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### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AT PETRUSBURG, FREE STATE**

#### **INVESTIGATION**

The site for the proposed housing development at Petrusburg was visited and inspected on 3 December 2003. I was accompanied to the site by Councillor James September.

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).

The following observations were made.

#### **LOCALITY**

The site was indicated by Councillor James September. The specific dimensions could not be ascertained as the only map of the proposed area was taken to Koffiefontein by Mr Ntoyi, the Technical Manager. According to Councillor September the land is part of the original farm Diepfontein 546 in the district of Petrusburg.

The proposed development is planned to cover about 250 erven and is located to the south east of Petrusburg and the existing township, adjacent to a cemetery and a fenced vegetable garden.

The following GPS coordinates were taken:

- Cemetery north west at (29°07'52"S. 25°25'14"E. Altitude 1265m).
- South west at stock byres (29°07'50"S. 25°25'05"E. Altitude 1255m).
- South east corner (29°08'06"S. 25°25'13"E. Altitude 1257m).

- North east corner (29°08'06"S. 25°25'19"E. Altitude 1263m).

The area consists of sterile red sandy soil with a short grass cover and scattered shrubs. The soil surface resembles old plough lands. This observation was confirmed by Councillor September and other officials from the local Municipality.

The area is also bisected by old tracks, some of which could be the remains of old farm roads.

## **FINDS**

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

## **DISCUSSION**

Together with the disturbances mentioned above it also seems unlikely that remains of any early human occupation could have survived in this area. The locality is likewise not close enough to the higher ground to be 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**

I thank Councillor James September for taking me to the site.

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