



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**

18 July 2006

FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT PLOT 765 & 948, KOPPIES, FREE STATE

INVESTIGATION

The land for the proposed residential developments on plot 765 and 948 near Koppies, Free State, was visited on 11 April 2006 in the company of Dr Francois Retief, Environmental Consultant from Potchefstroom.

The land 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 will be established on plots 765 and 948 near Koppies, Free State (Surveyor-General 1973) (Map 2).

The land is located along the R942 road (Map 1). The area covers a rocky hill with very low vegetation and a number of thorn trees (*Acacia* sp.) (Fig.2). Except for about six graves (Figs.11-14), the area contains no cultural or historical material.

There are farm buildings (Fig.9) and existing overnight chalets (Fig.7), recreational (Fig.8) and catering facilities (Fig.6) at the site.

The following GPS co-ordinate was taken (Cape scale) (272BC).

New development 27°15'10"S 027°39'40"E.

FINDS

A graveyard which contains about 6 graves lies nearby (Figs.11-14). The grave stones date from 1913 to 1969 and could be the last resting place of some of the farm owners and their family.

No further indication of any archaeological or historical material was found on the surface neither were any stone tools or ceramic ware found.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed residential developments will not be near the graves. Care should be taken not to disturb the graves either during the installation of services or during the building process.

There is no obvious reason to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

I recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed development, mitigation measures are needed only in the case of the graves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr Francois Retief, Environmental Consultant from Potchefstroom, took me to the site and supplied information on this investigation.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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

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.

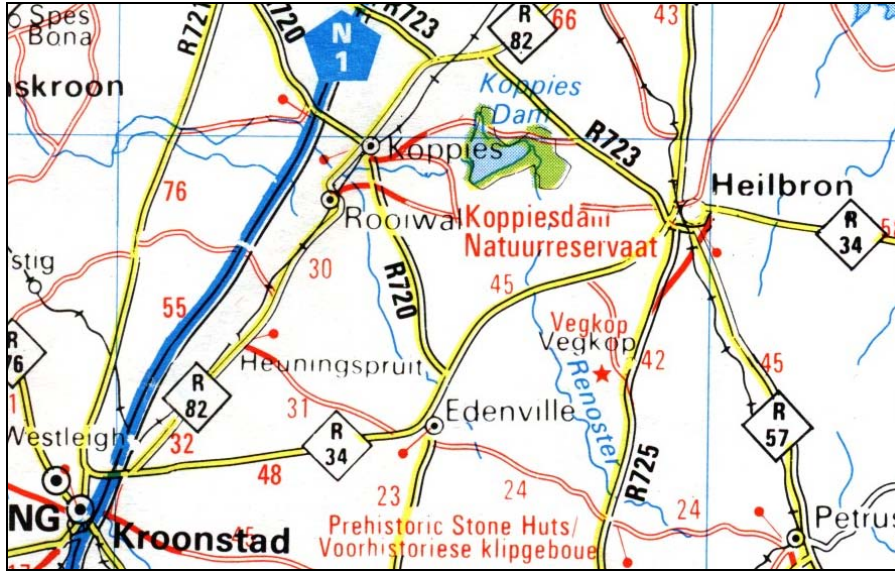
HUMPHREYS, A.J.B. 1986. Searching for the past. Cape Town: David Philip.

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

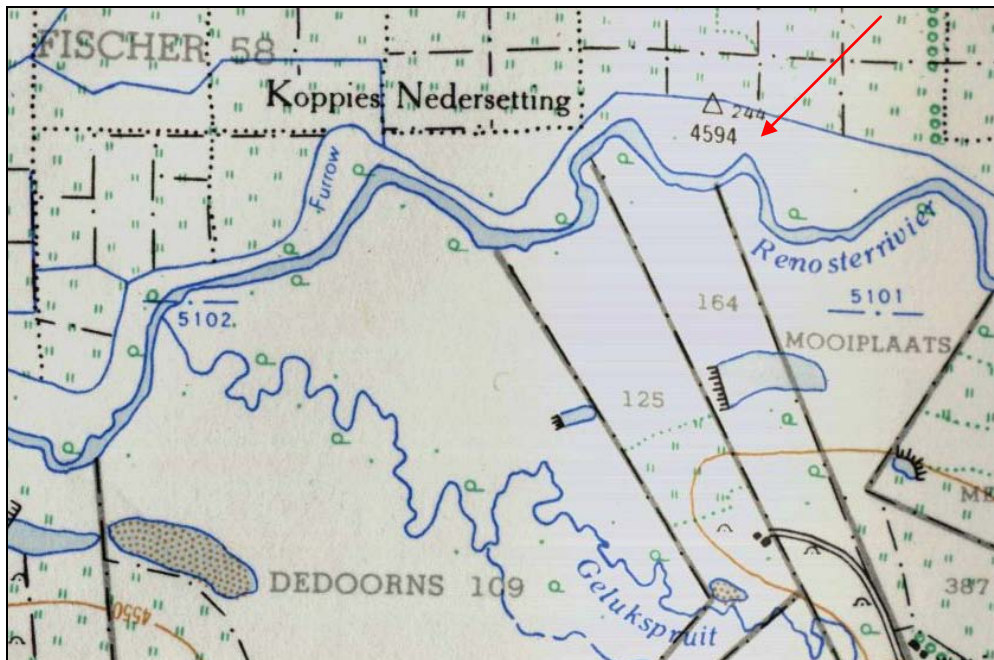
PISTORIUS, J.C.C. 1994. Eskom Archaeological Site Identification Guide. Johannesburg: Eskom.

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

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Locality of Koppies in relation to Kroonstad, Heilbron and Petrus Steyn.



Map 2 The proposed residential developments at Koppies (2727BC).



Fig.1 The proposed area of development. Koppies Dam in the back ground.



Fig.2 View of the area of development facing the hill.



Fig.3 Trees and grass cover at the site.



Fig.4 Disturbed area and debris at the site.



Fig.5 The area of development facing south.



Fig.6 Existing facilities at the site near Koppies.



Fig.7 Sleeping facilities at Koppies.



Fig.8 The swimming pool.



Fig.9 The farm buildings.



Fig.10 Existing ablation facilities at the site.



Fig.11 One of the graves some way from the development site.



Fig.12 More graves at the site.



Fig.13 An old grave at the site.



Fig.14 A very old grave at the site.