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10 JUNE 2008

FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED WATER FLOW MEASURING WEIR SITE IN THE ORANGE RIVER AT BLOUPUTS, NORTHERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A water-measuring weir is planned in the Orange River near Blouputs, Northern Cape.

The site contains a deep alluvial deposit of sand and water-worn pebbles and boulders.

No archaeological or historical material was found at the proposed site.

The developments will not require any mitigation measures and I recommend that the planning of the weir may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

A site proposed for the building of a water-flow measuring weir in the Orange River was visited on 21 April 2008. Henry Lourens and Willie Vermeulen from the Department of Water Affairs, Kimberley, accompanied me to the site.

The site was examined for any possible traces of cultural and historical remains to establish the potential impact of the developments on any archaeological and cultural historical material.

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

A water flow-measuring weir is planned in the Orange River at Blouputs, Northern Cape (Map 2).

The site is reached from Kakamas along the road past the Augrabies Water Falls (Map 1).

A model of the proposed weir is given in Figure 1.

The following GPS coordinate (Cape scale) was taken:

A 28°25'41"S 019°59'56"E Altitude 424m (Map 2) (Figs.1,4-6).

RESULTS

FINDS

The site consists of a deep alluvial deposit of sand and water-worn pebbles and boulders (Figs.7&8).

No archaeological material was found at the site, nor were there any engravings or other relics found near the river.

No other occurrence of archaeological or historical material was found at any of the site.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

I am convinced that the proposed developments will have no impact on any cultural and historical heritage of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the planning and building of a water-flow measuring weir at Blouputs may proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, no mitigation measures will be required.

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Elbi Bredenkamp of Enviroworks Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for involving me in the project and Henry Lourens and Willie Vermeulen from the Department of Water Affairs, Kimberley, for taking me to the site.

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Blouputs in relation to Kakamas and the Augrabies National Park, Northern Cape.



Map 2 Blouputs area showing the proposed and alternative weir sites.



Fig.1 Model of the Blouputs weir site.



Fig.2 View of Blouputs, Northern Cape.



Fig.3 View of Blouputs with Riemvasmaak in centre of photograph across the river.



Fig.4 Weir site at Blouputs, Northern Cape.



Fig.5 Weir site at Blouputs, Northern Cape, facing up-stream.



Fig.6 Weir site at Blouputs, Northern Cape, facing up-stream.



Fig.7 Weir site near Blouputs, Northern Cape.
Note sand and water worn pebbles and boulders in riverbed.



Fig.8 Weir site at Blouputs, Northern Cape.