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## **FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED NEW OXIDATION PONDS AT PRIESKA, NORTHERN CAPE**

### **INVESTIGATION**

The land for the proposed oxidation ponds at Prieska, Northern Cape, was visited on 6 April 2006 in the company of Dr Johan du Preez from MDA Environmental Consultants.

The land 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**

The proposed oxidation ponds at Prieska (Map 1) will be established as an extension of the existing installations and is located on Municipal land (Map 2) to the east of the town.

At some places the soil seems to be very sandy (Fig.4).

The following GPS co-ordinates were taken (Cape scale).

Existing dams                      29°39'56"S 022°46'07"E Altitude 935m (Fig.1).

Extension ponds                    29°39'56"S 022°46'06"E Altitude 928m (Figs.2-3).

## **FINDS**

The whole area had been part of the existing oxidation dams system and consists of a dense grass cover and indigenous trees and shrubs (Figs.2-3,5-6).

On some bare patches and in the gravel roads there is a scatter of stones (Fig.7) with flakes and core flakes (Fig.8). The stone material seems to be scattered over most of the area and is regarded as of minor significance.

No further indication of any archaeological or historical material was found on the surface.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

There is no obvious reason to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

After examination by the archaeologist, I recommend that the proposed developments may proceed.

## **MITIGATION**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Dr Johan du Preez from MDA Environmental Consultant, Bloemfontein, took me to the site and supplied information on this investigation.

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**LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:**



Map 1 Locality of Prieska in relation to Niekerkshoop, Hopetown and the N12.



Map 2 Layout of the new sewerage oxidation ponds at Prieska.



Fig.1 Existing sewerage oxidation dams at Prieska, Northern Cape.



Fig.2 Area proposed for extension of the sewerage oxidation ponds at Prieska.



Fig.3 Area for the proposed oxidation ponds at Prieska.



Fig.4 Sandy soil at the proposed oxidation ponds, Prieska.



Fig.5 Dense grass cover in the area of proposed developments at Prieska.



Fig.6 Another view of the soil cover in the proposed area.



Fig.7 Stony soil surface at the proposed area of development.



Fig.8 Stone flakes and core flakes found in the area of development.