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## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS AT THE BLOEMFONTEIN AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD, BLOEMFONTEIN**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Alterations are planned on the access road to the Bloemfontein Airport and Estoire agricultural holdings at the intersections with the N8 main road to Thaba Nchu.

Many activities took place over the years and numerous alterations had been done, resulting in severe disturbance of the environment.

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

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

### **INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION**

#### **INVESTIGATION**

The sites for the proposed alterations at the access road to the Bloemfontein Airport and Estoire agricultural holdings was visited on 19 August 2008. Dr. Jenine Bothma from Enviro-Namic Environmental Consultants, Pretoria, gave directions 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 alterations to the access road to the Bloemfontein Airport residential developments are planned along the N8 main road to Thaba Nchu (Map 1) (Surveyor-General 1973).

The layout plan for the proposed development is indicated on Map 2.

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

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

A	29°06'41"S 026°17'29"E	Altitude 1343m (Figs.1&2).
B	29°06'26"S 026°17'47"E	Altitude 1352m (Figs.3-5).
C	29°06'26"S 026°17'49"E	Altitude 1347m (Figs.6-8).
D	29°06'32"S 026°18'26"E	Altitude 1336m (Figs.9-11).
E	29°06'12"S 026°18'51"E	Altitude 1339m (Figs.12&13.).
F	29°06'52"S 026°16'38"E	Altitude 1346m (Fig.14).
G	29°06'35"S 026°17'48"E	Altitude 1344m (Figs.15-17).

## RESULTS

### FINDS

The Bloemfontein Airport is located in a high activity area along the N8 main road to Thaba Nchu. The Estoire agricultural holdings, the old Bloemfontein Turf Club and the Bloemfontein Race Course (Dreyer 2008) are also located in this area.

Many developments and upgrading took place over the years and numerous alterations had been done, resulting in severe damage to the environment.

No archaeological and cultural remains or historical material were found in the proposed areas of development.

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

The proposed alterations to the N8 road 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 site.

I recommend that the proposed developments at the entrance to the Bloemfontein Airport could proceed.

## **MITIGATION**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Dr. Jenine Bothma from Enviro-Namic Environmental Consultants, Pretoria, for giving directions to the site.

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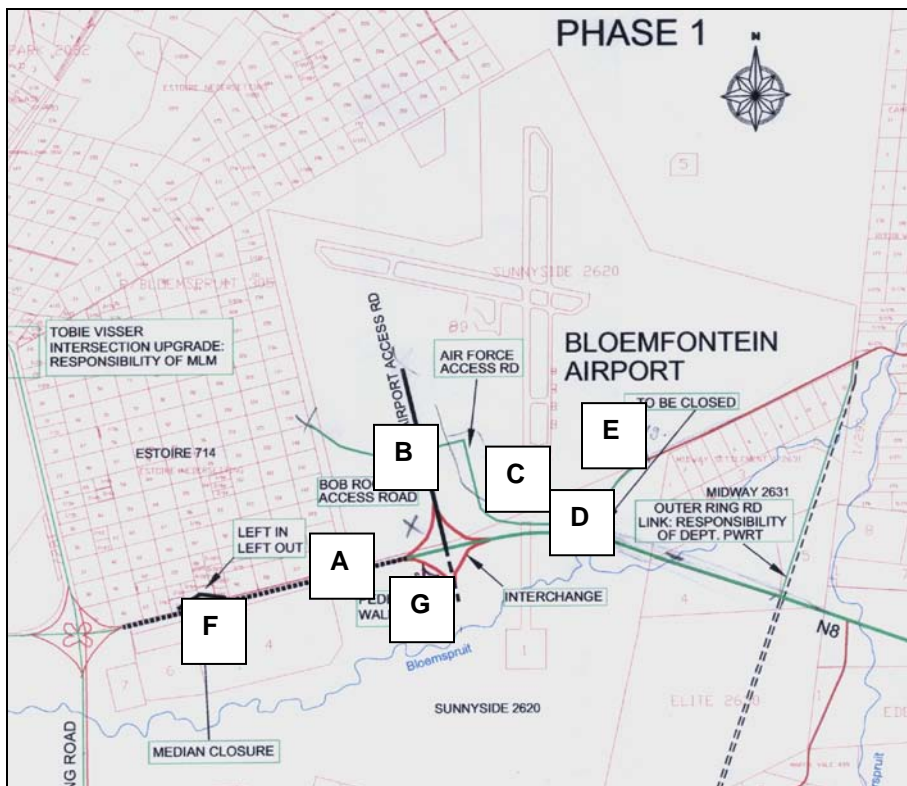
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**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**



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



Map 2 Locality of GPS coordinate points at the Bloemfontein Airport.



Fig.1 Point A along the N8 main road opposite Bob Rogers Park.



Fig.2 Point A along the N8 facing east.



Fig.3 Point B at the entrance road to the Bloemfontein airport.



Fig.4 Pont B at the entrance to Bob Rogers Park.



Fig.5 Point B facing the Bloemfontein Airport.



Fig.6 Point C facing north towards the runways at Bloemfontein Airport.





Fig.7 Point C facing south towards the runways at Bloemfontein Airport.



Fig.8 Point C facing east towards the runways at Bloemfontein Airport.



Fig.9 Point D at the N8 – Maselspoort road junction.



Fig.10 Point D at the Maselspoort – N8 junction.



Fig.11 Point D at the N8 – Maselspoort junction facing the runways at Bfn Airport.



Fig.12 Point E along the Maselspoort road at the Air Force Base entrance.



Fig.13 Point E at the Air Force Base entrance.



Fig.14 Point F at the N8 – filling station junction.



Fig.15 Point G at the existing entrance to the Bloemfontein Airport.



Fig.16 Point G at the Bloemfontein Airport entrance facing east along the N8.



Fig.17 Point G at the N8 – Airport entrance junctin.