Addendum to: Tusenius, M. 2012. Archaeological Impact Assessment of two proposed borrow pits near Murraysburg, Central Karoo DMA, Western Cape. Unpublished report prepared for Vidamemoria Heritage Consultants. Natura Viva cc.

Introduction: Following the submission of a Notification of Intent to Develop (NID) form to Heritage Western Cape (HWC) by Vidamemoria for a revised polygon for proposed borrow pit DR2404/8.5/0.3L (Vidamemoria pit no. 305) in terms of Section 38(1) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999), HWC requested that an AIA be undertaken according to Section 38(8) of the Act – case 14040403GT0409E.

In order to determine if the findings of the first survey would be applicable to the revised polygon, another short visit of 1 hour was paid to the site on 18 August 2014. The second survey suggests that the original assessment that the proposed borrow pit area is of low archaeological heritage significance still stands and that it would be unnecessary to submit a full second report. A short summary of the survey of the revised polygon is given below.



Figure 1: Google earth image showing the revised polygon (red) in relation to the polygon surveyed and reported on as Pit 30 in 2012 (yellow).

Affected environment: The affected area lies west of the previous polygon (Figure 1) and consists of slightly undulating terrain which slopes very gently to the south and south east. Rocky colluvium occurs on the slopes and the rest of the proposed pit area is covered by ferruginised gravelly silty sand and sandstone slabs (Figure 2).

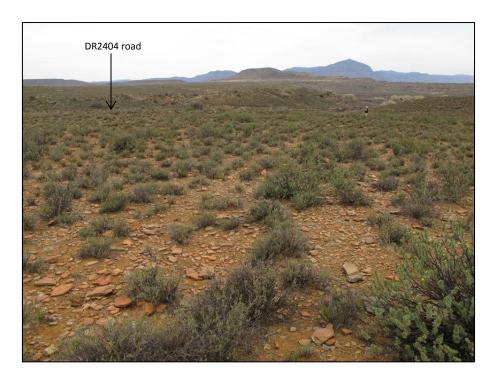


Figure 2: View towards the southeast with the gravelly sand in the foreground and the road in the background.

Results: No archaeological remains of any sort were observed during the survey of the revised polygon.

Significance and recommendations: The original assessment that the affected area is of low archaeological heritage significance thus also applies to the revised polygon. The absence or relatively rare occurrence of stone artefacts has been observed in some other areas around Murraysburg by the author and several colleagues (L. Webley & T. Hart, pers. comm). No significant impact on archaeological heritage remains is expected if the proposed development proceeds. No further archaeological studies or mitigation are therefore recommended.

If any human remains are found during the development of the proposed pit, work in that area must cease and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be notified immediately.

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