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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residential developments are planned at Senekal, Free State. The area of development lies adjacent to the existing township of Matwabeng. There is a considerable disturbance of the soil surface by erosion and dumping of refuse.

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

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

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed residential developments at Matwabeng near Senekal was visited on 23 February 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 adjacent to the township of Matwabeng, Senekal, Free State (Map 1). The residential developments at Matwabeng, Senekal, are located between the S665 road to Tafelkop and the A62 road to Ficksburg (Map 2).

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | 28°20'46"S. 027°38'06"E Altitude 1460m (Fig.1). |
| B | 28°20'26"S. 027°39'16"E Altitude 1472m (Fig.2-6). |
| C | 28°21'02"S. 027°38'15"E Altitude 1448m (Fig.7). |

RESULTS

The planned developments will extend the township of Matwabeng, at Senekal, Free State.

The area covers grazing fields which are exploited by the stock keeping inmates of the township (Fig.9).

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 Matwabeng, Senekal, 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

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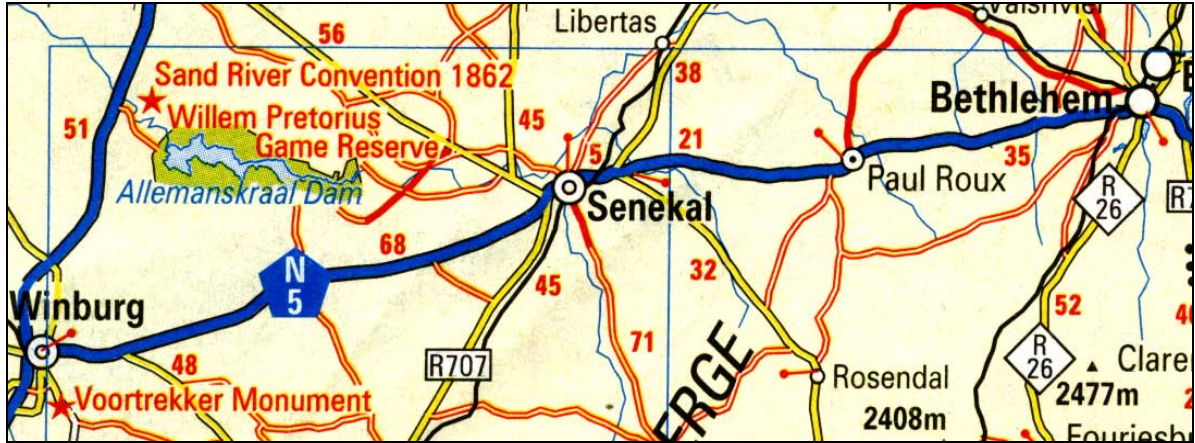
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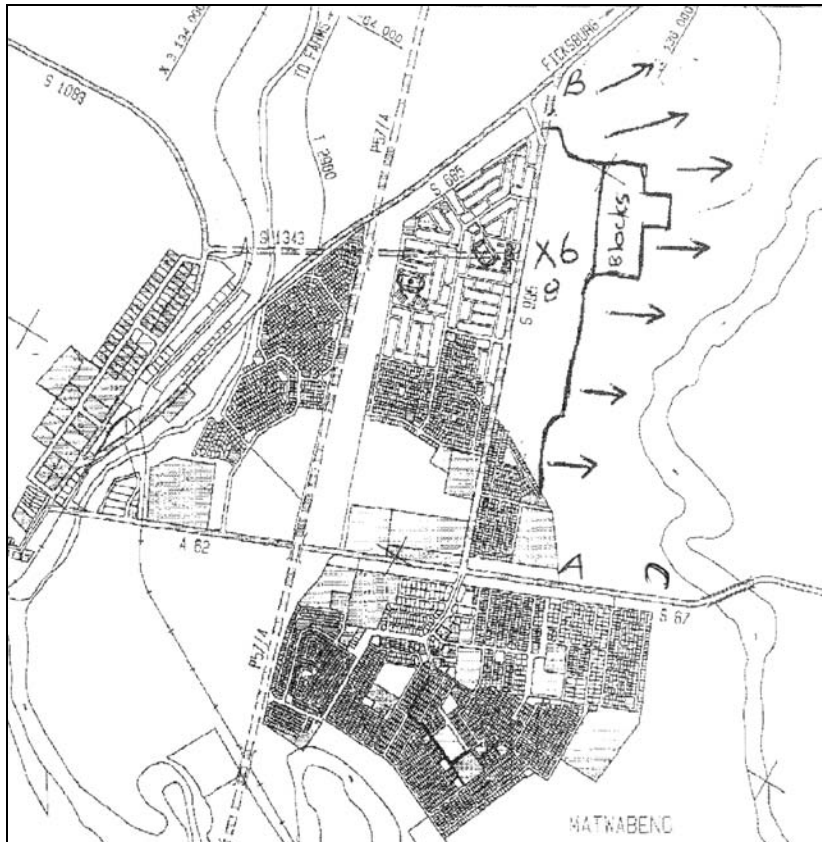
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Locality of Senekal in relation to Winburg, Rosendal and Bethlehem.



Map 2 Placing of the residential developments at Matwabeng, Senekal.



Fig.1 View of border of the proposed site of development at Point A.



Fig.2 View of the proposed area at Point B facing west.



Fig.3 View from point B facing north.



Fig.4 View from point B facing south. Wonderkop at the back.



Fig.5 View from point B. Tafelkop at the back.



Fig.6 View from point B facing east with Ghwarriekop and Biddulphsberg in the centre.



Fig.7 View from point C with Tafelkop at the back.



Fig.8 General view from point C facing Biddulphsberg (east).



Fig.9 Point C facing north along the A62 road to Ficksburg.



Fig.10 Soil erosion dongas are visible in the area of development.



Fig.11 Refuse dumps occur in the area of development.