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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENTS AT EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The new proposed residential developments are planned at Excelsior, Free State.

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

The proposed developments and planning of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential developments at Excelsior was visited on 14 December 2005. Mr Piet de Bie from Phethogo Consultants, Bloemfontein, gave indications 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 residential developments are planned at Excelsior, Free State (Map 1).

The proposed developments are located along the entrance road to Excelsior and the R703/709 main road from Verkeerdevlei to Clocolan (Map 2).

The area consists of old plough fields and contains no cultural or historical material. The developments will cause a serious loss of arable land, with the attended damage to adjacent fields already visible.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (Surveyor-General 1973):

A existing township	28°55'34"S. 027°03'08"E Altitude 1452m.
B existing township	28°55'25"S. 027°02'53"E Altitude 1456m.
C near road	28°55'16"S. 027°03'05"E Altitude 1464m (Fig.4).
D corner	28°55'16"S. 027°03'17"E Altitude 1455m (Fig.1).
E	28°55'34"S. 027°03'17"E Altitude 1453m.

RESULTS

The land proposed for further residential developments lie adjacent to the existing township.

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

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed residential developments at Excelsior will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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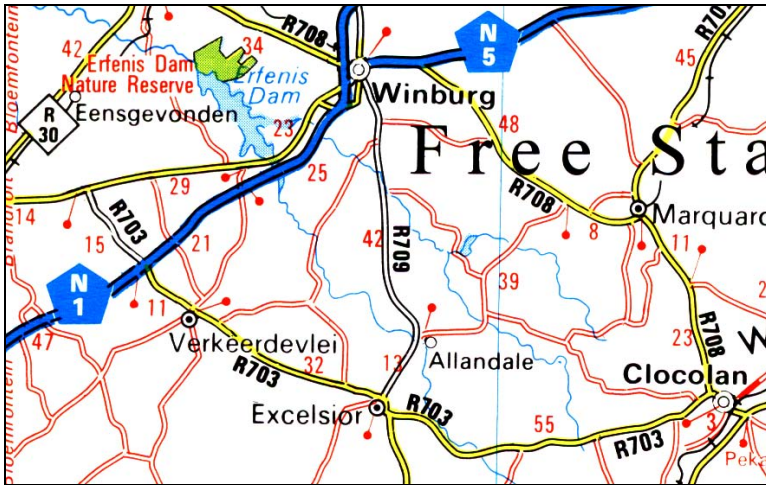
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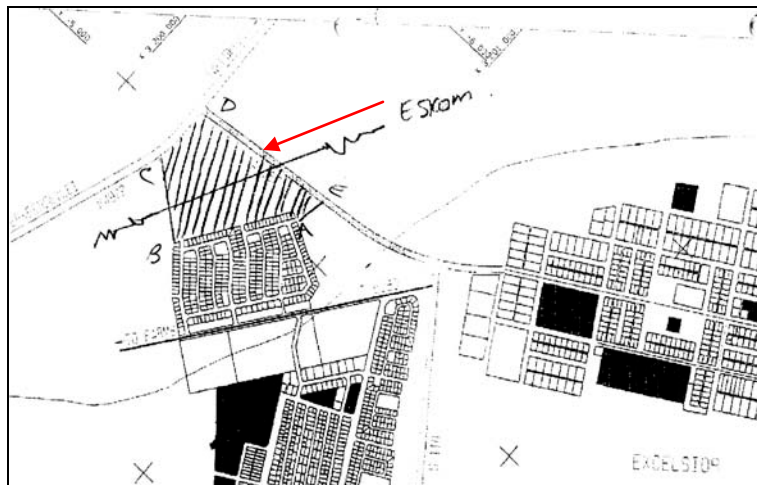
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Excelsior in relation to Verkeerdevlei, Winburg and Clocolan.



Map 2 Locality of the proposed housing developments at Excelsior. GPS points indicated A-E.



Fig.1 View from corner between roads. Point D.



Fig.2 View along entrance road to Excelsior facing south.



Fig.3 General view across the area of development.



Fig.4 View from point C along the main road. Note the crop fields on the right.



Fig.5 View from the R703 main road towards the town of Excelsior.



Fig.6 View from the R703 main road towards the crop field adjacent to the land proposed for township development.