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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT FICKSBURG, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residential developments are planned at Ficksburg, Free State. The area of development lies adjacent to the existing township of Meqeleng. The area has already been disturbed by an extensive informal housing settlement.

No archaeological or any cultural remains were found at the site.

Mitigation measures are not necessary and I recommend that the proposed developments and formalising of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential developments at Meqeleng at Ficksburg was visited on 23 March 2007. Mr Piet de Bie from Phethogo Consultants, Bloemfontein, 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 residential developments are planned at the township of Meqeleng, at Ficksburg, Free State (Map 1). The placing of the residential developments at Meqeleng, will be located to the west of the existing township (Map 2).

The following GPS coordinate (Cape scale) was taken (Surveyor-General 1973):

A 28°54'03"S. 027°51'36"E Altitude 1571m (Figs.1&2).

RESULTS

The planned developments will formalise the informal settlement adjacent to the existing township of Megeleng, at Ficksburg, Free State.

The area has already been occupied by informal settlers in iron shacks (Fig.1) and more permanent mud houses (Fig.2).

No archaeological or any cultural remains were found at the site during the investigation.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

The residential developments at Meqeleng, Ficksburg, will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Mr Piet de Bie of Phethogo Consulting, Bloemfontein, for involving me in the project.

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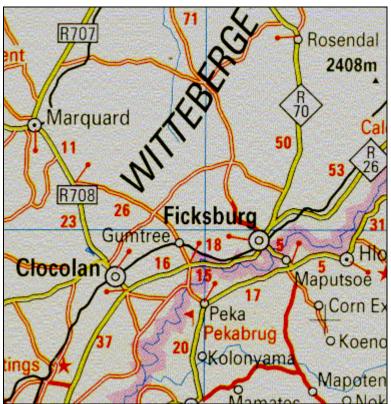
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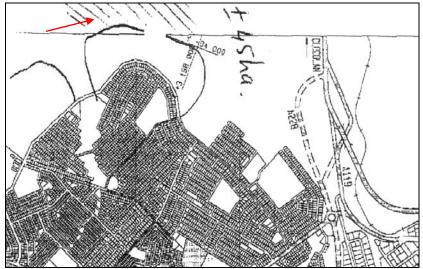
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Ficksburg in relation to Marquard, Clocolan and the Lesotho border.



Map 2 Placing of the residential developments at Meqeleng, Ficksburg.



Fig.1 The informal settlements at Meqeleng, Ficksburg.



Fig.2 Informal housing at Meqeleng, Ficksburg.



Fig.3 Gardening on the outskirts at Meqeleng, Ficksburg.



Fig.4 Open grazing fields adjacent to the township extension.



Fig.5 Unofficial extension of the house stands on the outskirts of the township.