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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF THE DREAM START HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON PLOTS 1, 2, 9, 10 & 11, BLOEMSPRUIT SMALLHOLDINGS, BLOEMFONTEIN

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed Dream Start Housing Development at Bloemspruit Smallholdings was visited and inspected on 2 December 2005. Cedric Nelson of 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 site includes Plots 1, 2, 9, 10 & 11 of Bloemspruit smallholdings between the old Thaba Nchu road (Rose Avenue), Eufeefes Road and Maxley Road (2926AB 1995). The land is part of the original farm Grasslands 575 in the district of Bloemfontein (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973).

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

Eufeefes Road 29°08'20"S. 026°16'30"E. Altitude 1364m
(Fig.2).

Eufeefes Rd/Rose Avenue 29°08'42"S. 026°16'31"E. Altitude 1372m
(Fig.4).

Denne Avenue/Rose Avenue 29°08'35"S. 026°16'48"E. Altitude 1368m (Fig.5).

Old Thaba Nchu Road (Pawn Shop) 29°08'22"S. 026°17'07"E. Altitude 1362m (Fig.6)

Old Thaba Nchu Road/Denne Avenue (SAPD) 29°08'17"S. 026°16'47"E. Altitude 1360m (Fig.8).

The area consists of old cultivated fields and residential stands on the smallholdings, while other parts resemble 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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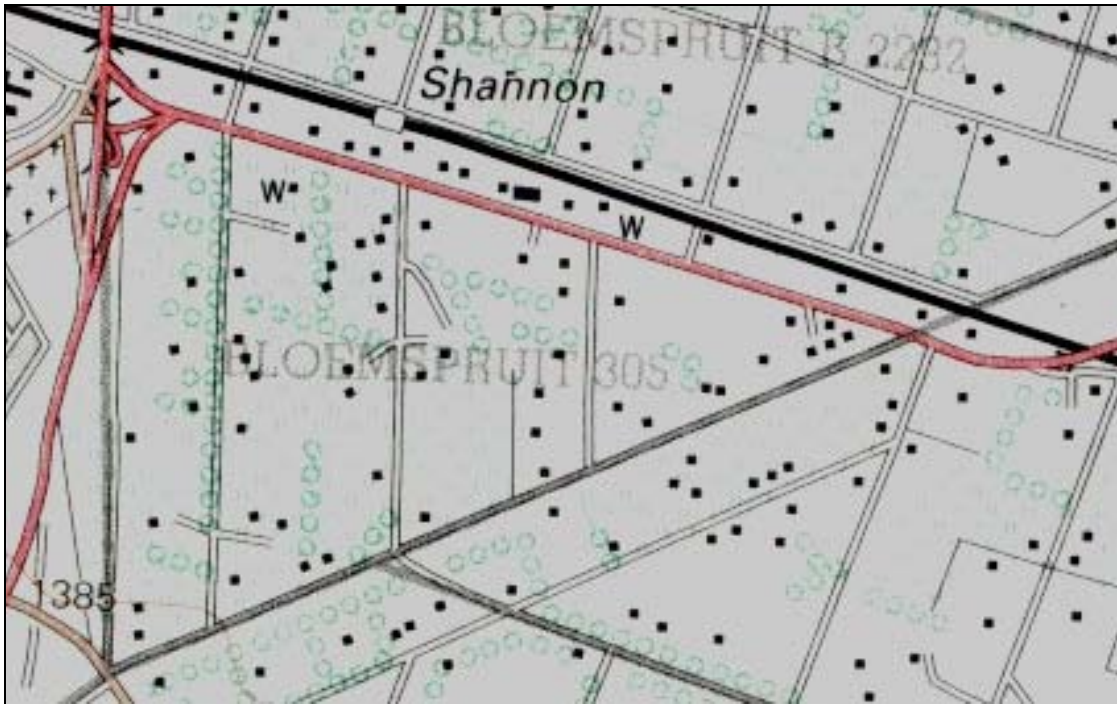
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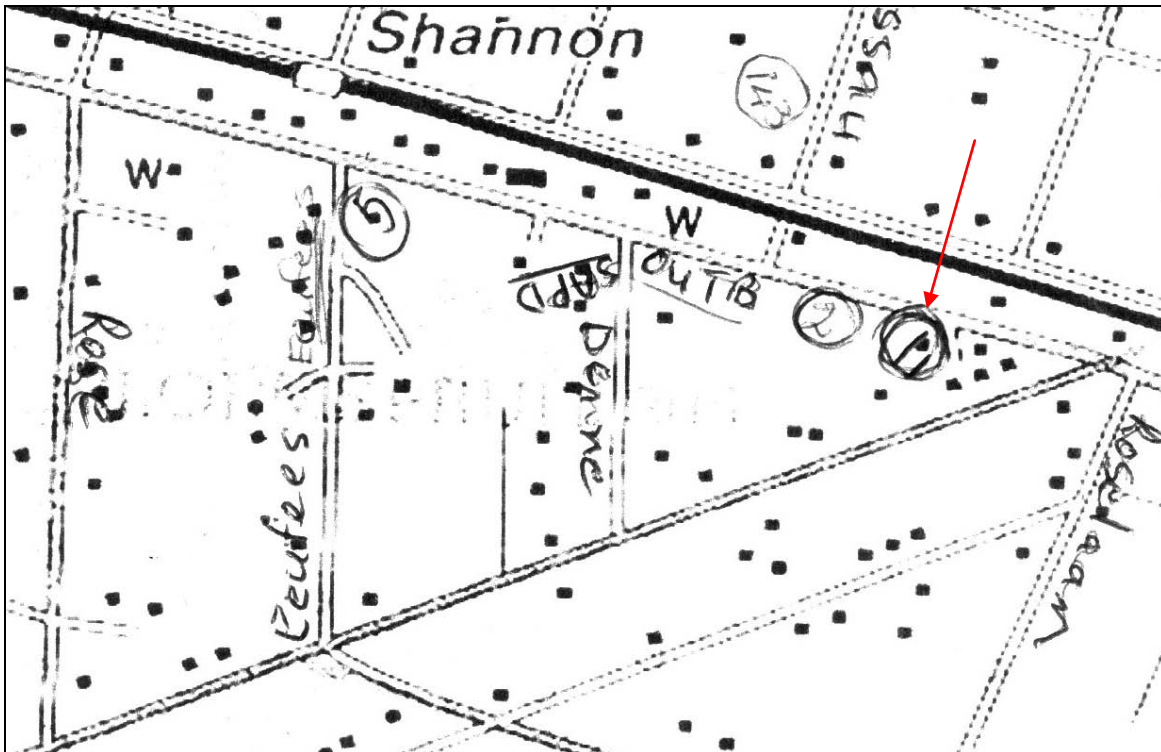
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



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



Map 2 Locality of the plots along the old Thaba Nchu road.



Fig.1 Corner of old Thaba Nchu road and Eeufees Avenue in the distance.



Fig.2 View along Eeufees Ave from corner of old Thaba Nchu road.



Fig.3 View across the site facing south from Eeufees Avenue.



Fig.4 Corner of Eeufees Road and Rose Avenue.



Fig.5 Corner of Denne Avenue and Rose Avenue.



Fig.6 Old Thaba Nchu road at pawn shop.



Fig.7 View along old Thaba Nchu road at the corner with Denne Avenue.



Fig.8 View along Denne Avenue from corner of old Thaba Nchu road.
Bloemspruit SAPD station on the right.