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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED FEED LOT AT COLESBERG, NORTHERN CAPE

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed feed lot development at Colesberg was visited and inspected on 20 April 2004. Cedric Nelson of Geo Pollution Technologies Free State, 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 development of the feed lot at Colesberg is located on a portion of Erf 675, Colesberg Townlands. The land lies east of Colesberg along the main road to Norvalspont and Gariep Dam. The proposed developments are planned on a low-lying area with sandy soil and a relatively thick shrub cover on the surface.

The following GPS readings were taken:

30°42'47"S. 025°07'17"E Altitude 1344m South-western corner near the town.

30°42'22"S. 025°07'42"E Altitude 1346m Hill with quarry to the north-east. The area around the hill had been heavily damaged by quarrying.

30°42'52"S. 025°07'33"E Altitude 1348m Eastern limit of the land along the road to Norvalspont.

30°42'30"S. 025°07'37"E Altitude 1329m Ruins of concrete walled structures of unknown origin.

An old road that runs in an east-west direction bisects the land (30°42'48"S. 025°07'33"E Altitude 1337m).

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

FINDS

The low-lying area of the proposed developments at Colesberg produced a number of tin can remains with typical coarse soldering dating from the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). Specimens were also found on the hill at the gravel quarry (Fig.). These finds could indicate that the hill could have played some strategic role during the War.

Several stone flakes and chips were noticed on the hill. The flakes showed characteristics of the Middle Stone Age (MSA) prepared core technique indicated by the "cupido bow" with converging flaking on the dorsal side.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been part of the initial planning to avoid the area near the hill.

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 proposed development, no mitigation measures are needed.

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