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24 November 2004

## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS ON ERF 2559, BETHLEHEM, FREE STATE**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The proposed development of a filling station on Erf 2559, Bethlehem, was visited and inspected on 26 October 2004. Dr Johan du Preez 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 proposed development of a filling station will take place on Erf 2559, in the suburb of Bethlehem West.

The property is bordered by Malan Street in the north, Union Street in the west, Muller Street in the south and Cambridge Street in the east.

The following GPS co-ordinates were taken:

Corner of Union & Muller Streets 28°13'56"S. 028°18'14"E. Altitude 1654m  
Corner of Muller & Cambridge Streets 28°13'56"S. 028°18'17"E. Altitude 1649m  
Corner of Cambridge & Malan Streets 28°13'53"S. 028°18'16"E. Altitude 1654m  
Corner of Malan & Union Streets 28°13'54"S. 028°18'13"E. Altitude 1653m

## **DESCRIPTION**

It is related that the specific piece of land is locally known as the Ninon Laubsher Property. Originally it contained an old double-storeyed house as well as the surgery of a Dr Laubsher. After the last owner passed away some years ago, the house fell into neglect and was gradually plundered and eventually destroyed beyond repair. The land was bought by the Municipality of Bethlehem who finally demolished the house.

From what could be learnt about the history of the house it could be speculated that the original building could have been older than sixty years.

## **FINDS**

No indication of any archaeological or historical material was found on the surface, 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.

## **MITIGATION**

Concerning the area for the proposed development, no mitigation measures are needed.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Dr Johan du Preez for taking me to the site and Thiens Opperman of Bethlehem for information on the history of the original building on the site.

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