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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED FICHARDTPARK DISTRIBUTION CENTRE AND POWER LINE, BLOEMFONTEIN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new power distribution centre and power line is planned for the west of Bloemfontein.

The route represents an area through several existing suburbs of Bloemfontein, where numerous alterations were done over the years resulting in damage to the environment.

No archaeological or cultural remains were found in the proposed area of development.

I recommend that the proposed planning and development of the distribution centre and power line may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site and route for the Fichardtpark Distribution Centre and Power line was visited on 15 January 2008. Karissa Scott from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, accompanied 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 proposed power line will follow the railway line from the west (Point A) on the N8 (R48) road to Petrusburg to a new switching station opposite Bobbies Park (Point C) and along the storm water channel from the Willows distribution centre (Point E) to the Fichardtpark distribution centre on the corner of Pasteur and Usmar Street (Fichardtpark Sports Grounds) (Point D) (Map 1) (Surveyor-General 1973).

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

The different coordinate points were selected at random to indicate the extent of the land and other features.

A	29°07'26"S 026°09'34"E	(Figs.1-2).
B	29°08'00"S 026°11'29"E	Altitude 1411m (Fig.3).
C	29°08'00"S 026°11'24"E	Altitude 1412m (Figs.4&5).
D	29°08'31"S 026°11'22"E	Altitude 1424m (Fig.6).
E	29°07'06"S 026°12'04"E	Altitude 1388m (Fig.7).

RESULTS

FINDS

No indication of any archaeological or historical material was found along the proposed development route.

The whole area falls inside the residential area of several suburbs of Bloemfontein.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The route will follow an area where many activities took place and numerous alterations were done over the years, resulting in damage to the environment.

No archaeological and cultural remains were found in the proposed area of development.

The installation of the proposed distribution centre and power line developments will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains in the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the distribution centre and power line.

I recommend that the proposed developments could proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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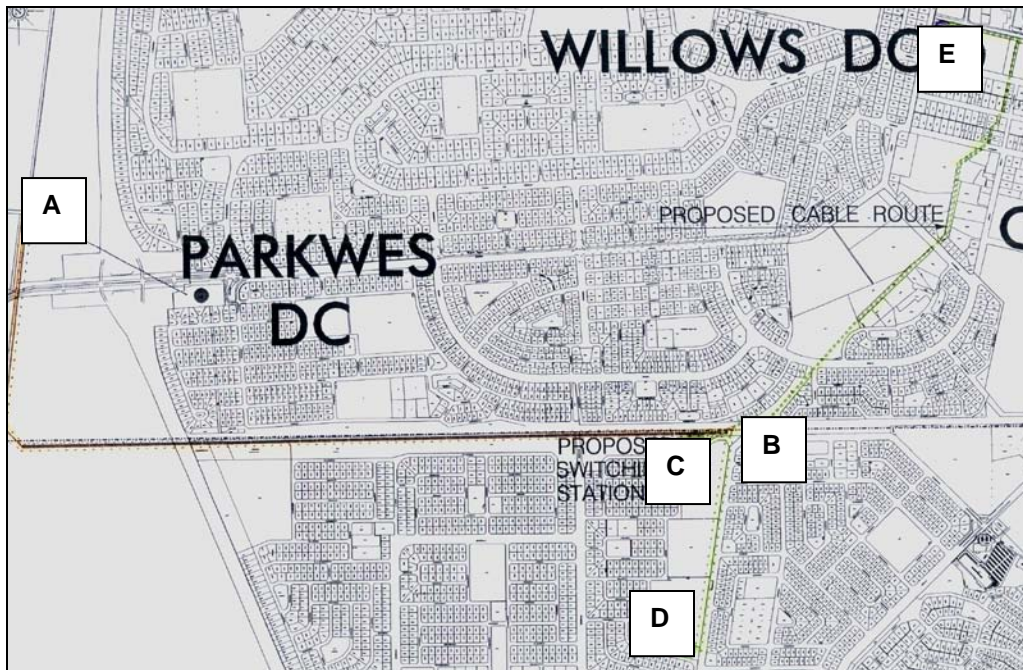
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Map 1 Route of the proposed new power line through Bloemfontein (2926AA).
Proposed power line with locality of the GPS coordinate points.



Fig.1 Facing north towards Point A.



Fig.2 Point A facing east.



Fig.3 Point B facing east along the storm water channel.



Fig.4 Pont C facing east. Position of the switching station



Fig.5 Point C facing east.



Fig.6 Point D at the locality of the Distribution Centre.



Fig.7 Point E Sub-station at the corner of Park Road and Parfit Avenue.