

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON PORTIONS 1 AND 2 OF FARM NO 123 (BELLA RIVA & FARMIKA), FISANTEKRAAL, DURBANVILLE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

(as part of an EIA in terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA)

Prepared for

Withers Environmental Consultants

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Contracts Office was requested by Withers Environmental Consultants to conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment of a proposed golf estate on Portions 1 and 2 of Farm no 123 (known as Bella Riva and Farmika), at Fisantekraal. The location of the site in overall local context is shown in Figure 1, while a more detailed aerial photograph of the area is shown in Figure 2. The development layout and footprint is shown in Figure 3. This study was directed at identifying sites of archaeological and or heritage significance.

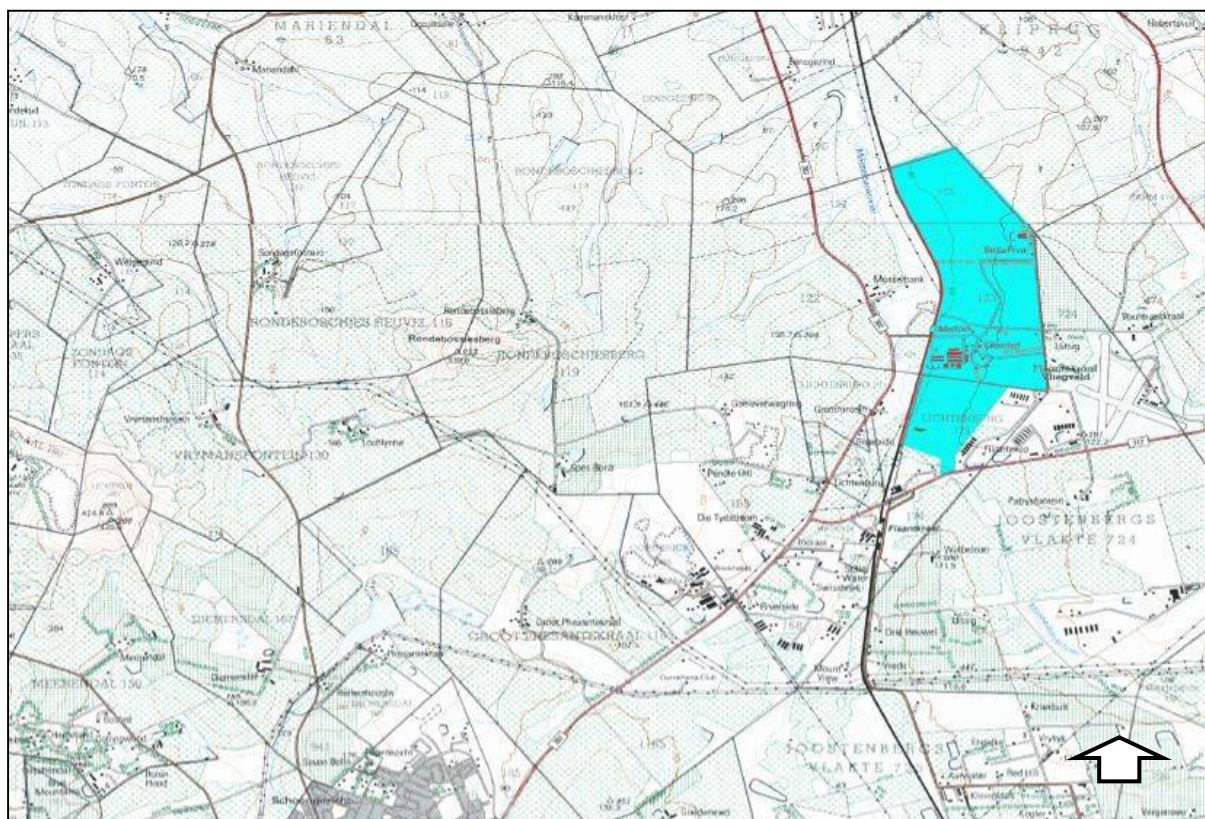


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the property (blue) in overall local context (3318DC Bellville & 3318DA Philadelphia). Fisantekraal airfield is visible on the extreme east of the map. Mapping information supplied by: Chief Directorate Surveys and Mapping - web: w3sli.wcape.gov.za



Figure 2: Map showing the development footprint in yellow. Aerial photography: Google Earth.



Figure 3: The proposed development layout (Plan by TV3 Planners dated 12.02.2008).

2. RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

Large portions of the property have been used for agriculture use and plough marks are readily visible. Current land use includes cattle farming and grazing, an extensive sand mining operation, animal feed factory, and fertiliser plant. Several chicken houses are found on adjacent land. In addition the southern portion of the site is currently used as a quad bike course and is severely degraded (see Figure 2). The ground slopes gently from west to east down towards the Mosselbank River.

3. METHODS

The site was visited on 4 April 2008 by Mr. Dave Halkett and Mr Phillip Hine. The area was traversed by vehicle and on foot. Certain areas were grass covered but did not significantly hamper our ability to identify archaeological sites.

4. RESULTS

Only one archaeological site was identified on this extensive property. The location is shown in Figure 2.

4.1 FSK 1

Type: Stone artefact scatter

Location: 33°46'5.92"S 18°43'34.93"E (WGS84)



Plates 1a & 1b. The photo on the left shows the general location of the site. The stone scatter is close to a silcrete source although that has been disturbed and scraped into piles. The photo on the right shows a close up of the silcrete pile.

Description: A small, low density stone artefact scatter situated on a gravel terrace in the southern part of the proposed development area close to a silcrete source. The artefacts are likely to be from the Early Stone Age, although no highly distinctive tools of that period were noted. Fresh damage has probably resulted from ploughing. Although in a plough zone, the scatter was confined to an area of approximately 10m². Although the silcrete has been disturbed, the absence of ploughing and presence of a small stand of blue gum trees, suggest that the silcrete raft extends

below the surface. It was unusual that the artefact density in the vicinity was so low given the abundant raw material.

Another gravel terrace in the northern part of the area yielded no artefacts.



Plate 1: Examples of some of the artefacts. From top left to right: silcrete flake, silcrete core, quartzite core and flake.

5. CONCLUSION

The survey conducted on Farm 123 was aimed at identifying archaeological sites. A single stone artefact scatter of probable ESA/MSA age was identified though its context is severely compromised. The site is relatively small containing few artefacts and is associated with an old gravel terrace and silcrete “raft”. The scarcity of archaeological sites in the area is surprising. It may be possible that previous farming activity in the area resulted in the diminished visibility of sites.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The single archaeological site is of low heritage significance and no mitigation is suggested. No further archaeological work is required.