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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT THE FARM DONKERHOEK 392, BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A residential development is planned on Portions 4 and 5 of the farm Donkerhoek 392, Bloemfontein. The area lies on a flood plane on the southern bank of Renosterspruit.

A sparse scatter of stone flakes was found.

No other archaeological and cultural remains occurred on the surface.

I recommend that the planning of the upgrading of the road may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

I was accompanied by Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, during the site visit on 28 May 2007.

The land along 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).

LOCALITY

The farm Donkerhoek 392, lies to the east of Bloemfontein (Map 1), along the Renosterspruit, a tributary to the Modder River (Map 2). Residential developments are planned on Portions 4 and 5 of the farm (Maps 3&4). The area lies on a flood plane on the southern bank of Renosterspruit. (Fig.2).

The soil surface is grass (Fig.3) covered with scattered clusters of bush (Fig.5). Along the river, there is a dense growth of Acacia karoo and Poplars (Fig.4).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2926AB):

Portion 4 A	29°01'55"S 026°20'10"E	Altitude 1308m (Fig.1).
Portion 4 B	29°02'16"S 026°20'26"E	Altitude 1310m (Fig.2)
Border Ptn 4 / 5	29°02'39"S 026°20'27"E	Altitude 1312m (Fig.3).
Portion 5 A	29°02'24"S 026°20'47"E	Altitude 1312m (Fig.4).
Portion 5 B	29°02'47"S 026°20'27"E	Altitude 1308m (Fig.5).

RESULTS

The investigation at Donkerhoek 392 produced two small collections of stone flakes (Figs.7&8). The artefacts were found sparsely scattered on the surface on top of the alluvial sand deposit (Fig.2).

Some of the flakes showed a single ridge on the dorsal side, and possibly classified as resembling material from the Later Stone Age industry.

The recovered sample is too small to identify a clear lithic cluster or stone industry. It is therefore, not considered of very high significance.

No other archaeological and cultural remains occurred on the surface.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The development of a residential area along the southern bank of Renosterspruit on the farm Donkerhoek 392, will have no impact on any cultural, archaeological and historical remains on the surface.

The stone tools did not occur as a general distribution. The lithic assemblage is sparsely distributed on the surface and it is expected that the impact on the cultural heritage remains of the proposed developments at Donkerhoek 392, will be of minor significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the borrow pits 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 Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for accompanying me to the site.

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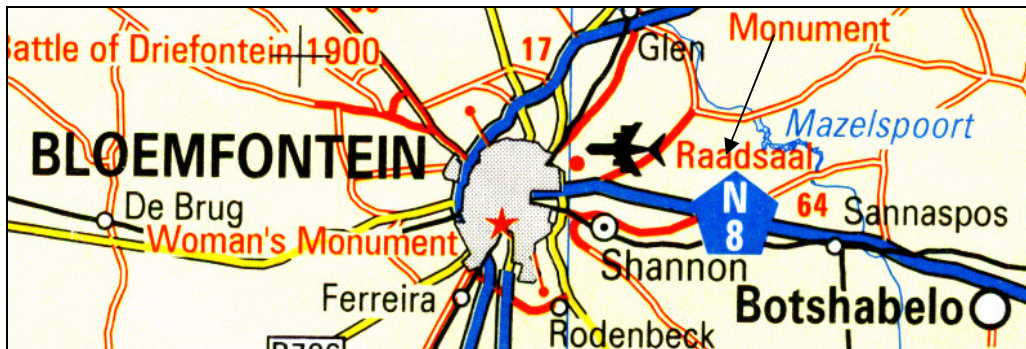
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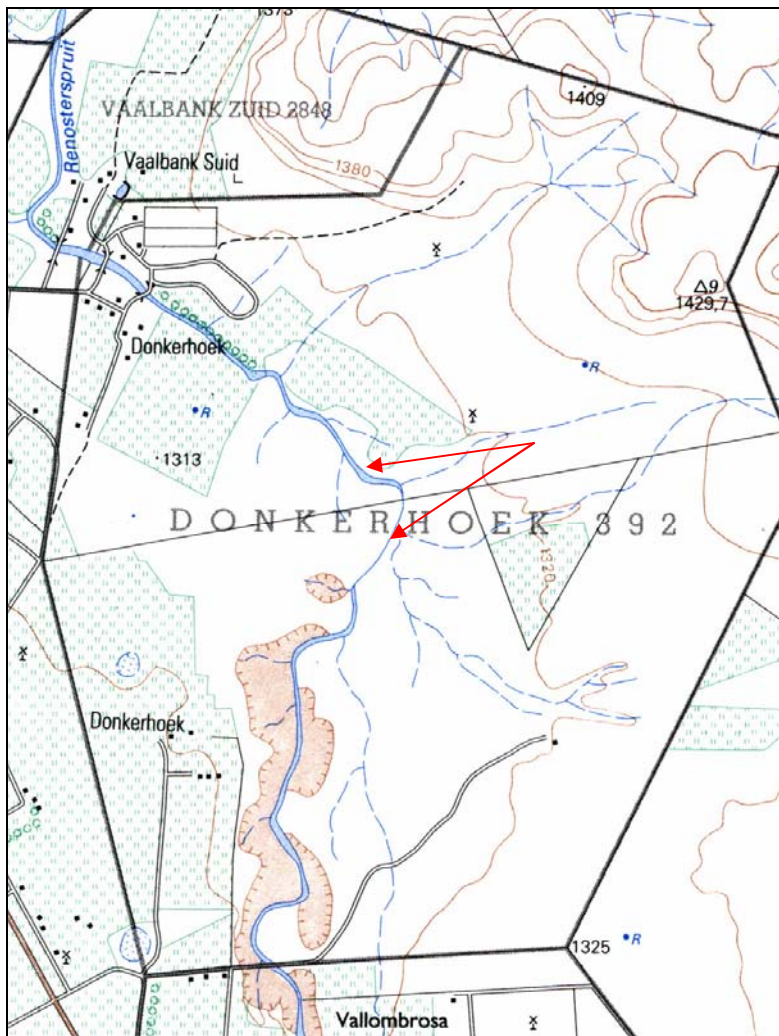
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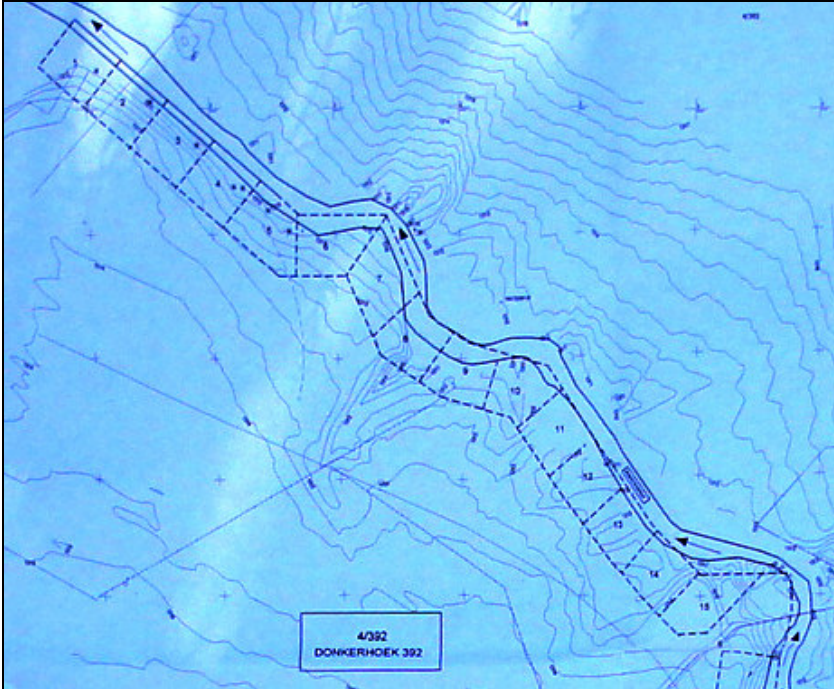
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



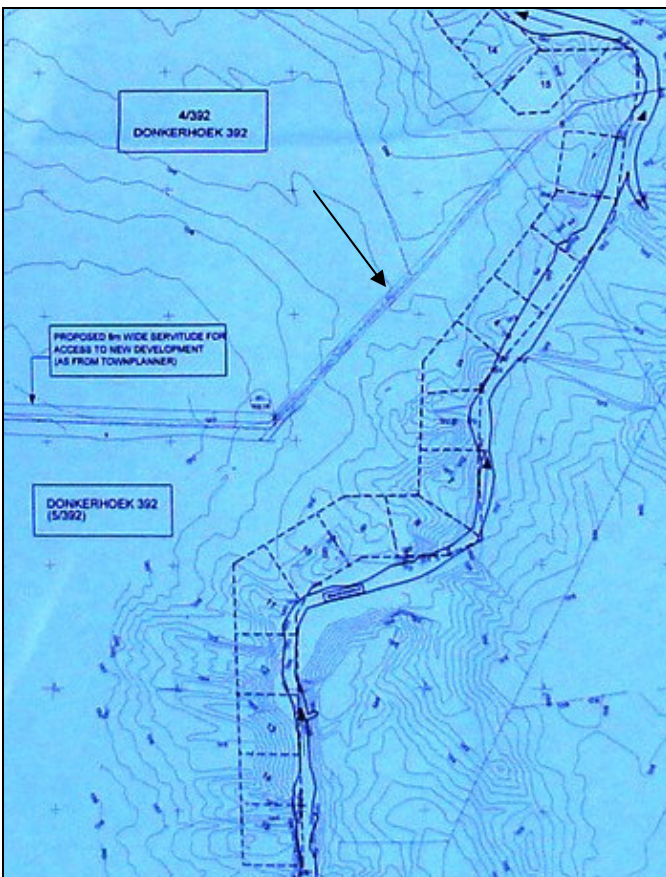
Map 1 The locality of the farm Donkerhoek 392 near Maselspoort and the Bloemfontein Airport.



Map 2 The farm Donkerhoek 392, with Renosterspruit winding towards the Modder River (2926AB).



Map 3 Locality of developments at Portion 4 of Donkerhoek 392, Bloemfontein.



Map 4 Locality of developments at Portion 5 of Donkerhoek 392, Bloemfontein.
Arrow indicates proposed new access road.



Fig.1 Point A at Donkerhoek 392 Portion 4, Bloemfontein, facing west.



Fig.2 Point B at Donkerhoek 392 Portion 4, Bloemfontein, facing west.



Fig.3 Border between Portions 4 & 5 of Donkerpoort 392, Bloemfontein.



Fig.4 Point A at Donkerhoek 392 Portion 5, Bloemfontein, facing north.



Fig.5 Point B at Donkerhoek 392 Portion 5, Bloemfontein, facing south.



Fig.6 View along the proposed access road to the residential area. See Map 4.



Fig.7 Lithic material from Portion 4, Donkerhoek 392, Bloemfontein.



Fig.8 Lithic material from Portion 5, Donkerhoek 392, Bloemfontein.