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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED NEW GOAL SITE AT KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed development of the new Kimberley Goal was visited and inspected on 8 August 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 developers.

The site for the proposed development is located west of Kimberley along the existing R64 main road to Griquastad and Groblershoop (28°44'S. 24°43'E. 2824DA), opposite the turn-off to the buildings of the new Northern Cape Legislature. The R357 to Prieska via Douglas lies south of the proposed land. The R31 road to Barkly West bisects these two main roads. The land also adjoins the existing residential area of Rhodesdene.

The area consists of red sandy soil with short grass cover and indigenous and foreign trees and shrubs. The vegetation is typical of the Kalahari Doringveld and can specifically be described as Kimberley Thorn Bushveld.

The area shows signs of previous disturbances and is traversed by old roads and tracks with the remains and buildings of a go-cart track and other unidentifiable structures. The soil surface also shows the scattered remains of the dumping of house refuse previously.

DISCUSSION

Together with the disturbances mentioned above, the close proximity of the residential area, the sandy soil and indigenous grass cover, it seems unlikely that any remains of early human occupation could have been found in this area located some distance away from the hill.

FINDS

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

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

I thank Dr Johan du Preez of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for involving me in the archaeological and historical survey and for taking me to the site.

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:

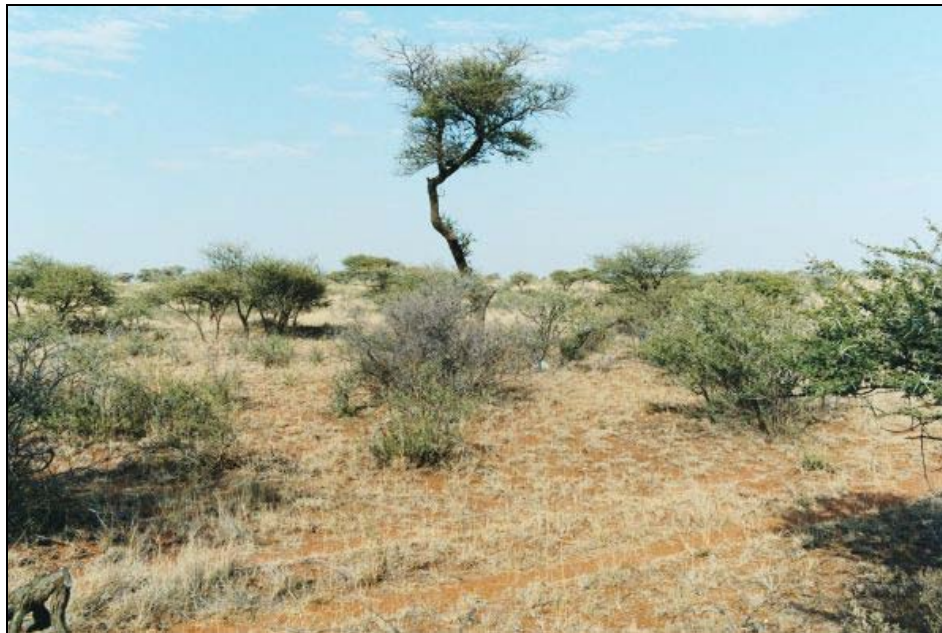


Fig.1 Indigenous trees and shrubs are found at the site.

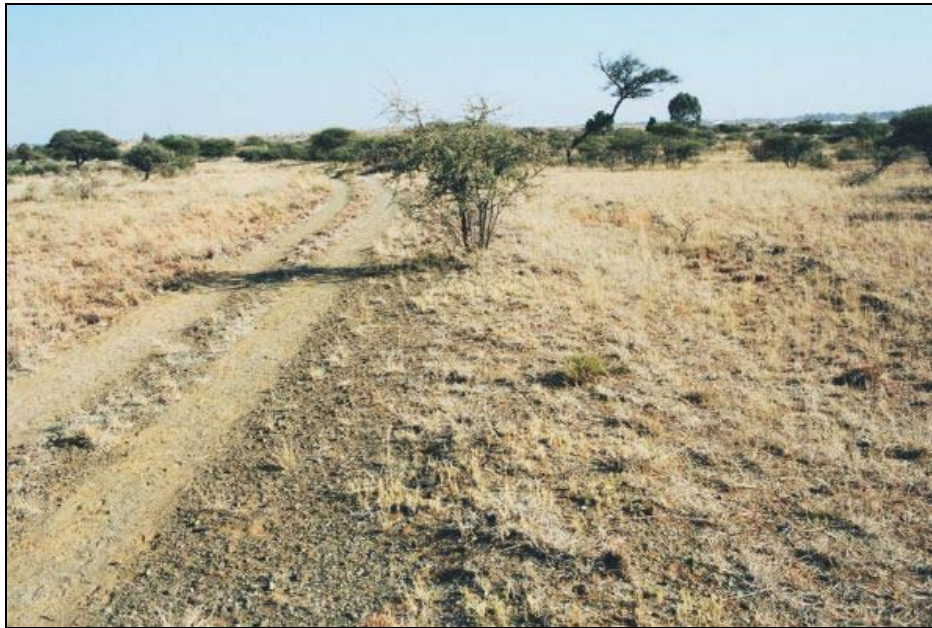


Fig.2 Several old roads cross the area.



Fig.3 Surface cover consists of red soil with grass cover.