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

### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed housing developments at Rouxville was visited and inspected on 20 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 specific locality of the land is indicated on a map received from the consultant (Map 1).

The proposed residential area is an extension of the Roleleathunya township at Rouxville. The land lies north of the town stretching east from the N6 road (Figs.1,2,5). The proposed developments will cover about 875 erven, which is about 62 hectare of land adjacent to the existing township. There is a fairly dense grass cover on the surface (Fig.3).

The following GPS (Cape) coordinates were taken:

- At the N6 road 30°24'15"S. 026°49'14"E. Altitude 1505m (Fig.1).
- Lowest point 30°24'05"S. 026°49'33"E. Altitude 1494m (Fig.2).
- Hill with cattle posts 30°24'15"S. 026°49'29"E. Altitude 1495m (Fig.3-4).
- Quarry along N6 30°24'01"S. 026°48'55"E. Altitude 1511m (Fig.6).

## **FINDS**

The area ear marked for developments at Rouxville contains no trace of any cultural or historical material. The surface is also disturbed by the township activities nearby and there is a scatter of domestic rubbish in places. Footpaths bisect the veld. Cattle posts in the form of stock byres are found inside the area of development, specifically on the little stony hill to the west of the township (Fig.3&4).

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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Map 1 Map of Rouxville showing the proposed developments east of the road to Smithfield.

**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:**



Fig.1 View of the proposed area at the corner with the N6 road. Existing township on the right.



Fig.2 View from below facing towards the N6 road. Township on the left.



Fig.3 View across the veld towards koppie in centre of development.



Fig.4 Closer look at the koppie with stock byres.





Fig.5 Looking back along the N6 road towards Rouxville.



Fig.6 The quarry at the highest point along the N6. Facing east.