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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED PIPELINE INSTALLATION AT PHILIPSTOWN, NORTHERN CAPE**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed installation of the new pipeline between two existing reservoirs at Philipstown was visited and inspected on 2 June 2005. Niel Devenish of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, accompanied 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 site for the proposed development is located to the north of Philipstown along the R48 entrance road to the town. The developments will implicate the installation of a pipeline between two existing municipal water reservoirs (Figs.1-3,5-6).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape) were taken:

|             |                         |                |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Reservoir 1 | 30°25'34"S. 024°27'45"E | Altitude 1386m |
| Reservoir 2 | 30°25'40"S. 024°28'05"E | Altitude 1369m |

The area between the two reservoirs consists of a rocky soil surface with short grass and sparsely scattered shrubs (Fig.4).

## **FINDS**

A number of Middle Stone Age (MSA) flakes were found scattered on the surface near reservoir 2 (Fig.8).

In the same area, graffiti in the form of initials were scratched on some big and highly patinated rocks (Fig.7).

No indication of any other archaeological or historical material was found in the inspected area.

## **DISCUSSION**

It is clear that the stone flakes are sparsely scattered over an elaborate area and does not seem to represent any specific tool-manufacturing site. Developments will also be limited to a single trench along the shortest route from one reservoir to the other.

The graffiti on some big rocks appear to be recent and could have been done by the children from the township.

## **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.

However, 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 that in case of the discovery of any stone tools, pottery, human skeletal material and archaeological or historical remains 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**

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**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Fig.1 General view of the area of the proposed developments outside Philipstown.



Fig.2 Reservoir 1 from where the pipeline will be built.



Fig.3 View from reservoir 1 towards reservoir 2 in the centre.



Fig.4 The soil surface is very stony with a short grass cover and sparsely scattered shrubs.





Fig.5 View from reservoir 2 towards reservoir 1 at the foot of the hill.



Fig.6 Another view from reservoir 2 towards reservoir 1.



Fig.7 Graffiti on the rocks near reservoir 2.



Fig.8 Scattered MSA flakes on the surface near reservoir 2.