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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURE HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residential developments are planned on Erf 36926, 12698, 12700, 12701, 12702, 12704 and 12684, Kimberley, Northern Cape. The portion of land lies along the N12 main road to Johannesburg, opposite the Flamingo Casino and adjacent to an industrial area.

The land shows signs of previous damage by building activities and the installation of services.

No archaeological or other cultural material was found on the soil surface.

I recommend that further planning of the residential project may continue.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The investigation provided the opportunity to visit the site at Kimberley. Various portions were examined and recorded on digital camera and plotted by GPS.

No serious limitations have been encountered during the investigations. A constraint, if any, could have been the thick stands of grass cover in some places on the surface.

Methodology

1. Site visit and investigation of the site on foot.

2. Recording on camera.
3. Plotting by GPS.

INVESTIGATION

The site proposed for residential developments at Kimberley was visited on 5 July 2008. Dr Johan du Preez from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein.

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

Residential developments are planned on Erf 36926, 12698, 12700, 12701, 12702, 12704 and 12684, Kimberley, Northern Cape (Map 2). The portion of land lies along the N12 main road, opposite the Flamingo Casino and adjacent to an industrial neighbourhood (Map 3).

The land covers a low lying area from the N12 main road towards the railway line on a somewhat higher level. The surface is grass-covered with Blue gum trees which seem to have been planted in rows to form lanes (Fig.12). Vegetation further consists of a grass cover (Fig.13), trees and thorny shrubs, including Kameeldoring (*Acacia erioloba*) (Fig.16), Swarthaak (*Acacia mellifera*), Haak-en-Steek (*Acacia tortilis*) and Mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken.

Coordinate points were selected at random to record the extent of the land proposed for development.

A	28°41'41"S 024°47'21"E Altitude 1181m (Figs.1&2).
B	28°41'35"S 024°47'18"E Altitude 1173m (Fig.3).
C	28°42'11"S 024°46'55"E Altitude 1177m (Figs.4&5).
D	28°42'02"S 024°46'42"E Altitude 1174m (Fig.6&7).
E	28°41'37"S 024°46'43"E Altitude 1171m (Figs.8-10).
Rubble	28°41'38"S 024°47'02"E Altitude 1171m (Fig.14).

RESULTS

FINDS

The area proposed for the new residential developments has already been disturbed by road building, construction activities (Fig.11) and the installation of services (Fig.15).

Building rubble (Fig.14), household debris (Fig.19) and refuse from the industrial area (Fig.18) is dumped in certain parts at an rapidly increasing rate.

A solitary heap of soil and rubble could be misinterpreted as a grave (Fig.14).

No indication of any archaeological or cultural material was found in the proposed area.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed developments of new township extensions at Kimberley will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

I recommend that the development and planning of the site may proceed.

MITIGATION

No mitigation measures will be needed at the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I thank Dr Johan du Preez from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

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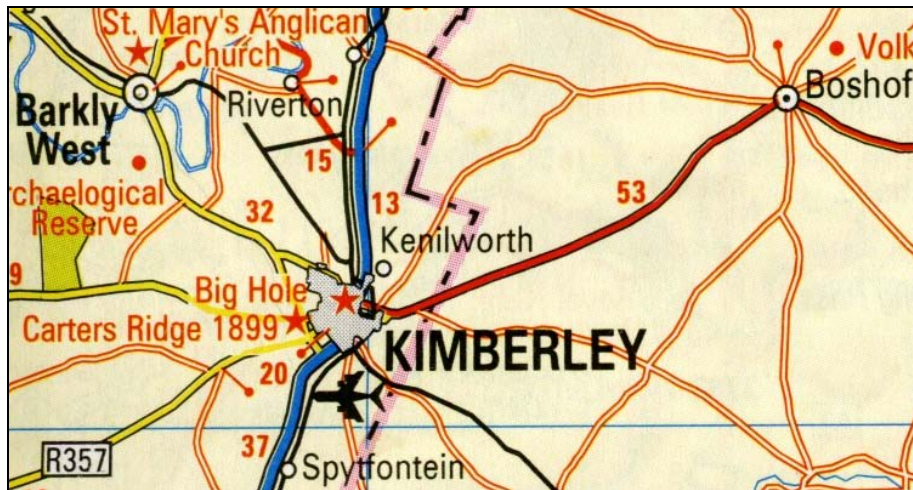
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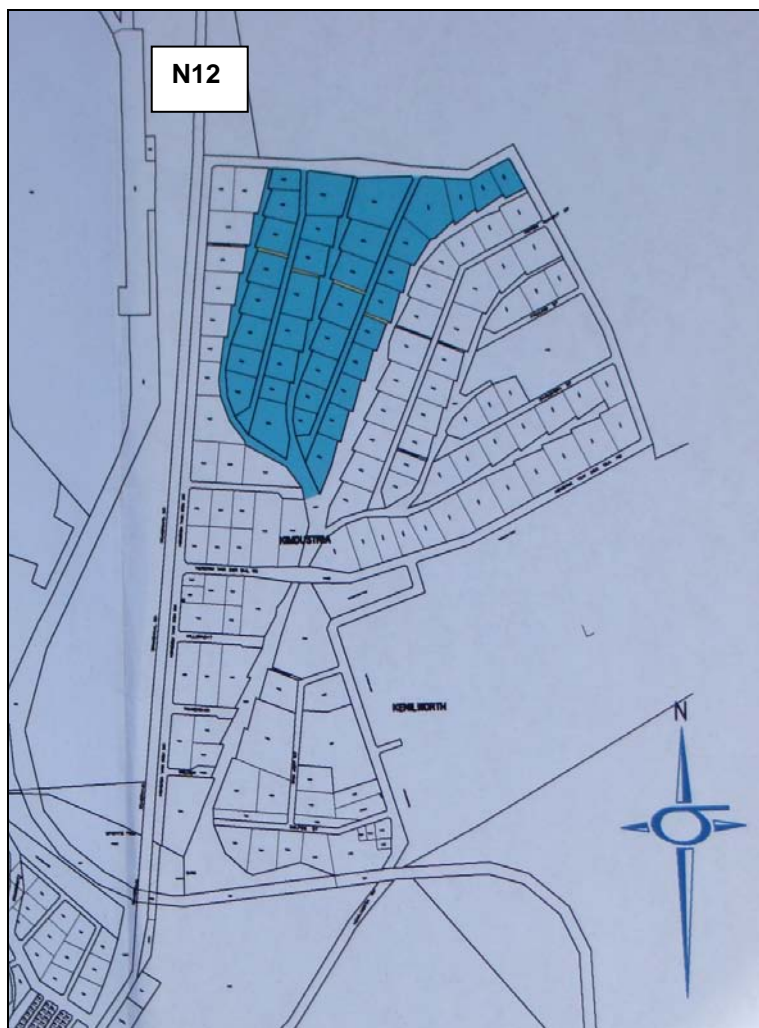
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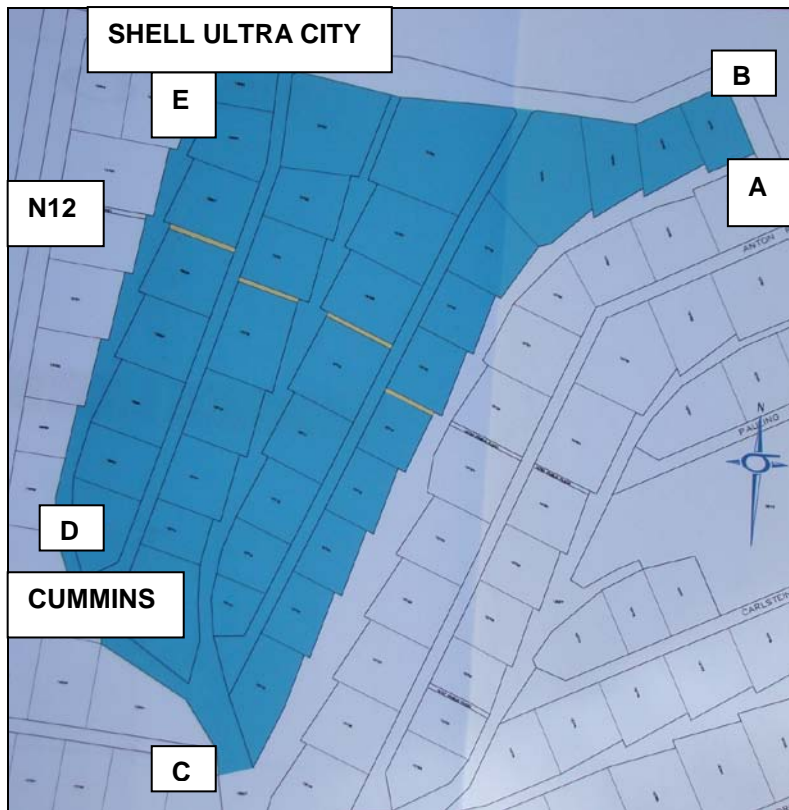
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:

Map 1 Locality of Kimberley in relation to Barkly West and Boshof.



Map 2 Locality of the proposed residential developments at Kimberley, Northern Cape.



Map 3 Layout of the proposed residential developments outside Kimberley.



Fig.1 Point A.



Fig.2 Point A.



Fig.3 Point B.



Fig. 4 Point C.



Fig.5 Point C.



Fig.6 Point D.



Fig.7 Point D at Cummins.



Fig.8 Point E facing Shell Ultra City.



Fig.9 Point E along the N12.



Fig.10 Point E facing south. Note existing housing scheme on left.



Fig.11 Old foundations near Point D.



Fig.12 Lane of Blue gum trees.



Fig.13 Grass cover.



Fig.14 Heap of rubble.



Fig.15 Services installed.

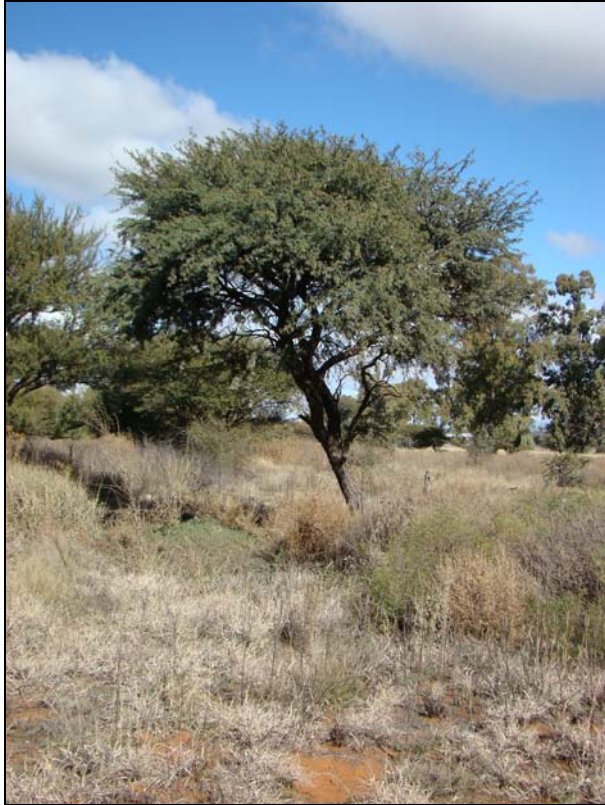


Fig.16 Erioloba trees.



Fig.17 General view of the area.



Fig.18 Debris from the industrial area.



Fig.19 House hold debris.