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**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR THE EXEMPTION FROM A
FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE
INVESTIGATION OF THE STONE QUARRY AT ZEEKOEKAT 87,
NEAR STEYNSBURG, EASTERN CAPE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mining extensions are planned at the existing quarry on Portions 3 and 5 of the farm Zeekoegat 87 near Steynsburg, Eastern Cape.

The area is heavily disturbed by extensive mining operations during the mid-1970s when thousands of tons of rock material were used during the building of the Orange-Fish River water canal.

No archaeological, cultural or historical remains occurred in the proposed area of development.

I anticipate that the new developments will not cause further impact to any cultural or archaeological material in the area.

I recommend that the proposed new extensions to the existing rock quarry on the farm Zeekoegat 87 in the district of Steynsburg, Eastern Cape, should be exempted from a full Phase I report.

I also recommend that the proposed development and planning of the mining project may proceed.

Mitigation measures will only be needed in the case of the discovery of archaeological material during the mining process.

INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations of the present project

The present investigation provided the opportunity to examine the area proposed for the extension of the existing rock quarry. No limitations were experienced during site inspection.

Methodology

Standard archaeological survey and recording methods were used.

1. The area was investigated on foot.
2. The different points were plotted by GPS and recorded on camera.

INVESTIGATION

The area has already been heavily disturbed by extensive mining operations during the mid-1970s when thousands of tons of rock material were used during the building of the Orange-Fish River water system.

Extensions are planned to the existing rock quarry at the farm Zeekoegat 87 near Steynsburg.

The applicant and developers are:

B&E International,
93 Maple Street, Pomona,
Kempton Park.
P.O. Box 26730, East Rand 1462
011-979 1146.

Application is made for a mining permit for the removal of rock for general road maintenance in the region. The operations will have the following main infrastructure:

Containers to be used as offices and storage facilities.
Weigh bridge.
Vehicle parking and service area.
Mobile crusher.
Chemical ablution facilities.

The mining operations will cover about 1,5ha. The shattered rock will be removed from the the entire mining area by means of blasting and mechanical excavation

equipment. The crushed gravel will be stock piled prior to being supplied to the clients.

The site was examined on 9 April 2012. Officials from Enviroworks, Environmental Consultants in Cape Town gave directions to the site. The landowner, Mr Sarel du Plessis (048-884 0563), could not be contacted by telephone before the site visit.

The study aims to locate and evaluate the significance of cultural heritage sites, archaeological material, manmade structures older than 60 years, and sites associated with oral histories and graves that might be affected by the proposed development.

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).

Several heritage and archaeological investigation near Burgersdorp (Dreyer 2011), Jamestown (Dreyer 2008), Aliwal North (Dreyer 2007, 2008), Steynsburg (Dreyer 2012), Somerset East (Dreyer 2012) and Cradock (Dreyer 2012), did not produce any material of archaeological or heritage significance.

LOCALITY

The existing stone quarry is located on Portions 3 and 5 of the farm Zeekoegat 87 in the district of Steynsburg, Eastern Cape (Map 1).

The farm is located along the R56 road from to Venterstad and lies about 7,5km south of Steynsburg (Map 2).

The following GPS coordinate (Cape scale) was taken (3125) (Map 3):

A 31°19'51" S 025°46'19"E Altitude 1362m (Figs.1-5).

RESULTS

FINDS

No cultural or historical material was found near the quarry.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The development of the quarry will have no effect on any archaeological or historical material. No graves were found in the area around the quarry.

Mitigation measures will be required only in case of the discovery of archaeological material.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the mining extensions.

I recommend that the proposed extensions of the quarry at Zeekoegat 87, near Steynsburg, Eastern Cape, should be exempted from a full Phase I investigation and report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Sonette Smit and Christine Fouché from Enviroworks Environmental Consultants, Cape Town, for directions to the site.

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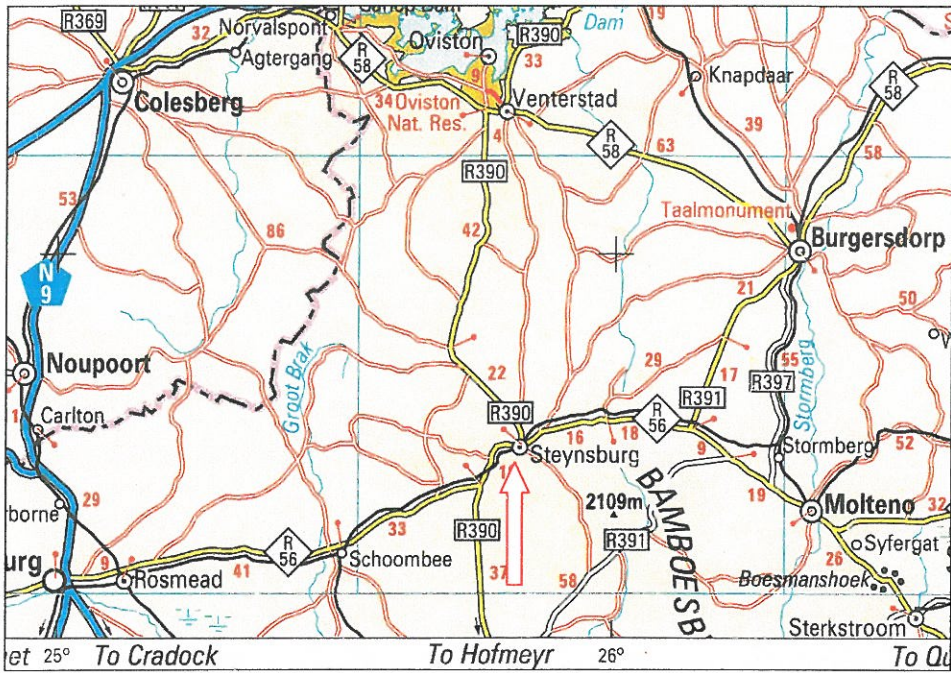
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Venterstad and Steynsburg in the Eastern Cape.



Map 2 Locality of the quarry at Zeekoegat 87 near Steynsburg (3125).



Map 3 Existing quarry at Zeekoegat 87 near Steynsburg.



Fig.1 Existing quarry at Zeekoegat 87 near Steynsburg.



Fig.4 Existing quarry at Zeekoegat 87 near Steynsburg.

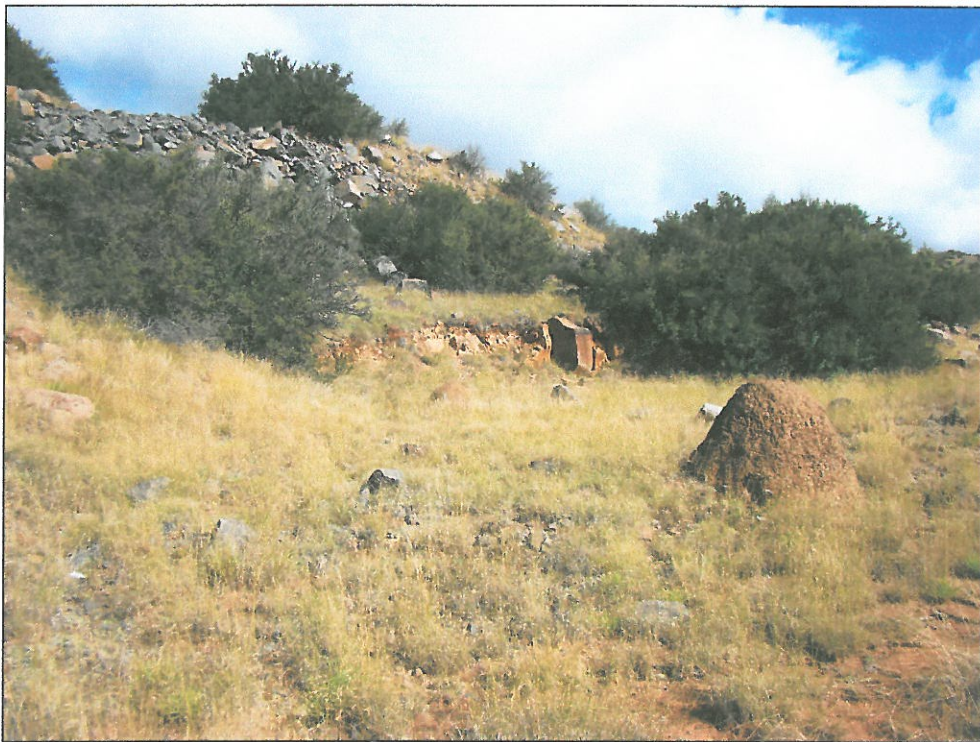


Fig.5 Rubble outside existing quarry at Zeekoegat 87 near Steynsburg.