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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ANIMAL BREEDING
STATION AT THE FARMS RIETKUIL 110, DAMPOORT 327,
WINKELHAAKDAM 455, MT SINAI 292, GIBSON 294 & VAN
VUURENSKOP 457, VREDEFORT, FREE STATE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed animal breeding station for the Johannesburg Zoological Gardens is planned on the farms Rietkuil 110, Dampoort 327, Winkelhaakdam 455, Mt Sinai 292, Gibson 294 & Van Vuurenskop 457, near Vredefort, Free State.

The archaeological and cultural remains are located outside the proposed area of development and will not be affected by the planned developments.

No reason could be found to delay further developments and planning of the site.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The sites for the proposed animal breeding developments at Vredefort were visited on 23 August 2006 (Fig.1).

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 animal breeding station for the Johannesburg Zoological Gardens is planned on the farms Rietkuil 110, Dampoort 327, Winkelhaakdam 455, Mt Sinai 292, Gibson 294 & Van Vuurenskop 457, near Vredefort, Free State (Map 2) (Surveyor-General 1973).

The proposed area of development lies along the S212 to Schoemansdrift on a turn-off from the S210 to Reitzburg (Map 1).

The surface consists of tall natural grass pristine grass cover.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2729DA 1987):

Staff quarters	26°55'55"S 027°19'00"E	Altitude 1453m (Fig.11).
Bird Sanctuary	26°55'20"S 027°18'43"E	Altitude 1479m (Fig.1).
Lions Den	26°55'13"S 027°18'57"E	Altitude 1473m (Fig.2).
Shed / Office	26°55'15"S 027°18'47"E	Altitude 1474m (Fig.3).
Main House	26°55'10"S 027°18'50"E	Altitude 1475m (Fig.4).
High Point	26°54'09"S 027°19'04"E	Altitude 1571m (Figs.5-6).
Stone-walls	26°54'07"S 027°18'59"E	Altitude 1574m (Figs.7-8).
Stone-walls	26°54'10"S 027°19'00"E	Altitude 1561m (Figs.9-10).

RESULTS

The remains of a stone-walled structures occur higher up in the hills. No indication of any archaeological or historical material was found at the different sites proposed for development.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed animal breeding developments at Vredefort will have no impact on any cultural heritage remains of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site and I recommend that the proposed residential developments at Vredefort should proceed.

MITIGATION

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

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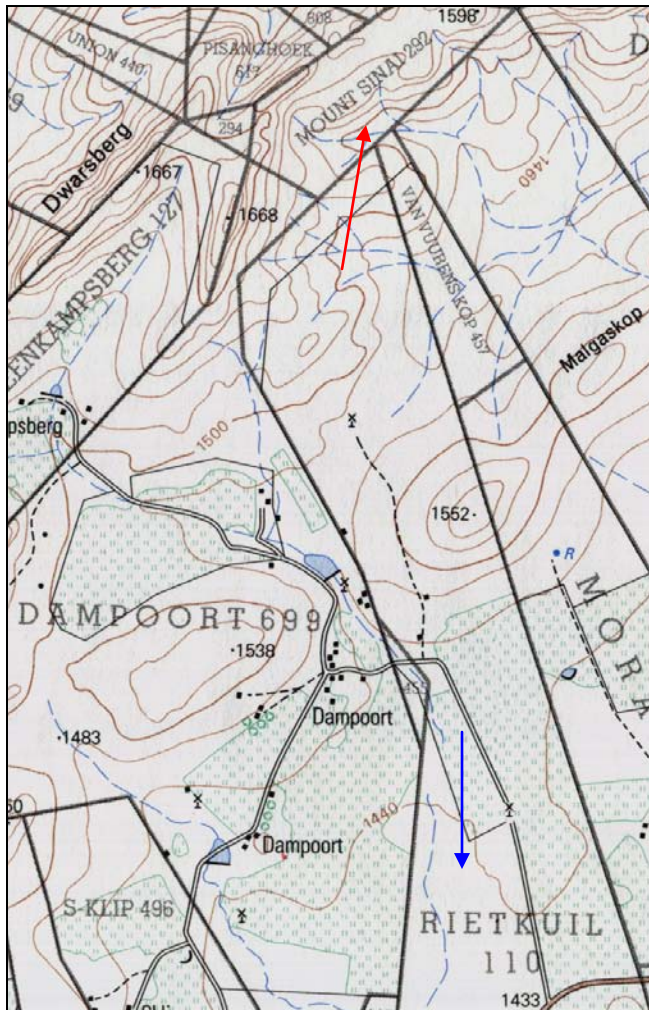
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Vredefort in relation to Parys, Potchefstroom and Vanderbijlpark.



Map 2 Locality of the farms Rietkuil 110, Dampoort 327, Winkelhaakdam 455, Mt Sinai 292, Gibson 294 and Van Vuurenskop 457, Vredefort (2627CD).



Fig.1 The site proposed for the erection of the bird sanctuary.



Fig.2 View down the slope towards the railway line in the south.



Fig.3 The shed / office.



Fig.4 The main house.



Fig.5 From the high point on the farm facing south.



Fig.6 Looking down towards the area of development at the foot of the hill.



Fig.7 Stone-wall on the farm Rietkuil 110, Vredefort.



Fig.8 Stone-walls show the traditional building style of two separate outer walls with rubble infill in the centre.



Fig.9 A large stone enclosure.



Fig.10 Stone-walled enclosure.



Fig.11 Staff quarters.