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FIRST PHASE HERITAGE / ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF THE KAALSPRUIT BRIDGE ON THE N8 (R48) BLOEMFONTEIN – PETRUSBURG ROAD

INVESTIGATION

The bridge site at Kaalspruit on the N8 (R48) west of Bloemfontein along the Petrusburg road was visited and inspected on 18 November 2004 in the company of Dr Johan du Preez from Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material to establish the potential impact on any cultural relics that might be present. 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 site for the proposed development of the bridge is located on the N8 (R48) road between Bloemfontein and Petrusburg on the way to Kimberley. The farms Welbedacht 1855, Goedgedacht 1949 and Van Heerdenskraal 59 will be affected (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973).

The non-perennial river runs through a grass covered low-lying flood plain with sandy soil and scattered calcrete outcrops.

The following GPS co-ordinates were taken (2925BB De Brug) at the bridge:

29°10'21"S. 025°52'15"E. Altitude: 1274m
29°10'20"S. 025°52'09"E. Altitude: 1274m
29°10'19"S. 025°52'05"E. Altitude: 1275m

FINDS

Due to the fact that the site is on an existing tar road the area had already been disturbed. No cultural material would in any case be expected on this low-lying flood plane.

No evidence of the remains of cultural or archaeological material was found on the site.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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