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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED REHABILITATIONS OF THE NATIONAL ROUTE 1, SECTION 14 BETWEEN FONTEINTJIE (KM90,2) - WURASOORD (KM39,0), FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rehabilitation of the National Route 1, Section 14, is planned between Fonteintjie (km 90,2) and Wurasoord (km 39,0). The upgrading along this section will cover a distance of 51,2 km and will include added climbing lanes, overhead bridges, underpass bridges and several cellular culverts.

All the bridges and culverts are existing features, but the climbing lanes will be new extensions.

Constructions will be done inside the road reserve and will have no impact on any cultural or historical remains on private owned land.

A cluster of graves is situated outside the road reserve and should be avoided during construction work.

Several roadside memorials occur inside the road reserve. These objects could become obstacles during the road building process. I recommend that in sympathy with the relatives these items should be treated with the necessary respect.

No other cultural or historical material was found during the investigation.

I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the road rehabilitation may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The 51,2 km distance of Section 14 of the National Route 1 between Fonteintjie (km 39,0) and Wurasoord (km 90,2) south of Bloemfontein, was visited on 31 May 2008. Theo Wicks from Terratest Geological, Environmental and Earth Science Consultants gave directions to the sites.

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 rehabilitation of the National Route 1, Section 14, is planned between Fonteintjie (km 90,2) and Wurasoord (km 39,0). The upgrading along this section will cover a distance of 51,2 km and will include twelve added climbing lanes, 6 overhead bridges, two underpass bridges and sixteen culverts (Maps 1-4).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

90,0 km	29°28'11"S 026°06'13"E	Altitude 1392m (Fig.1).
88,4 km	29°29'00"S 026°05'54"E	Altitude 1395m (Fig.2).
85,0 km	29°30'45"S 026°05'14"E	Altitude 1433m (Fig.3).
81,6 km	29°32'19"S 026°04'08"E	Altitude 1403m (Fig.4).
79,4 km	29°33'19"S 026°03'24"E	Altitude 1421m (Fig.5).
WURASOORD	29°35'58"S 026°01'32"E	Altitude 1377m (Fig.6).
69,6 km	29°37'50"S 026°00'13"E	Altitude 13692m (Fig.7).
RIET RIVER	29°39'44"S 025°59'17"E	Altitude 1327m (Fig.8).
64,25 km	29°40'32"S 025°58'56"E	Altitude 1345m (Fig.11).
65,2 km	29°40'01"S 025°59'09"E	Altitude 1329m (Fig.12).

61,9 (62,0) km	29°41'41"S 025°58'35"E	Altitude 1340m (Fig.13).
60,3 (60,4) km	29°42'31"S 025°58'20"E	Altitude 1365m (Fig.14).
53,4 km	29°46'11"S 025°57'14"E	Altitude 1388m (Fig.15).
52,0 km (11 Graves)	29°46'53"S 025°56'54"E	Altitude 1395m (Fig.16).
50,4 km	29°47'36"S 025°56'18"E	Altitude 1391m (Fig.20).
42,4 km	29°51'06"S 025°53'25"E	Altitude 1467m (Fig.21).
39,0 km	29°52'42"S 025°52'22"E	Altitude 1442m (Fig.22).

RESULTS

The road upgrading will mainly be within the road reserve.

No archaeological, historical or cultural material was found at any of the sites.

A cluster of about eleven graves is located at 52,0 km outside the road reserve. Two graves had been inscribed. The tombstones date from 1966 and 1984 respectively (Figs.16-19).

Several roadside memorials occur inside the road reserve. Only one of these features is inscribed. A granite cross commemorates a certain Tom van Rensburg, who had been a member of the Rhodesian Light Infantry, born 28 July 1938 and died on 6 June 2007 (Fig.9). Near this stone, there is another white cross without any inscription (Fig.10).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed developments along the N1 will have no effect on any cultural or historical material.

The cluster of graves lies outside the road reserve and will not be affected by the road construction.

Road memorials could become obstacles during the road building process.

I am not familiar with any regulations or legal restrictions to administrate the erection of road memorials.

These objects are of a very personal nature and commemorate the loss of some unknown person's relative. In consideration and merely to treat the dead and their relatives with sympathy and human dignity, I recommend that these objects should be treated with the necessary respect.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the upgrading of the road and I recommend that the work may proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Theo Wicks from Terratest Geotechnical & Earth Science Consultants for involving me in the project.

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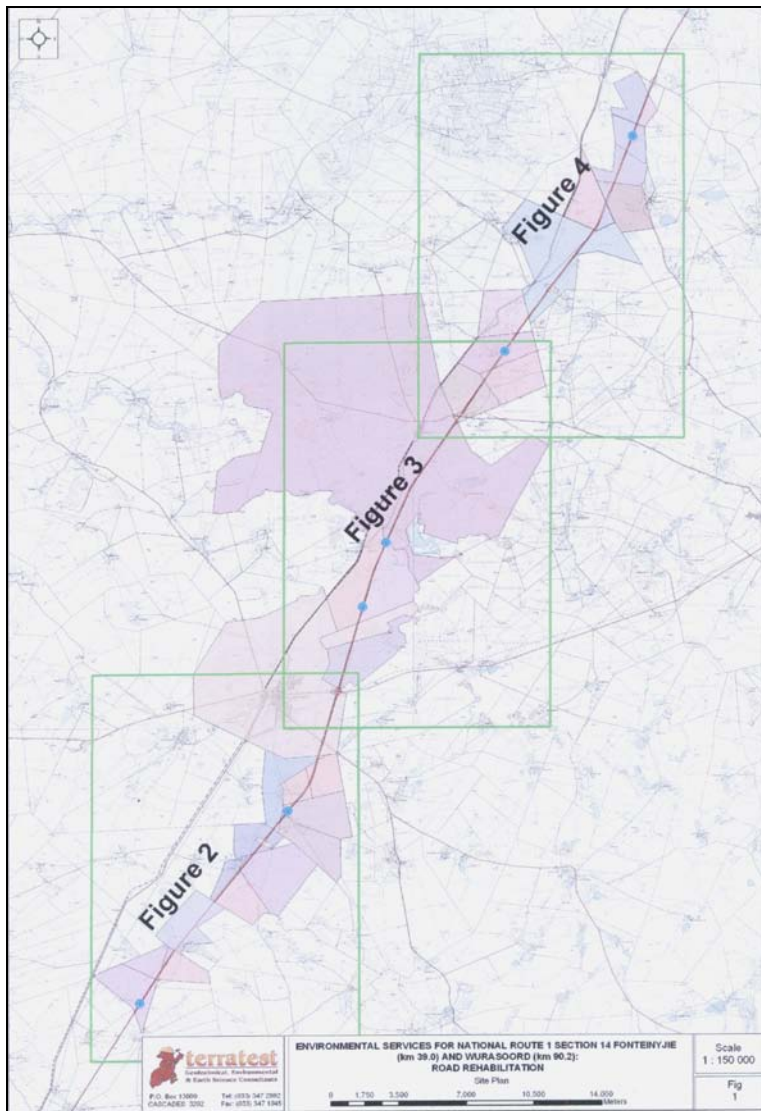
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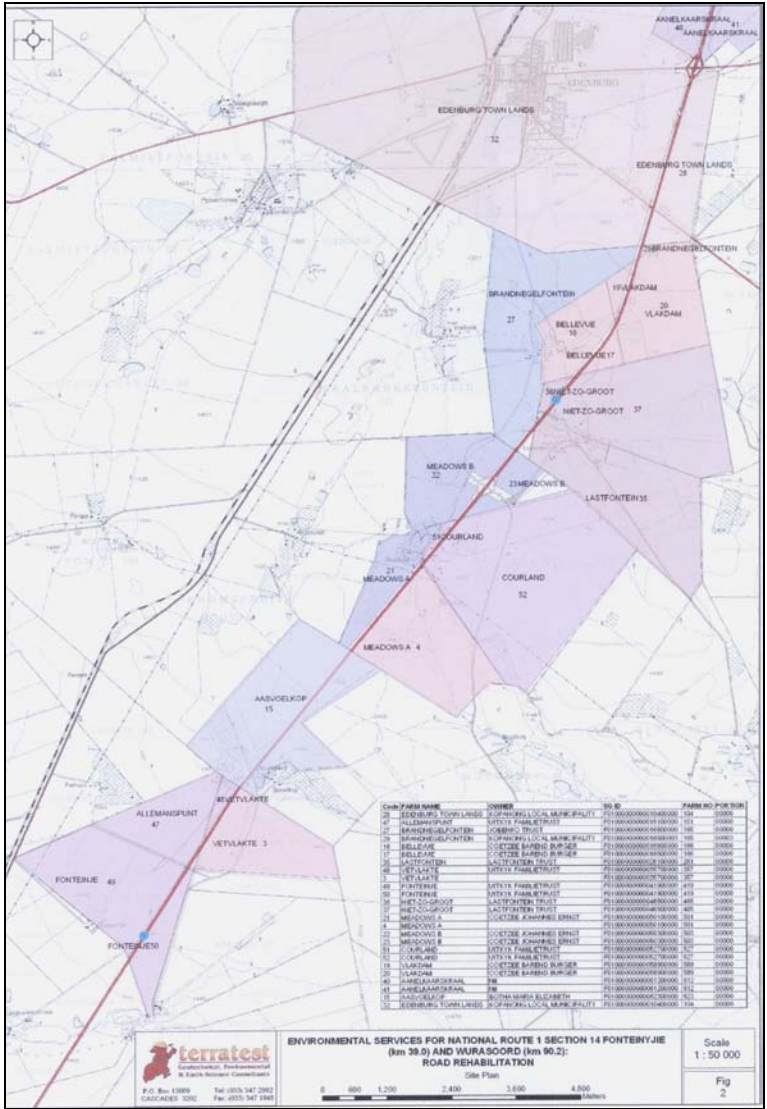
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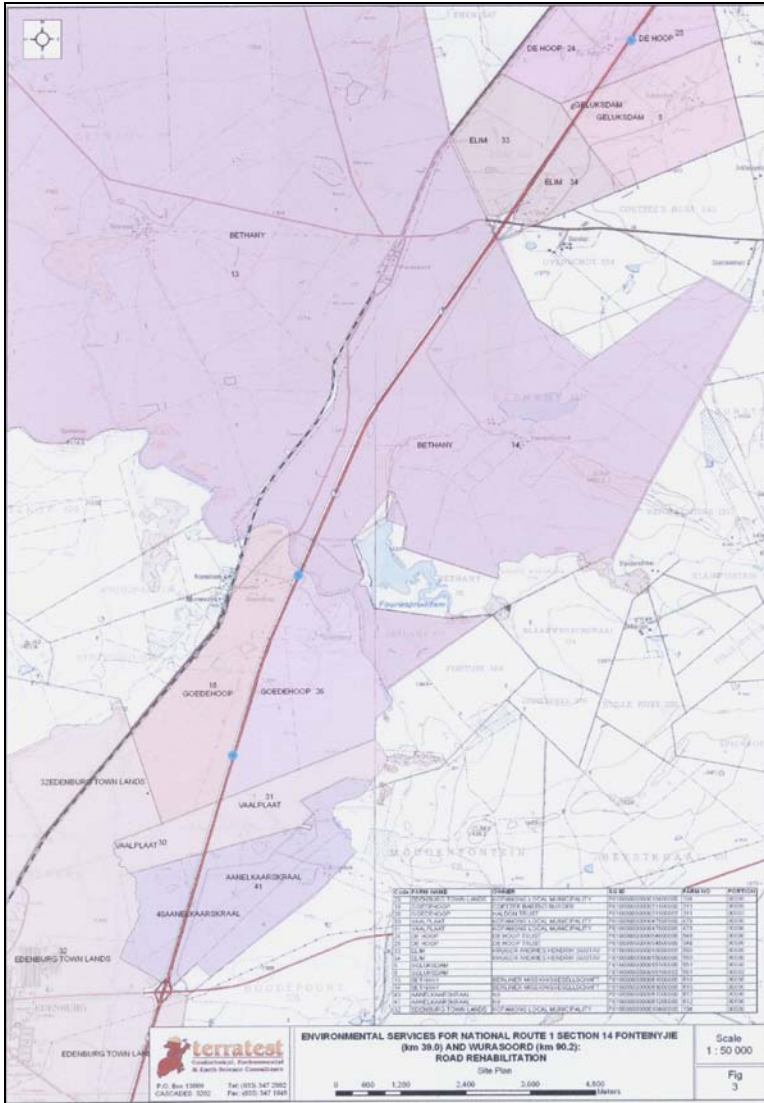
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



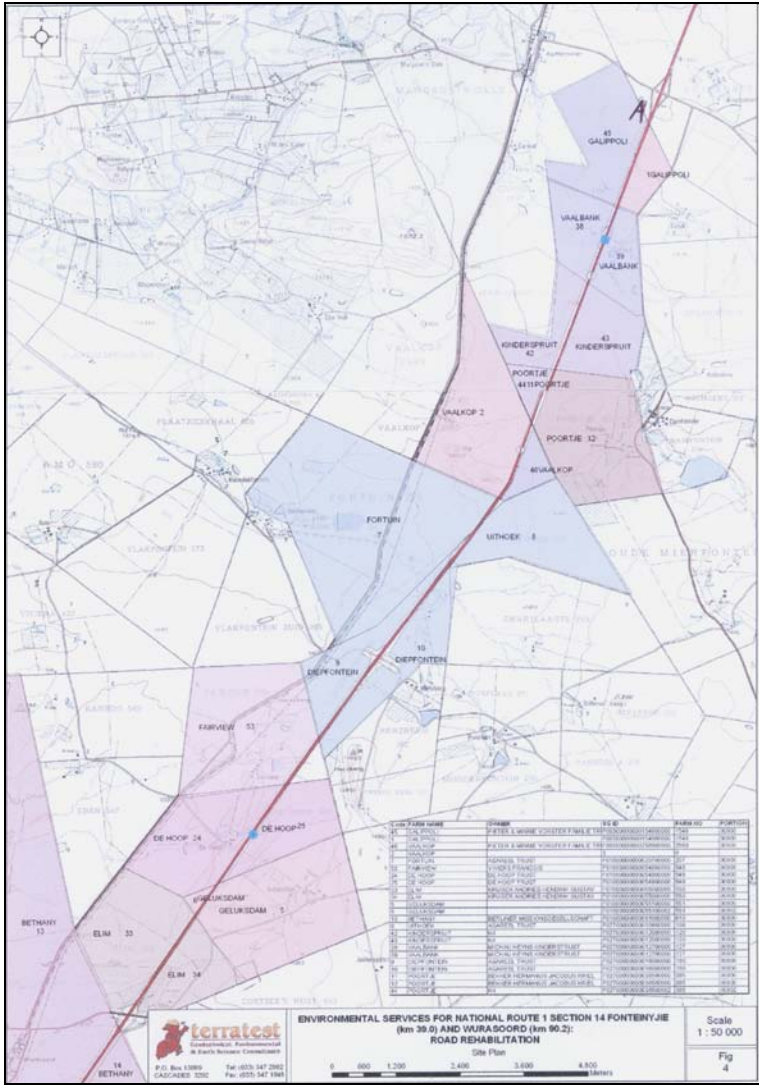
Map 1 N1, Section 14, Fonteintjie (km 90,2) and Wurasoord (km 39,0).



Map 2 Figure 2 covers the N1 section from Fonteintjie to Edenburg.



Map 3 Figure 3 covers the N1 section from Edenburg to De Hoop.



Map 4 Figure 4 which covers the N1 section from Bethany to the Tierpoort exit



Fig.1 N1 Section 14, 90,0km.



Fig.2 N1 Section 14, 88,4km.



Fig.3 N1 Section 14, 85,0km.



Fig.4 N1 Section 14, 81,6km.



Fig.5 N1 Section 14, 79,4km.



Fig.6 N1 Section 14, Wurasoord exit 128.



Fig.7 N1 Section 14, .69,6 km.



Fig.8 N1 Section 14, Riet River.



Fig.9 Roadside memorial of Tom van Rensburg, Rhodesian Light Infantry *28 July 1938 †6 June 2007



Fig.10 Roadside memorial without any inscription.



Fig.11 N1 Section 14, 64,25 km.



Fig.12 N1 Section 14, 65,2km.



Fig.13 N1 Section 14, 61,9 (62,0) km.



Fig.14 N1 Section 14, 60,3 (60,4) km.



Fig.15 N1 Section 14, 53,4 km.



Fig.16 N1 Section 14, 52,0 burial site with eleven graves.



Fig.17 Grave Klaas Motlatsi Mahatle *25 September 1923 †25 September 1984 at N1 Section 14, 50,2 km.



Fig.18 N1 Section 14, 50,2 km. Grave of Tau Paulus Chobane *28 July 1938? †1966.



Fig.19 Stone covered graves at N1 Section 14, 52,0 km.



Fig.20 N1 Section 14, 50,4 (50,3) km.



Fig.21 N1 Section 14, 42,4 km.



Fig.22 N1 Section 14, 39,0.