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FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITE AT CURRIES CAMP NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new solid waste disposal site is planned at Curries Camp near Upington in the Northern Cape.

An existing borrow pit will be developed for this purpose.

No archaeological or historical material was found at the proposed site.

Mitigation measures will not be required during the developments and I recommend that the planning of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The archaeological investigation forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken by MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein on behalf of the Kail! Garib Municipality as the developer.

Infrastructure for the handling of household debris will include: upgrading of the security fence, a guardhouse with ablution facilities and storeroom, water container, a tank for sewage storage, a roof covered area with bins for recycling of material, parking and waste inspection areas, external storm water diversion channels with a run-off collection and a water retention system.

The investigation provided the opportunity to examine the proposed solid waste disposal site.

No limitations or obstacles were experienced during site visit.

Methodology

Standard archaeological survey and recording methods were used.

1. The site was inspected on foot.
2. GPS points were taken and the surrounding area and features were recorded on camera.

INVESTIGATION

The proposed site at Curries Camp was visited on 17 May 2012. Neil Devenish and Marguerite Cronjé from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took me to the site.

The area is littered by unofficial refuse disposal from the nearby township.

The site was examined for any possible traces of cultural and historical remains to establish the potential impact of the developments on any archaeological and cultural historical material. 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 report aims to locate and evaluate the significance of cultural heritage sites, archaeological material, manmade structures older than 60 years, and sites associated with oral histories and graves that might be affected by the proposed developments.

I have done a considerable number of Environmental and Heritage Impact assessments in the Northern Cape and along the upper part of the West Coast and along the Orange River towards the Richtersveld over the past number of years. I consider myself as familiar with the archaeology and cultural heritage of the area and competent to do the investigation.

LOCALITY

The proposed waste disposal site will cover about 0,636 ha and is located on a portion of the farm Blocuso 644, Curries Camp, approximately 1 km west of Soverby, between Upington and Keimoes (Map 1), Northern Cape (Map 2).

The site lies along a turn-off gravel road to Curries Camp from the N14 between Upington, Kakamas and the Augrabies Falls National Park (Map 2).

The soil surface had been severely disturbed during the mining of the borrow pit (Figs.4&5). The proposed site lies near the Curries Camp Township with an inevitable additional impact on the environment by people and farm animals. The land consists of a deep deposit of red sandy soil (Figs.1&4).

Acacia Erioloba (Kameeldoring) trees are indigenous to this region and a scatter of young individual plants grows in the area around the waste disposal site (Fig.1).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

CCU 28°40'21"S 021°02'05"E Altitude 765m (Figs.1-5).

RESULTS

FINDS

No archaeological material was found at the site, nor were there any engravings or other relics or historical material discovered.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the planning of the proposed waste disposal site may proceed.

MITIGATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Neil Devenish and Marguerite Cronjé from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, for taking me to the site.

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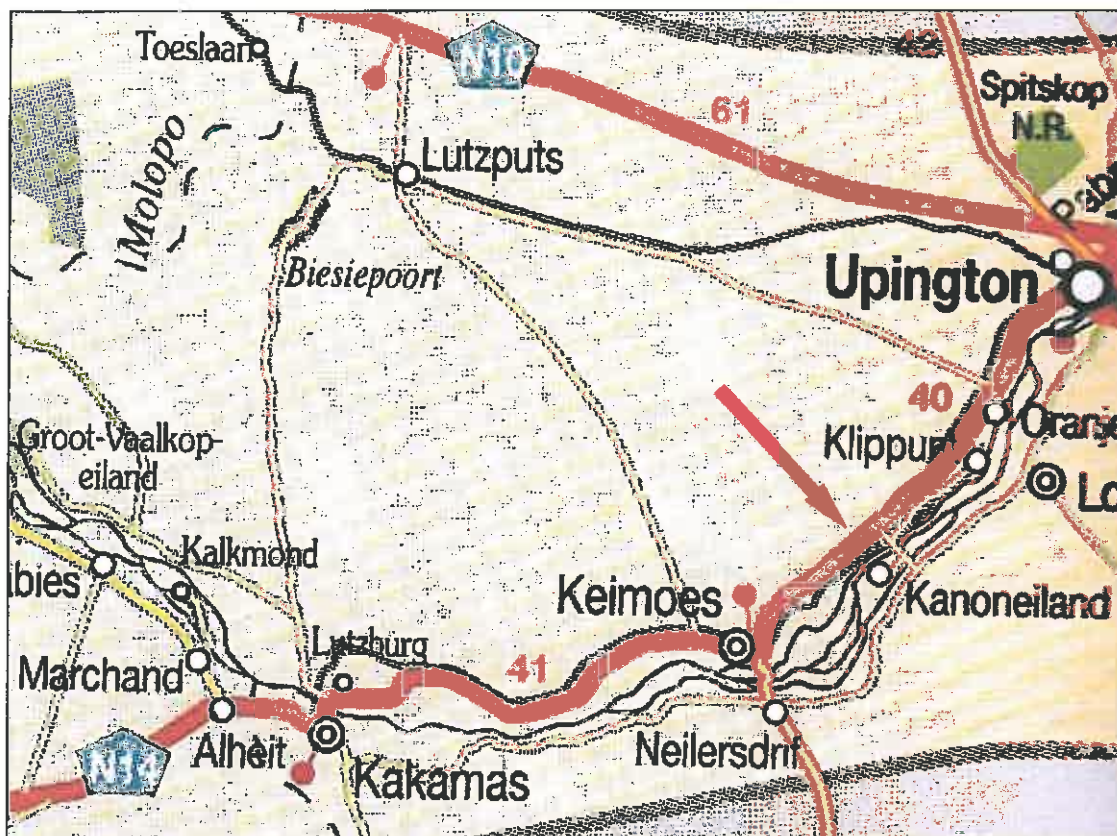
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



Map 1 N14 main road between Kakamas and Upington, Northern Cape.



Fig.1 Waste disposal site at Curries Camp near Keimoes, Northern Cape.



Map 2: Locality of waste disposal site at Curries Camp near Keimoes, Northern Cape (2821).



Fig.2 Waste disposal site at Curries Camp near Keimoes.



Map 3 Google image of the waste disposal site at Curries Camp near Keimoes.



Fig.3 Waste disposal site at Curries Camp near Keimoes, Northern Cape.



Fig.4 Borrow pit to be developed as waste disposal site at Curries Camp.



Fig.5 Waste disposal site at Curries Camp, Northern Cape.