

ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: DESKTOP STUDY

PROPOSED NAMAQUA N7 TRUCK STOP NEAR SPRINGBOK, NORTHERN CAPE

Portion 62 of Farm 218

Prepared for:

EnviroAfrica

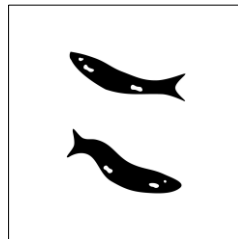
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2. THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The proposed development comprises an overnight truck stop and re-fuelling station alongside the N7 on Portion 62 of the Farm Biesjesfontein 218, located about 8kms south of Springbok in the Northern Cape (Figure 3). The proposed development site is located on a flat sandy, featureless plain \pm 300m south of a small seasonal stream, and about 300m north of a small granite outcrop. The total development footprint including associated infrastructure is 1.8ha in extent (Figure 4). The proposed site is located on land that was historically used for agriculture, while grazing continues to take place on the farm (Botes 2017). The subject property therefore constitutes a transformed landscape. Photographs supplied by the EAP indicate the degraded nature of the receiving environment (Figures 5-12).



Figure 3. Proposed footprint area for the N7 Namaqua Truck Stop

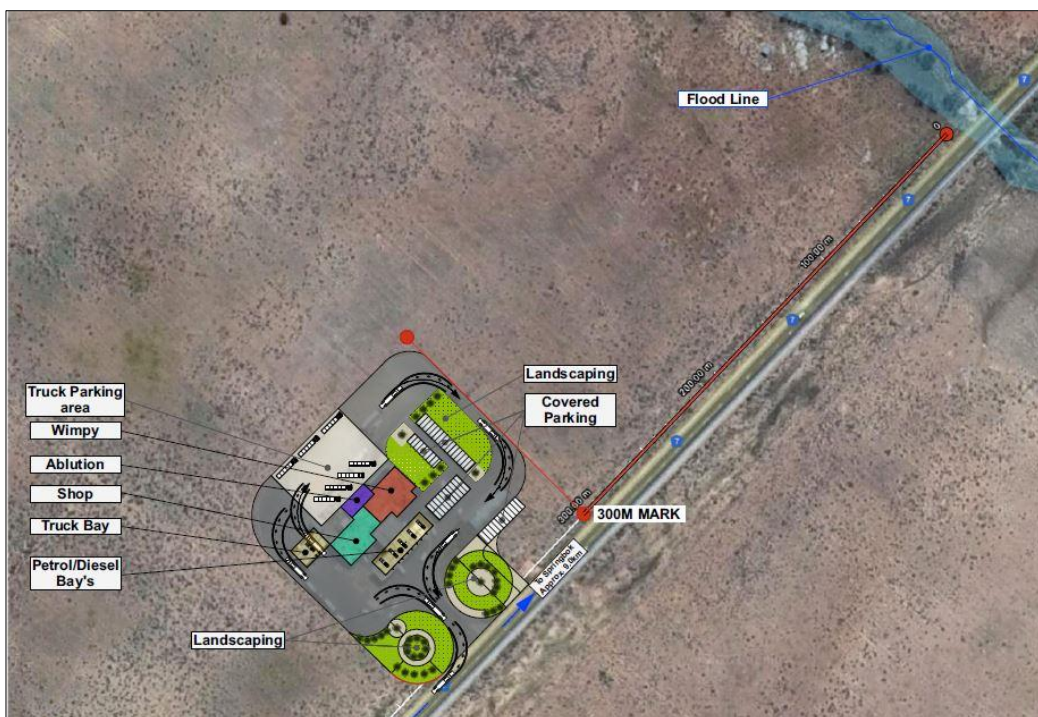


Figure 4. Site layout plan for the proposed new Namaqua truck stop & refuelling station



Figure 5. View of the site facing north west



Figure 8. View of the site facing north east



Figure 6. View of the site facing north



Figure 9. View of the site facing south east



Figure 7. view of the site facing north east



Figure 10. View of the site facing north east



Figure 11. view of the site facing north east



Figure 12. View of the site facing south

3. INFORMATION SOURCES

The information used in the archaeological assessment: desktop study was based on the following:

1. Project descriptions, maps, kml files and supporting documents provided by EnviroAfrica ;
2. A review of the relevant satellite images, topographical maps and literature, including previous field-based Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA) in the study area. Most of the field based reports are available on the South African Heritage Resources (SAHRA) content management system known as SAHRIS.

4. LIMITATIONS

An archaeological desktop study usually entails *inferring* the presence of archaeological heritage within the study area, from existing data collected from the surrounding area. Where such surveys have been done, the reliability of an AIA may be significantly enhanced through field assessment by a professional archaeologist.

In the case of the present study area, the archaeology of the region is relatively well-known from a number of surveys that have been undertaken in the surrounding area.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Historically, the interior of Namaqualand was occupied by the Little Namaqua, a Khoekhoen pastoralist group who herded sheep and cattle and lived in temporary encampments of mat/grass huts. The Little Namaqua is known to have moved seasonally with their livestock and historical reports indicate that they may have followed a transhumance cycle between the Kamiesberg in the summer months and the Sandveld in the winter months (Webley 1992). Since the Little Namaqua had no clearly defined territorial boundaries, it was easy for the colonial Trekboers to settle in the area, when loan farms were granted after 1750. The Little Namaqua eventually retreated to so-called 'reserves' such as Leliefontein, Steinkopf, Kommaggas, Carolusberg, Concordia and the Richtersveld (Webley & Halkett 2010).

Until fairly recently little archaeological work has taken place in the Springbok area, where most research has concentrated on the Namaqualand coast, the Richtersveld and further south in the Kamiesberg (Webley 1992). With the development of a nascent alternative energy industry, and improved infrastructure developments, several Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA's) have taken place in the surrounding area, with mixed results. For example, only three stone flakes were encountered over a large area during an HIA for a proposed wind energy farm near Springbok, where some faded rock art and a burial were also recorded (Kaplan 2010), while a few stone flakes were encountered in the proposed powerline servitude between Springbok and Nababeep during scoping for the same study. Low density scatters of Later Stone Age quartz flakes, chunks, a few cores and utilized pieces were documented by Kaplan (2008) alongside DR2595 near Bulletrap (about 15kms north of Springbok), during an assessment of several road borrow pits. No pre-colonial archaeological remains were documented during scoping for a proposed water pipeline between Rooiwinkel and Nababeep north of Springbok (Kaplan 2011a), or between Okiep and Bulletrap alongside the N7 (Kaplan 2011b). A few stone tools and a possible grave were encountered by Smith (2013) during a HIA for a proposed solar energy farm near Carolusberg east of Springbok, while ephemeral scatters of stone tools, a stone walled kraal, colonial-era artefacts and a grave were also encountered by Smith (2013b) during a HIA for a proposed solar energy farm near Nababeep. No archaeological resources were encountered by Gaigher (2012) during a HIA for a proposed solar energy farm south of Springbok, and no pre-colonial archaeological traces were encountered by Morris (2012) during a survey of the proposed upgrading of the Goegap Nature Reserve facilities a few kilometres south east of Springbok east and the N7. Isolated MSA and LSA tools were recorded during a recent study for a large, regional water supply scheme connecting the small surrounding towns of Okiep, Concordia and Carolusberg. Several graves/grave markers were also recorded, while a dispersed scatter of tools, pottery and a herder kraal were recorded alongside a small stream bed north of Carolusberg (Kaplan 2016).

Indications therefore, are that the majority of the surveys so far undertaken, suggests a paucity of archaeological traces in the Springbok area of the Northern Cape.

5.1 Graves

According to the biodiversity practitioner Mr Peet Botes (20 August 2018 pers. comm.), and the EAP (Mr Bernard de Wit pers. comm.), no typical graves or grave markers were identified during the initial and specialist field assessments. Such features are quite easily observed on the ground.

6. ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

The desktop study suggests that a few, isolated archaeological resources (i. e. stone tools) of *low* (Grade IIIC) significance may occur on the proposed development site, but that such finds are likely to occur in a disturbed and transformed context (i. e. old agricultural and grazing land).

The literature review suggests that Stone Age occupation sites are more likely to be found among rocky outcrops, alongside rivers, stream channels and pans.

Indications are that the proposed development site is not a sensitive or threatened archaeological landscape.

7. CONCLUSION

The proposed development site (i. e. Farm 218/62) is not considered to pose a serious threat to the local archaeological heritage because of the following considerations:

- The total footprint area of proposed activities less than 2.0 ha in extent.
- The proposed development site has been transformed by agriculture and is severely overgrazed.
- A desk top study has shown that Springbok and the surrounding area does not appear to be an archaeologically sensitive landscape.
- While some stone implements may be recovered from the proposed development site, the significance of the finds are likely to be rated as being Low

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

With regard to the proposed development of a new N7 truck stop and refuelling station on Farm Biesjesfontein 218/62 alongside the N7, the following recommendations are made:

1. No further archaeological mitigation is required.

9. REFERENCES

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