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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED BORROW PIT SITES ALONG THE N5 BETWEEN SENEKAL & WINBURG, FREE STATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eight borrow pit sites were identified for the proposed upgrading of a portion of the N5 main road from Senekal to Vaalpensspruit on the way to Winburg, Free State.

A number of the sites have existing quarries, without any archaeological or cultural remains in the areas of development. Others where new borrow pits are planned no cultural material could be found on the surface.

I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the sites may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

Borrow pit sites for the supply of soil material for the upgrading of the N5 main road between Senekal and Vaalpensspruit on the way to Winburg were visited on 17 August 2006 and 7 November 2006. Dr Johan du Preez of MDA Environmental Consultants accompanied me to the sites, where Mr James van Jaarveld identified some of the localities.

The areas were 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 following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (Surveyor-General 1973):

BP 1 is located on the farm West End 230, Senekal, north of the Sand River outside Senekal (2827BC). The site has a short grass cover (Fig.1), with no cultural material visible on the surface.

28°18'13"S 027°34'40"E Altitude 1437m.

BP3 is located on the farm Phillippi 717, Senekal (2827AD). The land is grass covered without any cultural material visible (Fig.2).

28°23'14"S 027°29'13"E Altitude 1469m.

BP 4 is also located on the farm Phillippi 717, outside Senekal (2827AD). The soil surface is grass covered without any cultural material (Fig.3).

28°23'07"S 027°29'05"E Altitude 1465m.

BP 6 The farm Rhita 726 is located along the Stoompomp Road, west of Senekal (2827BC). This development will be a new borrow pit (Fig.4).

28°20'48"S 027°33'08"E Altitude 1450m.

BP 7 Situated on the farm Hendrina 1162, Senekal. The farm is reached by the S1432 turn-off near Rietspruit on the N5 between Senekal and Winburg (2827AD). There is an existing borrow pit at the site (Fig.5).

28°21'45"S 027°23'13"E Altitude 1423m.

BP 8 is located on the farm Hannie's Rust 967, Senekal (2827AD). The site contains an existing borrow pit (Fig.6).

28°25'50"S 027°19'37"E Altitude 1412m.

BP 9 is also located on the farm Hannie's Rust 967, Senekal (2827AD). The site will be a new borrow pit (Fig.7).

28°25'48"S 027°19'43"E Altitude 1413m.

BP 10 Located on the farm Randjies 279, Senekal (2827AD). The site contains an existing quarry (Fig.8).

28°26'17"S 027°18'34"E Altitude 1426m.

RESULTS

FINDS

About half of the number of sites planned for development contains existing quarries and no indication of any archaeological or historical material was found in the inspected areas. No cultural material could likewise be found at the sites where new borrow pits are planned.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

Some of the sites have already been disturbed by the excavation of gravel material over many years.

The further development of quarries will have no impact on any archaeological, cultural or historical heritage of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the sites and I recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the areas of proposed developments, no mitigation measures are required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of the N5 main road between Senekal and Winburg.



Fig.1 BP1 on the farm West End 230, Senekal.



Fig.2 BP3 on Phillippi 717, Senekal.



Fig.3 BP4 at Phillippi 717, Senekal.



Fig.4 BP6 at Rhita 726 along the Stoompomp Rd., west of Senekal.



Fig.5 BP7 at Hendrina 1162, Senekal.



Fig.6 BP8 at Hannie's Rust, Senekal.



Fig.7 BP9 at Hannie's Rust, Senekal.



Fig.8 BP10 is located on the farm Randjies 279, Senekal.