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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT ON PORTION 5 OF BRANDKOP 702, BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nemai Consulting, Sunninghill, has been appointed by Mangaung Metro Municipality as an Independent Environmental Practitioner to undertake the environment assessment for a mixed-use development at Portion 5 of the farm Brandkop 702. A first phase archaeological and heritage assessment was undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to assess the impacts of the proposed development.

The original farmyard contains several historical buildings, which date from about 1876, or even earlier. Other remains of previous farming activities occur in the form of corrugated iron buildings, concrete foundations, several water reservoir dams, irrigation furrows, stone steps and terrace walls. The farm used to be part of an important historical period in the history of Bloemfontein. None of the buildings on the property is declared National Monuments. According to inscriptions on a gable of the main residence, the original house was erected in 1876 and was renovated and extended in 1919, with more alterations added through the years. The first occupants planted many trees, of which some are still growing. The farmyard lies outside the proposed developments and will not be affected by the present project.

A graveyard near the farmhouse contains the burials of members of the Fichardt-family, the first occupants, who were all former prominent citizens of Bloemfontein.

Little is known about the impact of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) activities at Brandkop. General French and his Rimington Scouts immediately took possession of the farm on their approach to occupy Bloemfontein. Schoeman (1980) relates that the Fichardt-family retreated to their town residence in Bloemfontein and their daughters were sent to Cape Town. By investigations

during several site visits, I could not find any proof of the presence of the British troops in the form of fired British ,303-inch calibre rifle cartridge cases or food tin remains dating from the Anglo-Boer War.

The new developments will not affect the old farmyard and will have no impact on the cultural heritage and historical environment of the area.

I recommend that the proposed plans may proceed and further planning of the project may continue. No mitigation measures will be needed.

As a precautionary measure, in case of contractors accidentally finding any potential heritage items such as graves or ash heaps, the work must stop and I should be notified about the finds.

INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION

Mangaung Metro Municipality is planning a mixed-use development at Portion 5 of the farm Brandkop 702, outside Bloemfontein. The development will consist of roads and public open spaces, various housing units with educational-, business- and transport facilities.

The survey is based on several site visits since 2008, which concentrated on the occurrence of archaeological, historical and other cultural material.

Scope and Limitations

The investigation provided the opportunity to examine the site along the R706 main road to Jagersfontein. The northern part of the study area is characterised by a disorganized fabrication of structures of pole, fencing wire and corrugated iron sheet stock enclosures (Figs.18-24). This set-up represents an assembly of informal cattle, sheep and pig farming activities, which creates a serious health threat on the outskirts of the city of Bloemfontein (Fig.25).

Several storm water ditches run through the property from north to south down the slope towards the road and accumulates into a soil wall dam (Figs.16&17).

The southern part of the land consists of plough lands used for intensive crop cultivation (Fig.11).

No limitations were experienced during the site visit.

The investigation provided an opportunity to:

- Examine the total piece of land of about 256ha proposed for the developments.
- Document and plot all features of archaeological, historical and heritage value.
- Evaluate any potential impact on heritage resources caused by construction, operational and maintenance activities.
- Recommend mitigation measures preventing damage to areas of heritage importance.
- In case of the contractors accidentally finding any potential heritage items such as graves or ash heaps, the work must stop and I should be notified about the finds

Methodology

1. Standard archaeological survey and recording methods applied.
2. Survey of literature & previous HIA reports.
3. Site inspection by vehicle and on foot.
4. Layout of the land and features plotted by GPS.
5. Surroundings and features recorded on camera.
6. Preparation of maps & literature.
7. Research on the history, archaeology & heritage remains.
8. Prepare maps with coordinates transferred to Google Earth.

Previous knowledge includes heritage impact investigations (HIA) on the bypass water pipeline by Bloem Water (Dreyer 2014) and many Heritage Impact Assessments around Bloemfontein.

The criteria used in the identification of features, is based on the mere presence of archaeological and/or cultural material. In the present case, it was not expected to find any Anglo-Boer War material or other cultural or historical remnants.

INVESTIGATION

The mixed-use residential development at Portion 5 of the farm Brandkop 702, outside Bloemfontein, will consist of roads and public open spaces, various housing units, educational-, business- and transport facilities.

Nemai Consulting, Sunninghill supplied information on the locality of the proposed site and the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the project. Earlier site visits took place on 27 March 2008, 7 and 17 April 2008, 8 July 2010, 4 July 2014 and again on 10 May 2015. The layout of the land was plotted by GPS and photographs were taken to record the environment. The site was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential

impact on any cultural material. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act. 108 of 1998).

The study aims to locate and evaluate the significance of cultural and heritage sites, archaeological material, manmade structures older than 60 years, and sites associated with oral histories and graves that could be affected by the proposed developments. Planted and self-sown trees and other types of vegetation determine a major part of the historical landscape of human settlement in villages and towns, on farmyards or even deserted places in the open veld, show evidence of human activity that should be recognised and taken into consideration during any cultural or historical investigation.

Anglo-Boer War (1900-1902) bivouac, camping and skirmish sites occur in the Free State, where distinctive food cans and specific types and calibres of fired cartridge cases normally identify these places.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological environment of the Free State Province is rich and diverse, representing a long time span during the human past. Certain Later Iron Age sites elsewhere on the Southern High Veld have produced important archaeological information (Maggs 1976, Mason 1962, 1986, Evers 1988). These Iron Age sites date between 1660 AD and 1810 AD. The Later Iron Age phase brought people who cultivated crops, kept livestock, produced an abundance of pottery in a variety of shapes and sizes and smelted metals. Extensive stone walled enclosures characterise their permanent settlements. These living places are known from the Batlokwa settlements at Nkwe near Verkykerskop north of Harrismith, the prominent Sotho/Tswana settlements in the Vredefort Dome, Doringberg (Maphororong) near Ventersburg, Viervoet (Tihela) at Clocolan, Biddulpsberg (Kurutlele) at Senekal and Marabeng near Ficksburg. A number of Taaibos Korana and other Griqua groups, remnants of the Later Stone Age peoples, managed to survive the assimilation by Sotho/Tswana tribes in the region.

Dramatic climate changes during the early 19th century resulted in a rapid population growth along the east coast of South Africa. Increased pressure on natural resources, together with the control of trade caused the emergence of dominant leaders in the area. Subsequent power struggles resulted in a period of instability in the central parts of Southern Africa. This period of strife or wars of devastation, known as “difaqane” (Sotho/Tswana) or “Mfecane” (Nguni), affected many of the Black tribes in the interior. Attacks from east of the escarpment initiated by the AmaZulu impis of Chaka in about 1822, were sustained by the AmaNdebele of Mzilikazi and the AmaNgwane of Matiwane into the Free State, thus uprooting among others, the Batlokwa of Sekonyela and Mantatise and

various smaller Sotho/Tswana tribes. On their turn, the Batlokwa drove off the Bafokeng of Sebetoane from Kurutlele (Biddulphsberg) near Senekal, who, in their effort to escape the pursuit by Mzilikazi's AmaNdebele forces, eventually landed up in the Caprivi (Smith 1956, Dreyer & Kilby 2003). This period of unrest directly affected the peoples of the Free State, Northern Cape, Northwest Province and the southern parts of the land across the Vaal River, resulting in the displacement of scores of tribesmen, women and children. The stronger tribal groups, such as the AmaNdebele of Mzilikazi, assimilated many of these refugees.

Early European missionaries and travellers ventured into the interior of the country during the 19th century (Dreyer 2001). The Rev James Archbell established the missionary at Thaba Nchu by 1834, while several of the marauding hordes affected the lives of the Batswana people living at Dithakong, the mission station of Robert and Mary Moffat near Kuruman.

Ancient Batswana tribes take their 18th and 19th century roots back to the Setlagole area and in the Delareyville, Schweizer Reneke and Mafikeng districts of the North West Province (Bergh & Bergh 1984).

Despite the placing of the central and eastern Free State within this potentially rich cultural region, Maggs' (1976) archaeological survey is limited to the north of the 30°S line, excluding the Bloemfontein, Thaba Nchu and Ladybrand areas. Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) around Bloemfontein (Dreyer 2014) and Thaba Nchu Mountain (Dreyer 2006) produced a variety of material of cultural and historical significance. In the immediate surroundings of Bloemfontein, the research shows the absence of Later Iron Age sites to the south and west of Osberg (28°57'01"S 026°23'15"E, 1398m) near Glen Agricultural College on the N1 main road north of Bloemfontein.

ANGLO-BOER WAR (1899-1902)

The Anglo-Boer War saw five month into action and the battles of Belmont, Graspan, Magersfontein and Paardeberg were history. Bloemfontein was occupied on 13 March 1900, leaving the way open for Lord Roberts to prepare for the onslaught on Pretoria. Between 15 and 28 March 1900, nearly 40 000 British troops gathered around Bloemfontein, a situation which placed a further impact on the already overloaded infrastructure of the town.

Little information is known about the impact of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) activities at Brandkop. On their surprise approach from the south to occupy Bloemfontein, General French with the Rimington Scouts immediately took possession of the farm. When Gustav Adolph Fichardt died on 6 June 1900, the Fichardt-family retreated to their town house in Bloemfontein, while sending their daughters to Cape Town (Schoeman 1980). Investigations during several site

visits by the present author, did not produce any fired British ,303-inch calibre rifle cartridge cases or food tin remains dating from the Anglo-Boer War.

HISTORY THE BRANDKOP FARM

Aspects of the history of certain individuals of the Fichardt-family had been investigated and documented by several historians and interested people (Schoeman 1980, Badenhorst 1979, Fichardt 1984, Haasbroek 1992, Bidwell 1986).

Gustav Adolph Fichardt (1834-1900) (Fig.1) bought the farm Brandkop in 1859. An inscription on a wall gable of the main residence, records that the original house was erected in 1876 and was renovated and extended in 1919 (Fig.3). More extensions and alterations followed through the years. The farmyard contains the main house, several cottages, a kraal and milking shed and other remains of previous farming activities in the form of corrugated iron buildings, concrete foundations, several water reservoir dams and irrigation furrows, stone steps and terrace walls (Figs.4-6).

LOCALITY

The land proposed for development lies adjacent and to the north west of the R706 main road to Jagersfontein (Maps 1-3). The suburb of Pellissier Park is located to the north of the proposed land (Map 1).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken on the outskirts of the proposed site (2926AA). Coordinate points are indicated on Map 4.

A	29°11'13"S 026°09'27"E	Altitude 1406m (Figs.7-10).
B	29°10'17"S 026°08'57"E	Altitude 1427m (Fig.11).
C	29°09'59"S 026°10'11"E	Altitude 1443m (Figs.12&13).
F	29°10'07"S 026°10'15"E	Altitude 1446m (Fig.14).
G	29°10'26"S 026°10'32"E	Altitude 1430m (Fig.15).
DAM	29°10'46"S 026°09'46"E	Altitude 1427m (Figs.16-17).

RESULTS

FINDS

The present site earmarked for developments is clearly part of the original natural land, with no graves, nor any archaeological, cultural or historical remains. The grave yard near the farm house is indicated on Map 2.

LANES OF TREES

Several lanes of Blue Gum trees mark out the entrance to the farmhouse at Brandkop from the south east over a distance of almost 3km (Map 4, Figs. 20-22). The trees are very old and it is recalled by the Fichardt descendants how, Gustav Adolph Fichardt, the first owner of the farm, used to walk out during his lunch hour to plant the seeds of the trees.

GRAVES

A graveyard near the farmhouse (Map 2) contains the burials of members of the Fichardt-family, the original owners of the farm, who were all former prominent citizens of Bloemfontein. The grave of Gustav Adolph Fichardt (1834-1900) and that of his wife Caroline Fichardt (Born Beck) (1843-1903), forms the nucleus of the graveyard at Brandkop (Fig.2).

INFORMAL STOCK KEEPING

The northern part of the study area is characterised by a disorganized collection of pole, fencing wire and corrugated iron sheet stock enclosures (Figs.18-24). This set-up represents a cluster of informal cattle, sheep and pig farming. Domestic rubble and sick and dying cattle and the carcasses of dead animals left to rot, create a serious health threat on the outskirts of the City of Bloemfontein (Fig.25-27).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The new developments will not affect the old farmyard and will have no impact on the cultural heritage and historical environment of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the planning of the proposed developments may proceed, providing that the necessary precautionary measures should be taken to prevent damage to any cultural remains.

To prevent any resistance from the informal farmers, I suggest that they should be convinced in a peaceful way, to move and relocate from the site, before any work is undertaken.

MITIGATION

No mitigation measures will be needed.

In case of the contractors finding any potential heritage items such as graves or ash heaps, the work must stop and I should be notified about the finds.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank the staff of the library at the National Museum, Bloemfontein, for access to the literature.

I owe gratitude to Gustav Fichardt from Bloemfontein and Zaza (Fichardt) Pieterse from Gröningen, Smithfield, for sharing their memories during a site visit.

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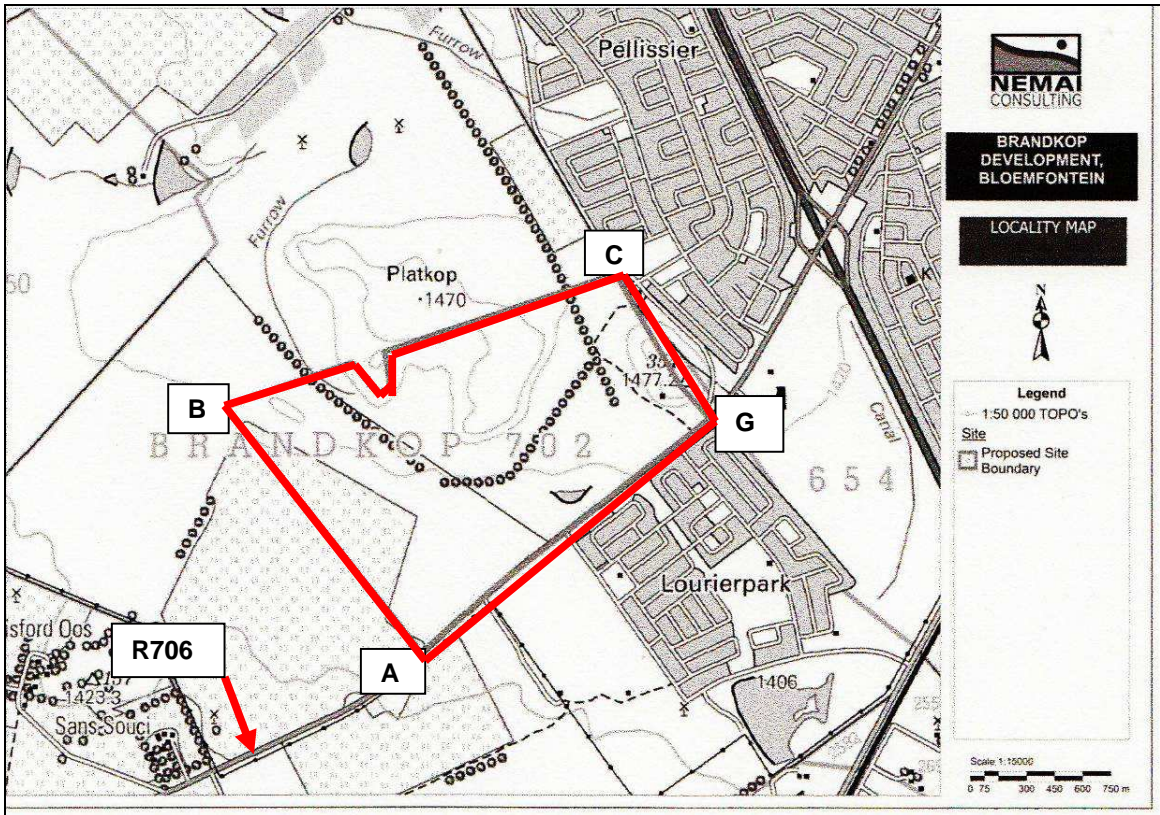
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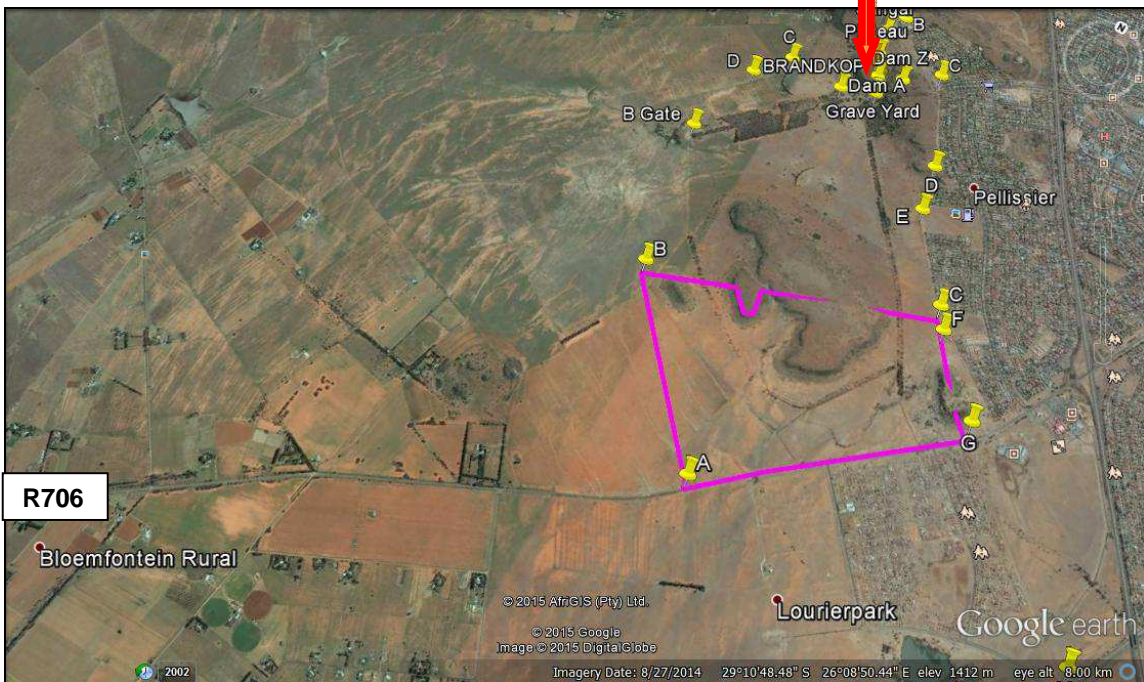
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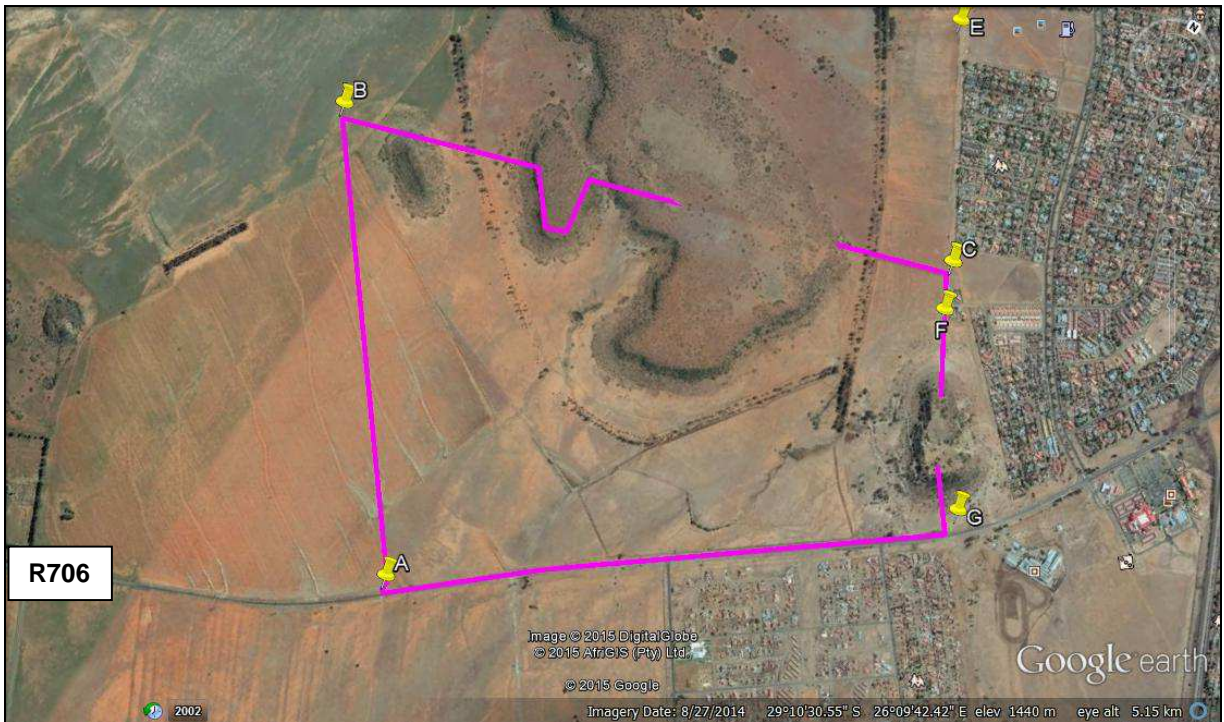
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



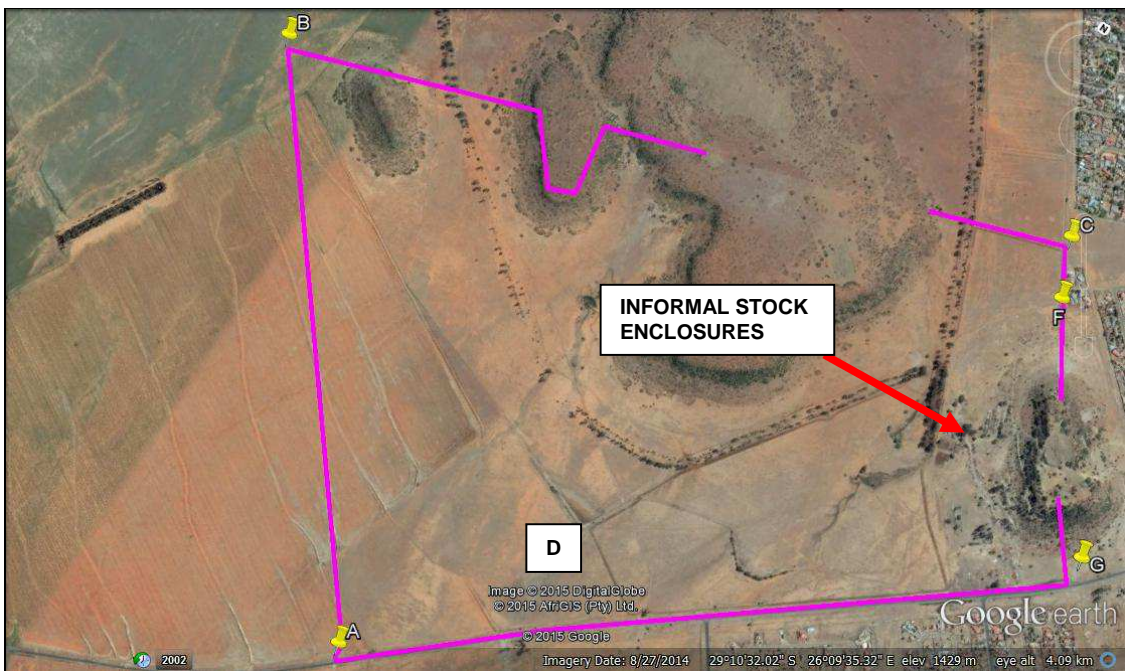
Map 1 Locality of the developments at Brandkop 702, Bloemfontein (2926AA.)



Map 2 The developments at Brandkop 702 in relation to the historical farm house.



Map 3 Locality of the developments at Brandkop 702, Bloemfontein.



Map 4 Layout of the developments at Brandkop 702, Bloemfontein. GPS points indicated.

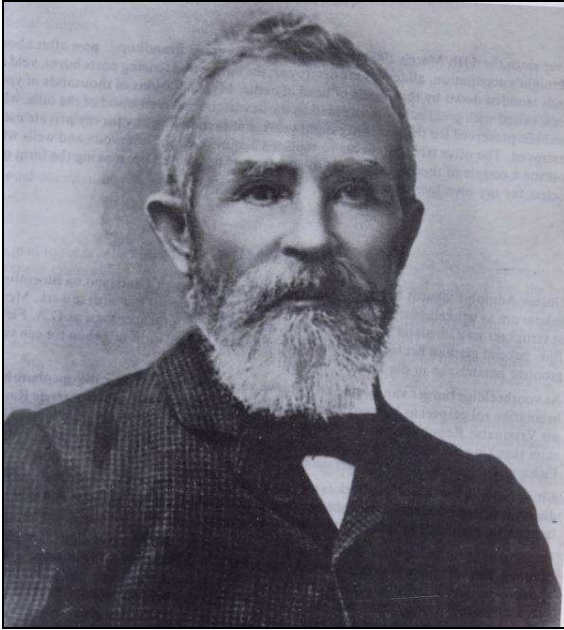


Fig.1 Gustav Adolph Fichardt (1834-1900), the first owner of the Brandkop farm.

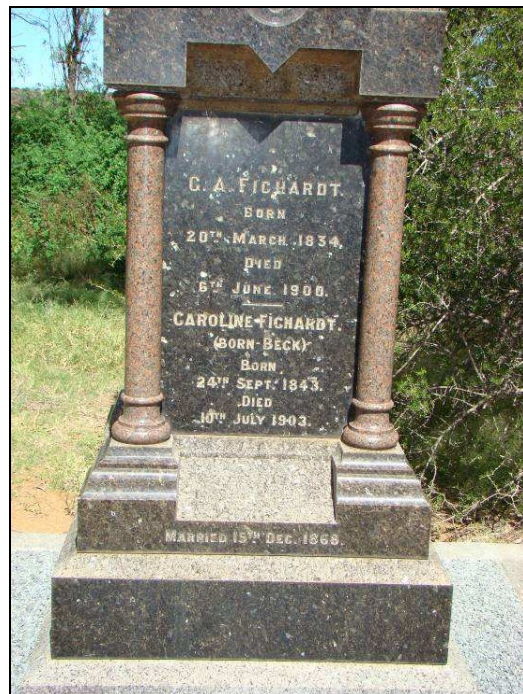


Fig.2 The grave of Gustav Adolph Fichardt (1834-1900) and his wife Caroline Fichardt (Born Beck) (1843-1903) at Brandkop.



Fig.3 Gable of the main house with inscription 1876 and 1919.



Fig.4 Corrugated iron shed.



Fig.5 Coco pan track carried fodder from the silo to the kraal.



Fig.6 Kraal wall at Brandkop. Mrs Zaza (Fichardt) Pieterse in photo.



Fig.7 Point A along the R706 to Jagersfontein.



Fig.8 Point A along the R706 to Jagersfontein.



Fig.9 Point A along the R706 to Jagersfontein.



Fig.10 Point A along the R706 to Jagersfontein.



Fig.11 Point B at Brandkop 702, Bloemfontein.



Fig.12 Point C at Brandkop 702, Bloemfontein. Suburb of Pellissier Park on left.



Fig.13 Point C at Brandkop 702, Bloemfontein.



Fig.14 Point F at Brandkop 702.



Fig.15 Point G along the R702 road to Jagersfontein.



Fig.16 Dam wall at Point D at Brandkop farm.



Fig.17 Dam wall at Point D at Brandkop farm.



Fig.18 Pigs kept at the site.



Fig.19 Stock enclosures at the site.



Fig.20 More stock enclosures at the proposed site.



Fig.21 Some more stock enclosures at the proposed site.



Fig.22 Stock loading bay at the site.



Fig.23 Informal housing of the herdsmen at the site



Fig.24 Enclosures for keeping pigs and poultry at the site.



Fig.25 Domestic rubbish creates unhealthy conditions at the site.



Fig.26 Dead cattle after an outbreak of black quarter at the site.
SPCA News Letter 2013.10.01.



BLOEMFONTEIN DBV

'n Klopjag is gedoen buite Mangaung waar 'n trop beeste loop. 'n Koei is daar aangetref wat glad nie kon opstaan nie. Sy was vreeslik swak en vermaer. Haar oë was reeds blou en glaserig. Haar agterbene was reeds styf en sy kon hulle glad nie beweeg nie. Genadedood is toegedien. Waarskuwings is voorheen aan dieselfde boer gegee, en klagtes van dieremishandeling gaan gelê word.

Fig.27 A cow dying of mal feeding.