

SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

FREE STATE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mrs M. Leslie

FROM: Ms H.H. Gous

REF: 9/2/302/52

DATE: 16-08-2001

RE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT: VALLEY OF THE SEVEN DAMS,
BLOEMFONTEIN

Attached herewith is an archaeological site report by Mr J. Dreyer, received from the Free State Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism.

Please inform me at your earliest convenience whether you agree with Mr Dreyer's recommendations regarding the above-mentioned archaeological site, or not. Please take note that the Department expects a response from SAHRA within 30 days.

Regards

H.H. Gous
PROVINCIAL MANAGER: FREE STATE

9/2/302/252

FREE STATE PROVINCE



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ENQUIRIES: DE Krynauw
Tel No.: 051-403 3452

Our Ref No.: EM1/2c/01/70

The Director
South African Heritage Resources Agency
Fichardt Huis
40 Elizabeth Street
Bloemfontein
9301

For attention: Herma Gouse
Tel: 051-430 4139

CHIEF DIRECTOR
Dept. of Environmental
Affairs and Tourism

2001-08-16

P.O. Box 264,
Bloemfontein 9300

Free State Provincial
Government

RE: CONSULTATION WITH REGARD TO AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT IN RESPECT OF SUBDIVISION 6 AND PROPOSED SUBDIVISION 1 OF SUBDIVISION 10 OF THE FARM BAYSWATER NO. 2865, GRIFFITH (7 DAMS), MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF BLOEMFONTEIN: APPLICANT: P.M. & H.L. TRUST

The attached copy of an archaeological site report accompanied the above mentioned applicants application for authorisation and therefore I need to request your relevant comments as soon as possible.

If the requested comments are not received by this office within 30 days from the date of the letter, it will be assumed that you indeed have no objection towards this matter.

You are welcome to contact the writer with any relevant queries.

Yours faithfully

Me. Grace Ramabina

Me. Grace Ramabina

Deputy Director: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FREE STATE REGION

15 August 2001

9/2/30/2/520153

**APPLICATION TO THE FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND TOURISM FOR
AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 22 OF THE
ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION ACT, 1989 (ACT 73 OF 1989):**

**"PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON SUBDIVISION
6 AND PROPOSED SUBDIVISION 1 OF SUBDIVISION 10 OF
THE FARM BAYSWATER NO. 2865: GRIFFITH"**

in respect of an activity identified in terms of Section 21, Activity 2 (8):
the change of land use from agriculture or undetermined use to any other
land use. *cle*

Scoping report compiled by
M.T. Seaman

32 Toon van den Heever St., Dan Pienaar, Bloemfontein 9300
Tel. 051 4364205
July 2001

NAME OF PROPOSAL

PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON SUBDIVISION 6
AND PROPOSED SUBDIVISION 1 OF SUBDIVISION 10 OF THE
FARM BAYSWATER NO. 2865: GRIFFITHS

PROPONENT:

PM&HL Trust

LOCATION:

North of Dan Pienaar suburb (Bloemfontein), between the suburbs
Hillsboro and Pentagon Park
26.3980 ha

FUNCTION OF THE REPORT:

An independent assessment of environmental impacts on behalf of the
developers, according to legal requirements. This is a follow-up report
resulting from a redrawing of boundaries, as well as changing of the
zoning request to township development, on request of the Municipality
of Mangaung.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The proposed project is a township development, which will function as a retirement resort on the northern border of Bloemfontein, in the southern corner of what has come to be known as Griffithsgronde or the Valley of Seven Dams Conservancy (see map of proposed development. It would abut existing developed erven to west, south and east. It consists of 26.3980 ha of housing and services. There will be four General Residential erven, plus street space (see map).

See also attached rezoning maps (prepared by Spatial Solutions) and Sewer Design Report (prepared by Ninham Shand), including maps. Further information in this regard is available on request.

SITE INFORMATION

See the locality plan, which shows the site approximately 6 km north of the centre of Bloemfontein, which has already been acquired by the developers from the Bloemfontein Municipality, pending approval of rezoning.

ADVERTISING

See previous application for general advertisements.

Pamphlets were then also distributed to neighbouring households of a wide area, including those alongside the present area under discussion, asking for additional comments. During the archaeological survey, the immediate neighbour Mr de Swardt was informed of the development, and appeared satisfied.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

See previous application for details.

While many people, especially those living directly adjacent to the proposed development, are concerned with their loss of view, privacy and nearness to a quasi-natural area, there are other views that accept the inevitability of a development because existing roads lead into the area as if a development were intended, and yet other views that the increasing abuse of the area and vagrancy in the area might lead to squatting and a security problem. Churches in the vicinity hold the view that a development would bring more parishioners. Businesses would, in the same way, have more customers. While the traffic survey considers the roads to be adequate, residents are concerned about the increase in traffic that would be caused by close to 400 residential units (houses, flats and rooms). On the other hand, should

development be inevitable, the type of proposed development appears to be the most acceptable, namely a retirement village, which is expected to generate the least traffic and have the best-behaved residents.

Included is a recent letter by a concerned resident, Miss C. Kay. The comments are partly relevant to the original (previous) application, related to a slightly different area. Other comments are prejudicial and some are very strong. They speak for themselves.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Considering the nature of the proposed development, the following issues were considered (see previous report):

- the disposable of (hazardous) wastes;
- the presence of sensitive wetlands;
- the presence of sensitive habitats
- the presence of any red data species of animals and plants;
- the toilet facilities/disposal of sewage during construction and during operation;
- disposal of building rubble;
- disposal of household (and restaurant/clubhouse) refuse;
- source of water (including aquifer sustainability) and drainage;
- noise and disturbance.

While all these issues remain as addressed, two additional ones should be added to the existing categories:

- the presence of sensitive sites
- the disposable of wastes

Sensitive sites

A site of archaeological value exists at the highest point of the proposed development (see map). A report on this site is appended.

Wastes

Sewage lines (trenches for pipes) will have to be excavated from the proposed development alongside drainage lines to connect with the main sewer which traverses the Valley of Seven Dams lower down (see map). These trenches will be covered once the pipes have been laid, save for covered inspection holes at intervals. Natural rehabilitation of the lines will take some years till the soil has been recolonised with plants. Care should be taken by the developers to ensure that the work is carried out in an environmentally friendly manner.

SUMMARY

Arguments in favour of maintaining the *status quo*, namely having no development, as espoused mainly by the Friends of the Seven Dams Conservancy, are strong, yet weighed against those of many people who either accept the inevitability of development or see benefits arising from the development.

The area is a registered conservancy, into which a lot of care has been invested especially by the Friends of the Seven Dams Conservancy. The area is very attractive and valuable to the open space concept of Bloemfontein. The proposed development would reduce the size of the Conservancy.

The Friends of the Seven Dams Conservancy have fought a long battle, over a number of years, against development of the Conservancy (see file material and correspondence). The real problem lies in the fact that the Mangaung Council (as was the case with its predecessors) is not prepared to set down a fixed open space system from which to plan development, notwithstanding various Guide Plans and Strategic Plans over the years. The Friends of the Seven Dams Conservancy would probably have been amenable to a development, were they to get reassurance that this development is not simply part of a creeping development of the entire area so diligently protected over the years .

In terms of the BLOEMMOSS concept (Bloemfontein Metropolitan Open Space System), links between open spaces are important, in the sense that a linked system is formed which allows ecological movement of organisms as well as of people making use of the system. In this area there is sadly already a break in the link to the southeast toward the Kiepersol development, in the form of housing. At the same time a so-called link between Kiepersol and open spaces to the north via Pentagon Park does exist, but is slim.

Should development be allowed to proceed, it is incumbent on the developers to ensure that their stated intentions of environmental friendliness are pursued. This includes the planting of indigenous plants and the maintenance of continuity with existing open spaces in the BLOEMMOSS scheme of open space systems, which people from within the Resort, as well as surrounding residents, can use.

Furthermore, should the development be allowed to proceed, the developers should take the greatest care not to damage any of the area beyond their site boundaries. In addition, they should make it possible for their new residents to have easy access to the Seven Dams Conservancy, and give access to surrounding residents to the open spaces within the proposed resort.

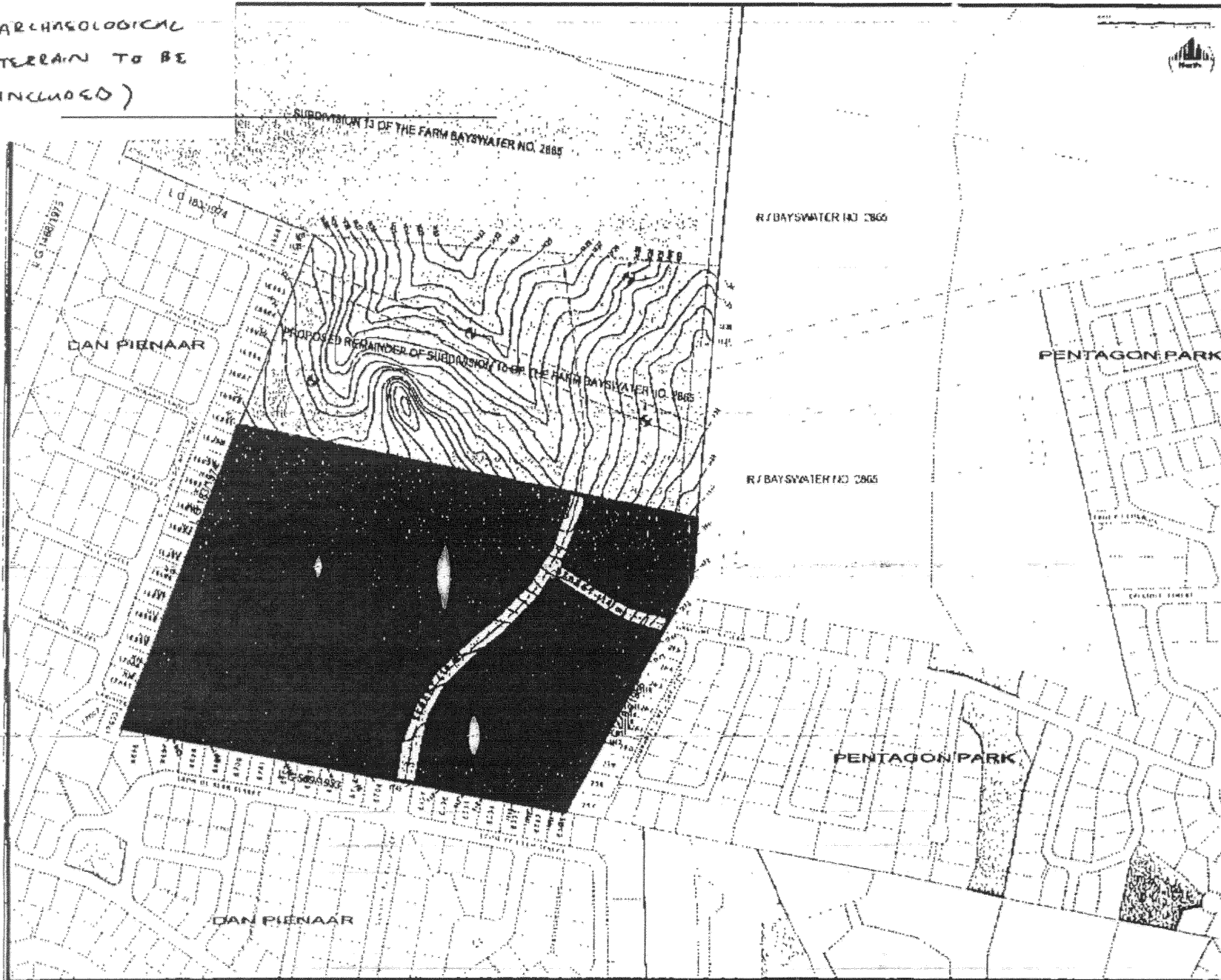
Considering the views of many interested and affected parties, as reviewed above, it is clear that the proposed development has some opponents, yet much support. The type of development proposed is viewed as probably the best that could be expected in terms of expected negative impact on the surrounding suburbs.

- Should development be allowed to proceed, the developers should, apart from the normal requirements, be reminded of their stated aims of environmental friendliness, a commitment to indigenous vegetation (existing and to be planted) and to their commitment to fix the wall of the dam directly to the north of the site. They should also be required to replan the position of the Clubhouse away from the koppie, which should be conserved and possibly used for walkways and park benches, and moving the position of the work areas away from the existing housing in the southwaest of the site.

The boundary of the area addressed in the present application does not affect wetlands and a koppie which were included within the previous boundary. To this extent, this is an improvement. However, it is possible that they may fall within a subsequent area of development by developers unknown.

The archacological site should receive special consideration from the developers, as set out by the archaeologist's report.

PROPOSED TOWNSHIP
ESTABLISHMENT
(ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TERRAIN TO BE
INCLUDED)



PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT
GRIFFITHS



LEGEND

CURRENT ZONINGS

- PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
- PRIVATE OPEN SPACE
- RESIDENTIAL R1

PROPOSED ZONINGS

PROPOSED ZONE	AREA (HA)	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AREA	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION
RESIDENTIAL R1	1.0	100%	100%
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	0.0	0%	0%
PRIVATE OPEN SPACE	0.0	0%	0%
RESIDENTIAL R2	0.0	0%	0%
RESIDENTIAL R3	0.0	0%	0%
RESIDENTIAL R4	0.0	0%	0%
RESIDENTIAL R5	0.0	0%	0%
RESIDENTIAL R6	0.0	0%	0%
RESIDENTIAL R7	0.0	0%	0%
RESIDENTIAL R8	0.0	0%	0%
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INFORMATION

NOTES

SPATIAL SOLUTIONS
INCORPORATED
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

11777 177th Street, Suite 100, Richmond, BC V6V 1K7
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B0234.03

ADDENDUM A

Relative to:
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF THE GRIFFITHS'
PROPERTY, PENTAGON PARK, BLOEMFONTEIN**

J. DREYER
ARCHAEOLOGIST
P.O. BOX 12910
BRANDHOF
9324

INVESTIGATION

The concentration of Later Stone Age material on the south-eastern corner of the Griffiths' lands adjoining the suburbs of Dan Pienaar and Pentagon Park (Fig. 1), came under threat by proposed building developments. The site was visited on 22 June 2001.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The archaeological site consists of a concentration of stone fragments of lydianite or solidified shale material, normally referred to as a stone-tool-manufacturing site. Stone fragments are visible in abundance on the surface (Fig. 2&3). The lithic fragments are relatively small (Fig. 4), but several large blocks, clearly the remains of cores are also found (Fig. 5).

Percussion bulbs are visible on the ventral side of many of the flakes (Fig. 7), confirming that these splinters are man-made. These bulbs also indicate that the flakes were manufactured according to the prepared core technique. A considerable number of flakes show secondary retouch (Fig. 6).

A characteristic feature of this particular site is the elaborate number of so-called hollow scrapers present (Fig. 8&9). This feature, combined with the fine black material that was used, indicates that the tools can be classified to what is known as the Smithfield An Industry of the Later Stone Age of southern Africa.

EXTENT

The stone flakes are distributed over an area of about 50m x 20m at the highest point of the koppie along the built-up area (Fig. 1).

The exact distribution of the stone tools is indicated in Table 1. The tools were found spread out along the wall bordering the houses, flowing over to the west for a short distance down the hill. GPS co-ordinates were taken on the outskirts of the surface distribution. For easy reference these co-ordinates are given below. The telephone post next to the wall, (position given), appear to be in the centre of the concentration of stone tools.

Table 1.

Brick wall bordering urban property.

	+ Telephone pole	
	29°04'40"S	29°04'40"S
	26°13'06"E	26°13'06"E
	1453m	
		29°04'40"S
		26°13'05"E
		1448m
		29°04'39"S
		26°13'06"E
		1451m

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

The stone tools are classified as part of the Smithfield A industrial complex of the Later Stone Age period dating from about 10 000 years ago. This stone age industry is unique in the sense that it only occurs in the Free State.

Sites of this kind are found in abundance, however, prehistoric man was clearly clever and skilful enough to manufacture the tools he required right on the spot where it was needed. Therefore, the manufacturing of stone tools can likewise hardly be considered as a unique feature, because tool manufacturing and use were in most cases part of the same exercise.

PRESERVATION

Although sites of this kind are found fairly widespread in the Free State, every individual sites have its own unique features and characteristics. It is, therefore, advisable to protect and preserve what is left of this particular site.

MITIGATION

The deposit has already been disturbed and obviously partly damaged by the adjacent building operations. No obvious reason could be found to delay the work or to recommend that other localities should be exploited. It is, therefore, recommended that the work should continue.

The necessary rescue work can be done by preserving the site as a park or by covering the present surface by a layer of soil and to be planted

over with lawn. It should be kept in mind that the site can also be damaged or even totally destroyed during the building operations. It is recommended that the specific area should be identified and marked as such, during the initial planning operations.

REFERENCES

- CLARK, J.D. 1959. The Prehistory of Southern Africa. London: Pelican Books.
- CLARK, J.D. 1970. The Prehistory of Africa. London: Thames & Hudson.
- GOODWIN, A.J.H. 1945. Method in Prehistory. Cape Town: South African Archaeological Society.
- HUMPHREYS, A.J.B. 1986. Searching for the past. Cape Town: David Philip
- PISTORIUS, J.C.C. 1994. Eskom Archaeological Site Identification Guide. Johannesburg: Eskom.

Figure 2

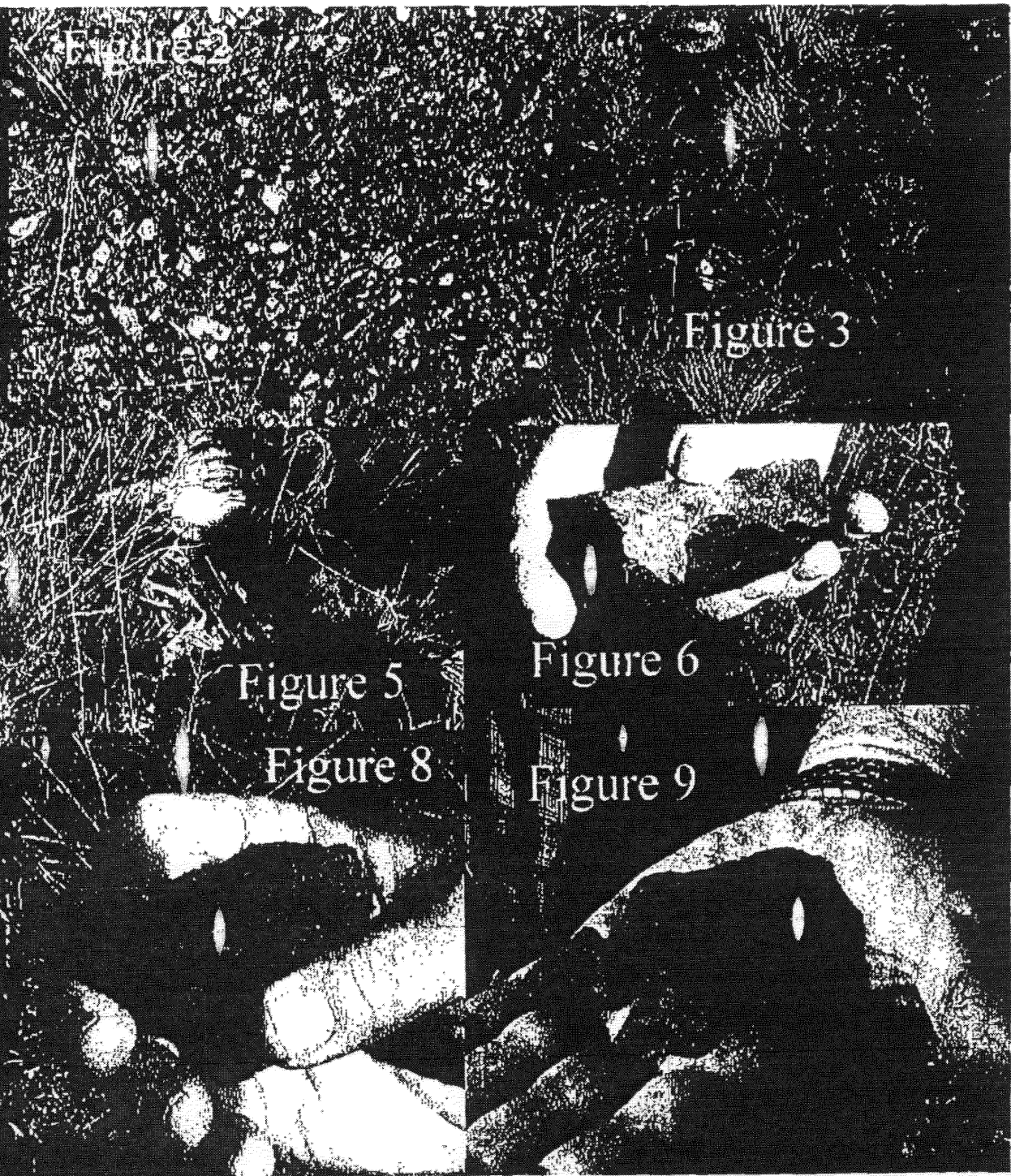


Figure 3



Figure 9



Figure 5

Figure 8

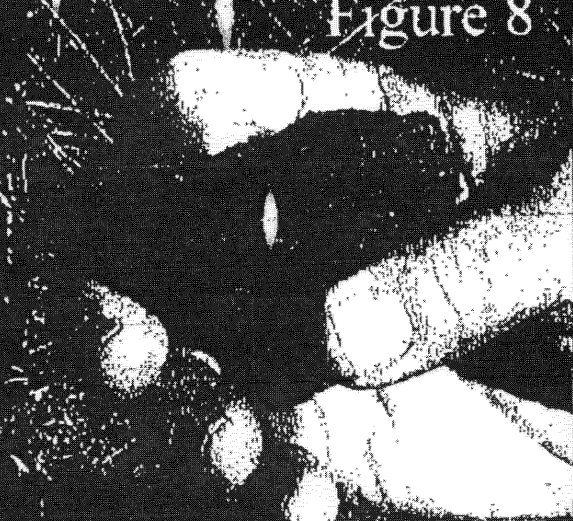


Figure 1

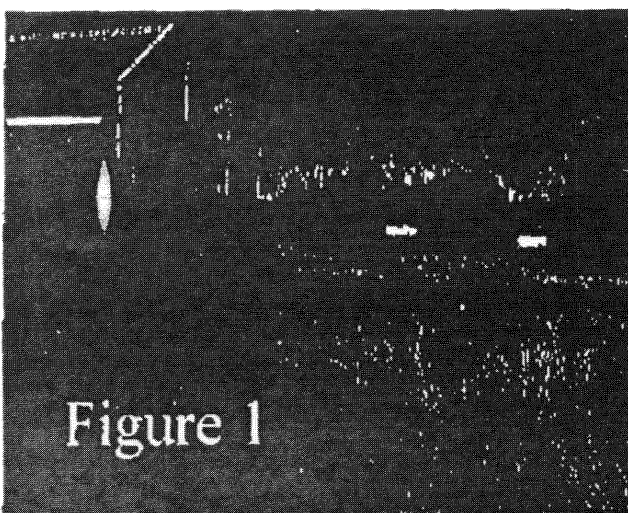


Figure 4

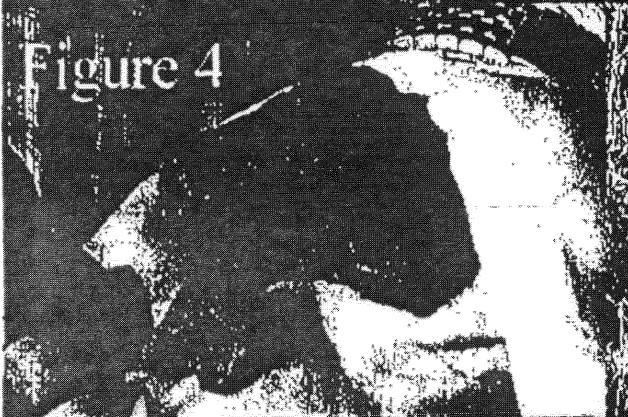


Figure 7

