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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT MMAMAHABANE (VENTERSBURG), FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Residential developments are planned at Mmahahabane (Ventersburg), Free State. The area of development lies adjacent the R70 main road to Senekal and borders on to the existing township. 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 Mmamahahabane at Ventersburg was visited on 10 September 2007. Tommie Bolton from LS&B Consultants, Welkom, 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 Mmamahahabane, at Ventersburg, Free State (Map 1). The placing of the residential developments will be located to the east of the existing township (Map 2).

The area of development lies on a flood plain and contains black soil.

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

- | | |
|----------|--|
| A | 28°05'00"S. 027°09'16"E Altitude 1425m (Figs.1&2). |
| G | 28°05'05"S. 027°09'26"E Altitude 1418m (Figs.3&4). |
| S | 28°05'14"S. 027°09'23"E Altitude 1413m (Figs.5,6&7). |

RESULTS

The planned developments will formalise the existing informal housing settlement adjacent to the existing township of Mmamahahabane, at Ventersburg, Free State.

The area has already been occupied by informal settlers in iron shacks (Fig.1) and other temporary structures (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 Mmamahahabane, Ventersburg, 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 Tommie Bolton from LS&B Consultants, Welkom, for involving me in the project.

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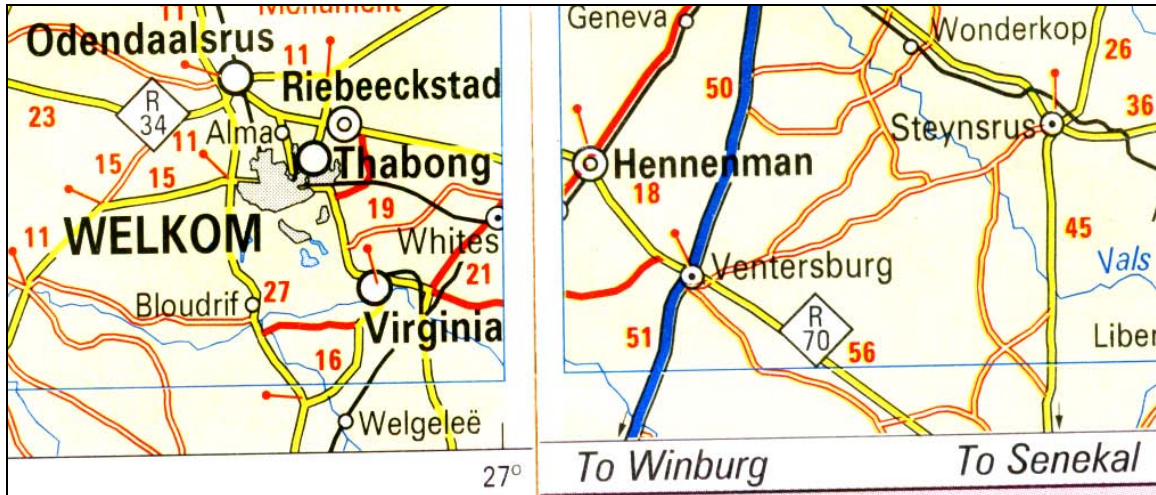
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



Map 1 Ventersburg in relation to the Free State goldfields and other towns in the area.



Map 2 Placing of the new residential developments at Mmamahahabane, Ventersburg. GPS points A, G and S are indicated.



Fig.1 View from point A of the existing informal settlement at Mmamahahabane, Ventersburg, facing south.



Fig.2 Point A facing east.



Fig.3 Point G at Mmahahabane, Ventersburg, facing east along the R70 road to Senekal.



Fig.4 Point G facing south.



Fig.5 Point S facing south.



Fig.6 Point S facing north.



Fig.7 Point S facing east. R70 main road to Senekal on the left.