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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS AT VENTERSBURG, FREE STATE

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed housing development, truck stop and cemetery at Ventersburg, Free State, was visited and inspected on 25 March 2004. Niel Devenish of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took 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 proposed developments are located to the east of the N1 main road from Kroonstad and south of the R70 road to Senekal (2827AA 1977). The area borders on the existing township of Mmahahabane and lies adjacent to the original European cemetery. The developments will be on the remainder of the Ventersburg Townlands 354 and the farm Tswelangpele 756 (Surveyor-General 1973).

The specific dimensions of the area are indicated on a detailed map prepared by the developer.

The following GPS coordinates were taken:

- Informal housing (28°05'00"S. 027°08'56"E. Altitude 1426m)
- Existing dam wall, soccer field and informal roads and cemetery (28°05'11"S. 027°08'44"E. Altitude 1427m)

FINDS

Due to disturbances by road building and the close proximity of the residential area, no remains of early human occupation or cultural material could be found in this area.

No indication of any archaeological or historical material was found, neither was any stone tools or ceramic ware found.

The locality is likewise not close enough to the higher ground, which is the obvious living site for people during prehistoric times.

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 development, no mitigation measures are needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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