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29 November 2004

Client: Kwezi V3

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Item: Report on proposed borrow pits at Km 66.9R, Km 70.0R & Km 66.9R  
Main Road 582, Farm Ratelfontein 74, Central Karoo District Municipality.

Brief: To report on any possible impacts on cultural and palaeontological resources that would be caused by the proposed development of three borrow pits and associated storage areas and access roads.

Context: The borrow pits to the west of the main road 582 from Prince Albert Road to Merweville will be in use for two years to provide fill for the re-alignment of the road.

Setting: The proposed pits on gently sloping pediment slopes mantled with colluvium below Beaufort mudstone and sandstone ridges. There is sparse Nama Karoo vegetation.

Date & duration of field visit: A survey of the proposed sites was carried out on 19 & 20 November 2004 from 14h00-17h00 and 7h00-12h00 respectively. A minimum of 60 minutes was spent walking traverses across each of the proposed pit areas. Geotechnical exposures and drainage lines were inspected and access routes walked.

Findings: At none of the three proposed borrow pit sites was any cultural or palaeontological material seen.

Pit Km 66.9 is a slope adjacent to a windmill served by a farm track..  
Pit Km 70.0 shows the deepest colluvium but in none of the geotechnical excavations through the full thickness were cultural materials intersected. The access route is not fixed but traversing the likely direct route produced negative results.

Pit Km 71.8, the most southerly site, is adjacent to a secondary road. Neither the access area nor the proposed pit area showed any indication of cultural or palaeontological materials.

Sensitivity: None of the sites are rated as culturally or palaeontologically sensitive.

Mitigation: None is recommended.

Hilary Deacon