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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED NEW EXTENSIONS TO THE CEMETERY AT
CILLIE NEAR KAKAMAS, NORTHERN CAPE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kai !Garib Municipality is planning new extensions to the existing cemetery at Cillie near Kakamas in the Northern Cape. The cemetery lies in a remote area on the outskirts of the township. The ground surface consists of sterile sandy soil with a sparse grass cover and low-growing individual Prosopis trees.

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

The proposed graveyard developments will have no impact on the cultural heritage of the site and mitigation measures are not required.

I recommend that the planning of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, and Stabilis Developments, Upington, on behalf of the Kai !Garib Municipality, commissioned the archaeological assessment for the proposed extension of the cemetery at Cillie, in the Kakamas district, Northern Cape Province.

The investigation provided the opportunity to examine the site proposed for the cemetery developments.

No limitations were experienced during site visit.

Methodology

1. Standard archaeological survey and recording methods were applied.
2. A survey of the literature was done to obtain information about the archaeology and cultural heritage of the area.
3. The site was inspected on foot.
4. The layout of the area as well as objects and features were plotted by GPS.
5. The surroundings and features were recorded on camera.

INVESTIGATION

The Kai !Garib Municipality is planning extensions to the existing graveyard at Cillie near Kakamas in the Northern Cape. The site was visited on 14 September 2012. Neil Devenish and Marguerite Cronjé from MDA Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, took me to the site. The Environmental Assessment is done on behalf of the Kai !Gariiep Municipality, at Kakamas. The technical report is done by Stabilis Development from Kimberley. About 400 graves are planned and will involve the following actions: pre-excavated graves, a water supply, sanitation and ablution facilities, a storeroom, a security fence and gravel access roads.

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 study 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. In many cases, planted and self-sown trees and other types of vegetation determine a major part of the historical landscape of human settlements in villages and towns, on farmyards or even deserted places in the open veld.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological environment of the Northern Cape is rich and diverse, representing a long time span of the human past. The area is exceptionally rich in terms of Stone Age material and rock art sites. Some areas are richer than others and not all the sites are equally significant (Beaumont et al. 1995, Beaumont & Morris 1990). For various reasons, there is a relative lack in research records, but certain sites such as the Wonderwerk Cave in the

Kuruman Hills, several ancient specularite mines near Postmasburg and a number of significant Stone Age sites near Kathu (Beaumont 1990, 2007), have produced important archaeological information. Beaumont (1990) has indicated the importance of the Early Stone Age lithic material after many seasons of excavations at Kathu Pan and elsewhere near the town.

Not much is known about the history of this particular area. During a previous investigation, a scatter of worked stone flakes was found at a site near the present locality along the road from Kakamas to Augrabies Falls. The finds were made from lithic sources of chert and jasper imported from the riverbed. Quarts nodules are scattered in abundance on the surface and a single artefact made out of quartz was found. No actual tools occurred and the flakes are described as Later Stone Age material (Dreyer 2010).

Khoi stock farmers moved into this area between AD 400 and AD 1100. Black farming communities followed into the Northern Cape. This phase known as the Later Iron Age (AD 1300 to about 1840 AD), brought people who cultivated crops, kept livestock, produced an abundance of pottery in a variety of shapes and sizes and smelted metals. Extensive stone walled enclosures characterised their semi-permanent settlements. These remnants are known from the prominent Sotho/Tswana settlements at Dithakong, a Bathlaping capital near Kuruman. A number of Korana and Griqua groups, remnants of the Later Stone Age peoples, managed to survive the assimilation by Sotho/Tswana tribes in the region.

Dramatic climate changes resulted in a rapid population growth along the east coast. Increased pressure on natural resources and attempts to control trade during the early 19th century brought the emergence of powerful leaders in the area. The subsequent power struggle resulted in a period of instability in the central parts of Southern Africa. This period of strife or wars of devastation, known as the “difaqane” (Sotho/Tswana) or “Mfecane” (Nguni), affected many of the Black tribes in the interior. Attacks from east of the escarpment initiated by the AmaZulu impis of Chaka in about 1822, were carried on by the AmaNdebele of Mzilikazi and the AmaNgwane of Matiwane into the Free State, thus uprooting among others, the Batlokwa of Sekonyela and Mantatise and various smaller Sotho/Tswana tribes. On their turn, the Batlokwa drove off the Bafokeng of Sebetoane from Kurutlele near Senekal, who, in their effort to escape the pursuit by the AmaNdebele forces, eventually landed up in the Caprivi (Dreyer & Kilby 2003).

This period of unrest also affected the peoples of the Northern Cape, resulting in the displacement of scores of tribesmen, women and children. These refugees were assimilated by the stronger tribal groups such as the AmaNdebele of Mzilikazi.

Early European missionaries and travellers ventured into the inland of the country during the 19th century and reached Dithakong as early as 1801. Several of the marauding hordes affected the lives of the Batswana people living at Dithakong near the mission station of Robert and Mary Moffat near Kuruman.

Anglo-Boer War (1900-1902) camping and skirmish sites in the Northern Cape should be recorded. Distinctive food cans and specific types of fired cartridge cases normally identify these sites. Conflict sites between early White farmers and Bushmen in the Northern Cape could contain gunflints and fired cartridge cases and should likewise be noted.

LOCALITY

The proposed new cemetery at Cillie near Kakamas (Map 1), in the Siyanda district of the Northern Cape (Maps 2&3) will be an extension of the existing graveyard (Map 4). The cemetery lies in a remote area on the outskirts of the Cillie Township and is located about 2km west of the Orange River, 5km from the settlement at Alheit and 15km directly east of Kakamas (Map 2).

The site contains a red sterile sandy soil cover (Figs.1,3&4). Shrubs and trees cover include Swarthaak (*Acacia mellifera*), Mesquite (*Prosopis sp.*) and Kameeldoring (*Acacia erioloba*) (Fig.2). In preparation of the developments, the soil surface has been cleared of any vegetation (Figs.1-4). The cemetery is not fenced and is open to wandering livestock from the township nearby with the inevitable further impact on the environment.

The following GPS coordinate (Cape scale) was taken (Map 4):

CK 28°43'56"S 020°34'47"E Altitude 663m (Figs.1-4).

FINDS

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

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

I am convinced that the proposed developments will have no impact on any cultural and historical heritage remains of the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

MITIGATION

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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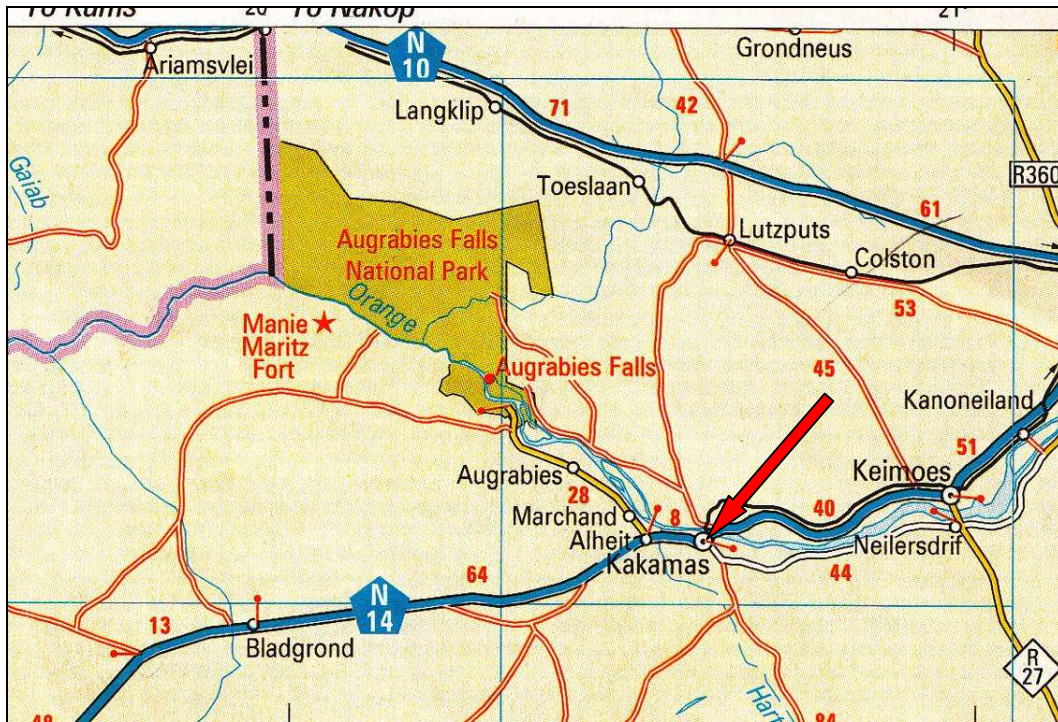
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



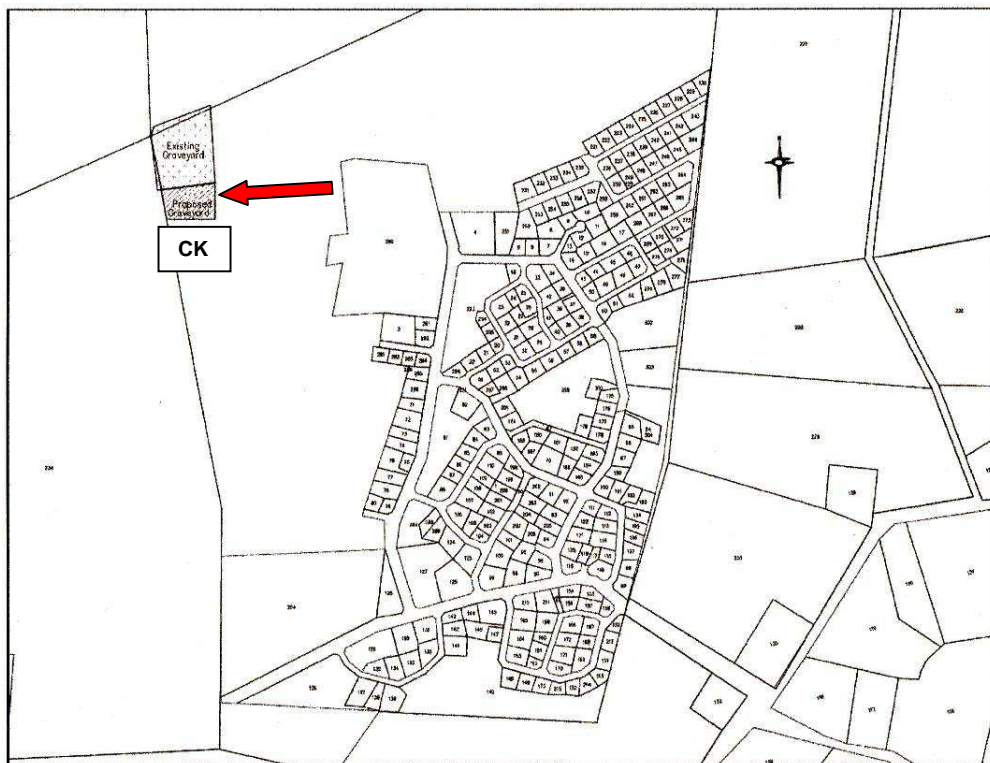
Map 1 Augrabies village between Kakamas and the Augrabies National Park, Northern Cape.



Map 2 Locality of Cillie cemetery in relation to Alheit, near Kakamas.



Map 3 Position of cemetery at Cillie near Kakamas.



Map 4 Position of new cemetery at Cillie near Kakamas. Coordinate point indicated.



Fig.1 New cemetery site at Cillie near Kakamas, Northern Cape.



Fig.2 New cemetery site at Cillie near Kakamas, Northern Cape.



Fig.3 Cemetery site at Cillie near Kakamas, Northern Cape.



Fig.4 Cemetery site at Cillie near Kakamas, Northern Cape.