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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT WESTERN SPITSKOP 1399, RAYTON, BLOEMFONTEIN

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential developments at Western Spitskop 1399, Rayton, Bloemfontein, was visited on 25 March 2006. Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took me to the site.

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 land known as Western Spitskop 1399 lies in the corner between Frans Kleynhans Street (extension of Lucas Steyn Street) and Ray Champion Road, Rayton, Bloemfontein (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973) (Maps 1&2).

The soil surface is stony with a substantial grass cover and patches of *Rhus ciliata* (Klein Suurtaibos), which tends to occur where the soil had been disturbed (cf. Dreyer 28.7.2004 & 16.8.2004) (Fig.5).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2926AA):

Corner Frans Kleynhans/Ray Champion 29°04'31"S. 026°11'32"E. Altitude 1472m (Figs.1&2).

Eastern corner	29°04'35"S. 026°11'35"E. Altitude 1495m (Fig.3).
Northern corner	29°04'25"S. 026°11'29"E. Altitude 1473m (Fig.4).
Western corner	29°04'27"S. 026°11'27"E. Altitude 1469m (Fig.2).

FINDS

The soil surface is stony and appears to be sterile. No indication of any archaeological material was found.

Historical and cultural remnants occurred in the form of an isolated find of a soldered tin can and other metal objects characteristic of the Anglo-Boer War (Fig.6). These objects seem to be part of the larger military presence, which included Tempe and other parts at the time of the British occupation until about 1914 (Map 2). See for instance other recently completed EIA reports (Dreyer 28.7.2004 & 16.8.2004; Henderson 2004).

RECOMMENDATIONS

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

After examination I recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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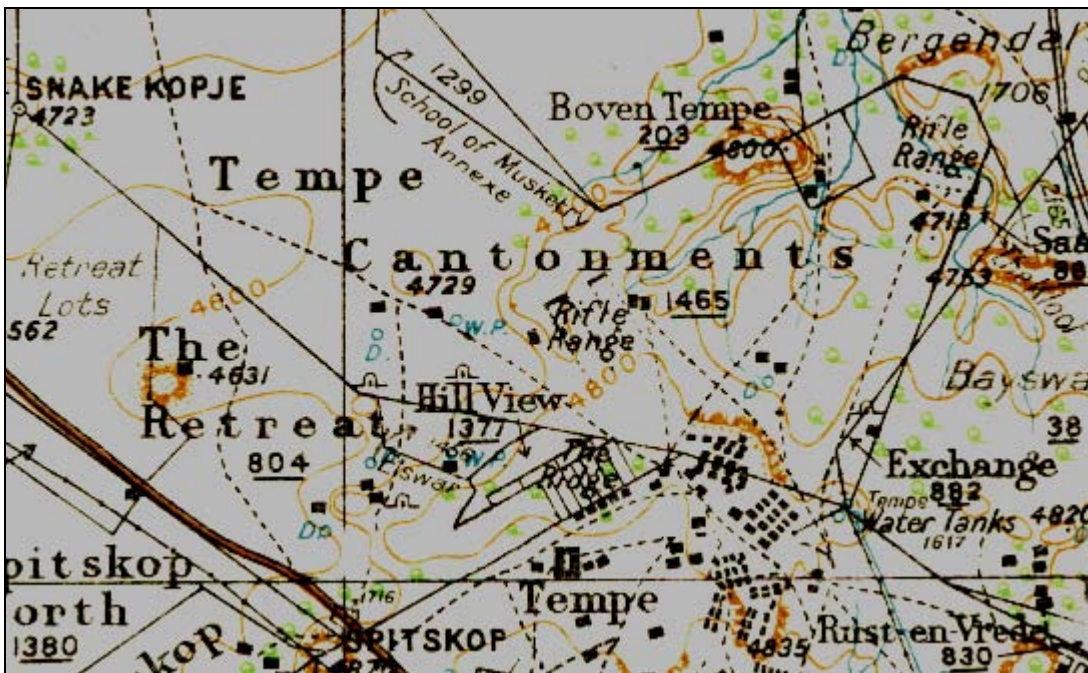
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Locality of Western Spitskop 1399 near Rayton, Bloemfontein (2926AA).



Map 2 Map of the same area shortly after the Anglo-Boer War.
Note the locality of the farm Hill View 1377.



Fig.1 Western Spitskop 1399, Rayton, Bloemfontein, facing east along Ray Champion Road.



Fig.2 Western Spitskop 1399, Rayton, Bloemfontein, facing north towards the N1 along Frans Kleynhans Road.



Fig.3 General view of the site from the eastern corner.



Fig.4 The northern corner of the proposed site.



Fig.5 Patches of *Rhus ciliata* (Klein Suurtaaibos) occur where the soil had been disturbed.



Fig.6 Soldered tin can and other pieces of metal characteristic of the Anglo-Boer War.