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HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR AN EMPR AMENDMENT  
RELATING TO A PROPOSED CRUSHER AT SISHEN IRON ORE MINE  
NEAR KATHU IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

On Wednesday 12 October 2005 I travelled to the Sishen Iron Ore Mine and was taken by Gert Bosch to the site of a proposed plant that is needed to produce 100 000 m<sup>3</sup> of crushed stone for the Sishen Expansion Project infrastructure. The area concerned, 4.7 ha in extent, lies well within the mining area and has a surface that has been much modified by old roads relating to its location between the mining pit to the east and rock waste dumps to the west. Inspection showed that small patches of the original ground surface were only preserved along the western side and in the form of a thin (<10 cm) covering of spoil on haematite bedrock that contained no visible archaeological material.

CONCLUSION

The absence of artefacts there is in accord with previous observations indicating that early human occupations of this area was largely centred on three resources, namely water sources, specularite exposures and jaspilite outcrops. My conclusion is therefore that the examined area has no heritage potential and that the crusher would have no impact on the archaeological resources of the Northern Cape.

  
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Note: Locality map and photos of site to be attached.

