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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED SANDRIVIER GOLF ESTATE, VIRGINIA, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sandrivier Golf Estate will be developed on the existing golf course at Virginia, Free State.

The area along the Sandrivier has already been disturbed and contains no cultural or historical material.

I recommend that further planning and development of the site could continue.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed Sandrivier Golf Estate at Virginia was visited on 2 June 2006 in the company of Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein. At the golf course we were accompanied by Mr Jaques Helm.

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 Sandrivier Golf Estate will be developed on the existing golf course at Virginia (Map 2) (Surveyor-General 1973).

The proposed developments will also expand to the western side of the Sand River, which will include the present caravan park (Fig.).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (2826BB).

South Eastern corner	28°33'29"S	026°52'45"E	Altitude 1310m	(Fig.2).
Power line	28°05'13"S	026°52'40"E	Altitude 1301m	(Fig.3).
Pond (South)	28°05'33"S	026°52'11"E	Altitude 1299m	(Fig.4).
River bank	28°05'43"S	026°52'04"E	Altitude 1295m	(Fig.5).
South West	28°05'48"S	026°51'55"E	Altitude 1295m	(Fig.1).
Existing Club House	28°05'37"S	026°52'29"E	Altitude 1296m	(Fig.6).
New Club House	28°05'36"S	026°51'56"E	Altitude 1299m	(Fig.7).
North East (Retirement Home)	28°04'59"S	026°52'42"E	Altitude 1323m	(Fig.8).

RESULTS

FINDS

The existing Golf Course at Virginia will be upgraded to become the Sandrivier Golf Estate. This area will also include the Caravan Park on the western bank of the Sand River. The site did not produce any archaeological or cultural or historical material.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The site has already been disturbed during the building of the Virginia Golf Course and the Caravan Park and the development of the Sandrivier Golf Estate will not have any impact on the cultural or historical heritage of the land or the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the proposed developments at the Virginia Golf Course may proceed.

MITIGATION

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

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

I recommended that the proposed developments may proceed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site and Mr Jaques Helm for showing us around.

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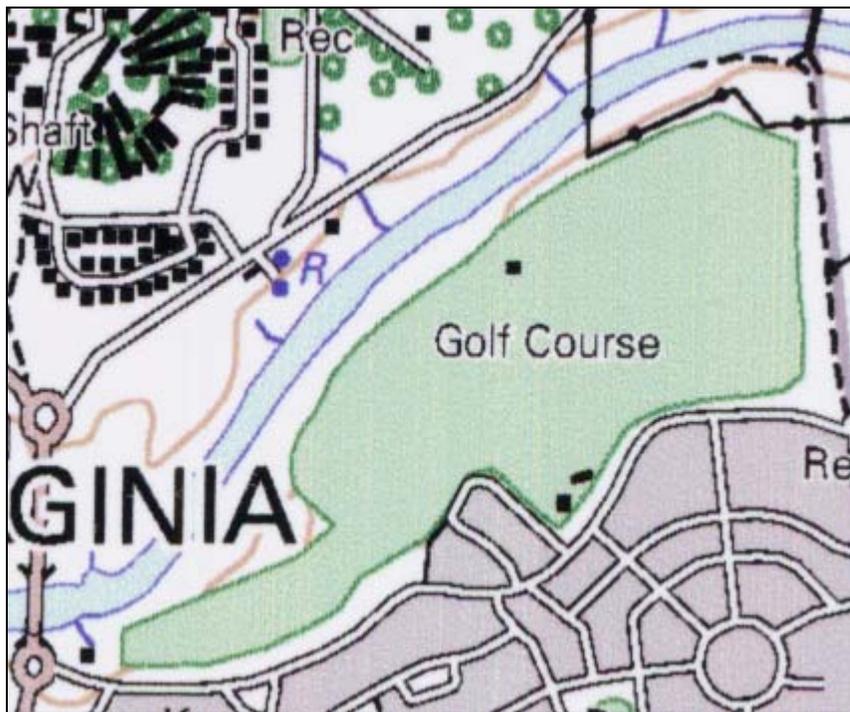
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:



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



Map 2 Locality of the Golf Course at Virginia (2826BB).



Map 3 Plan layout of the Sandrivier Golf Estate, Virginia.



Fig.1 General view of the Virginia Golf Course.



Fig.2 View from the south eastern corner of the Virginia Golf Course.



Fig.3 The power line at its crossing of the Sand River.



Fig.4 The water pond at the existing golf course.



Fig.5 View of the Sand River opposite the new club house.

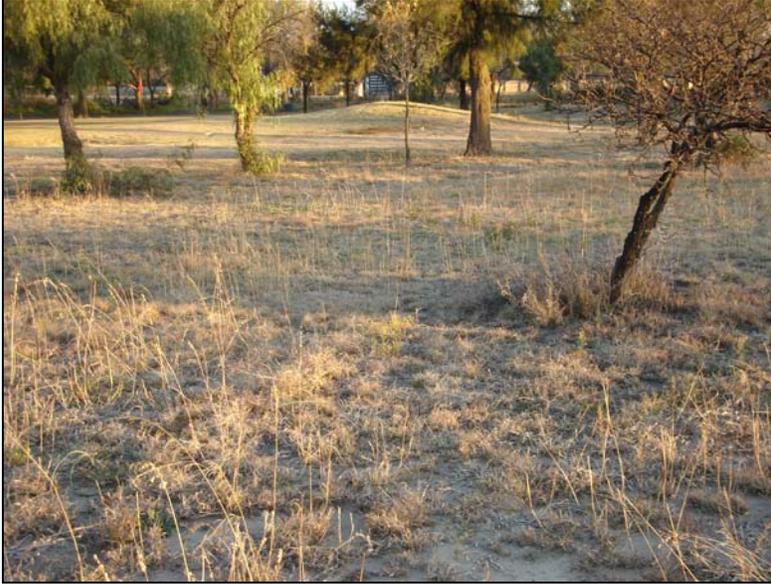


Fig.6 Facing towards the existing club house.



Fig.7 The site of the new club house on the western bank of the Sand River.



Fig.8 The western bank of the river near the retirement home.