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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED LEISURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON THE FARM DANKBAAR 294, FOURIESBURG

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A leisure residential development is planned at the farm Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg.

No archaeological remains were found on the surface.

The only historical features are an old wagon-house and a rectangular stone-walled kraal, which could date from early European settlement times.

The building and other walls are in a very neglected and dilapidated state and do not occur to be of any special cultural significance.

I propose that the planning of the site should proceed in close association with the archaeologist in case of the discovery of other finds of cultural and historical importance.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential developments at the farm Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg, was visited on 8 November 2007 in the company of Dr Johan du Preez of MDA 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 proposed residential developments are planned on the farm Dankbaar 294, in the district of Fouriesburg, Free State, near the Lesotho border (Map 1).

The farm is reached by following R711 main road from Fouriesburg to Clarens and then onto the S26 secondary road from Joelsnek to Joel drifts on the Lesotho border (Map 2). The locality of the developments is indicated on Map 3.

The vegetation of the area is described as cool moist afro-mountain grassland.

The land lies to the south east of the town of Fouriesburg (Map 2) (Surveyor-General 1973).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2828CB):

C Corner with S26	28°40'04"S 028°19'56"E Altitude 1773m (Fig.1&2).
D	28°40'04"S 028°20'03"E Altitude 1766m (Figs.3&4).
G	28°40'08"S 028°20'02"E Altitude 1751m (Fig.5).
H	28°40'07"S 028°19'56"E Altitude 1659m (Fig.6).

RESULTS

FINDS

No cultural material was found on the surface. A sandstone wagon house (Figs.6-9) and kraal walls (Figs.10-11) are in a very neglected and dilapidated state. The purpose and origin of the remains of another concrete foundation (Fig.12), is unknown.

No further indications of any other archaeological or historical material were found.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The proposed developments at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg, will have no impact on any cultural heritage remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that proposed developments at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg, should proceed.

I further propose that the planning of the site should be done in close association with the archaeologist, in case of the discovery of other finds of cultural and historical importance.

It must be borne mind that 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 important, however, that the field team should be attentive for the presence of human skeletal remains or other archaeological material of significance during the course of the work. In the case of the discovery of any burial or human relics, all excavation activities should temporarily be stopped in the specific area and the finds should be stabilised and protected and the archaeologist should be alerted without delay.

MITIGATION

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

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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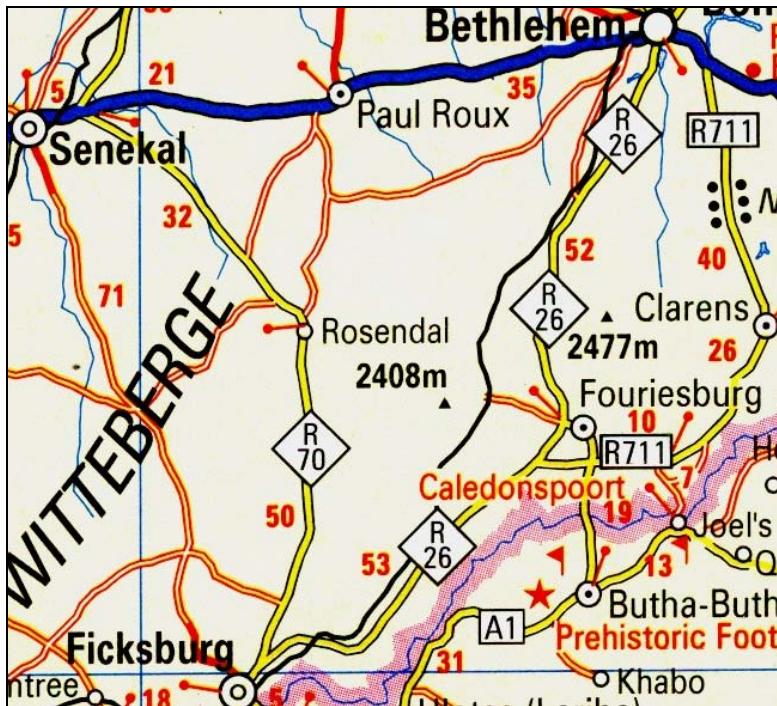
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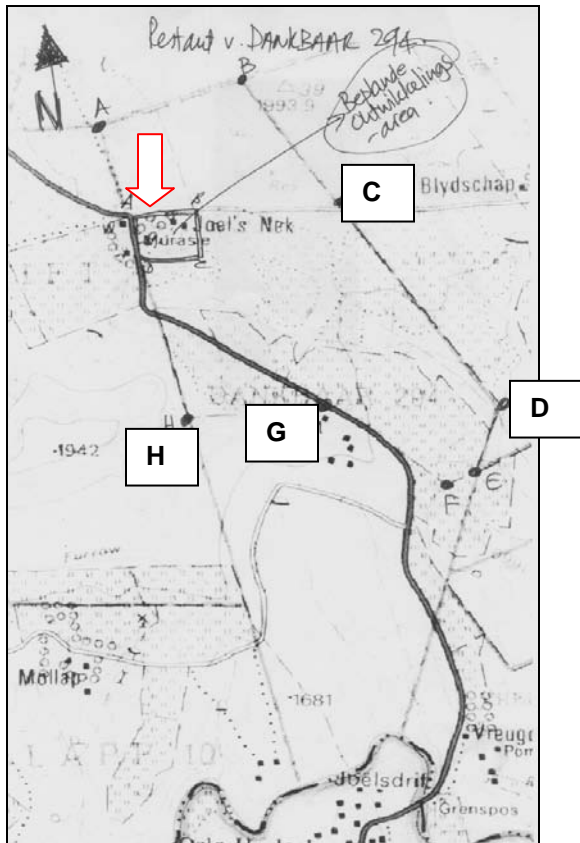
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Locality of Fouriesburg in relation to other towns along the Lesotho border.



Map 2 Dankbaar 294 in relation to neighbouring farms.
Note the S26 road from Joelsnek to Joels Drift (2828CB 1987).



Map 3 Locality of the area of proposed development and GPS points at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg.



Fig.1 Point C at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg facing east.



Fig.2 Point C at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg facing south.



Fig.3 Point D at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg facing south.



Fig.4 Point D at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg facing west towards the old buildings.



Fig.5 Point G at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg facing south.



Fig.6 Point H at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg facing north.



Fig.7 Old buildings at Dankbaar 294 Fouriesburg.



Fig.8 Old buildings at Dankbaar 294 Fouriesburg.



Fig.9 Old buildings at Dankbaar 294 Fouriesburg.



Fig.10 Old kraal walls at Dankbaar 294 Fouriesburg.



Fig.11 Old buildings and stock crush-pen at Dankbaar 294 Fouriesburg.



Fig.12 Old foundations at Dankbaar 294 Fouriesburg.



Fig.13 Water reservoir and windmill at Dankbaar 294, Fouriesburg facing east.