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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS AT CALVINIA, NORTHERN CAPE**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed development at Calvinia was visited and inspected on 18 November 2003. I was taken to the site by Dr Johan du Preez of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein.

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 following observations were made.

(For photographs see Annexure C).

### **LOCALITY**

The site was selected and introduced by the developer, Mr Jaco Vlok.

The site for the proposed development is located to the east of Calvinia lies between the R63 entrance road and the existing railway line (31°27'44"S. 19°47'28"E. Altitude 1001m) to the north. The land also adjoins the present residential area of Calvinia in the west (31°27'55"S. 19°47'09"E. Altitude 978m) and runs along the main road from the nearest point to town (31°27'44"S. 19°47'28"E.). A truck-top is planned in the third phase (31°27'54"S. 19°47'18"E. Altitude 984m). The development will run up to a point next to the main entrance to the existing premises of the sawmill (31°27'52"S. 19°47'26"E. Altitude 988m). Building activities actually started in the form of the digging of foundation trenches (31°27'52"S. 19°47'21"E. Altitude 990.).

The area consists of red sandy soil with a sparsely scattered short grass cover and almost no other vegetation. Due to the removal of topsoil during previous road building activities the surface cover of whole area is actually damaged.

The area shows signs of previous disturbances and is traversed by caterpillar tracks and the scattered remains of house hold refuse.

## **FINDS**

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

## **DISCUSSION**

Together with the disturbances mentioned above, the close proximity of the residential area and the railway line, it seems unlikely that remains of any early human occupation could have survived in this area.

## **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.

Every archaeological and historical site is unique and should be treated as a non-renewable commodity. All efforts should be made to avoid any unnecessary disturbance or destruction of the area. It is stressed, therefore, that in case of the discovery of any stone tools, pottery and archaeological material of significance during the course of the work, all activities should temporarily be stopped in the specific area for inspection by an archaeologist or other specialists from the McGregor Museum, Kimberley.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed development, no mitigation measures are needed.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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