



# **COBUS DREYER**

**Pr. Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist**

**P.O. Box 12910  
Brandhof  
9324  
dreyc.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 CLARENS, FREE STATE**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed housing development at Clarens 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 the Townlands north east of Clarens along the P31/1 road to Bethlehem and the road to Golden Gate. The proposed land runs along the stream towards the bridge next to the main road.

The following GPS co-ordinates were taken:

The bridge 28°30'20"S. 028°25'20"E. Altitude 1780m.

The highest point near the existing retail stores 28°30'19"S. 028°25'18"E.  
Altitude 1785m.

### **FINDS**

All the developments at Clarens are planned on existing developed area adjacent to the road. Road building and bridge construction and the close proximity of the

existing 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 in the low-lying area is likewise removed from 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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