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## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BORROW PIT SITES ALONG THE R30 MAIN ROAD BETWEEN BRANDFORT & VET RIVER, FREE STATE**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Several borrow pits intended for use during the upgrading of the R30 main road between Brandfort and Theunissen, Free State, was investigated.

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

Graves occur near two of the sites and should be avoided during excavations.

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

### **INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION**

#### **INVESTIGATION**

Borrow pits for the upgrading of the R30 main road between Brandfort and Theunissen, were visited on 5 January 2007. Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, 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

Nine borrow pits were investigated along the R30 main road between Brandfort and the Beatrix Mine turn-off near Theunissen, Free State (Map 2).

GPS coordinates (Cape scale) are given below:

**BP km 7,7** at Masjwemasweu, Brandfort. (Map 3). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.1).

28°40'31"S 026°28'05"E Altitude 1436m.

**BP km 15,3** Borrow pit on the farm Biesiebult 90 along the R30 main road between Brandfort and Theunissen.

**BP km 24** existing borrow pit (Figs. 2-4) on the farm Petrus Rust 577.

28°33'38"S 026°34'09"E Altitude 1430m.

**Δ Trig-Beacon PE-ST 252** 28°33'44"S 026°34'09"E Altitude 1441m.

**BP km 27,4** an existing borrow pit (Map 4) on the farm Meyersgift 242 on the S500 secondary road (Fig.5).

28°32'11"S 026°35'27"E Altitude 1379m.

**BP km 30,3** an existing borrow pit (Map 5) on the farm Waterval 513 (Fig.6).

28°30'55"S 026°36'14"E Altitude 1358m.

Graves (Fig.7) 28°30'47"S 026°36'20"E Altitude 1348m.

**BP km 38,6** (Map 7) at the Sand River bridge on the farm Moidraai 280 along the S500 secondary road (Fig.9).

28°27'45"S 026°39'39"E Altitude 1324m.

**BP km 42,6** existing borrow pit (Map 6) on the farm Afrikaner Oord 80 along the R30 main road (Fig.8).

28°26'00"S 026°41'00"E Altitude 1372m.

**BP km 4/33B** at Theunissen 262 (Map 8) (Fig.10).

28°22'36"S 026°43'10"E Altitude 1446m.

Graves (6) (Fig.11) 28°32'11"S 026°35'27"E Altitude 1446m.

**BP km 6,4** (Map 9) on the farm Bella Vista (Figs.12&13).  
28°20'29"S 026°44'06"E Altitude 1448m.

## **RESULTS**

No stone flakes or archaeological material was found at any of the sites.

Remains of crude stone-walling (Fig.3) and the stone base of a (Fig.4) clay wall are found near the borrow pit at Petrus Rust 577. The origin and purpose of these features could not be determined.

Graves (Fig.7) occurred at BP km 30,3 on Waterval 513 and at BP km 4/33B on Theunissen 262 (Fig.11).

An old bridge which had been part of the original railway line was found near BP km 6,4 at Bella Vista (Fig.14) but falls outside the proposed borrow pit.

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The proposed developments along the R30 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, mitigation measures will only be required in the case of the graves. Care should be taken not to disturb the graves during the excavation and the removal of gravel from the borrow pits.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Dr Johan du Preez from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the sites.

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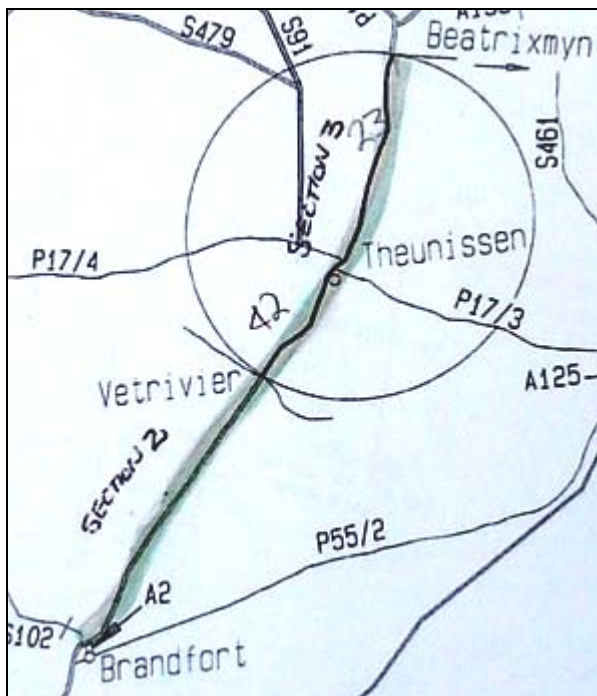
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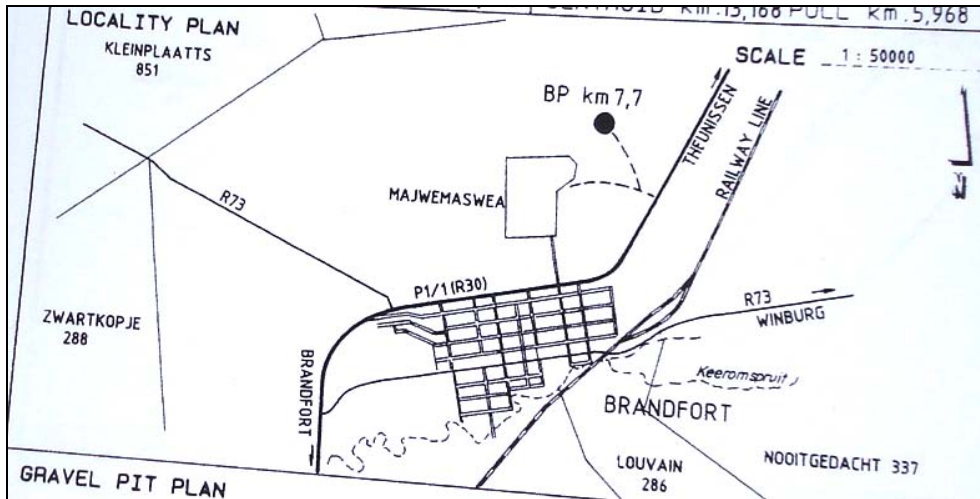
## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 The R30 main road between Brandfort and Theunissen.



Map 2 The R30 road between Brandfort and the Beatrix Mine via Theunissen.



Map 3 Locality of BP km 7,7 at Masjwemasweu outside Brandfort.



Fig.1 BP km 7,7 at Masjwemasweu outside Brandfort



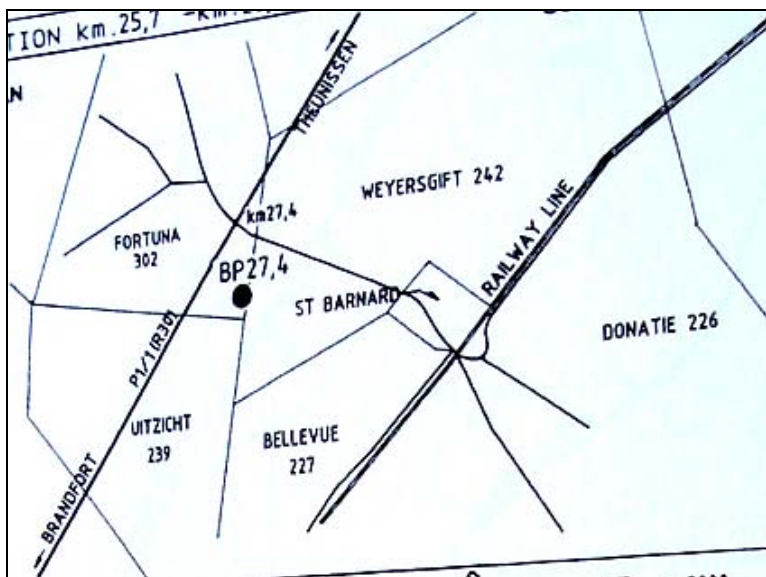
Fig.2 The existing borrow pit at Petrus Rust 577.



Fig.3 Remains of crude stone-walling near the borrow pit at Petrus Rust 577.



Fig.4 Double row of stones forming the base of a clay wall at Petrus Rust 577.

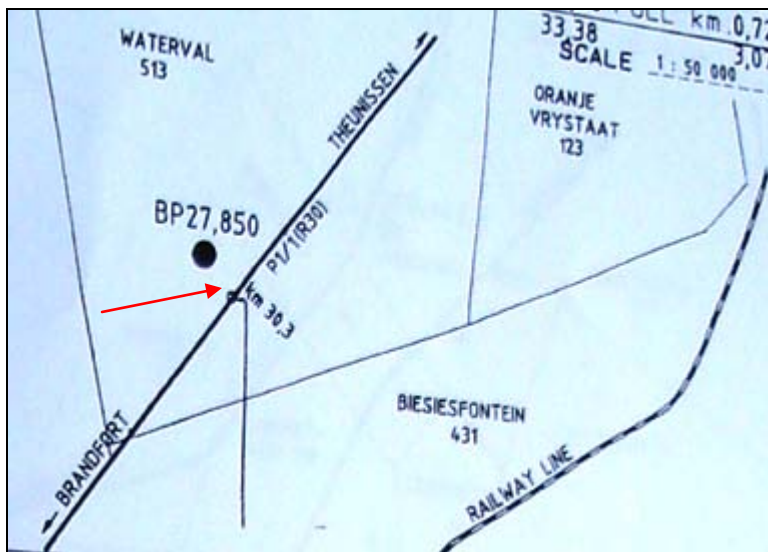


Map 4 Locality BP km 27,4 at Meyersgift 242.





Fig.5 BP km 27,4 at Meyersgift 242.



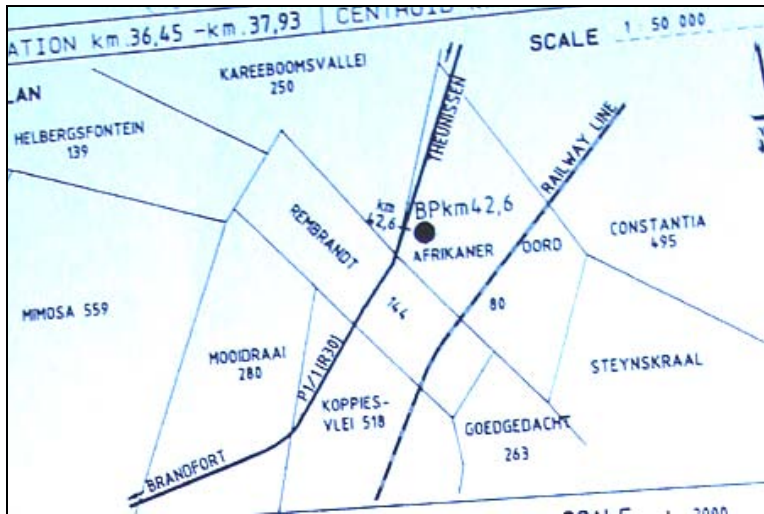
Map 5 Locality of BP km 30,3 at Waterval 513.



Fig.6 BP km 30,3 at Waterval 513 along the R30, Brandfort to Theunissen.



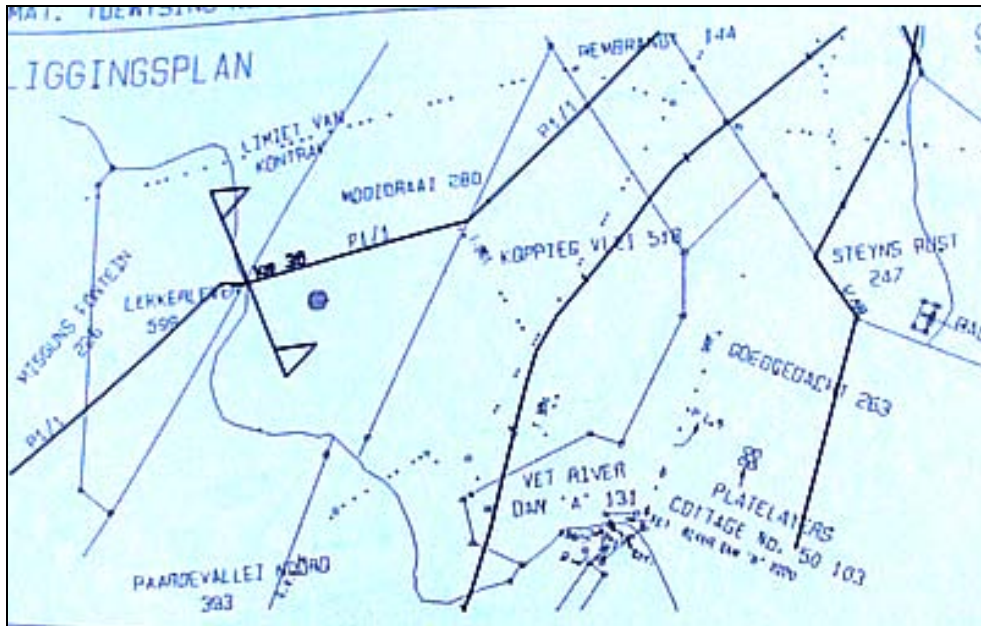
Fig.7 Grave at BP km 30,3 at Waterval 513.



Map 6 BP km 42,6 at Afrikaner Oord 80.



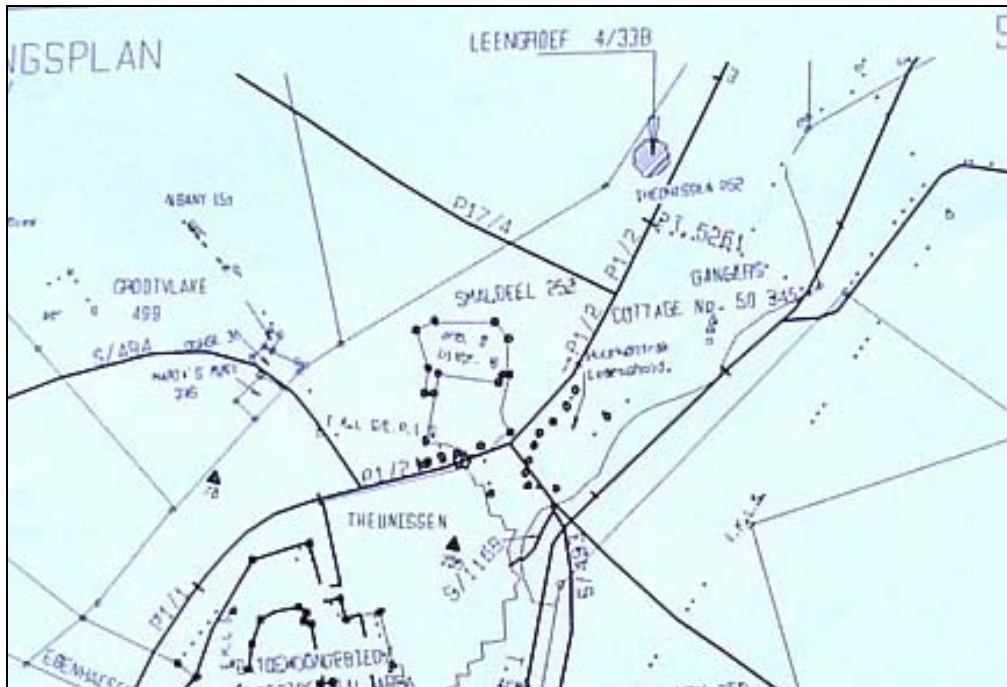
Fig.8 BP km 42,6 at Afrikaner Oord 80.



Map 7 BP km 38,6 at Moodraai 280.



Fig.9 BP km 38,6 at Moodraai 280.



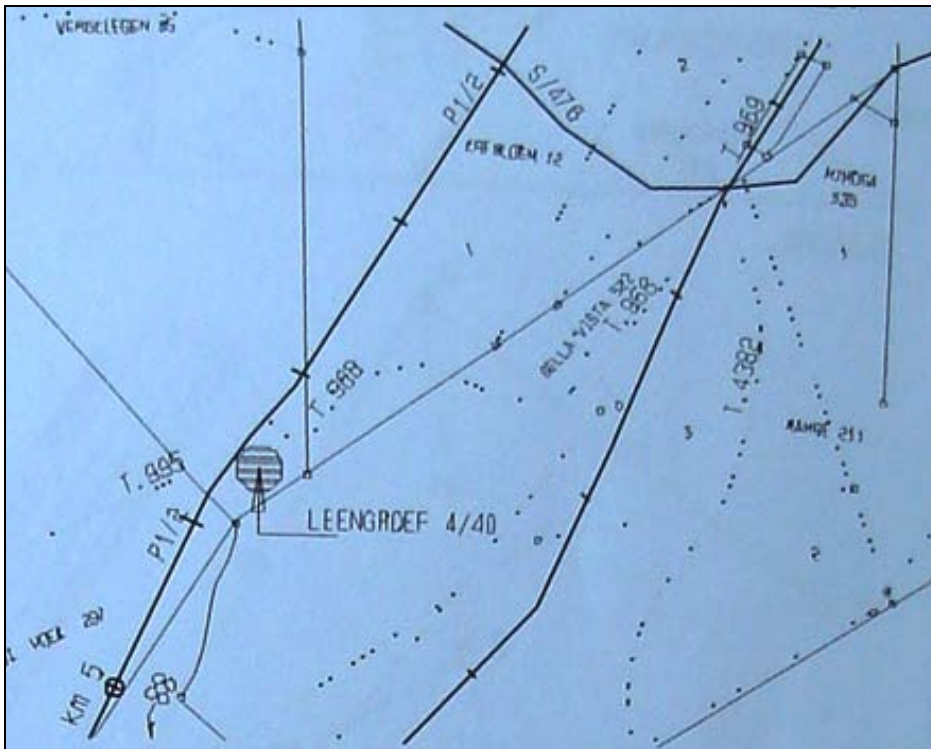
Map 8 BP 4/33B at Theunissen 262.



Fig.10 BP km 4/33B at Theunissen 262.



Fig.11 Graves near BP 4/33B at Theunissen 262.



Map 9 Locality of BP km 6,4 at Bella Vista.



Fig.12 BP km 6,4 at Bella Vista..



Fig.13 BP km 6,4 at Bella Vista.



Fig.14 Old railway bridge near BP km 6,4 at Bella Vista.