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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSIONS TO THE SEWER INSTALLATION AT NORVALSPONT, EASTERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Extensions are planned at the sewer installations at Norvalspont, Eastern Cape.

No archaeological and cultural remains were found in the proposed area of development.

An elaborate graveyard containing about 150 graves were found in the area.

I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the site may proceed, providing that the graves should be avoided during the planning stage. Care should also be taken not to disturb the graves during the building process.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The existing sewer site at Norvalspont lies to the south of the town. The area was visited on 28 March 2008. Dr Johan du Preez from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, accompanied 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

An upgrading of the sewer station is planned at Norvalspont, Eastern Cape (Map 1).

The sewer plant is located to the south of the town near the R58 road to Venterstad and Burgersdorp.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken (3025CB). Coordinate points were selected at random to plot the borders of the proposed piece of land.

Sewer installation 30°40'26"S. 026°40'26"E Altitude 1318m (Figs.1&2).

Graves (±150) 30°40'47"S. 026°40'31"E Altitude 1312m (Figs.3-10).

RESULTS

FINDS

The area has already been disturbed by the installation of the existing sewer dams (Figs.1&2).

No indication of any archaeological or cultural material was found in the proposed area.

An elaborate grave yard consisting of about 150 graves is located south of the existing sewer plant (Fig.3).

Some of the graves are stone covered (Figs.7-8) and others also have head stones (Figs.4-6&10). About three of these head stones have engravings (Figs.5&10) and only one graves stone carries a date of 1900 (Fig.10).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The proposed extensions of the sewer plant at Norvalspont will have no impact on any archaeological or cultural heritage remains at the site.

I recommend that the proposed developments and planning of the site may proceed, providing that the graves should be avoided during the planning stage. Care should also be taken not to disturb the graves during the building process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no obvious reasons to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

I recommend that the planning of the proposed cemetery should proceed.

MITIGATION

Mitigation measures will only be applicable to the graves at the site.

I recommend that the graves should be avoided at all times.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:

DEACON, J. 1992. Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities. Cape Town: National Monuments Council.

HUMPHREYS, A.J.B. 1986. Searching for the past. Cape Town: David Philip.

PISTORIUS, J.C.C. 1994. Eskom Archaeological Site Identification Guide. Johannesburg: Eskom.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Norvalspont in relation to Gariep Dam, Bethulie and Colesberg.



Fig.1 View from across the existing sewer dams.



Fig.2 View from across the existing sewer dams facing east.



Fig.3 View across the old cemetery at Norvalspont.



Fig.4 Grave with head stone in the graveyard at Norvalspont.



Fig.5 The grave of Jormeah Motate. The date of birth and death is unfortunately illegible.



Fig.6 Headstone without any information.



Fig.7 Stone covered grave at Norvalspont.



Fig.8 Another stone covered grave.



Fig.9 Grave with metal rail.



Fig.10 The grave of Johannes Goodyear, He died on 26 November 1900, aged 56.