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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED NEW SOLID WASTE LANDFILL SITE AT STERKSPRUIT, EASTERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new solid waste landfill site is planned at Sterkspruit, Eastern Cape.

The new site is planned below the existing water reservoir dams. The area lies at a slope and has clearly been damaged by earlier developments and stock grazing.

No cultural or historical material could be found on the surface.

I recommend that further planning and development of the site could continue.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

INVESTIGATION

The area for the proposed development of a new solid waste landfill site at Sterkspruit was visited on 12 August 2008. Dr Johan du Preez and Karissa Scott from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took 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

The new solid waste landfill site at Sterkspruit (Map 1) will be developed on a slope adjacent to the existing water reservoir dams inside the residential area.

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken.

Point A 30°31'37"S 027°21'16"E Altitude 1517m (Figs.).

Point B 30°31'36"S 027°21'16"E Altitude 1516m (Figs.).

RESULTS

FINDS

The whole area proposed for the new solid waste landfill lies below the existing water reservoir dams (Fig.).

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

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

Earlier developments and stock grazing have already disturbed the area.

The proposed developments will have no impact on any cultural and historical remains of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the planning of the new solid waste treatment system at Sterkspruit may proceed.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed developments, no mitigation measures will be required.

No obvious reasons could be found to delay the commencement of further planning and development of the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 Locality of Sterkspruit in relation to other towns along the Eastern Cape-Lesotho border.



Fig.1 Point A facing north.



Fig.2 Point A facing east.



Fig.3 Point A facing south.



Fig.4 Point B facing north.



Fig.5 Point B facing west.



Fig.6 Point B facing south



Fig.7 Water reservoir tanks above the proposed landfill site.