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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENTS ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM HILLSIDE 2830, BLOEMFONTEIN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residential developments are planned on the Remainder of the farm Hillside 2830, Bloemfontein, along the R700 road to Bultfontein.

The area contains grazing fields and had been damaged by road construction and the recent erection of a power line (Dreyer 2005). The present investigation produced no cultural or historical material.

I recommend that further planning and development of the site could continue.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site on the Remainder of the farm Hillside 2830, Bloemfontein, was visited and inspected on 13 March 2007. An official of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, accompanied me to the site and described the layout and borders of the specific portion of land.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical remains 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 proposed for township development is located on the Remainder of the farm Hillside 2830, Bloemfontein (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973).

The land borders on the R700 main road to Bultfontein (Map 1) and lies opposite the North Ridge Shopping Mall. The area stretches east from the main road towards the Municipal Landfill site and the Petra quarry and stone crusher (Map 2) (2926AA).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (Map 3):

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | 29°03'43"S 026°13'56"E Altitude 1431m (Fig.1). |
| B | 29°03'46"S 026°14'05"E Altitude 1428m (Figs.2&3). |
| C | 29°04'05"S 026°14'16"E Altitude 1417m (Fig.4). |
| D | 29°03'57"S 026°14'23"E Altitude 1424m (Figs.5-7). |

The soil surface is grass covered with sparse scatters of shrubs and trees and stony dolerite outcrops.

FINDS

The site was surveyed on foot and the perimeter points were plotted by GPS and the surface features recorded on camera.

It is notable that no remains of Anglo-Boer War origin were found to the east of the R700 road (cf. Dreyer 2004, Henderson 2004).

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

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

It is unlikely that remains of cultural or historical origin will have survived in this area so close to the stone crusher and the landfill site.

Unwanted elements that are attracted by the rubbish dump are roaming about and are seriously polluting the land.

The proposed residential developments at the Remainder of the farm Hillside 2830, Bloemfontein will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site and I recommend that the proposed residential developments should proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank MDA Environmental Consultants for involving me in this project.

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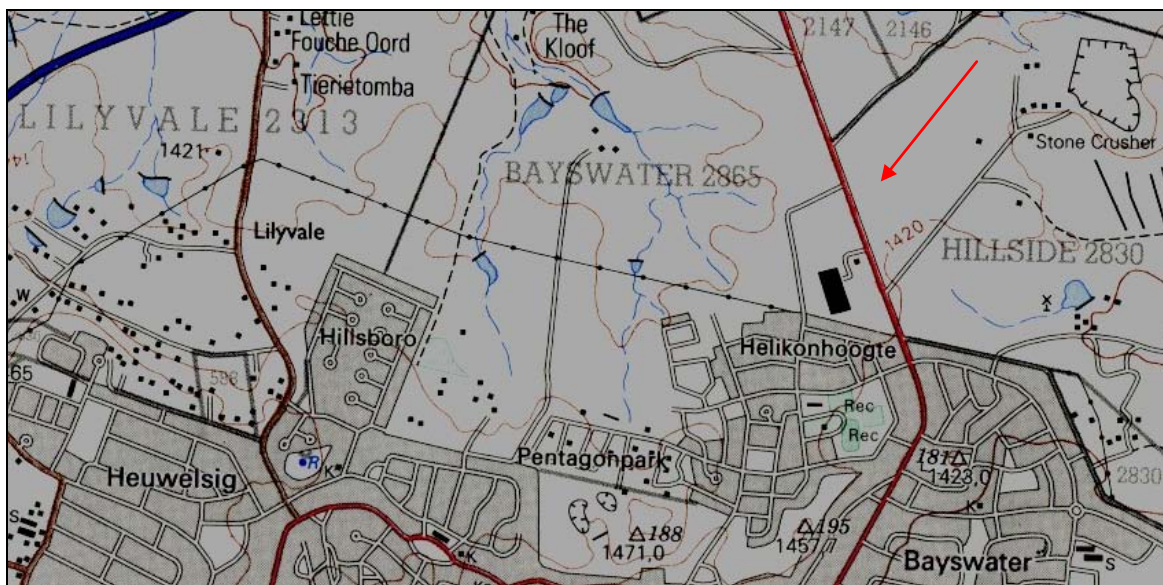
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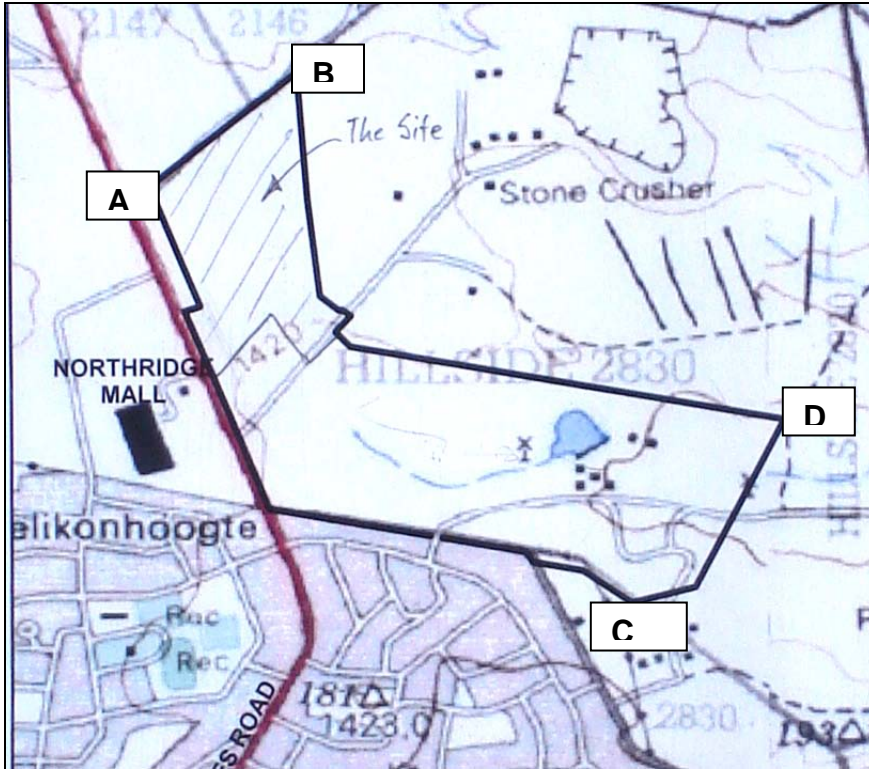
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Locality of the R700 from Bloemfontein to Bultfontein via Soutpan.



Map 2 Locality of Hillside 2830 adjacent to the Bayswater suburb and the R700 road (2926AA).



Map 3 Locality of the proposed site at Hillside 2830 opposite the Northridge Mall.



Fig.1 Point A at the north west corner of the property along the R700 main road facing east.



Fig.2 The vegetation at Point B.



Fig.3 View from Point B facing North Ridge Mall.



Fig.4 View from Point C facing North Ridge Mall.



Fig.5 View from Point D facing the Petra quarry and stone crusher.



Fig.6 Point D facing the entrance to the municipal land fill site.



Fig.7 View from Point D facing towards Bayswater and Naval Hill.