

S.A. COAL ESTATES
THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME REPORT
FOR
KLEINKOPJE COLLIERY
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT No.27

KLEINKOPJE COLLIERY

PHASE 1 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY OF
HISTORICAL SITES

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1. LOCATION

The Kleinkopje Colliery is situated on the following farms or parts thereof:

Kleinkopje 15 IS
 Landau 349 JS
 Naauwpoort 335 JS
 Schoongezicht 308 JS
 Wolvekran 17 IS
 Klippan 332 JS
 Elandsfontein 309 JS
 Groenfontein 331 JS
 Klipfontein 322 JS

This is between 29 04' and 29 19' EL and 25 53' and 26 45' SBr on maps 2529 CC Witbank, 2629 AA Ogies and 2629 AB Vandyksdrif of the South African 1:50 000 topographic series (figure 1).

2. OBJECTIVE

The survey was undertaken as an assignment for the landowner, Amcoal. The purpose was to find and evaluate archaeological and historical sites in three indicated areas. These areas are earmarked for mining activities in the near future.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

3.1 Description from the 1:50 000 topographic map

The area is very even as spaces between the contours are wide. A number of pans are spread around in the area. Much of the area has been disturbed by agricultural activities. A number of rocky outcrops occur. The Olifantsriver and Tweefonteinspruit drains the area in the southeast. Few trees exist and are found in isolated spots. Parts of the land has been disturbed by mining activities.

3.2 DESCRIPTION AFTER AREA INSPECTION

The abovementioned was confirmed, but mining activities have increased from what was shown on the maps. Agricultural activities still exist on parts of the land.

The three areas of survey are even, with a slight drop where pans occur. Some sandstone builders were found, but these are too brittle to be used as building material. No natural shelter exists. No other stone material was found, which reduces the chance of finding stone age material.

Too few trees exist to be used by an iron age community for fuel and building material. The Olifantsriver may have made the area more inviting for settlers, however no archaeological material was found along the river.

4. THE SURVEY

Large parts of the surveyed areas were formerly and is currently disturbed as a result of agricultural activities. As a result of this no sites were found on these areas.

The remainder of the areas were thoroughly surveyed. There was little chance of finding sites here, as a result of the following:

- a. No natural shelter
- b. The area is even with no heights whatsoever
- c. No material for fuel and building exists
- d. No material to be used by stone age people exists

Sites that were found includes a number of graves, some farm houses and a kraal built of sandstone.

5. SITES FOUND

5.1 5 West mining block

5.1.1 Graves

In the southeastern portion of the area an old graveyard was found (figure 2). It consisted of approximately 12 graves, hidden in long grass. No fence exist, but signs of a former fence was seen. The graves were clearly older than fifty years.

Six graves were unmarked and were no more than packed heaps of stone. Five more graves had cement tombstones, but were still unmarked (figure 3). Only one grave was marked (figure 4). It had a cement tombstone. It read: Thomas Mahlan Guwaiala
14.7.19

5.1.2 Kraal

A kraal built from sandstone was found in the southeastern portion of the area, about 200m southwest of the abovementioned graves (figure 5). It is a square structure with an entrance on the eastern side (figure 6). It includes, what seems to be a kraal for calves, attached to it (Naude 1988:210) (figure 7). It's planform is very similar to that of kraal's generally found in the Transvaal, as found by Naude (1988:216) in a study on Transvaal farm structures and buildings.

As no remains of a settlement were found in this area, it is believed to have been built by Europeans. It was probably built there because it is near the river. It is strange that no trace of a farm house or it's remains were found in this area (Naude 1988:208; Naude and Van Vollenhoven 1991:13).

The square form also suggest that it is a European structure. This would probably place it in the latter half of the previous century or early in this century (Naude 1988:208-218).

5.2 Block 3A

No site/structure was found in this area.

5.3 Block 2A

5.3.1 Farm houses

A number of farm houses are situated on the eastern side of block 2A. They are currently used as residences and would not be affected by the future mining activities. Although clearly older than fifty years, no one of these has architectural features of particular importance. All of them have also been renovated since they were built.

5.3.2 Graves

A neat graveyard was found just east of the houses. All the graves are marked and most of them are older than fifty years. They are graves of Europeans. As the farmhouses, the graveyard will not be affected by the future mining activities, although it is situated just east thereof.

6. LEGISLATION

All graves older than fifty years are protected by the National Monuments Act (Act 28 of 1969). To move the graves in the 5 West mining block a permit from the National Monuments Council is needed. This can be obtained from their Transvaal Branch at Pretoria, tel.no. (012) 326-1516/7/8.

The graves in block 2A is in no danger, but if the need arises to move them, it could be handled under the same legislation. However, the graves younger than fifty years are protected by provincial legislation, i.e. the Transvaal ordinance on the removing of dead bodies and graves (ordinance no. 7 of 1925). This states that graves could be moved and bodies reburied if written sanction is obtained from the Administrator of Transvaal. He will give permission if the party who wishes to move graves can prove that the descendants of the dead agree to such a move or that they did everything possible to find any descendants, but were unsuccessful. It is important to remember that a suitable site for reburial must be found.

Any site older than fifty years are protected by the National Monuments Act. If there is a future need to mine where the farmhouses are, I see no need for them to be protected as they are of no architectural, historical, cultural or scientific value. However, a permit for this still has to be obtained from the National Monuments Council.

The most important find is the cattle kraal in the 5 West mining block. As this is but one of a number of well known similar structures (Naude 1988:208-218) it's scientific value decreases. For this reason it should not be in the way of mining activities. However, if it is to be demolished a permit has to be obtained from the National Monuments Council.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 As the graves in the 5 West mining block are in the way of future mining activities it should be moved. They may be moved, after a permit for this has been obtained from the National Monuments Council. The regulations of these legislation should be followed. As a result of this report no problem in this matter is foreseen.

7.2 The farm houses and graves in block 2A is not presently in danger. If in future they are in the way of mining activities, permits for the demolition and moving thereof should be obtained from the National Monument Council and the T.P.A. As a result of this report, permits will be obtained easily.

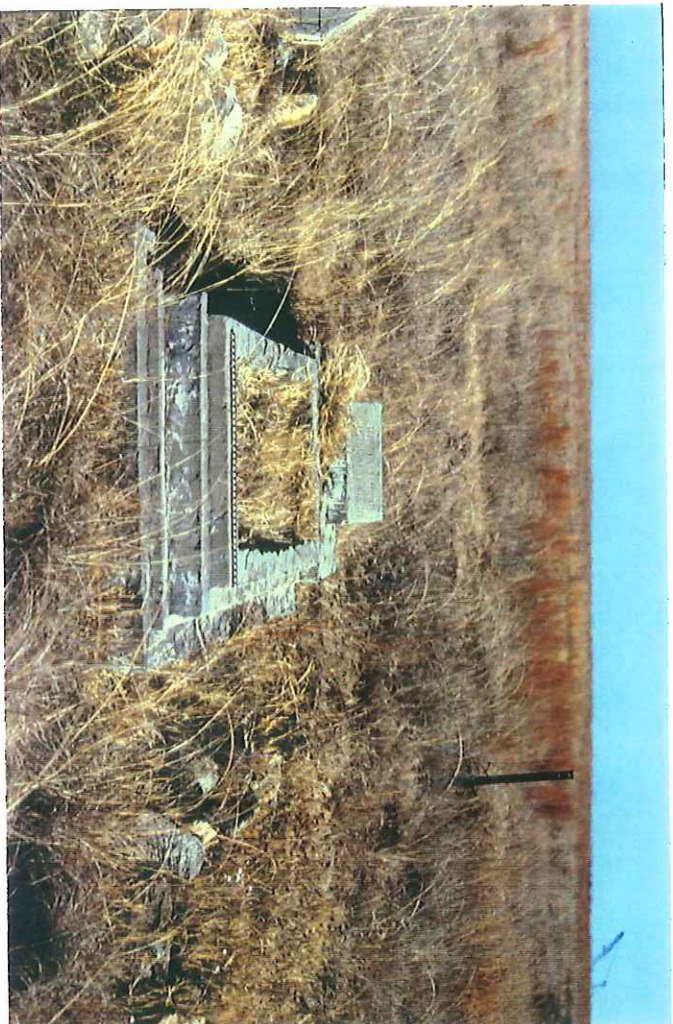
7.3 Although the cattle kraal in block 5 West is older than fifty years it is of minor importance. Thus it may be demolished, but only after obtaining a permit for this from the National Monuments Council. This shouldn't be a problem as a result of this report. If mining activities reveal more information on this and it seems to be of a higher historical value, it should be re-evaluated by an archaeologist.

7.4 If any other archaeological or historical feature is found during mining activities, an archaeologist should immediately be contracted to evaluate the importance thereof.

8. Illustrations

1. Location of the mining are of the Kleinkopje Colliery (South African 1:50 000 Topographic map series, 2529 CC Witbank, 2629 AA Ogies and 2629 AB Vandyksdrif).

Brown = Boundaries of Kleinkopje Colliery
Yellow = Graveyard
Orange = Kraal
Pink = Farmhouses



2. The graveyard in the 5 West mining block shows graves with cement tombstones and stone heaps.

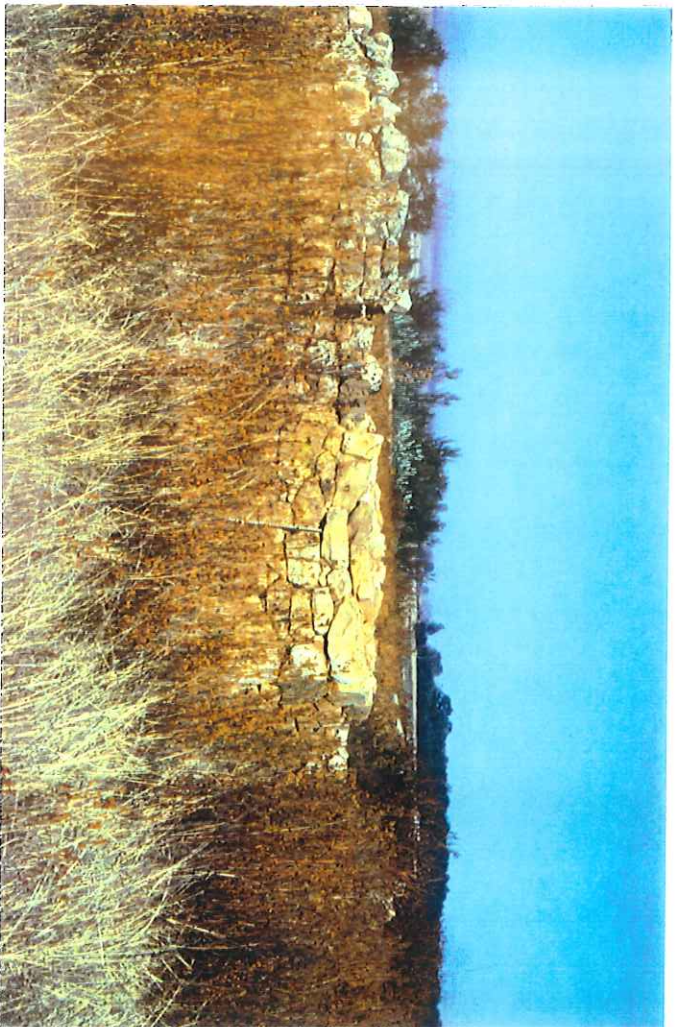
3. Unmarked graves with cement tombstones in the graveyard in the 5 West mining block.





4. The only marked grave in the graveyard in the 5 West mining block.

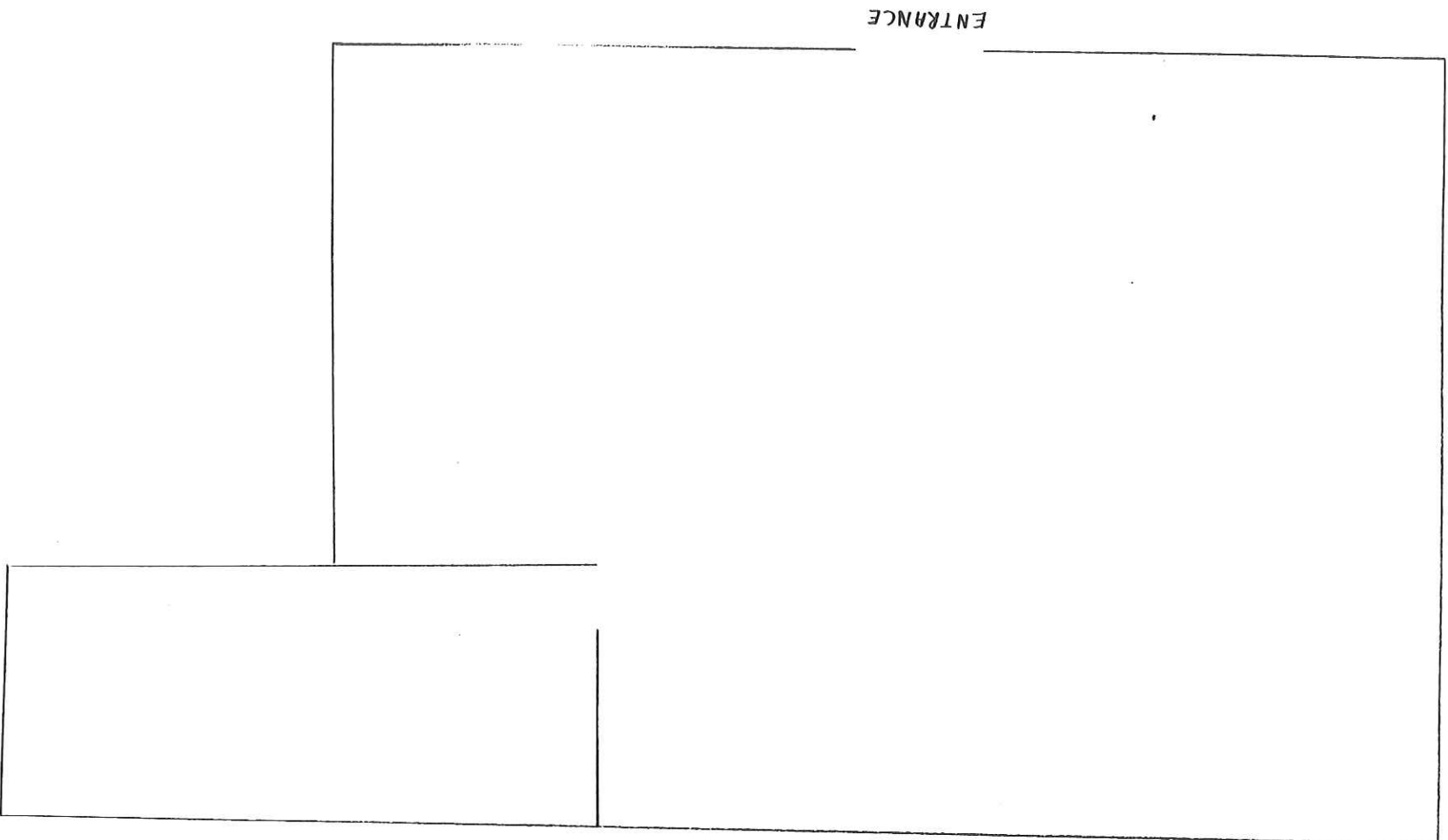
5. The cattle kraal, built of sandstone, in the 5 West mining block.





6. The entrance to the cattle kraal in the 5 West mining block.

7. Rough sketch of the cattle kraal and adjacent calves kraal in the 5 West mining block.



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