



Agency for Cultural Resource Management

Specialists in Archaeological Studies and Heritage Resource Management

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10 February 2003

Donec 11

Att: Marius van der Westhuizen
Boland Conservation Services

Dear Marius

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCAN PROPOSED EXPANSION OF EXISTING GOUDIN SPA RESORT

I visited the site of the proposed development, on Friday 7 February 2003.

A handful of Middle Stone Age¹ (MSA) and Later Stone Age² (LSA) tools were located in the 2-wheel track (part of the Badsberg trail), leading up to the spring near the rocky outcrop. The tools comprise a few large flakes, some with faceted platforms (a characteristic MSA feature), as well as some smaller LSA flakes and chunks, in fine-grained quartzite. A few LSA flakes and a chunk, in quartz were also found. These tools are commonly found throughout the region, and are not considered to be important.

No tools were located in the proposed development footprint.

However, some San (Bushman) paintings were found among the rocky outcrop near the spring in the south western portion of the site.

Three groups of paintings were found. The largest and most visible group of paintings are located on a north-facing wall of a large overhang of the main outcrop. Two closely spaced, curved lines in red ochre have been painted across the wall of the shelter. They enclose at least four indeterminate human figures, including one possible shaman/medicine man in trance, with characteristic bending forward posture. Two indeterminate antelope, one possibly an eland, are also visible. Directly next to and beneath two more, closely spaced curved lines, two more indeterminate human figures occur.

Some of these paintings have, unfortunately, been deliberately vandalised, chipped away and drawn over with black crayon.

One silcrete stone flake was found in the dipline below the overhang. No archaeological deposit occurs in the shelter.

A second group of paintings occur in a small, fire blackened overhang alongside the footpath, about 20 m north-east from the paintings described above. Here, two indeterminate human figures, a pairing of a bag, and two indeterminate antelope were found.

¹ A term referring to the period between 200 000 and 20 000 years ago.

² A term referring to the last 20 000 of precolonial history in southern Africa.

These paintings, in dark red coloured ochre, are relatively well preserved. A few smudges and scratches in red ochre were also noted. It seems as if soot from a fire in shelter has damaged some other paintings.

The last group of paintings were found about 15 m north-east of the spring. They occur in a shallow north-facing wall of a large sandstone boulder/overhang. The paintings here are very faded and almost indistinguishable (comprising just a few scratches and smudges). However, about 40 finger dots, painted in a light orange coloured ochre, were located to one side of the overhang, while another concentration of about 25 more finger dots, occur on the opposite end of the shelter.

Although the paintings, overall, are not very well preserved, they do represent an important heritage resource. The site is very accessible, and humans have already impacted negatively on the paintings.

The proposed development, with particular reference to the proposal to build a swimming pool behind the rocky outcrop, will obviously result in an increase of visitors to the area. This will very likely draw more people to the rock paintings and thus threaten the paintings even more.

It should be noted that archaeological sites, including rock paintings sites, are protected under the National Heritage Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999).

With regard to the proposed development, the following recommendations are therefore made:

- The site must be recorded in detail. This will entail detailed tracing, description and photographing of all the paintings. A report must also be produced.
- The graffiti must be removed by a professional archaeologist
- A Heritage Site Management Plan (HSMP) must be implemented. The HSMP must be included in the Construction and Operational Environmental Management Plan for the proposed project.

A HSMP will ensure that the paintings are protected during the construction phase of the proposed project.

The HSMP will also ensure that an increase of visitors to the area will not impact negatively on the paintings in the long term.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Kaplan