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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE EXISTING TOURIST ACCOMMODATIONS AT QWAQWA CULTURAL VILLAGE

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed extensions and additions to the tourist facilities at the Qwaqwa Cultural Village in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park was inspected on 8 February 2005 in the company of Elbi Erasmus, Africa Wide Enviro Solutions, Bloemfontein and several other experts involved in the project.

The site was examined for the possible bearing of archaeological material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is done under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

Basotho Cultural Village

The preferred site for the proposed extensions will be part of the existing and newly erected tourist facilities (Figs.3-4). It is located on the farm Korfshoek 193, in the district of Kestell. The site is situated adjacent to and below the existing Cultural Village. GPS co-ordinates (Cape) 28°29'16"S. 28°44'33"E., Altitude 1819m.

Indigenous shrubs and sparse grass-cover are found on the surface (Fig.1-2).

The site had officially been investigated, prior to the building of the Qwaqwa Cultural Village (cf. Dreyer 1992; Brink & Holt 1992). Cultural material in the form of stone walls, ash heaps and potsherds have been found on the terrace during the initial investigation.

The finds indicated two different phases of human occupation. The earliest settlements could represent an occupation by black people on the site, predating the present occupation in Qwaqwa. According to lore the site could also have been part of the occupation by the Kgolokwe, the people of Oetsi (Witsie) during the 19th century. The second occupation could date from a period either during or just after the Anglo-Boer War (Dreyer 1992).

FINDS

As described in my previous report (22/12/2002), the varying degree of grass cover on the site below the Qwaqwa Cultural Village did not prevent a clear inspection of the surface for cultural material (Fig.1&2). It seems that the remains of human occupation, found during the previous archaeological investigation, did not extend much further down the slope into the area of proposed development.

During the present investigation (8/2/2005) the site did not produce any further archaeological material.

No ceramics or any other cultural material was recovered, neither were traces of rock art or graffiti of historical significance found at the site.

DISCUSSION

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning.

After examination by the environmental consultants and the archaeologist, it has been agreed to recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

It is again stressed that in case of the discovery of any archaeological or historical material during the course of the work, all activities should temporarily be stopped in the specific area for inspection by the archaeologist or other specialists.

MITIGATION

Concerning the areas for the proposed developments, mitigation measures are not needed.

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:

Fig.1 General view of the area at Qwaqwa Cultural Village, locality of the proposed new tourist accommodation facilities.



Fig.2 View across the site facing east. Proposed development area in the foreground.



Fig. 3 View from down below facing up the slope towards the present office building and parking area. Korfskop at the back.



Fig.4 View across the newly built tourist accommodation facilities at Qwaqwa Cultural village.