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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF THE BLANCO WATER SUPPLY, GEORGE, SOUTH WESTERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Two different routes for the potential upgrading of the water supply to the Blanco residential area were visited and inspected for any cultural and historical the remains. The development is planned to be ecologically friendly with a low density and a minimum impact on the environment.

In general, the recommended course for the pipeline will follow existing servitudes for most of the distance. The vegetation along the route consists of disturbed forest and rehabilitated coastal Fynbos, with areas covered with dense stands of Kikuyu grass.

No archaeological or historical material was found, neither are any graves or other cultural remains present in the proposed area of development.

I conclude that the planned developments will have no effect on the cultural and historical heritage of the area.

Depending on the finds by other specialists, and based on the feasibility of the project, I recommend that the preferred route should be selected and I suggest that further planning of the proposed project may continue.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The investigation provided the opportunity to visit the route proposed for development. Various points were examined and recorded on camera and plotted by GPS.

Due to a time limitation, the fieldwork had to be done during a phase of excessive rain and floods. Another limitation, if any, could have been the thick stands of Kikuyu grass, Fynbos and natural vegetation in the disturbed areas.

Methodology

1. Site visit.
2. Study of topo-cadstral map.

Criteria used to rank Sites

The criteria used in the specific ranking of the sites, is based merely on the presence or absence of archaeological, historical and/or cultural material and on the actual impact of the project on the immediate environment.

INVESTIGATION

The development is planned to be ecologically friendly with a low density and a minimum impact on the environment. Two different routes selected for the installation of the new Blanco water supply pipeline near George, Southern Cape, were investigated.

The sites were visited on 3 December 2007 in the company of Joggie van Staden from Bohlweki Environmental Consultants in George.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical remains 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 Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

Two alternative routes are proposed for the installation of the pipeline between the George supply point and the reservoir at Blanco (Maps 2&6).

The preferred placement is suggested to go along the current northern urban edge of George. The pipeline will follow existing servitudes for most of the distance. The installation of a 450mm diameter pipeline is proposed from the George reservoir at the northern end of Arbor Road, following the servitude along the existing northern urban edge in a westerly direction immediately north of Plantation Road to the N9 Provincial road between George and Oudtshoorn west of Heatherlands and crossing this road through the existing concrete duct underneath the road.

From here the pipeline will follow the extension of Plantation road to the banks of the Malgas River. The pipeline will cross the Malgas River to follow the existing road servitudes along Singel, Jonas and Fortuin Roads to George Road. From here it will follow the road servitude of George Road in a north-westerly direction, passing underneath Montagu Road to the Blanco reservoir (Map 2).

An alternative alignment is proposed which is placed within existing municipal servitudes starting from the high rise reservoir link, following Arbour road in a southerly direction and turning west into Erica road to Witfontein Road to cross the Malgas River over the old historical bridge followining George Road to the Blanco Reservoir (Map 6).

In general, vegetation in the areas identified for development consists mainly of disturbed Blue gum and Pine forest, rehabilitated coastal Fynbos, and areas of dense stands of Kikuyu grass.

The following GPS (Cape scale) coordinates were taken:

PREFERRED ROUTE (Maps 2-4):

Point 1 33°56'24"S 022°27'28"E Altitude 275m (Figs.1&2).

Point 3 33°56'23"S 022°27'14"E Altitude 253m (Fig.3).

Point 6 33°56'40"S 022°26'56"E Altitude 253m (Fig.4).

Point 7 33°56'49"S 022°26'53"E Altitude 242m (Fig.5).

Point 8 33°56'49"S 022°26'30"E Altitude 224m (Fig.6).

Point 10 33°56'48"S 022°26'00"E Altitude 230m (Fig.7).

Point 12 33°56'49"S 022°25'43"E Altitude 230m (Fig.8).

Point 13 33°56'48"S 022°25'30"E Altitude 203m (Fig.9).

Point 15 33°56'48"S 022°25'30"E Altitude 203m (Fig.10).

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE (Map 6):

Point 1 33°56'24"S 022°27'28"E Altitude 275m (Fig.1).

Point 15 33°56'48"S 022°25'30"E Altitude 203m (Fig.10).

Point 16 33°56'57"S 022°26'30"E Altitude 236m (Fig.11).

Point 17 33°57'00"S 022°25'25"E Altitude 211m (Fig.12).

FINDS

No cultural, historical or palaeontological features were found during the investigation, nor were there any buildings, graves or burial grounds traced in the area.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The proposed installation of a water supply pipeline between George and Blanco will have no effect on the cultural and historical heritage of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological and cultural heritage of the two routes is insignificant. Based on the heritage resources there is no specific preference for any one of the two alternatives.

Depending on the finds by other specialists, and based on the practical feasibility of the project, I recommend that the preferred route should be selected.

I also recommend that further planning of the proposed project may continue.

MITIGATION

No mitigation measures will be required on any of the proposed development sites.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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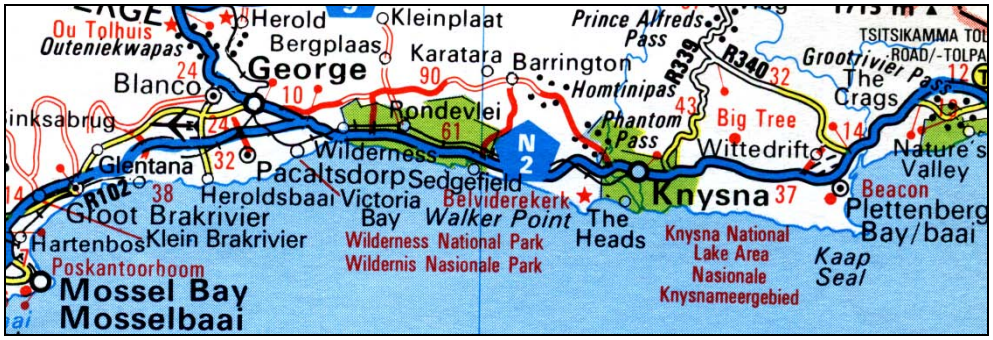
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of George in the South Western Cape.

Map 2 Preferred route for the Blanco water pipeline at George, South Western Cape.

Map 3 GPS coordinate points along the preferred Blanco water pipeline route.

Map 4 Locality of GPS coordinate Points 1 – 11 along the preferred pipeline route.

Map 5 Locality of GPS coordinate Points 11 – 15 along the preferred pipeline route.

Map 6 GPS coordinate Points 1, 15, 16 & 17 along the alternative pipeline route.

Fig.1 Point 1. Starting point of the Blanco water pipeline.

Fig.2 View from Point 1 along the proposed pipeline route.

Fig.3 Point 3.

Fig.4 Point 6.

Fig.5 Point 7.

Fig.6 Point 8.

Fig.7 Point 10.

Fig.8 Point 12.

Fig.9 Point 13.

Fig.10 Point 15.

Fig.11 Point 16.

Fig.12 Point 17 at the bridge crossing the Malgas River.