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## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BORROW PIT SITES ALONG THE N1 MAIN ROAD BETWEEN BLOEMFONTEIN & THE VERKEERDEVLEI TOLL GATE, FREE STATE**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Eleven borrow pits were investigated along the N1 main road between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate on the way to Winburg, Free State.

All the quarries will be extensions of existing borrow pits and contain no cultural or historic material.

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

### **INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION**

#### **INVESTIGATION**

Eleven borrow pit sites along the N1 main road between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate on the way to Winburg, were visited on 25 October 2006. Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants took me to the sites.

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

Eleven borrow pits were investigated along the N1 main road between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate on the way to Winburg, Free State (Map 1).

GPS coordinates (Cape scale) are given below:

**BP 1** is located on the farm Mimosa Glen 885 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.1).

28°59'22"S 026°15'58"E Altitude 1383m.

**BP 1b** is found on the farm Bishops Glen 273 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.2).

28°59'51"S 026°19'27"E Altitude 1319m.

**BP 2** located on the farm Glen Quinn 2890 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.3).

28°58'20"S 026°18'53"E Altitude 1300m.

**BP 3** is located on the farm Bishops Glen 273 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.4).

28°58'17"S 026°19'10"E Altitude 1299m.

Renoster River Bridge (Fig.5).

28°58'04"S 026°20'07"E Altitude 1291m.

Railway Bridge (Fig.6).

28°58'06"S 026°19'58"E Altitude 1301m.

Modder River Bridge (Fig.7).

28°57'43"S 026°21'33"E Altitude 1294m.

**BP 4** on the farm Weltevreden 243 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.8).

28°57'27"S 026°22'24"E Altitude 1301m.

**BP 4b** is located on the farm Weltevreden 243 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.9).

28°57'21"S 026°22'49"E Altitude 1301m.

**BP 5** on the farm Klein Osspruit 136 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.10). Pieces of highly patinated Lydianite pebbles, almost resembling stone tools occur in abundance (Figs.11&12).

28°56'09"S 026°25'55"E Altitude 1347m.

**BP 6** situated on the farm Weltevrede Zuid 183 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.13).

28°54'35"S 026°27'25"E Altitude 1384m.

**BP 7** on the farm Ebenaezer 479 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Figs.14&15).

28°52'16"S 026°30'55"E Altitude 1424m.

**BP 8** located on the farm IL Paradiso 925 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.16).

28°50'49"S 026°35'08"E Altitude 1417m.

**BP 9** situated on the farm Palmietfontein 140 along the N1 between Bloemfontein and the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate (Map 1). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.17).

28°57'27"S 026°22'24"E Altitude 1301m.

## **RESULTS**

All the sites visited contained existing borrow pits and did not produce any stone flakes or other cultural or historical material.

Pieces of highly patinated Lydianite pebbles, which almost resemble stone tools, (Figs.11&12) were found at BP 5 on the farm Klein Osspruit 136. Despite the abundance of material, no stone tools occur at the site.

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The proposed developments along the N1 will have no effect on any cultural or historical material.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the borrow pits and I recommend that the work may proceed.

## **MITIGATION**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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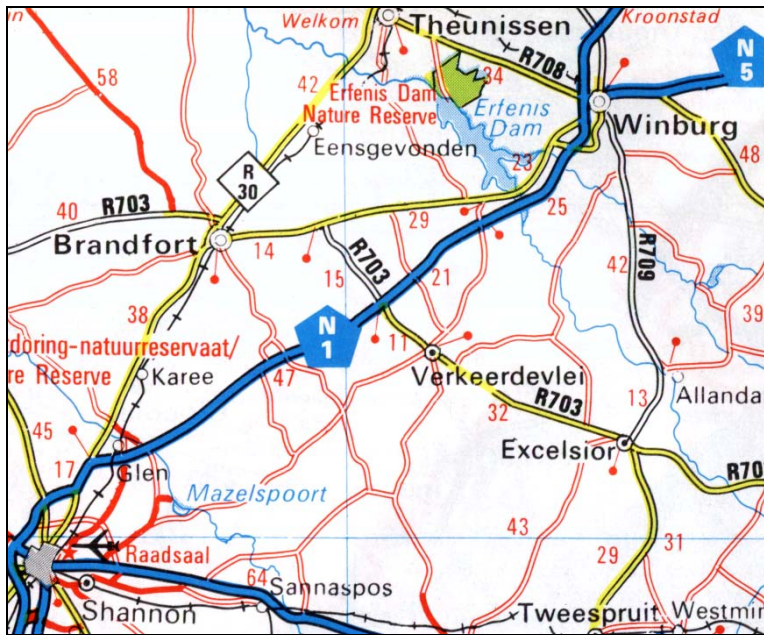
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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 The N1 main road between Bloemfontein & the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate.



Fig.1 BP 1 at Mimosa Glen 885, N1 Bloemfontein to Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate.



Fig.2 BP 1b at Bishops Glen 273 on the N1 Bloemfontein to the Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate.



Fig.3 BP 2 at Glen Quinn 2890, N1 Bloemfontein to Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate.



Fig.4 BP 3 at Bishops Glen 273, N1 Bloemfontein to Verkeerdevlei Toll Gate.



Fig.5 Bridge on the Renoster River on the N1.





Fig.6 Railway bridge at Renoster River N1.



Fig.7 Bridge on the Modder River along the N1..



Fig.8 BP 4 at Weltevreden 243 along the N1.



Fig.9 BP 4b at Weltevreden 243 along the N1.



Fig.10 BP 5 at Klein Oosspruit 136 on the N1.



Fig.11 Pieces of highly patinated Lydianite pebbles, almost resembling stone tools at BP 5 near the N1.



Fig.12 Pieces of highly patinated Lydianite pebbles at BP 5 near the N1.



Fig.13 BP 6 at Weltevrede Zuid 183 along the N1.



Fig.14 BP 7 at Ebeneazer 479 along the N1.



Fig.15 BP 7 at Ebeneazer 479 along the N1.



Fig.16 BP 8 at IL PARADISO 925 along the N1.



Fig.17 BP 9 at Palmietfontein 140 along the N1.