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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT THE FARM MARIA 853 NEAR ROSENDAL, FREE STATE

INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed housing development and truck stop at Rosendal was visited and inspected on 10 June 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 Remainder of the farm Maria 853 (Ficksburg District) bordering Peacock Street on the Townlands to the east of Rosendal, Free State (Surveyor-General 1973).

The following GPS co-ordinates were taken:

South east 28°30'34"S. 027°56'28"E. Altitude 1720m.

Street turn off to the east 28°30'18"S. 027°56'35"E. Altitude 1713m.

Lowest point in the north east 28°30'10"S. 027°56'36"E. Altitude 1705m.

FINDS

The proposed developments at Rosendal are planned on existing developed and cultivated farmland. 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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