloemfontein Race course will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains in the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

I recommend that the proposed residential and commercial developments at the Bloemfontein race course could proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, no mitigation measures will be required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions Incorporated, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:

DEACON, J. 1992. Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities. Cape Town: National Monuments Council.

DREYER, J.J.B. 1992. The Iron Age Archaeology of Doornpoort, Winburg, Orange Free State. Navorsing van die Nasionale Museum, Bloemfontein, Vol.8(7):262-390.

DREYER, J. 1996. Introduction to Free State Iron Age Archaeology. In: Guide to archaeological sites in the Free State and Lesotho. Southern African Association of Archaeologists (SA3), 14th Biennial Conference, Bloemfontein, Post-conference tour 5-8 July 1996. Bloemfontein: National Museum.

DREYER, J. 2000. Mountains and Rivers of the Free State - Manual for field research / Berge en Riviere van die Vrystaat – Handleiding vir veldnavorsing. Bloemfontein: University of the Free State, Department of Anthropology, Occasional Paper No. 2.

HUMPHREYS, A.J.B. 1986. Searching for the past. Cape Town: David Philip.

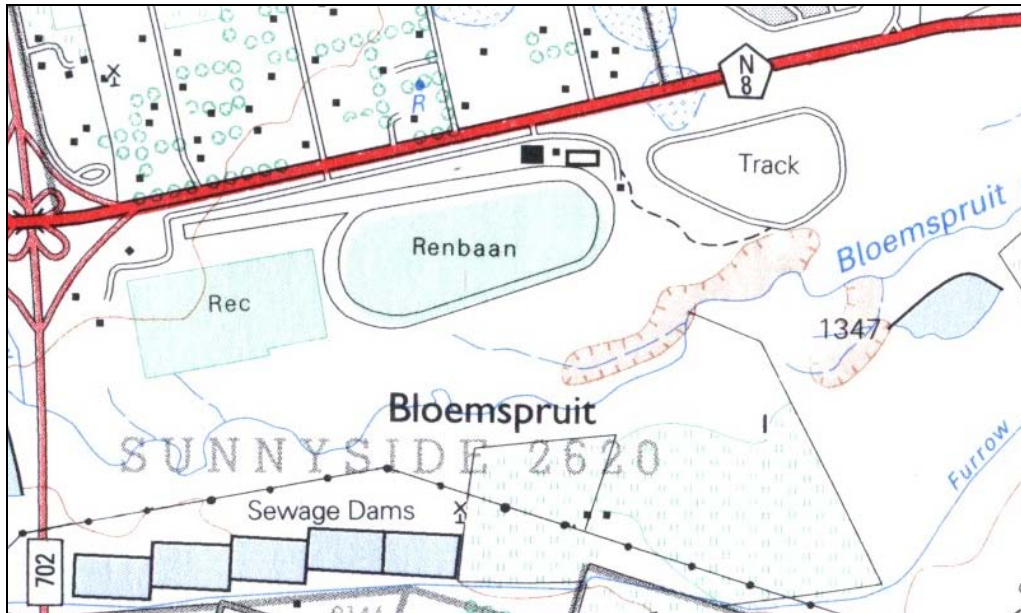
MAGGS, T.M. 1976. Iron Age Communities of the Southern Highveld. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Museum.

PISTORIUS, J.C.C. 1994. Eskom Archaeological Site Identification Guide. Johannesburg: Eskom.

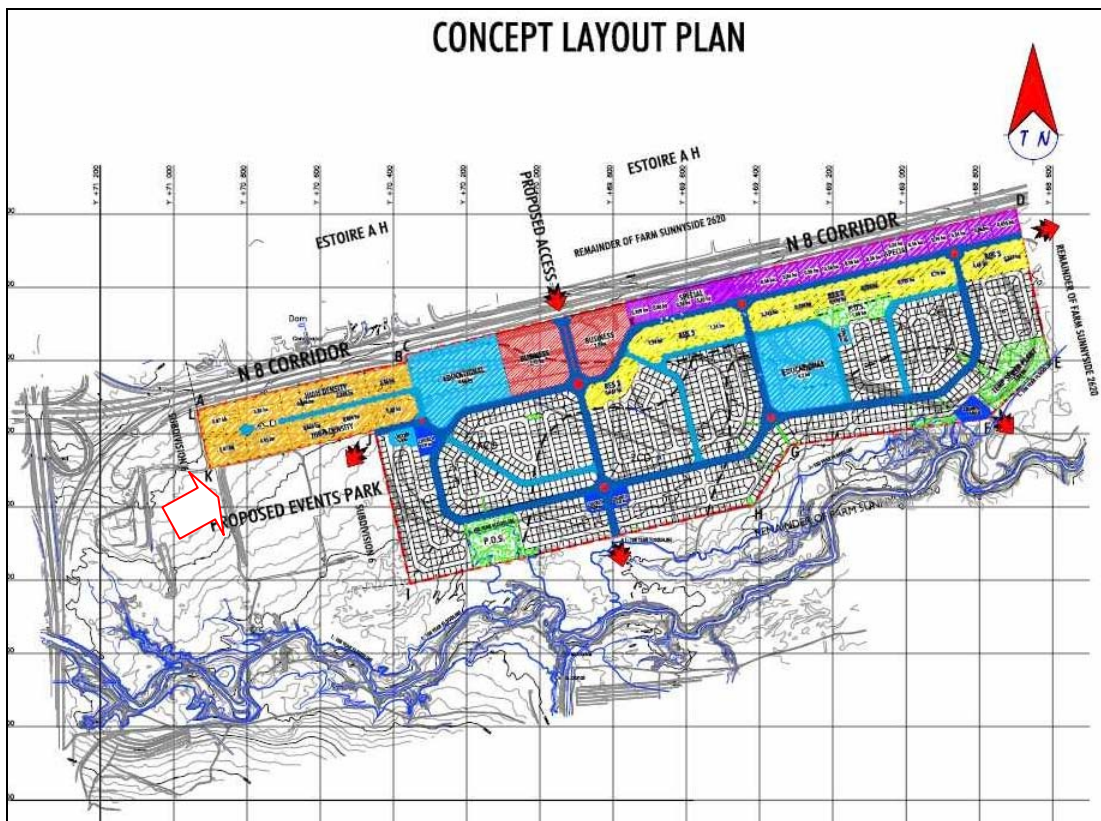
SCHOEMAN, K. 1980. Bloemfontein – die ontstaan van 'n stad. Kaapstad: Human & Rousseau.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL O.F.S. 1973. Index of Orange Free State Farms. Bloemfontein.

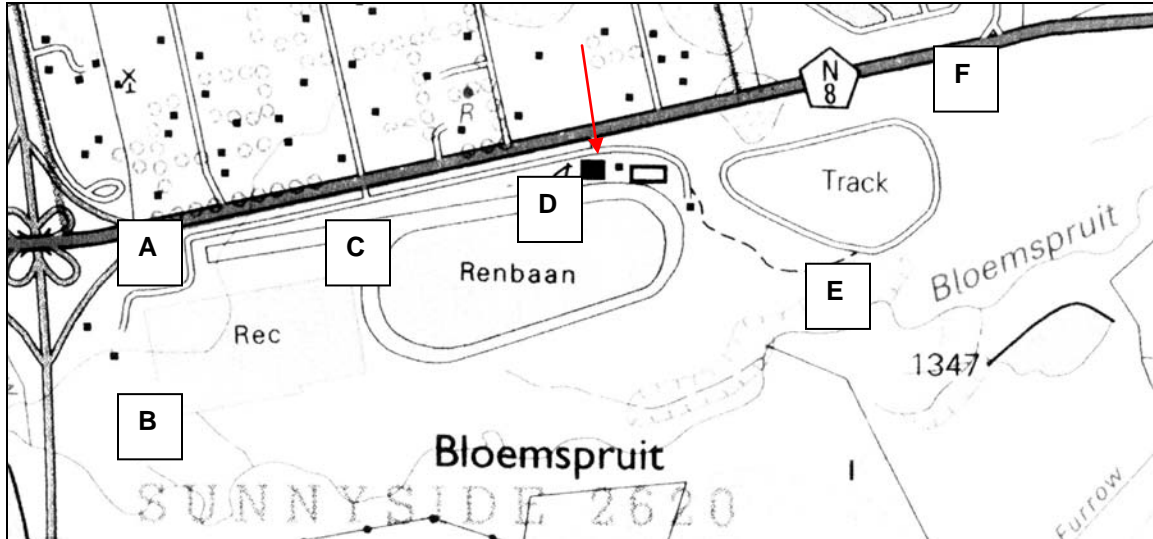
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of the Bloemfontein Race Track along the N8 main road to Thaba Nchu (2926AA).



Map 2 Concept layout plan of the proposed developments at the Bloemfontein Race Track.



Map 3 Locality of the GPS coordinate points taken at the Bloemfontein Race Track. Club House and stands indicated by red arrow.



Fig.1 Point A facing east towards the Bloemfontein Turf Club.



Fig.2 Point A facing south towards the Bloemfontein Equestrian Centre.



Fig.3 View from Point A across the area of development.



Fig.4 Pont B facing west towards the N8 main road to Thaba Nchu.



Fig.5 Point B facing east past the stables of the Bloemfontein Equestrian Centre.



Fig.6 View from Point B towards the Bloemfontein Equestrian Centre club house.



Fig.7 The cluster of stables at the Bloemfontein Equestrian Centre.



Fig.8 Point C facing east.



Fig.9 Point D. Bloemfontein Turf Club and stands.



Fig.10 Point E facing west towards the Bloemfontein Turf Club.



Fig.11 Dongas along the Bloem Spruit. Facing south from Point E.



Fig.12 Point E facing towards the Bloemspruit Air Base. Practice track for horses visible in fore ground.



Fig.13 Point F facing east along the N8 main road from Thaba Nchu to Bloemfontein.



Fig.14 View across the area of development from Point F.



Fig.15 The Club House at the bloemfontein Equestrian Centre.



Fig.16 Rear view of the Club House at the Bloemfontein Equestrian Centre.



Fig.17 The stands and other structures at the Bloemfontein Turf Club.



Fig.18 A large warehouse at the Bloemfontein Turf Club.