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**FIRST PHASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED NEW CEMETERY AT ALHEIT
NEAR KAKAMAS, NORTHERN CAPE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new cemetery is planned at Alheit near Kakamas in the Northern Cape, as an extension of the existing graveyard.

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

The developments will not require any mitigation measures and I recommend that the planning of the site may proceed.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

Scope and Limitations

The investigation provided an opportunity to examine the proposed new cemetery 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 point was taken and the surrounding area and features were recorded on camera.

INVESTIGATION

The proposed new cemetery will be an extension of the existing graveyard. 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, Kakamas.

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 various 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, and I consider myself familiar with the archaeology and cultural heritage of the area and competent to do the investigation.

LOCALITY

The proposed new cemetery (Maps 1&2) is planned adjacent and as an extension of the existing graveyard (Fig.4&5) at Alheit near Kakamas in the Northern Cape (Map 3).

The soil surface is relatively undisturbed and rocky outcrops are visible (Fig.3). There is also a coarse scatter of quartzite nodules on the surface (Fig.4). The proposed site is surrounded by the township with the inevitable further impact on the environment.

The following GPS coordinate (Cape scale) was taken (Map 2):

ALH 28°45'45"S 020°32'12"E Altitude 656m (Figs.1&2).

FINDS

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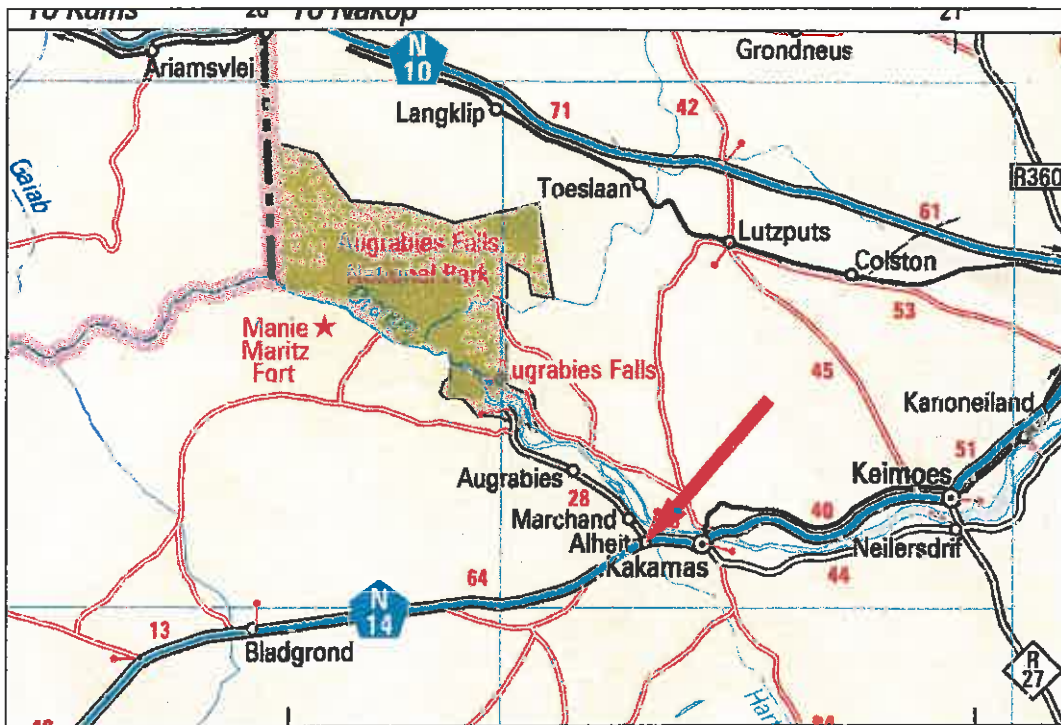
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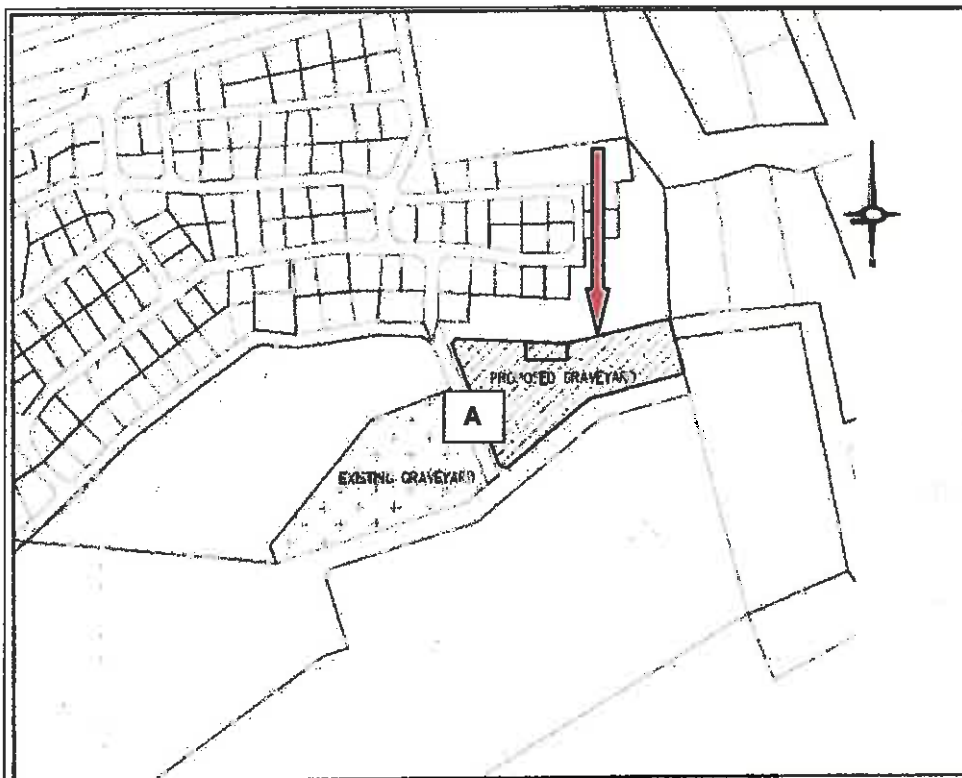
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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS



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



Map 2 Position of new cemetery at Alheit near Kakamas. Coordinate Point A indicated.



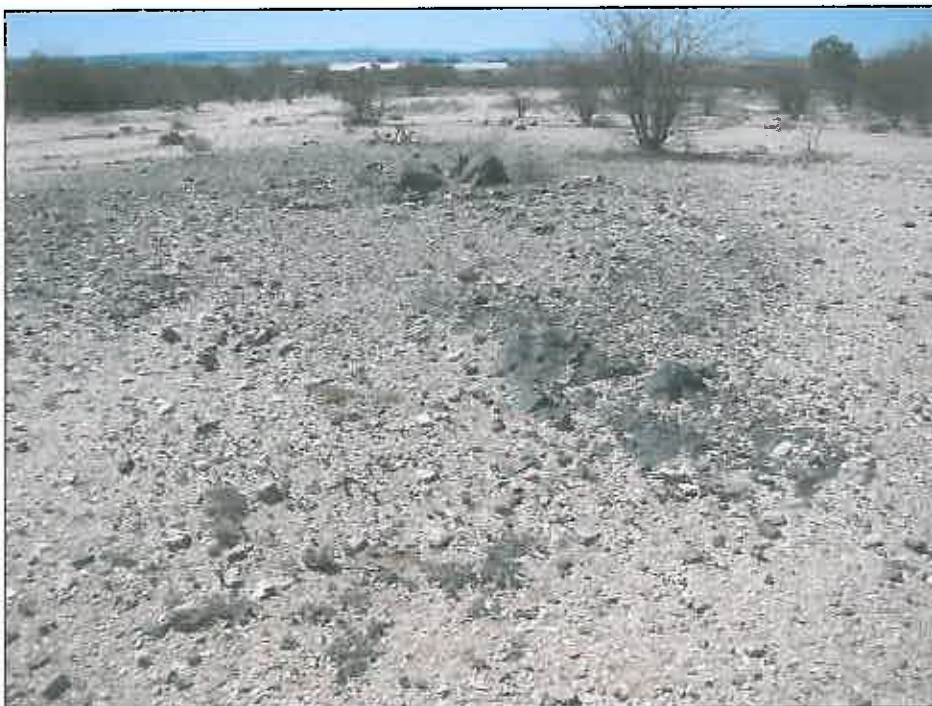
Map 3 Layout of the new Alheit cemetery.



Fig.1 Point A at the new cemetery site, Alheit, Northern Cape.



Fig.2 Point A at the new cemetery site, Alheit, Northern Cape.



Map 3 Rocky outcrop at the new cemetery site, Alheit, Northern Cape.



Fig.3 Quartsite scatter on the surface at the new cemetery site, Alheit, Northern Cape.



Fig.4 Existing cemetery at Alheit, Northern Cape.



Fig.5 Existing cemetery at Alheit, Northern Cape.