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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE AT THE FARM WILDEBEESTFONTEIN JQ274, RUSTENBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the mine dumps rehabilitation program, a crusher and brick works plant are planned at the farm Wildebeestfontein JQ274 near Rustenburg, Northwest Province.

The site is part of the existing mining activities and no cultural or historical remains were found in the development area.

I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed crusher and brick works at the farm Wildebeestfontein JQ274 near Rustenburg, Northwest Province, was visited on 2 June 2006. Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took me to the site. At the mine Mr Johan Oelofse, the developer, accompanied us.

The area 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 Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

The proposed area of development is located to the north of the town of Rustenburg (Map 1).

The developments are planned on the mine dumps at the farm Wildebeestfontein JQ274 near Rustenburg, Northwest Province. (Map 2).

The proposed crusher and brick works are planned as part of the rehabilitation of the mine dumps.

Vegetation in the immediate area consist of sparsely scattered thorn trees with a dense grass cover (Fig.3&9).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

29°33'29"S. 027°15'14"E Altitude 1122m (Fig.1).

RESULTS

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

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed crusher and brickworks installations at Wildebeestfontein JQ274, Rustenburg, will have no impact on any cultural and historical heritage of the specific area of development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site and I recommend that the planning of the proposed crusher and brickworks installations at Wildebeestfontein JQ274 near Rustenburg should proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, no mitigation measures will be required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site and Johan Oelofse for showing accompanying us.

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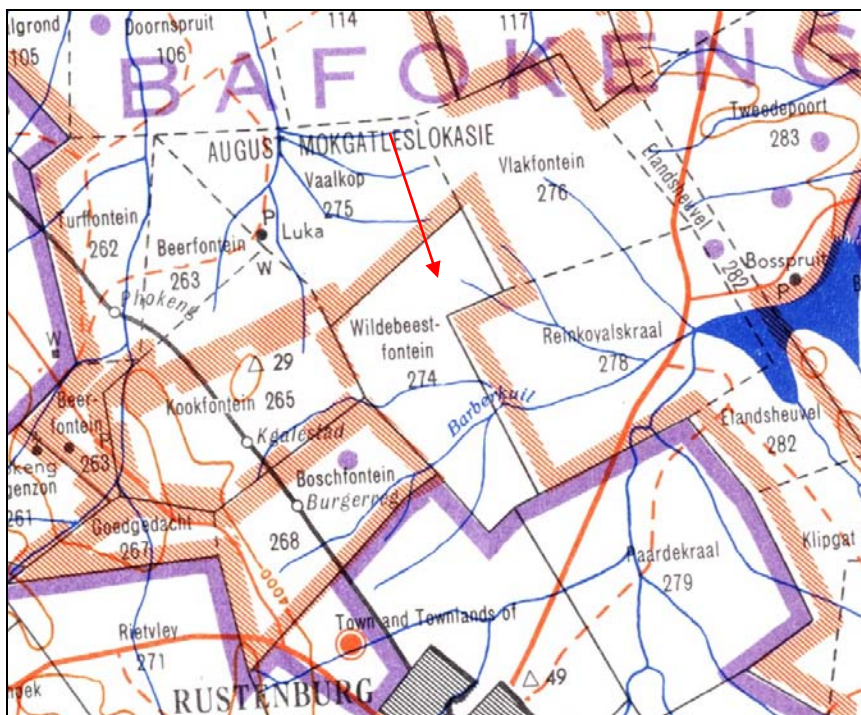
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Rustenburg in relation to other towns in the North West Province.



Map 2 Locality of Wildebeestfontein JQ274 outside Rustenburg.



Fig.1 View across the area of development at the foot of the mine dump.



Fig.2 The land consist of black clay soil and is grass covered.



Fig.3 View of the mine dump across the area of development.



Fig.4 General view of the area outside Rustenburg.