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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DIAMOND PROSPECTING AT BOESMANSPUT 152, FAURESMITH, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

De Beers Exploration is planning to do diamond prospecting at the farm Boesmansput 152, in the Fauresmith district. The prospecting will be done on 70ha of unspoilt land, which lies across several farm borders which will have an impact on the farms Boesmansput 152, Biesiesdam, Erfdeel 816, Ebenhaeser 1040, Genoveva 1079 and possibly also Omdraai 1146.

The proposed area includes old plough lands, farmyards and gravel roads. No archaeological or historical remains were found. It is assumed that the prospecting developments will have no impact on any cultural heritage and historical remains. It is also accepted that the prospector will avoid any damage to buildings on farmyards.

Further planning of the proposed project may continue and no mitigation measures will be needed.

INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

De Beers Exploration is planning to do diamond prospecting at the farms Boesmansput 152, Biesiesdam, Erfdeel 816, Ebenhaeser 1040, Genoveva 1079 and possibly also Omdraai 1146 in the Fauresmith district. The prospecting will be done on a 70ha portion of land. De Beers Exploration commissioned the archaeological and heritage assessment for the proposed diamond prospecting.

The investigation provided the opportunity to examine the proposed area. The soil surface consists of grass-covered veld on old plough lands, farm yards and

planted trees. These features did not have any significant effect on the survey and no limitations were experienced during the site visit.

Methodology

1. Standard archaeological survey and recording methods applied.
2. Survey of previous HIA reports in the area.
3. Site inspection on foot and by vehicle.
4. Layout of the area 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 map with coordinates transferred to Google Earth.

INVESTIGATION

De Beers Exploration is planning diamond prospecting at the farms Boesmansput 152, Biesiesdam, Erfdeel 816, Ebenhaeser 1040, Genoveva 1079 and possibly also Omdraai 1146 in the Fauresmith district. The site was examined on 16 July 2014. Officials from De Beers Exploration supplied the particulars on the locality of the site.

The study aims to locate and evaluate the significance of cultural heritage sites, archaeological material, manmade structures older than 60 years, and sites associated with oral histories and graves that might be affected by the proposed developments. In many cases, planted and self-sown trees and other types of vegetation represent a major part of the historical environment of human settlements in villages and towns, on farmyards or even deserted places in the open veld. These features are taken into consideration during any cultural investigation.

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 National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act. 108 of 1998).

HISTORY OF THE FAURESMTIH DISTRICT

Fauresmith is located 130km south west of Bloemfontein along the R704 road from Jagersfontein to Koffiefontein (Map 1). Fauresmith was established in 1849 in the area occupied by the Griqua people under Adam Kok. Two years prior to the founding of Fauresmith, Bloemfontein was established by Major Henry

Douglas Warden as a town and military outpost, making Bloemfontein the second oldest town in the Free State. Fauresmith was named after the Rev Phillip Faure, Dutch Reformed Church minister from Wynberg at the Cape and Sir Harry Smith, once British Resident Commissioner of the Orange River Sovereignty. Harry Smith played a distinctive role in the early history of the Free State (1819-1834).

European settlers in the south western Free State, developed a need for a town and a church to serve the congregations of the surrounding towns of Philippolis, Trompsburg, Edenburg, Petrusburg, Koffiefontein, Luckhoff and Jacobsdal. A temporary church was built on the farm "Sannahspoort", where residential stands were sold to establish the settlement. The original church town was laid out on the farm Sannah's Poort, on land that belonged to Adam Kok and his Griqua people. Despite protests by Adam Kok, the church went ahead with its plans and the town of Fauresmith was established. Fauresmith is set among high ridges which have squeezed the growing town into a horseshoe shape.

In 1848, two years before the founding of the town, the interference of the British government in the affairs of the Free State led to the military clash between Britons under Sir Harry Smith and the Boers under the Voortrekker leader Andries Pretorius in the Battle of Boomplaats, about 35km from Fauresmith (29°50'39"S 025°36'11"E). After the acquisition of independence by the Free State in 1854, Fauresmith became such an important settlement that the first Free State House of Assembly had to vote between Bloemfontein and Fauresmith to determine which town would be the capital of the Province. The choice went to Bloemfontein with a two-vote majority.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Fauresmith stone tool industry, named after the town of Fauresmith, is characterized by small hand axes and cleavers and by numerous flake tools, including triangular projectile points of the classic Levallois or prepared core stone-flaking technique (Clark 1959). The type sites are at Brakfontien 321 and River View Estates.

Fauresmith stone tool industry is often defined as a transitional stage or intermediate phase between the Early Stone Age (Acheulian) and the Middle Stone Age (MSA). It can also be taken as the end of the Acheulian or the beginning of the Middle Stone Age (Mitchell 2002). The Fauresmith industry is found at a number of other archaeological sites such as Wonderwerk Cave near Postmasburg and at Kathu Pan where it is potentially dated to at least 420,000 years ago. The Fauresmith industry consists of characteristics of the Middle Stone Age lithic technology such as exceptionally long blades, points and prepared core technology as well as retaining hand axes from the Acheulian. The Fauresmith industry dates from about 75,000 to 100,000 years ago and is largely contemporaneous with the Sangoan industry from sub-Saharan Africa. The two

industries apparently correspond to different habitats, with Fauresmith having been used in open steppe areas and Sangoan in forested regions. These differences suggest that the two tool traditions may have been in use by two distinct cultural groups, a plains-dwelling people and forest-dwelling people. It is generally considered to have begun around 280,000 years ago and ended around 50-25,000 years ago. The beginnings of particular Middle Stone Age tools have their origins as far back as 550-500,000 years ago and as such some researchers consider this to be the beginnings of the Middle Stone Age, which is associated with anatomically modern human beings (*Homo sapiens*).

THE LATER IRON AGE OF THE FREE STATE

The Later Iron Age archaeological environment of the Free State Province is rich and diverse, representing a long time span during the human past. The area is exceptionally rich in terms of Stone Age material and rock art sites. Some areas are richer than others and not all the sites are equally significant. For various reasons, there is still a relative lack in research records in many parts. Certain Later Iron Age sites have produced important archaeological information (Maggs 1976, Dreyer 1996). These Iron Age sites date between 1660 AD and 1810 AD.

The Later Iron Age archaeological phase brought people to the central interior who cultivated crops, kept livestock, produced an abundance of clay pottery in a variety of shapes and sizes and who had knowledge of the smelting copper and iron. Extensive stone walled enclosures characterised the permanent settlements. These living places are known from the prominent Sotho/Tswana settlements at Viervoet (Tihela) near Clocolan, Biddulphsberg (Kurutlele) near Senekal and Marabeng near Ficksburg. A number of Taaibos Korana and Griqua groups, remnants of the Later Stone Age peoples, managed to survive the assimilation by Sotho/Tswana tribes in the region.

Dramatic climate changes resulted in a rapid population growth along the east coast of South Africa. Increased pressure on natural resources and attempts to control trade during the early 19th century brought the emergence of powerful leaders in the area. The subsequent struggles for dominance 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 King Chaka in about 1822, were carried on by the AmaNdebele of Mzilikazi and the AmaNdwane 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 the AmaNdebele forces, eventually landed up in the Caprivi (Kilby 2001, Dreyer & Kilby 2003).

This period of unrest directly affected the peoples of the Free State and Northern Cape, 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) and the Rev James Archbell established the missionary at Thaba Nchu by 1834. Several of the marauding hordes affected the lives of the Batswana people living at Dithakong near the mission station of Robert and Mary Moffat near Kuruman.

LOCALITY

De Beers Exploration is planning diamond prospecting at the farms Boesmansput 152, Biesiesdam, Erfdeel 816, Ebenhaeser 1040, Genoveva 1079 and possibly also Omdraai 1146 in the Fauresmith district (Map 3). The farms are reached from Petrusburg via the gravel road turn-off to Kalkfontein dam along the N8 main road to Kimberley (Map 1).

The prospecting will be done on a 70ha piece of land.

The following GPS co-ordinates were taken (Cape Scale) (Surveyor-General 1973): (Map 2&3).

E1	29°13'08"S	025°23'59"E. Alt 1283m (Figs.1&2).
E2	29°13'13"S	025°24'41"E Alt 1280m (Figs.3-5).
E3	29°13'25"S	025°24'17"E. Alt 1293m (Figs.6&7).
E4	29°13'29"S	025°23'58"E Alt 1285m (Figs.8&9).

FINDS

Several heritage impact assessments on residential developments at Petrusburg and borrow pit mining along the N8 main road to Kimberley recorded a variety of Middle Stone Age lithic material (Dreyer 2003, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014). The finds include individual hand axes (± 10 cm in length) from the later phase of the Early Stone Age (Acheulean) and collections of Middle Stone Age flakes and cores. The majority of the finds represent heavily patinated stone flakes and scrapers, together with a single well-used upper grinding stone.

Although the farms Boesmansput 152, Biesiesdam, Erfdeel 816, Ebenhaeser 1040, Genoveva 1079 and Omdraai 1146 in the Fauresmith district, are located in a potentially rich cultural and historically area, no archaeological, cultural or historical remains were found at the site.

No other cultural or historical remains were found.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There will be no major impact caused by the prospecting developments on any heritage resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The impact resulting from the new developments on the archaeological and heritage resources is considered to be of minor significance.

There are no obvious reasons to delay further planning of the developments at the specific site.

I recommend that the planning of the proposed prospecting developments may proceed.

MITIGATION

No mitigation measures will be required in case of the present developments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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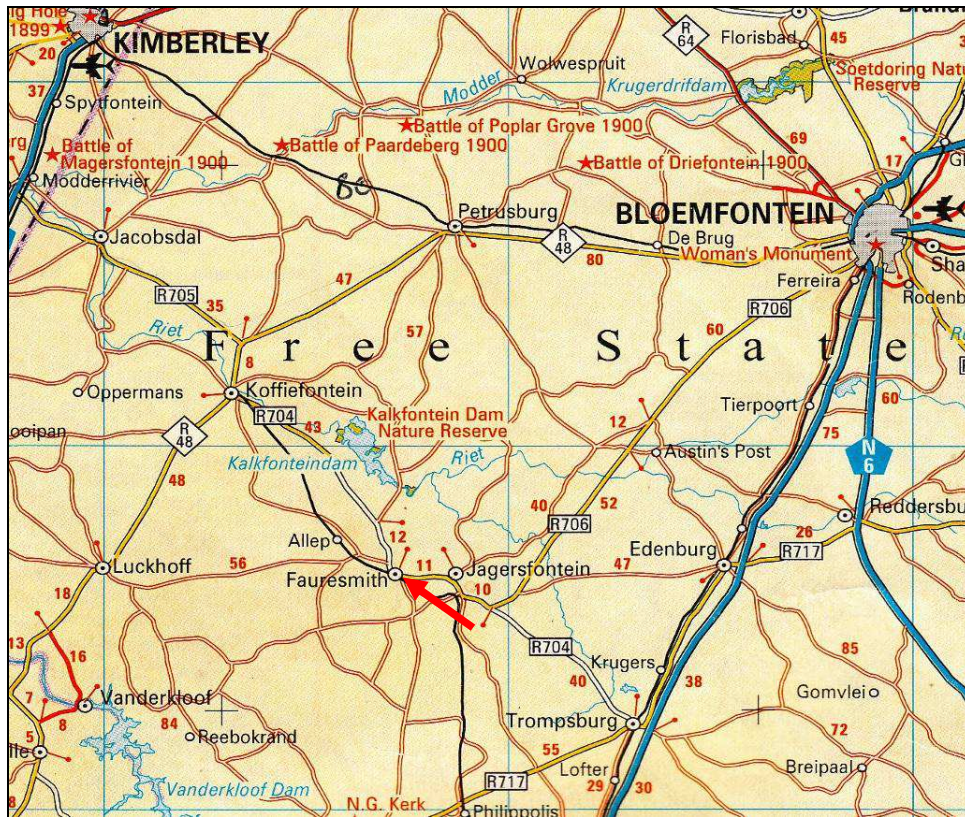
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Petrusburg in relation to Bloemfontein.



Fig.1 Point E1 facing the farm yard at Boesmans Put, Fauresmith.



Map 2 Area E (70ha) at Boesmans Put 152 near Fauresmith.

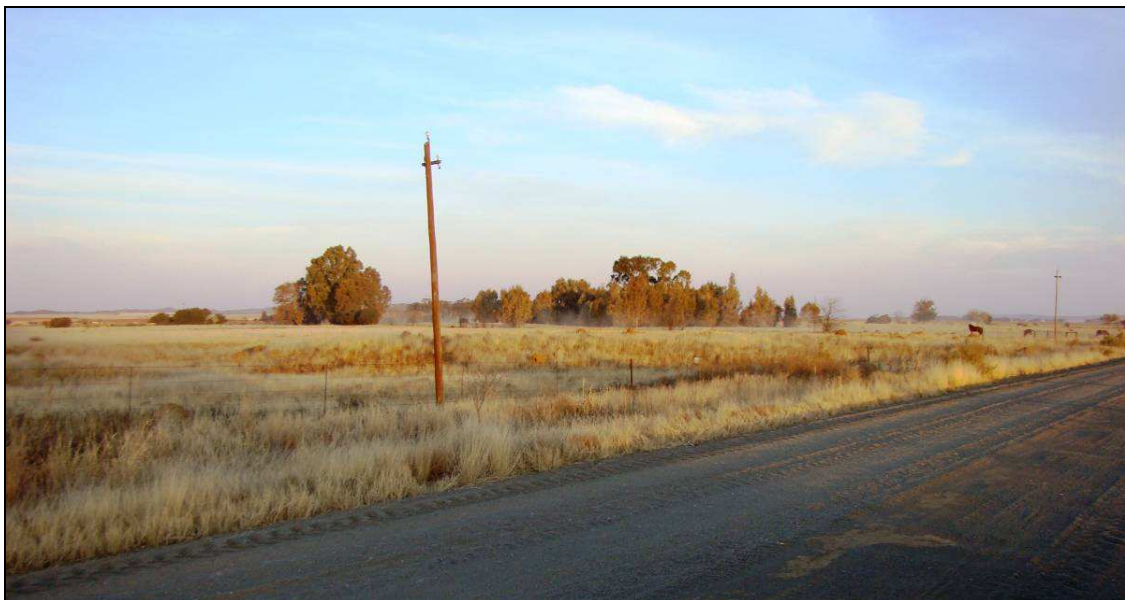
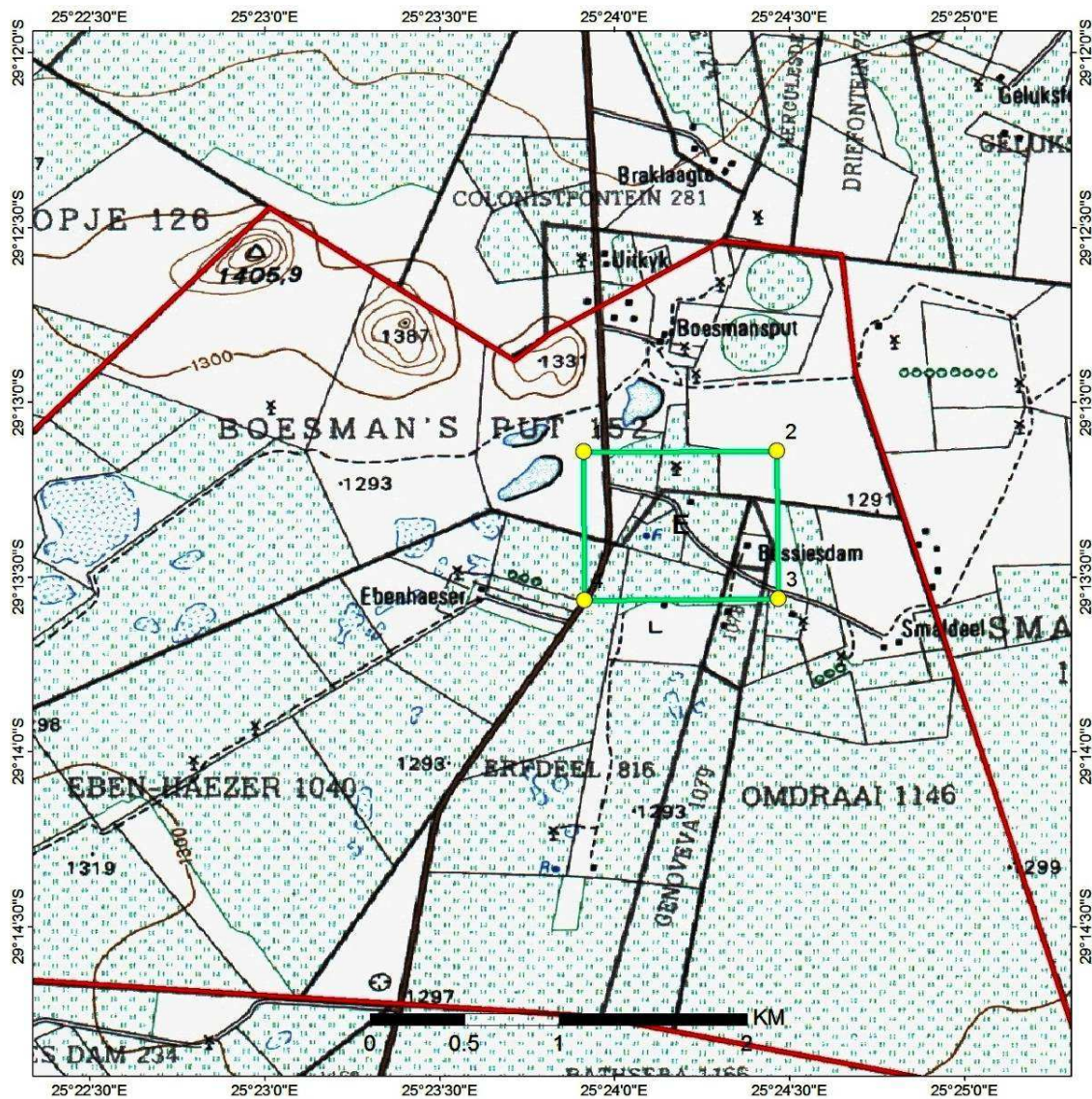


Fig. 2 Point E1 facing Biesiesdam near Fauresmith.



Map 3 The proposed area E, including portions of the farms Boesmans Put 152, Ebenhaeser 1040, Erfdeel 816, Genoveva 1079, Omdraai 1146 and Biessiesdam near Fauresmith.



Fig.3 Point E2 at Boesmans Put 152, Fauresmith.



Fig.4 Point E2 at Boesmans Put 152, Fauresmith.



Fig.5 Point E2 at Boesmans Put 152, Fauresmith.



Fig.6 Point E3 at Boesmans Put 152, Fauresmith.



Fig.7 Point E3 at Boesmans Put 152, Fauresmith.



Fig.8 Point E4 at Boesmans Put 152, Fauresmith.



Fig.9 Point E4 at Boesmans Put 152, Fauresmith.