



COBUS DREYER

Pr. Archaeologist/Heritage 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 WASTE DISPOSAL SITE AT CLOCOLAN, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new waste disposal site is planned at Clocolan, Free State.

The area is littered by unofficial waste disposal and forms part of communal grazing land for cattle from the nearby township.

No archaeological, cultural or historical material was found. An old graveyard lies about three hundred metres south east of the proposed site.

Mitigation measures will be needed in the case of the graves. Arrangements should be made to avoid any disturbance of the graves.

I recommend that the planning of the developments may continue.

INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The archaeological investigation forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken by Metsi Metseng Geological Services, Bethlehem on behalf of the Setsoto Local Municipality, the developer.

The investigation provided an opportunity to examine the area proposed for a solid waste disposal site. The land consists of a short overgrazed grass cover without any shrubs or bushes. The site is littered by unofficial refuse dumping by the Clocolan local authorities. No limitations were experienced during site visit.

Methodology

Standard archaeological survey and recording methods were applied.

1. The proposed land was inspected on foot.
2. GPS points were taken and the surroundings and features were recorded on camera.

INVESTIGATION

The area for the proposed new landfill site near Clocolan was visited on 18 June 2012. Dr Gideon Groenewald and Tom Hugo from Metsi Metseng Geological & Environmental Services, Bethlehem, gave directions to the site.

The Iron Age archaeology of the Free State had been described by Maggs (1976) and was summarised by Dreyer (1996). Iron Age stone-walled sites are normally restricted to higher ground or hilly parts and are not found in the low-lying open areas around Free State towns. In the case of Clocolan stone-walled living sites occur at Clocolan Mountain, at Mequatling to the south and at Umpokane to the west (Maggs 1976, Dreyer 1996).

Stone tools could well occur in these areas and is usually restricted to the Middle and Later Stone Age lithic material.

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).

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 developments.

LOCALITY

The site is located to the west of Clocolan (Map 1) along the R703 road to Excelsior (Surveyor-General 1973) (Maps 2&3).

The area consists of a short natural grass cover, which had been extensively used as communal grazing land (Figs.1&2).

Natural outcrops of sandstone show the very shallow soil cover (Fig.6).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken on the outskirts of the proposed site (2827DC) (Map 2):

A	28°54'21"S 027°32'2"E	Altitude 1587m (Figs.1&2).
B	28°54'31"S 027°32'13"E	Altitude 1600m (Figs.3&4).
C	28°54'34"S 027°32'19"E	Altitude 1597m (Figs.5).
GRAVES	28°54'34"S 027°32'35"E	Altitude 1562m (Map 2).
	28°54'36"S 027°42'35"E	Altitude 1553m (Map 2).
INCINERATOR	28°54'20"S 027°32'39"E	Altitude 1576m (Fig.11).

RESULTS

FINDS

Remains of old waste disposal sites are still visible (Map 2). An old incinerator still stands as silent proof of the handling of refuse (Fig.11).

An old graveyard lies about three hundred metres south east of the proposed site (Map 2).

I recommend that the planning of the developments may continue.

No archaeological or any cultural remains were found at the site during the investigation.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed landfill developments at Clocolan will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the site may proceed,

MITIGATION

Mitigation measures will be needed in the case of the graveyard. Arrangements should be made to avoid any disturbance of the graves.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Gideon Groenewald and Tom Hugo from Metsi Metseng Geological & Environmental Services, Bethlehem, for directing me to the site.

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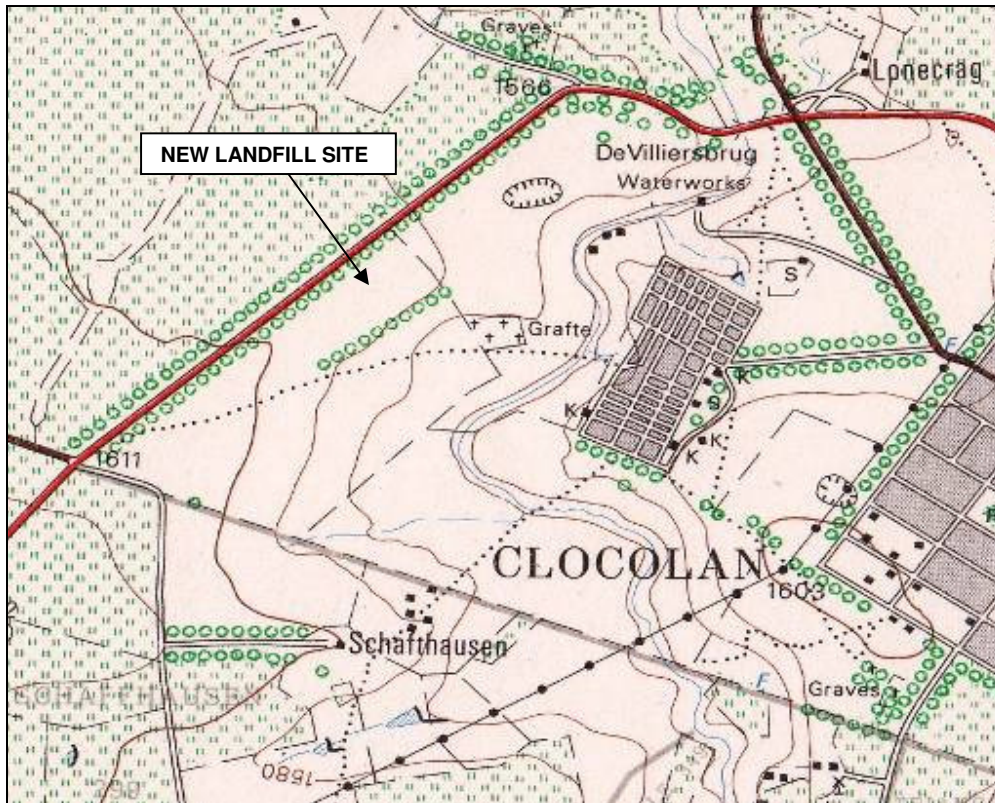
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Clocolan in relation to other town along the Lesotho border.



Map 2 Locality of the proposed new landfill site at Clocolan showing GPS coordinates.



Map 3 Locality of the proposed landfill site at Clocolan (2827DC).



Fig.1 Point A at Clocolan along the R703 road to Excelsior.



Fig.2 Point A along the R703 to Excelsior.



Fig.3 Point B at the landfill site Clocolan.



Fig.4 Point B at the landfill site at Clocolan.



Fig.5 Point C at the solid waste site at Clocolan.



Fig.6 Point C solid waste site at Clocolan. Note the sandstone outcrops.



Fig.7 Point C solid waste site at Clocolan.



Fig.8 Point C at the solid waste site at Clocolan.



Fig.9 The existing dumping site at Clocolan.



Fig.10 The existing dumping site at Clocolan.



Fig.11 The old incinerator at the dumping site at Clocolan.