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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BORROW PIT SITES ON THE KGALAGADI ACCESS ROAD BETWEEN ASKHAM & TWEERIVIEREN, NORTHERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seven borrow pits were investigated along the road between Askham and Tweerivieren, Northern Cape.

Most of the developments will be extensions of existing borrow pits, which contain no cultural or historic material.

I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the sites may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

Seven borrow pit sites along the R360 road between Askham and Tweerivieren, Northern Cape, were visited on 2 November 2006. Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants took me to the sites.

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

Seven borrow pits were investigated along the R360 road between Askham and Twee Rivieren, Northern Cape (Map 1). For most part, the R360 road between Askham and Twee Rivieren (Fig.15) runs along the bed of the Nossob River, which marks the international borderline with Botswana (Fig.16).

GPS coordinates (Cape scale) are given below:

BP 1 at Km 13 located on the farm Mierhooppa 120. The developments will be an extension of an existing borrow pit (Figs.1-3). The deposit consists of sterile red sand on top of a calcrete layer.

26°50'17"S 020°39'51"E Altitude 849m.

BP 1b Km 13,9 located on the farm Mierhooppa 120. The site will be an extension of the existing quarry (Fig.4).

26°50'12"S 020°39'38"E Altitude 849m.

BP 2 Km 27,8 located on the farm Mier 585. The site contains an existing quarry (Figs.5-6).

26°44'20"S 020°37'48"E Altitude 855m.

BP 3 Km 30 located on the farm Mier 585. The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.7).

26°43'12"S 020°37'35"E Altitude 852m.

BP 4 Km 36,5 located on the farm Mier 585. The site contains an existing quarry (Figs.9-10).

26°40'11"S 020°37'34"E Altitude 857m.

BP 5 Km 41,5 located on the farm Mier 585. The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.11).

26°37'33"S 020°37'39"E Altitude 877m.

BP 6 Km 55 located on the farm Mier 585. The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.13).

26°30'36"S 020°36'20"E Altitude 865m.

RESULTS

All the sites visited contained existing borrow pits. The soil deposit in the area consists of sterile red sand on top of a calcrete layer. The investigation did not produce any stone flakes or other cultural or historical material.

Graves were found near BP 3 (Fig.8), BP 5 (Fig.12) and BP 6 (Fig.14). The graves are in a well-kept state with fencing in cases of BP3 and BP 6.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed developments along the R360 road between Askham and Twee Rivieren, will have no effect on any cultural or historical material.

The graves are not part of the proposed planning and will not be affected in any way.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the borrow pits and I recommend that the work may proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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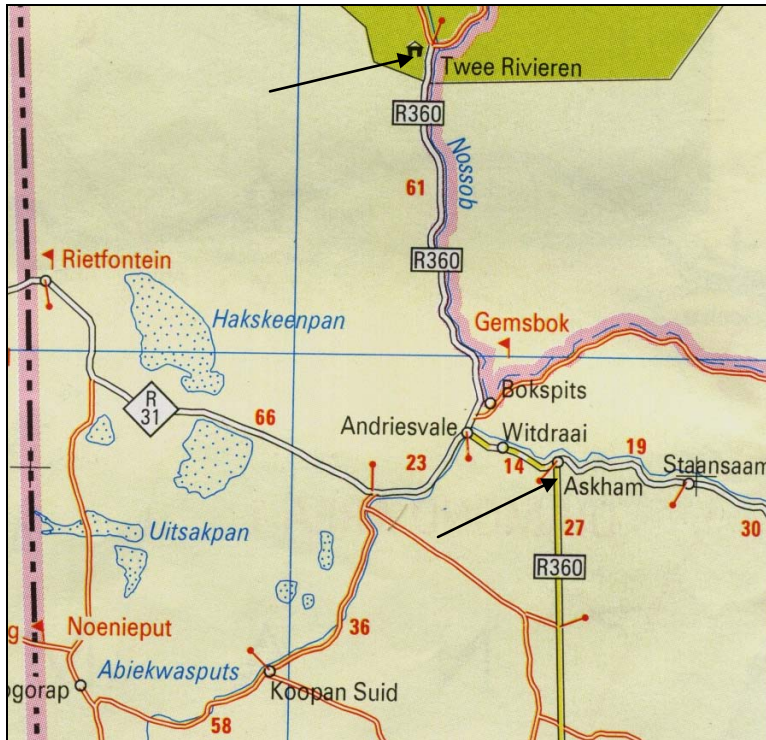
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 The R360 road between Askham and Twee Rivieren, Gordonia District, Northern Cape.



Fig.1 BP 1 at Km 13, Mierhooppan 120.



Fig.2 BP 1 test pit.



Fig.3 BP 1 at Mierhooppan 120.



Fig.4 BP 1b extension at Km 13,9 Mierhooppan 120.



Fig.5 BP2 at Km 27,8 on Mier 585.



Fig.6 BP 2 Existing quarry at Km 27,8 on Mier 585.



Fig.7 BP 3 at Km 30 on Mier 585.



Fig.8 Graves near BP 3 at Km 30 on Mier 585



Fig.9 BP 4 at Km 36,5 on Mier 585.



Fig.10 BP 4 at Km 36,5 on Mier 585.



Fig.11 BP 5 at Km 41,5 on Mier 585.



Fig.12 Graves at BP 5 Km 41,5 on Mier 585.



Fig.13 BP 6 at Km 55 on Mier 585.



Fig.14 Graves at BP 6 by Km 55 on Mier 585



Fig.15 Kgalagadi Trans Frontier Park entrance at Twee Rivieren.



Fig.16 Border fence between South Africa and Botswana near Twee Rivieren.