



# **COBUS DREYER**

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## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECO PARK, HARRISMITH, FREE STATE**

### **INVESTIGATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A leisure residential development is planned on the farm Kin Mel 109 (Lovedale) near Rhodes in the district of Barkly East, Eastern Cape.

The area consists of plough lands with very rocky outcrops on the edges, with a grass cover on the unexploited land.

No graves or other historical or cultural remains could be found on the land.

I recommend that the planning and development of the proposed leisure residential settlement may proceed.

### **INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION**

#### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed residential developments at the farm Kin Mel 109 (Lovedale) near Rhodes in the district of Barkly East, Eastern Cape, was visited on 20 June 2007. The area was investigated on foot, GPS coordinates were taken on the peripheral points, and the features were recorded on camera.

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 leisure residential developments are planned at the farm Kin Mel 109 (Lovedale) (Map 2) near Rhodes in the district of Barkly East, Eastern Cape (Map 1). The development will include 25 leisure residential units. The proposed developments are located above the flow of the Bell River (Map 3). There is a steep slope down from about Point B towards the level of Point C at the flood line (Figs.12&13).

The numbering of points A - E is my own allocation.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (3027DD&3028CC):

|                |                                                     |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| A (Entrance)   | 30°46'57"S 027°59'27"E Altitude 1850m (Figs.1&2).   |
| B (Midway)     | 30°46'52"S 027°59'23"E Altitude 1838m (Figs.3&4).   |
| C (Flood line) | 30°46'46"S 027°59'20"E Altitude 1830m (Figs.5&6).   |
| D (East)       | 30°46'57"S 027°59'32"E Altitude 1850m (Figs.7-9).   |
| E (South west) | 30°47'05"S 027°59'18"E Altitude 1839m (Figs.10&11). |

## INVESTIGATION

The farm Kin Mel 109 (Lovedale) near Rhodes in the district of Barkly East, Eastern Cape, was visited on 20 June 2007. Mr Jambert Rheeders, the owner, accompanied us to the site at the farm.

The land along the road and above the river was investigated on foot and the outer limits of the planned development were plotted by GPS and recorded on camera.

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).

## RESULTS

The investigation at Kin Mel 109 (Lovedale) near Rhodes, did not produce any archaeological material.

No graves or any other cultural or historical remains occurred on the surface.

### **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The development of a residential area above the Bell River on the farm Kin Mel 109 (Lovedale) near Rhodes will have no impact on any cultural, archaeological or historical remains.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the residential developments and I recommend that the work may proceed.

### **MITIGATION**

Concerning the areas for the proposed extensions, no mitigation measures will be required.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Erika van der Westhuizen from Spatial Solutions Incorporated Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to Rhodes and Jambert Rheeders who showed us the site.

The site for the proposed housing development at Harrismith was visited on 17 January 2007 and . .

The site was examined for any possible traces of cultural and historical remains to establish the potential impact of the developments on any archaeological and cultural historical material. The significance of certain structures was examined and the possibility of archaeological remains was also investigated. 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 land for the proposed residential developments is located on the town lands to the west of Harrismith (Map 1) and is situated between Alexander Road and the foot of 42<sup>nd</sup> Hill. In the east, the land borders on to the N3 to Durban and is bisected by the road to Phomolong township (Map 2) (2829AC 1983). The area will covers about 1119 stands.

The proposed land is grass covered with scattered shrubs and trees. It seems as if the soil had been disturbed in various ways including roads, electricity and water installations. Cattle posts are still visible in one part at the foot of the hill.

There is a substantial flood plain along the riverfront.

The following GPS co-ordinates (Cape) were taken (2829AC):

|                       |                                                |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Spruit/Aberfeldy Rd   | 28°15'49"S 029°06'52"E Altitude 1604m (Fig.1). |
| Railway line          | 28°15'48"S 029°05'47"E Altitude 1610m. (Fig.2) |
| Spruit/Intabazwe      | 28°15'45"S 029°06'58"E Altitude 1604m (Fig.4)  |
| Spruit/N3             | 28°15'42"S 029°07'03"E Altitude 1615m (Fig.5). |
| Old culvert           | 28°15'34"S 029°06'56"E Altitude 1624 (Fig.6).  |
| Pump house            | 28°15'27"S 029°06'47"E Altitude 1639m (Fig.7). |
| 42 <sup>nd</sup> Hill | 28°15'21"S 029°06'40"E Altitude 1645m (Fig.9). |

## **FINDS**

During the investigation a variety of the remains of previous structures and activities such as a pump house (Fig.7) with electrical instillations (Fig.6), an old road (Fig.6) and places where soil had been removed, were discovered on the surface.

No remains of archaeological and any other material of cultural and historical importance could be found on the site.

## **DISCUSSION**

The disturbances by previous activities and agricultural developments made it unlikely that any remains of early human occupation could have survived.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

## **MITIGATION**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Piet Rheeder of Harrismith took me to the site and I have benefited from previous investigations on the Harrismith commonage.

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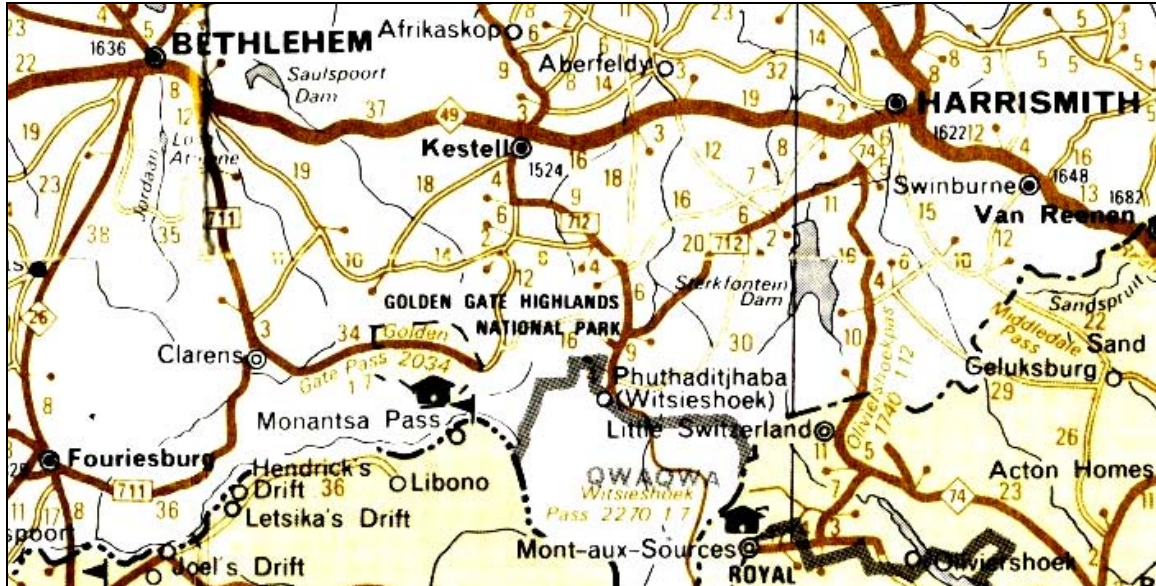
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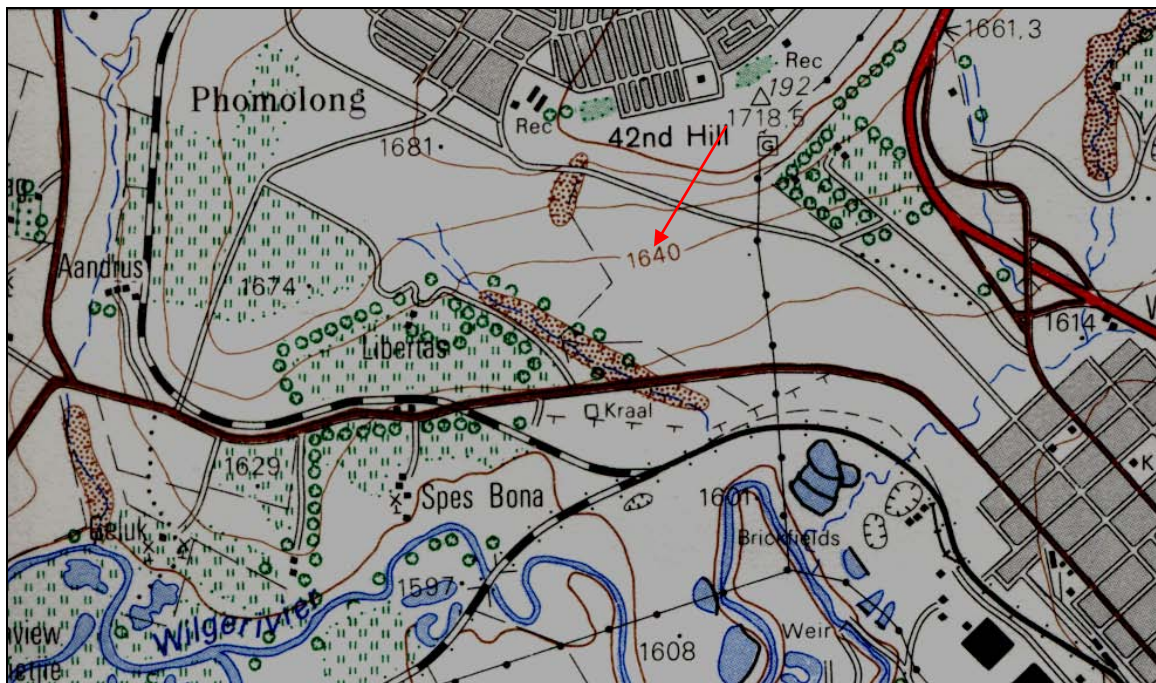
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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Locality of Harrismith in relation to Kestell, Bethlehem and Van Reenen.



Map 2 Locality of the proposed developments indicated by red arrow.



Fig.1 View from Alexandra Avenue across the area of development.



Fig.2 View from the railway line towards 42<sup>nd</sup> Hill facing north.





Fig.3 The municipal dumping site south of Intabazwe township.



Fig.4 Corner of Alexander Avenue and the road to Intabazwe township.



Fig.5 The spruit and the N3 junction.



Fig.6 Old culvert indicates the position of the old road.



Fig.7 The pump house.



Fig.8 View from 42<sup>nd</sup> Hill across the area of development.



Fig.9 View from the pump house at 42<sup>nd</sup> Hill.



Fig.10 Facing east from 42<sup>nd</sup> Hill towards Harrismith.



Fig.11 Cattle posts at the foot of 42<sup>nd</sup> Hill is located in the area of development.



Fig.12 Intabazwe Road facing 42<sup>nd</sup> Hill.



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16 FEBRUARY 2006

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### **QUOTATION**

#### **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS ON THE DORPSGRONDEN 131 & 132, HARRISMITH**

I refer to your fax message of 16 February 2006 in connection with the environmental impact assessment (EIA) at the Dorpsgronden 131 & 132, Harrismith. My quotation is as follows.

|                                       |                     |                  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Site inspection & travelling time     | 8 Hours @ R250/hour | R 2000,00        |
| Travelling costs                      | 650km @ R3,50/km    | R 2275,00        |
| Administration & reparation of report |                     | R 1000,00        |
|                                       | <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>R 5275,00</b> |

Please keep in mind that in the case of the discovery of any essential cultural or archaeological material, a quotation for the second phase investigation will be needed.

I will be able to do the site visit on either Tuesday 28 or Wednesday 29 February 2006.

I trust that you will find this in order.

Regards

J. DREYER



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26 MAY 2006

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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS ON THE DORPSGRONDEN 131 & 132,  
HARRISMITH**

Dear Mr Molaba

I refer to the above mentioned report which was returned to me by the post office Speed Service.

It a mystery to me why the report had been returned. Telephone calls to your office did clear up the matter on which I contacted Piet Rheeder in Harrismith. Mr Rheeder referred me to Herkie Le Roux at LS &B, Planners in Welkom.

I would like to clear up some questions concerning this report

Regards

J. DREYER