



COBUS DREYER

Pr. Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist

**P.O. Box 12910
Brandhof
9324
dreyerc.HUM@mail.uovs.ac.za**

**Tel: 051 - 444 1187
Fax: 051 - 401 2363
Cell: 083 - 357 7982**

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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT THE GOLF ESTATE, CLARENS, FREE STATE

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed housing development at Clarens Golf Estate was visited and inspected on 13 April 2004. Dr Johan du Preez of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took 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 residential area is located on Cornelia 1204, Larola 511 and the Clarens Townlands 578 east of the town along the P31/1 road to Bethlehem and the P5/1 road to Fouriesburg. The proposed developments on the existing golf course and the adjoining lucerne fields opposite the entrance to Clarens along the Bethlehem – Golden Gate road. (Surveyor-General 1973).

The specific dimensions of the area are indicated on a detailed map prepared by the developer.

FINDS

All the developments at Clarens are planned on existing developed areas either on the golf course or lucerne fields adjacent to the golf course. Road building and the close proximity of the present residential and commercial area caused other disturbances. No remains of early human occupation or cultural material could be found in this area.

No indication of any archaeological or historical material was found, neither was any stone tools or ceramic ware found.

The locality is likewise not close enough to the higher ground, which is the obvious living site for people during prehistoric times.

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

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