



**Extract from the Tshokwane Section Rangers Report, Steven Whitfield**

The carcass was estimated to be about 3 days old when discovered on a routine patrol by Tshokwane Field Rangers, Difference Mabunda and Olsado Mulhovu. The carcass was located approximately 2km east of Kruger Koppies on the very well known “Ndlelandlopfu” foot path which runs from N/W of Tshokwane to the Sabie river and 0.5km east of the tar road. GPS co-ordinates: S 24.86597667 / E 31.79300833. The carcass was already at this time well decomposed and partially consumed by vultures and other scavengers making it difficult to establish a cause of death.

On inspection of the only molar visible by the Tshokwane ranger at the time Steven Whitfield it was unlikely that the elephant had died of old, age or starvation as the molar although well worn was not felt to be worn to the extent that the elephant would not have been unable to chew. Further more being that it was the end of summer there was abundant softer green grass available to have sustained the elephant and he would not have been forced to be chewing on harder bark, branches, roots and other woody material. Based on the above it was considered that the elephant may have died of injuries and wounds sustained during a fight, even though there was no major evidence to this effect.

However, as time progressed and the carcass had further decomposed it was possible to see the molars more clearly. It now became apparent that the elephant had most likely died of starvation but not necessarily as a result of old age. It showed on further investigation that the entire right molar in the upper jaw was missing, this resulted in the bottom right molar in the lower jaw not being naturally worn down and growing unchecked as a result. This would have caused discomfort for the bull and made it impossible to chew with any effect on the right side of his mouth.

addo elephant

agulhas

augrabies falls

bontebok

golden gate highlands

karoo

kgalagadi transfrontier

knysna lake area

kruger

mapungubwe

marakele

mountain zebra

namaqua

table mountain

tankwa-karoo

tsitsikamma

|ai-|ais/richtersveld

vaalbos

west coast

wilderness