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## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENTS AT MARQUARD, FREE STATE**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed housing developments at Marquard was visited and inspected on 17 May 2005. Mr Piet de Bie of Phethogo Consulting, Bloemfontein, supplied information and directed me to the site.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural remains 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 an extension of the Moemaneng township at Marquard. The land lies south east of the town near the R708 road to Clocolan (Map 1). The proposed developments will cover about 620 erven adjacent to the existing township. There is a dense grass cover on the surface on part which seems to be the remains of old plough lands (Figs.1-5).

The specific locality of the area is indicated on a map received from the consultant (Map 1).

The following GPS (Cape) coordinates were taken at the road running along the township:

28°41'14"S. 027°25'30"E. Altitude 1512m) (Fig.1).

28°41'03"S. 027°25'26"E. Altitude 1502m) (Fig.2).

28°40'52"S. 027°25'27"E. Altitude 149m) (Fig.4).

## **FINDS**

The area ear marked for developments at Marquard seems to be the remains of old plough lands. The surface is also disturbed by the township activities nearby (Fig.4). There is a scatter of domestic rubbish on the surface and footpaths bisect the veld. Cattle posts in the form of stock byres are found inside the area of development. The investigation produced no remains of early human occupation and no cultural material could be found.

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

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

I recommend that the work should continue as no obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

## **MITIGATION**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Mr Piet de Bie for involving me in the project.

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**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Map 1 Map of Marquard showing the proposed developments west of the Clocoan road.



Fig.1 General view of the proposed area for development at Marquard.



Fig.2 General view of the proposed area at Marquard facing Leeukop.



Fig.3 View of the area facing Marquard. Grain silos at far right.



Fig.4 The proposed area of development with existing housing on the left.



Fig.5 The area facing east.