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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED EASTERN RING ROAD DEVELOPMENTS AT BLOEMFONTEIN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new eastern ring road is planned outside Bloemfontein to link the N8 road to Thaba Nchu with the R702 road to Dewetsdorp.

The route will run through the Ribblesdale, Midway, Bloemspruit, Shannon, Grasslands/Lakeview and Rodenbeck agricultural holdings.

The total distance forms part of a former residential and agricultural area where many activities took place over the years and numerous alterations were done, resulting in extensive damage to the environment.

No cultural historical and archaeological remains could be found during the investigation.

Mention was made of possible graves at Plot 90 Grassland, but this could not be confirmed.

I recommend that the proposed planning and development of the route may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The route for the proposed eastern ring road outside Bloemfontein was visited on 18 January 2008. Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions Incorporated, 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

A new eastern ring road is planned outside Bloemfontein as a link between the N8 road to Thaba Nchu and the R702 road to Dewetsdorp (Map 1).

The route will run through the Ribblesdale, Midway, Bloemspruit, Shannon, Grasslands/Lakeview and Rodenbeck agricultural holdings (Map 2) (Surveyor-General 1973).

The total distance forms part of a former residential and agricultural area where many activities took place over the years and numerous alterations were done, resulting in extensive damage to the environment.

The route for the proposed development is indicated on Map 2.

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

The different GPS coordinate points were selected at random to plot the route and to indicate the extent of the land and other features (Map 2).

A Ribblesdale	29°05'52"S 026°19'39"E	Altitude 1331m (Figs.1&2).
B Midway	29°06'43"S 026°19'00"E	Altitude 1339m (Figs.3&4).
C Martin Rd	29°07'49"S 026°18'58"E	Altitude 1347m (Figs.5&6).
D Lynchfield	29°08'30"S 026°18'55"E	Altitude 1346m (Figs.7&8).
E Railway line	29°08'44"S 026°18'46"E	Altitude 1338m (Figs.9&10).
F	29°09'18"S 026°18'29"E	Altitude 1341m (Figs.11&12).
G meadows Rd	29°10'23"S 026°18'00"E	Altitude 1357m (Figs.13&14).
H Dewetsdorp Rd	29°12'23"S 026°16'31"E	Altitude 1384m (Figs.15&16).

RESULTS

FINDS

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

Mention was made of possible graves at Plot 90 Grassland, but this could not be confirmed.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

The area appears to have fallen into neglect in places and some of the buildings and structures are showing signs of a lack of maintenance and deterioration. None of these structures seems to be unique specimens of their times, demanding preservation and protection.

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

The proposed road building 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 road.

I recommend that the proposed road building developments east of Bloemfontein could proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Manie van Wyk from Spatial Solutions Incorporated, Bloemfontein, for taking me on the route.

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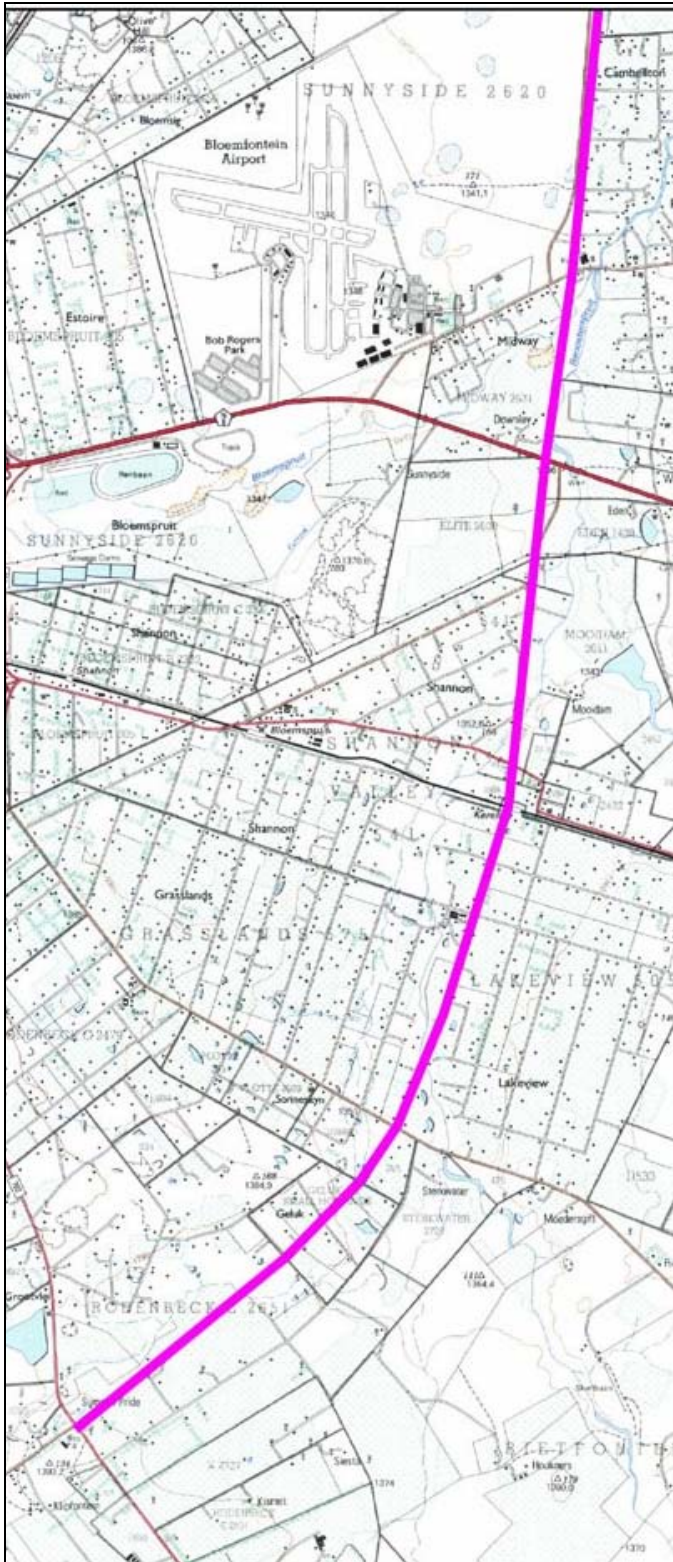
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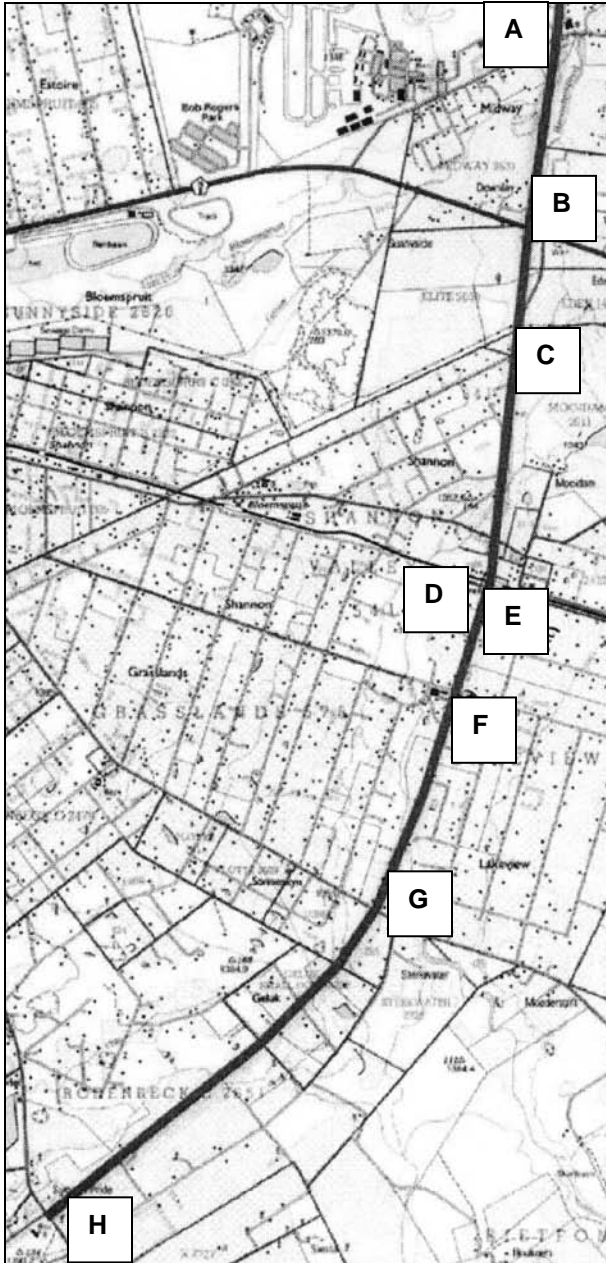
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of the Bloemfontein Race Track along the N8 main road to Thaba Nchu (2926AB).



Map 2 Concept layout plan of the proposed developments at the Bloemfontein Race Track.



Map 3 Locality of the GPS coordinate points taken at the Bloemfontein Race Track. Club House and stands indicated by red arrow.



Fig.1 Point A Ribblesdale.



Fig.2 Point A Ribblesdale.



Fig.3 Point B at Midway.



Fig.4 Pont B at Midway.



Fig.5 Point C Martin Road.



Fig.6 Point C Martin Road.



Fig.7 Point D Lynchfield.



Fig.8 Point D Lynchfiled.



Fig.9 Point E Railway line.



Fig.10 Point E Railway line.



Fig.11 Point F.



Fig.12 Point F.



Fig.13 Point G Meadows Road.



Fig.14 Point G Meadows Road.



Fig.15 Point H Dewetsdorp Road.



Fig.16 Point H Dewetsdorp Road.