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3 December 2005

FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF THE PROSPERITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON PLOTS 142, 153, 154, 171 & 172 SHANNON SMALLHOLDINGS, BLOEMFONTEIN

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed Prosperity Housing Development at Shannon Smallholdings was visited and inspected on 2 December 2005. Cedric Nelson Bokamoso Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, directed me to the site.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural remains 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 sites include Plots 142, 153, 154, 171 172 of Shannon smallholdings (Maps 1&2) between Station Road, Voorspoed Road and Garden Street (2926AB 1995). The land is part of the original farms Bloemspruit B 2232 and Bloemspruit C 332 in the district of Bloemfontein (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973).

The following GPS co-ordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

House Station Road 29°07'47"S. 026°16'36"E. Altitude 1366m
(Fig.1).

Garden Street/Station Rd 29°07'40"S. 026°16'38"E. Altitude 1360m
(Fig.2).

Station Rd/Voorspoed Rd 29°07'54"S. 026°16'34"E. Altitude 1367m (Fig.).

Voorspoed Rd 29°07'56"S. 026°16'40"E. Altitude 1362m (Fig.3)

Garden Rd 29°07'41"S. 026°16'45"E. Altitude 1357m (Fig.5).

The area consists of old cultivated fields and residential stands (Fig.6) on the smallholdings, while other parts represent old plough lands. The residential buildings are mostly in a neglected or dilapidated state. In some places, houses and outbuildings are demolished leaving heaps of building rubble in the veld.

FINDS

No indication of any archaeological or historical material was found in the inspected area.

Enquiries about old and or historical buildings or graves or graveyards produced nothing of value. No cultural material or places of cultural or historical significance were found.

Although no objects of cultural or historical heritage are destroyed in the process of residential development in the Bloemspruit area, the loss of arable land during the urban sprawl in the region is quite disturbing.

DISCUSSION

Together with the disturbances by roads and agricultural developments, it also seems unlikely that remains of any early human occupation could have survived. The locality is likewise not close enough to the higher ground to be the obvious living site for people during prehistoric times.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site and it is recommended that the proposed developments may proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed development, no mitigation measures are needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Cedric Nelson for taking me to the site.

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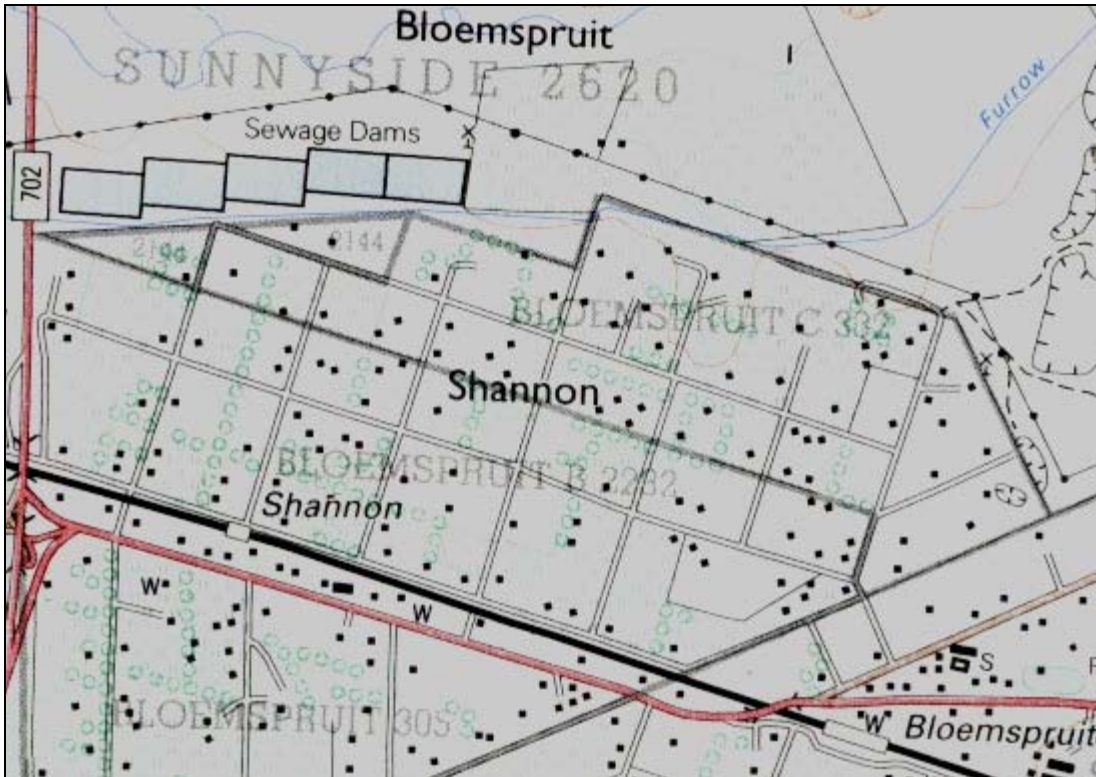
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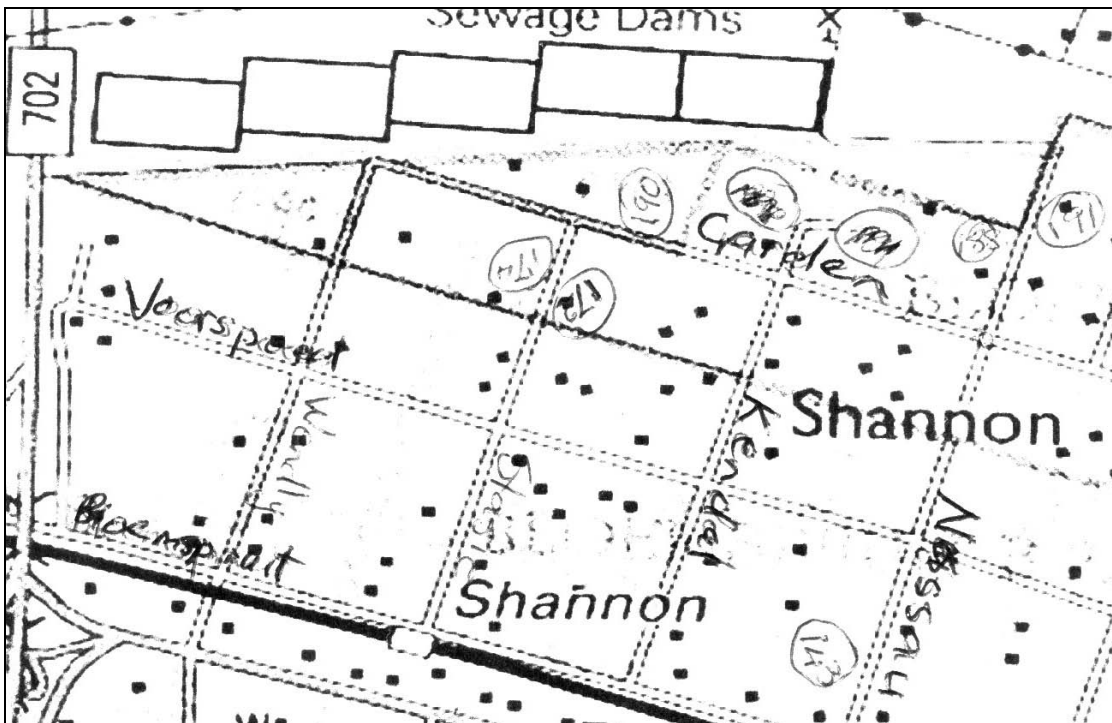
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of the site (2926AB 1995).



Map 2 Locality of the plots in the old Shannon area.



Fig.1 Plot in Station Road.



Fig.2 Corner of Station Road and Garden Street.



Fig.3 Corner of Station Road and Voorspoed Avenue.

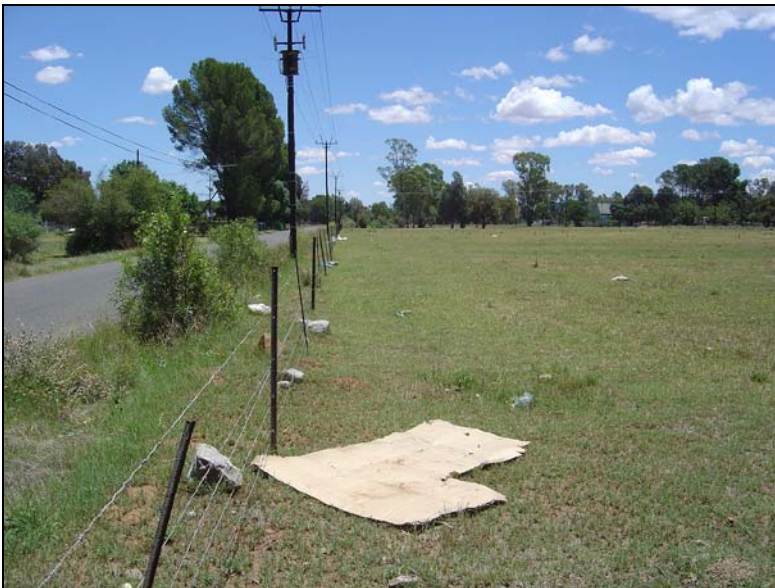


Fig.4 View along Voorspoed Avenue.



Fig.5 View along Garden Avenue.



Fig.6 View across part of the area proposed for residential development.