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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED NEW FILLING STATION AT VIRGINIA, FREE STATE**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the development of a filling station along the R73 road between Virginia and Welkom was visited and inspected on 12 August 2005. Dr Johan du Preez of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, accompanied me 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 two sites for the proposed development of filling stations are located along the R73 road between Virginia and Welkom. It is planned to build filling stations on the west and east sides of the road. To the west the developments will be on the Remainder of the farm Video (28°03'13"S. 026°49'25"E Altitude 1342m) (Fig.1). To the east the buildings will be placed on the remainder of the farm La Riviera (28°03'12"S. 026°49'27"E Altitude 1343m) (Fig.2).

The land to the west had been used as old plough lands, while the land to the east are still under cultivated crops.

### **FINDS**

No remains of any archaeological or historical significance were found in the specific area at Virginia.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

After examination by the archaeologist, it is recommended that the proposed developments may proceed.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed development, no mitigation measures are needed.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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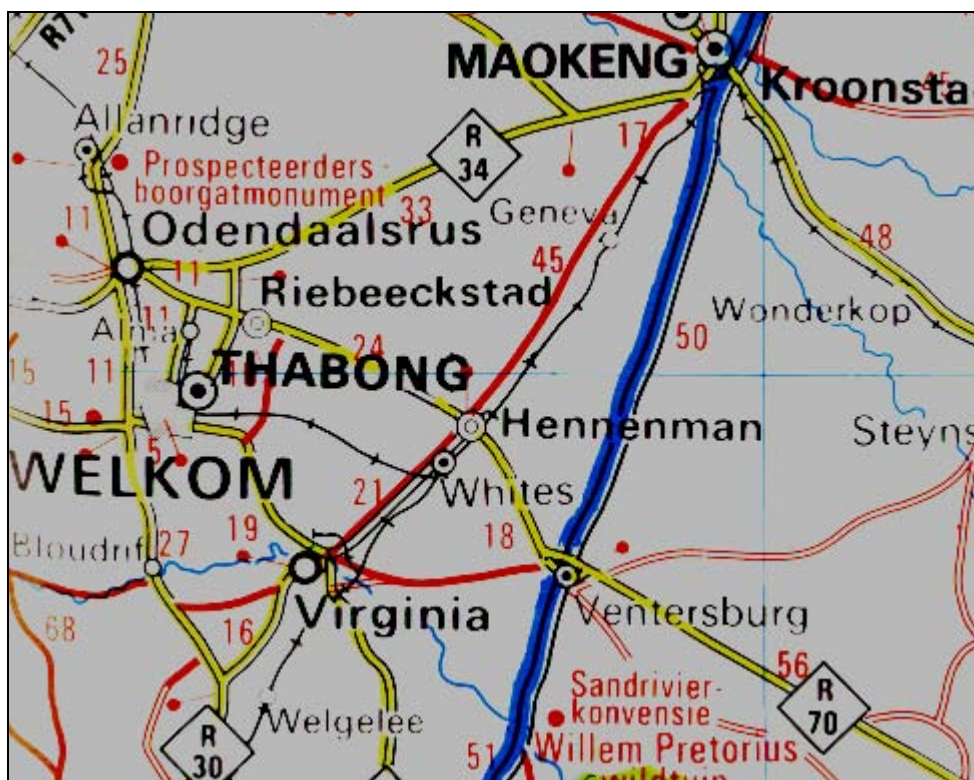
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Map 1. Position of the road between Virginia and Welkom.

**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Fig.1 View of the area proposed for the development of a filling station at Virginia. Picture was taken facing west towards the farm Video, Virginia.



Fig.2 Facing east across the area of the proposed filling station at Virginia. Picture was taken facing east towards the La Riviera, Virginia.