



COBUS DREYER

Pr. Archaeologist/Heritage Resource Specialist

**P.O. Box 12910
BRANDHOF 9324
Bloemfontein
dreyerj@telkomsa.net**

**Tel: 051-444 1187
Fax: 051-444 4395
Cell: 083 357 7982**

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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED NEW MTN CELL PHONE MAST AT PUMLANI CEMETERY, THABONG, WELKOM, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new cell phone mast is planned by MTN at the Pumlani Cemetery, Thabong, Welkom, Free State Province.

The mast will be placed inside an existing cemetery. The land covers old grazing fields adjacent to an existing township.

No archaeological or cultural remains were found in the proposed area of development.

I recommend that the development and planning of the MTN cell phone mast may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

MTN is planning a new cell phone mast at Pumlani Cemetery, Thabong, Welkom. The site was visited on 13 June 2007 in the company of Christine Fouché from Enviroworks, Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein.

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 new MTN cell phone mast will be placed on the border (Map 3) of the Pumlani Cemetery, Ndaki Road, Thabong, Welkom (Map 1). The cemetery is located along the main road from Odendaalsrus past Riebeeckstad to Hennenman (Map 2).

The following GPS coordinate (Cape scale) was taken (2726DD) (Map 2):

Position of mast 27°57'03"S. 026°50'27"E Altitude 1367m (Figs.1-3).

RESULTS

The site proposed for the placing of the MTN cell phone mast in the Pumlani Cemetery consists of an elaborate wind blown sand deposit, which was heavily disturbed earlier (Fig.4) by agricultural activities (Fig.9), the preparation of the existing cemetery (Fig.8) and by development of the residential area nearby (Fig.5).

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

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed developments at Pumlani Cemetery, Thabong, Welkom, will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site. I recommend that the proposed placing of the cell phone mast at Thabong, Welkom, should proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Christine Fouché of Enviroworks Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

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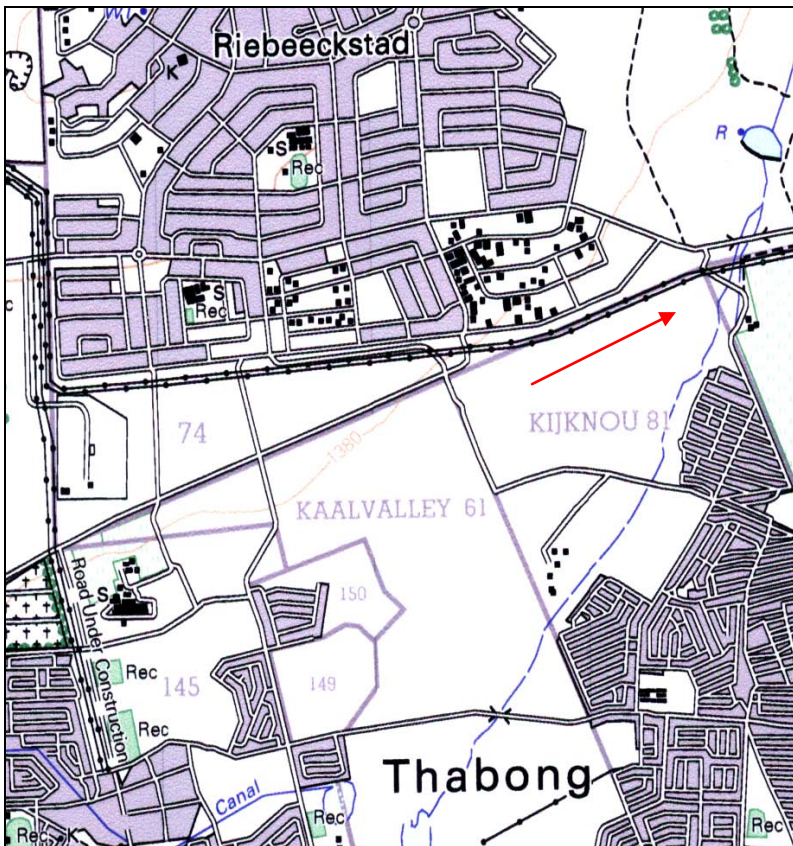
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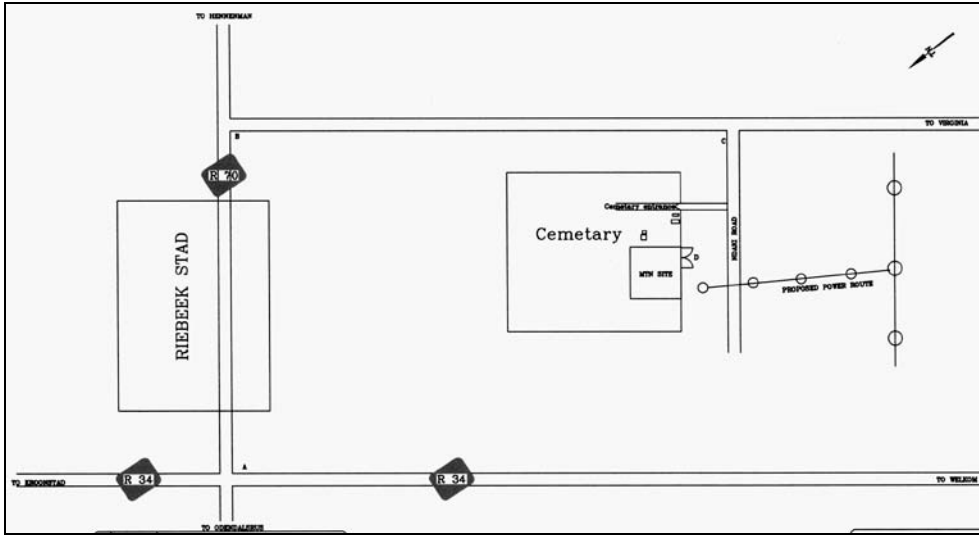
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Welkom in relation to Odendaalsrus, Kroonstad, Virginia and Hennenman.



Map 2 Position of the Pumlani cemetery at Thabong where the cell phone mast will be placed (2726DD).



Map 3 Proposed area of development inside the Pumlani Cemetery, Thabong, Welkom (2726BC).

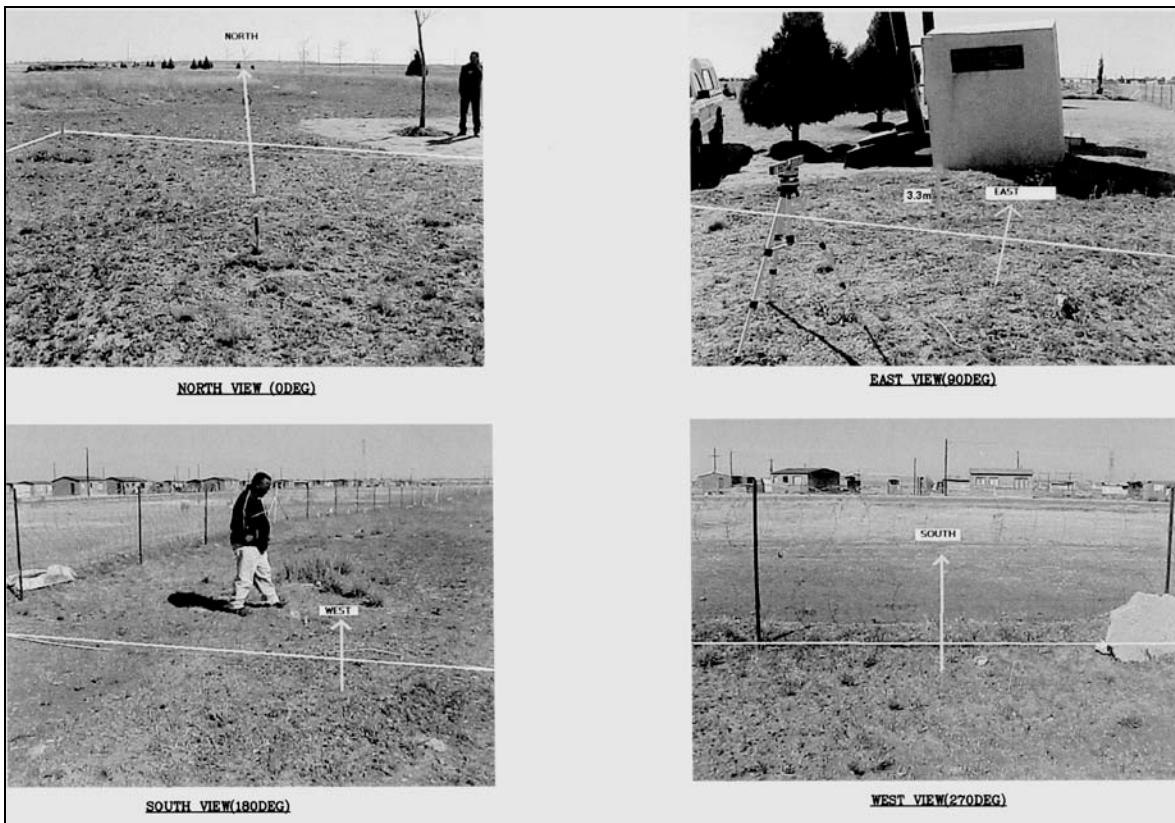


Fig.1 Position of the proposed MTN mast at Pumlani Cemetery, Thabong, Welkom.

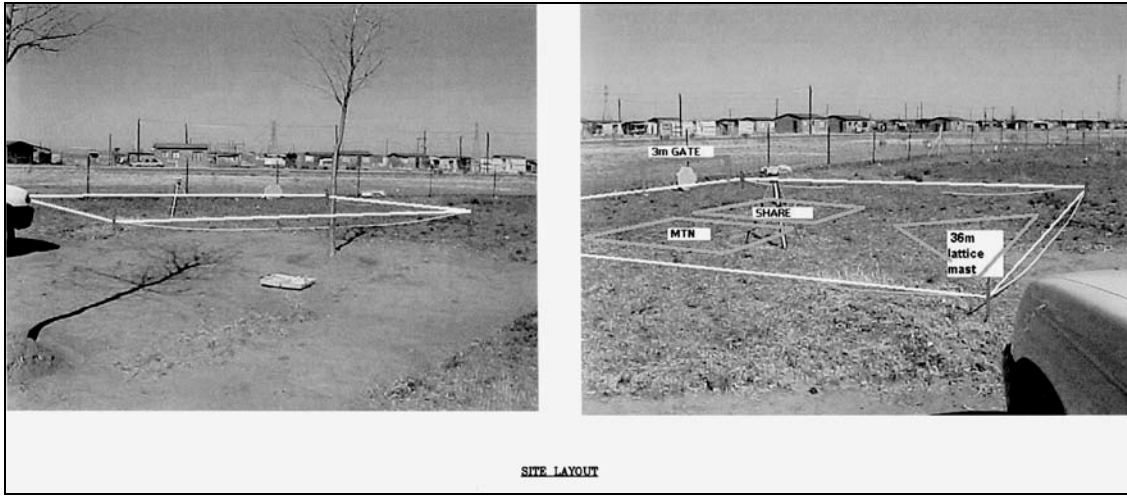


Fig.2 Site layout of the proposed MTN mast at Pumlani Cemetery, Thabong, Welkom.



Fig.3 Entrance to Pumlani Cemetery, Ndaki Street, Thabong, Welkom.



Fig.4 Heaps of soil dumped inside the premises of Pumlani Cemetery at Thabong.



Fig.5 The existing township across the road from Pumlani Cemetery at Thabong.



Fig.6 View across the cemetery facing the main road from Odendaalsrus to Hennenman.



Fig.7 Ablution facilities near the entrance to the Pumlani Cemetery at Thabong, Welkom.



Fig.8 Existing Pumlani Cemetery at Ndaki Street, Thabong, Welkom.



Fig.9 Cattle grazing on the land between the cemetery and the main road from Odendaalsrus to Hennenman, Pumlani Cemetery at Thabong, Welkom.