



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**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED WATER RESERVOIR AND PIPELINE INSTALLATION AT VAN STADENSUS, FREE STATE

INVESTIGATION

The land identified for the installation of a water reservoir and pipeline at Van Stadensrus was visited on 29 March 2006.

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 installation of a water reservoir and pipeline will be connected from two boreholes on the commonage of Van Stadensrus. (2927CC) (Map 2).

The area lies adjacent to the existing town and the remains of previous developments are still seen at the site (Figs.5&6).

The area contains a dense grass cover and lies at the foot of the hill.

The following GPS co-ordinates (Cape scale) were taken.

Bore hole 2 29°59'42"S 027°01'30"E Altitude 1485m (Fig.1)

Bore hole 3 29°59'24"S 027°01'22"E Altitude 1480m (Fig.2)

Stone foundations 29°59'41"S 027°01'30"E Altitude 1485m (Figs3&4.).

Old abattoir 29°59'19"S 027°01'21"E Altitude 1487m (Fig.5).

Chicken penn 29°59'17"S 027°01'18"E Altitude 1483m (Fig.6).

Road Crossing 29°59'11"S 027°01'16"E Altitude 1490m (Fig.8).

FINDS

A cluster of foundations of rectangular and circular stone-walled structures were found in the area near borehole 3 (Figs.3&4). The origin and purpose of these features could not be ascertained. They do not seem to be of any cultural or historical significance.

The land lies adjacent to the residential area and were used as common grazing area for many years. The abandoned buildings date from the recent past and have no obvious historical value.

The area does not contain any archaeological, cultural or historical remains.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

After examination, I recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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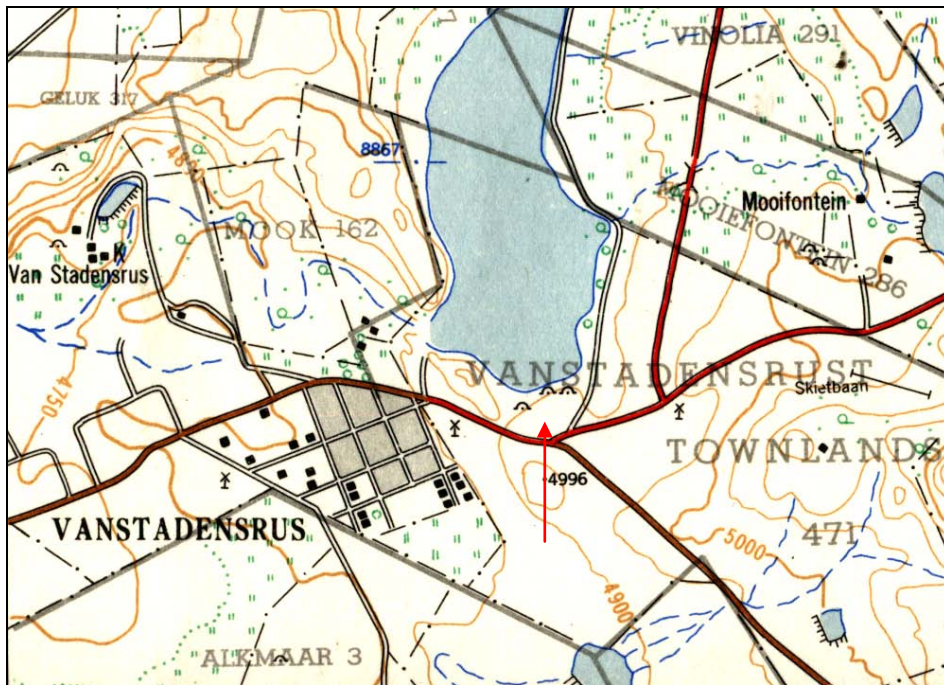
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Van Stadensrus in relation to Smithfield, Rouxville and Aliwal North.



Map 2 Position of water reservoir and pipeline at Van Stadensrus (2927CC).



Fig.1 Borehole 2.



Fig.2 View from borehole 3 facing east towards the water reservoir.



Fig.3 Foundation of a rectangular structure near borehole 3.



Fig.4 Base of a circular stone wall near borehole 3.



Fig.5 An old abattoir View along the proposed route of the pipeline.



Fig.6 An unused chicken run dating from about 2002.



Fig.7 View from the entrance road into Van Stadensrus facing south along the proposed pipeline route.



Fig.8 View along the entrance road into Van Stadensrus.