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For Attention Marius Vlok
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CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY BORROW PIT ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

BORROW PIT ON DR 2254 Km 70,0 L
Farm Rietvalley 259
Owner: PV Erasmus, PO Box 29, Merweville 6940.

Executive Summary

A low density of dispersed archaeological stone artefacts was recorded within and marginal to the limits of the proposed development. These appear to be associated with slope wash and show a high degree of patination (weathering). While of interest the cultural significance is rated as low. The risk of development uncovering buried remains in context is rated as extremely low. No palaeontological remains were observed. No specific mitigation is recommended.

Background

The brief was to carry out an archaeological heritage impact assessment on the property. A visit was made in the company of Mr ML Vlok on 20 June 05.

Description of Property

The property, a borrow pit and dam which will be extended, is some distance along an existing track off the Divisional Road 2254 at 70,0 km L, between Sutherland and Merweville. It is on the farm Rietvalley and shown on the 1:50 000 3221 CB sheet at 32° 33.404' S; 21° 17.772' E (WGS84).

The surrounds are relatively well vegetated with scattered bare patches. The area is a line of drainage underlain by mudstones with sandstone ridges on the margins.

Methodology

The area was traversed on foot.

Description of Occurrences and Exposures

There is a very low scatter of artefacts mainly on the low slopes marginal to proposed quarry area. There is some indication of size selection with most of the pieces being larger (50 mm plus) core or flake fragments. It was noted that the pieces showed a thick patina reflecting both age and soil conditions. The material is not typologically distinctive. An informal core was noted at 32° 33.274' S; 21° 17.850' and the proximal end of an Earlier or Middle Stone Age flake at 32° 33.318' S; 21° 17.878' E. The only possible Later Stone Age artefact noted was a bladelet in a siliceous material again with a marked gloss or weathering patina, suggesting antiquity. The dispersed and low-density scatter of stone artefacts in this landscape does not constitute a site that is amenable to further investigation.

In the exposures along the steam bed along the drainage line no palaeontological remains were recorded.

Sources of Risk

The risk that excavations extending the borrow pit may intersect buried archaeological materials that are in primary context is considered to be low.

Recommended Mitigations

None are recommended but in the unlikely event should any excavations in the course of development uncover buried palaeontological or archaeological remains including human remains that Heritage Western Cape (Dr A Jerardino) Tel: 021 483 9672 Fax: 021 483 9842) be notified. Mr Vlok who will monitor the further development of the borrow pit was shown how to recognise artefacts in the field and is alert to the possibility of any archaeological impact during the excavations on the property.

Conclusions

The survey of the property revealed that there is a low density and dispersed scatter of stone artefacts on and in the surrounds of the area to be developed as a borrow pit. These are of such a nature that the development is unlikely to have an important impact on the archaeological resources. No palaeontological remains were observed. No special mitigation in respect of either archaeological or palaeontological resources is recommended.

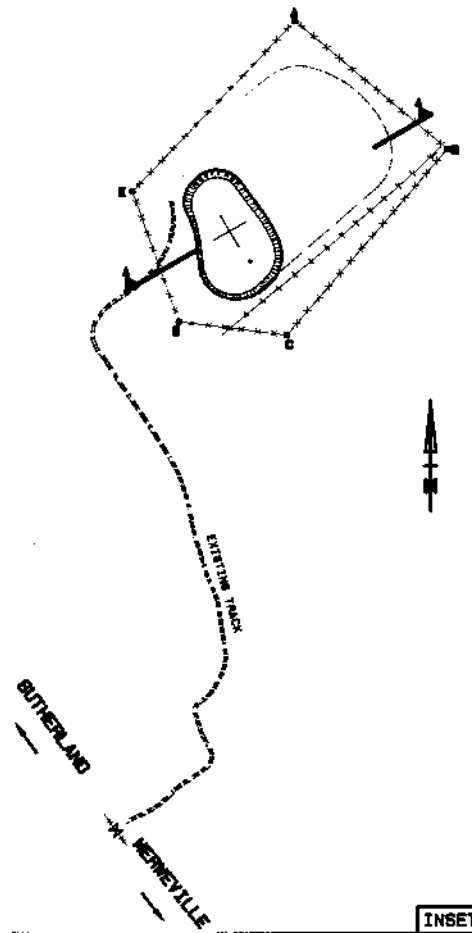


Figure 1 Map of existing dam/pit, which will be extended.

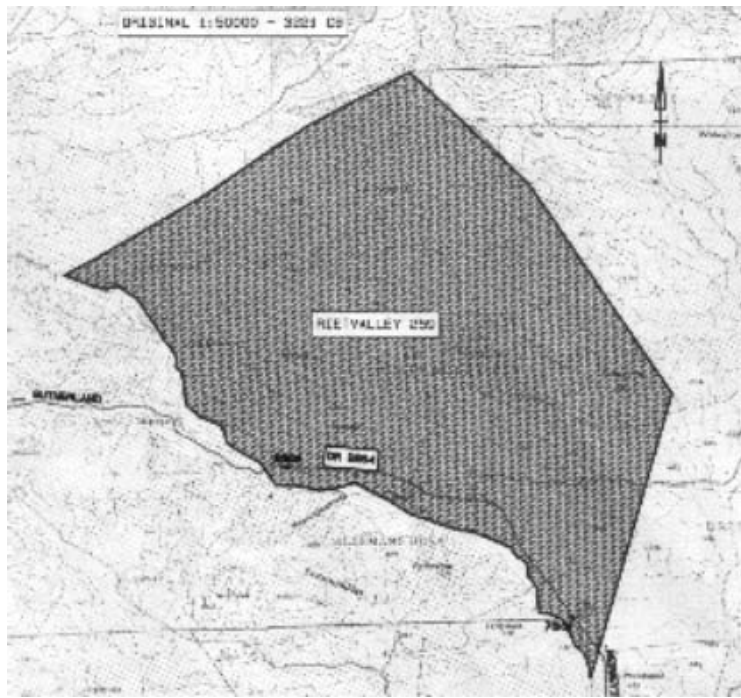


Figure 2. Outline of Rietvalley on 1: 50 000, borrow pit centrally located.



Figure 3. Proximal fragment of weathered possible MSA flake.



Figure 4. Artefact in foreground, view of the terrain.