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26 March 2004

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS AT HOOPSTAD, FREE STATE**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed housing development and truck stop at Hoopstad was visited and inspected on 25 March 2004. Niel Devenish of Cebo Environmental Consultants, 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 developments are located west of Hoopstad and east of the R34 road to Bloemhof and south and north of the R59 entrance road from Hertzogville. The area borders on the existing residential and business area. The developments will take place on the remainder of the farm De Brug 1191, Hoopstad (Surveyor-General 1973).

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

The following GPS coordinates were taken:

- Commercial developments (27°50'04"S. 025°53'58"E. Altitude 1245m) south of the entrance road (27°50'02"S. 025°53'56"E. Altitude 1251m) with the southern border at 27°50'11"S. 025°53'53"E. Altitude 1249m)

- Developments north of the entrance road (27°50'04"S. 025°53'58"E. Altitude 1245m) adjoining the Farmers Coop and adjacent to the quarry. (27°49'57"S. 025°53'59"E. Altitude 1251m)

## **FINDS**

Due to disturbances by road building and the close proximity of the existing residential and commercial area and the quarry, no remains of early human occupation or cultural material could be found in this area.

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

The locality is likewise not close enough to the higher ground, which is the obvious living site for people during prehistoric times.

## **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.

## **MITIGATION**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Niel Devenish for taking me to the site.

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