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**FINAL REPORT ON THE HISTORICAL-ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION
WORK
RELATED TO THE MOOIKLOOF ECO ESTATE DEVELOPMENT ON THE
FARM RIETFONTEIN 375JR IN THE GREATER TSHWANE MUNICIPAL AREA
OF GAUTENG**

For:

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REPORT: APAC021/69

by:

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August 2021

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SUMMARY

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC (on behalf of Balwin Properties) to undertake an assessment of known cultural heritage sites on a portion of the farm Rietfontein 375JR in the greater Tshwane area of Gauteng. These sites will be impacted on by Balwin's Mooikloof Eco Estate development. During an October 2003 survey of cultural heritage resources on Rietfontein 375JR by African Heritage Consultants cc, seven (7) sites were identified in the area and described in a report by Dr. Udo Kusel. The 1st site (Site 3.1) was the original farmhouse and yard on this portion of Rietfontein 375JR. The house and related structures will not be impacted on by the current development. Site 2 (Site 3.2) was a historical cemetery containing 3 graves of which 2 belongs to the original owners of the farm the Opperman family. Jacobus Opperman died in 1945 and Sibella Opperman (born Erasmus) passed away in 1958. The graves located at this site has since been exhumed and relocated on request of the family to the Pretoria East Cemetery.

Site 3.3 is a large cattle kraal. According to Kusel this kraal was built from local stone without mortar and is typical of early kraals on Boer farms. Site 3.4 is represented by a number of smaller structures that according to Kusel were probably used for keeping smaller livestock such as goats or sheep. Site 3.5 was a so-called "*Bywoner*" settlement. The site consists of several stone ruins including homesteads built with stone and clay. Mr. Gerhard Bredenkamp told Dr.Kusel that this site and the cattle kraal were all part of the Bywoner settlement on the farm. Bywoners were poor whites that after the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) were allowed to settle on the farms of rich landowners. Site 3.6 was that of a larger cattle kraal that according to Kusel was part of the original farm settlement.

For Sites 3.3; 3.4 & 3.6 it was recommended that an exclusion buffer of 20m is placed around each site if it could be avoided by the development and be preserved in situ. If the site could not be preserved then the recommended mitigation measures were the detailed mapping and drawing of each site before demolition. For Site 3.5 an exclusion buffer of 20m around the site was recommended if it was possible to avoid it and could be preserved in situ. If the site could not be preserved the recommended mitigation measures were historical-archaeological excavations and the detailed mapping and drawing of the site before demolition.

In light of the earlier assessments and the recommendations made, APAC cc was then appointed to undertake the Archaeological mitigation work in 2021. A permit for the work was issued to APAC cc (**Permit ID#3237 & Case ID#16226**) by SAHRA in April 2021. The Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History will be the Curating Institute for the cultural material recovered and sampled from the area during the field work.

This Final Report discusses the results of the detailed documentation of the 4 sites and the mapping and drawing work done on Sites 3.3, 3.4, and 3.6 & the mapping, drawing and excavation work done on Site 3.5.

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1. INTRODUCTION

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In light of the earlier assessments and the recommendations made, APAC cc was then appointed to undertake the Archaeological mitigation work in 2021. A permit for the work was issued to APAC cc (**Permit ID#3237 & Case ID#16226**) by SAHRA in April 2021. The Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History will be the Curating Institute for the cultural material recovered and sampled from the area during the field work.

The physical fieldwork (mapping, drawing & excavations) were conducted between April & August 2021.

A 1st report (**APAC021/27**) discussed the results of the detailed documentation of the sites and the mapping and drawing work done on Sites 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6. An Interim Report (**APAC021/49**) dealt with the continued mitigation work on the sites and more specifically the Bywoner site, while providing recommendations on the way forward in terms of the successful completion of the work.

With the detailed mapping and documentation of Sites 3.3; 3.4 and 3.6 being completed it was recommended in this Interim Report that their demolition can be undertaken so that the development work in the areas where they are located can commence.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the Mooikloof Eco Estate Phase 2 Archaeological Mitigation were the following:

1. *Archaeological excavations through trenches and blocks on the Bywoner House/Settlement remains (Site 3.5) and possible midden in order to recover as much archaeological deposit as possible (glass, metal, ceramic and other material remains) in order to assist with the interpretation of the site and the reconstruction of material economy, time-frame of occupation and the cultural identity of the occupants of these sites. No midden could be traced.*
2. *All the excavation trenches & blocks, as well as all features and material in these blocks were to be photographed, mapped and described in detail and a detailed map of each block and the site produced.*
3. *Detailed mapping with dumpy level/theodolite and/or GPS will be done, with the blocks and all features included in a final map of the site.*
4. *Detailed mapping of the three stone-walled livestock enclosures (Sites 3.3, 3.4 & 3.6) to produce a map of each before demolition. Detailed photographic recording were also to be done.*
4. *The results of the fieldwork and the analysis of the cultural material to be reported on in a Final Archaeological Permit Report and to be submitted to SAHRA, the Ditsong Museum of Cultural History and the client.*

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two Acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

3.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the Act the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. **Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years**
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils

- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

The National Estate includes the following:

- a. Places, buildings, structures and equipment of cultural significance
- b. Places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage
- c. **Historical settlements and townscapes**
- d. Landscapes and features of cultural significance
- e. Geological sites of scientific or cultural importance
- f. Sites of Archaeological and palaeontological importance
- g. Graves and burial grounds
- h. Sites of significance relating to the history of slavery
- i. **Movable objects (e.g. archaeological, palaeontological, meteorites, geological specimens, military, ethnographic, books etc.)**

Structures

Section 34 (1) of the Act states that no person may demolish any structure or part thereof which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

A structure means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith.

Alter means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or the decoration or any other means.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of the Act deals with archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites. The act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority (national or provincial)

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or paleontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or paleontological material or object or any meteorite;
- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or paleontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. bring onto or use at an archaeological or paleontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and paleontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). In order to demolish such a site or structure, a destruction permit from SAHRA will also be needed.

3.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This Act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

Environmental management should also take the cultural and social needs of people into account. Any disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation's cultural heritage should be avoided as far as possible and where this is not possible the disturbance should be minimized and remedied.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Survey of Literature

A survey of available literature was undertaken in order to place the development area in an archaeological and historical context. The sources utilized in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Mapping & Excavation

All the sites that will be impacted and that are covered in the SAHRA permit was mapped using a hand-held Garmin GPS and maps produced from this. All visible stone-walled sections and other features were included in this mapping. All excavation blocks and STP's on Site 3.5 (the Bywoner settlement) were also mapped in and indicated on the various site maps.

4.3 Oral Histories

People from local communities are sometimes interviewed in order to obtain information relating to the surveyed area. It needs to be stated that this is not applicable under all circumstances. When applicable, the information is included in the text and referred to in the bibliography.

4.4 Documentation

All sites, objects, features and structures identified are documented according to a general set of minimum standards. Co-ordinates of individual localities are determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information is added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality. The recovered archaeological material will be

properly recorded photographically and provided with accession numbers that will be given by the Department of Archaeology at the Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History for inclusion and curating in their Archaeological Collection.

5. BACKGROUND

During an October 2003 survey of cultural heritage resources on Rietfontein 375JR by African Heritage Consultants cc, seven (7) sites were identified in the area and described in a report by Dr. Udo Kusel.

The 1st site (Site 3.1) was the original farmhouse and yard on this portion of Rietfontein 375JR. The house and related structures will not be impacted on by the current development. Site 2 (Site 3.2) was a historical cemetery containing 3 graves of which 2 belongs to the original owners of the farm the Opperman family. Jacobus Opperman died in 1945 and Sibella Opperman (born Erasmus) passed away in 1958). The graves located at this site has since been exhumed and relocated on request of the family to the Pretoria East Cemetery.

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APAC cc was appointed to undertake the archaeological mitigation work on these sites in 2021. The fieldwork for this phase of the work commenced in March 2021 and continued in April after a permit was issued by SAHRA. A 1st report (See APAC021/27) discussed the results of the detailed documentation of the sites and the mapping and drawing work done on Sites 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6. With the mapping and excavations on Site 3.5 being completed the information obtained through this work are included in this Final Mitigation Report that will be submitted to SAHRA and the client.

The current owner and occupant of the original farmstead (Site 3.1), Mr. Gerhard Bredenkamp, provided some valuable information on the history of the sites that are being investigated. He is married to a descendant of the original farm owner Me. Madelize Bredenkamp nee Opperman. According to him the original farmhouse was built in 1898 just before the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) and that the stone-packed kraals (Sites 3.3, 3.4 & 3.6) date to this time-period originally as well and are related to the original farming set-up on Rietfontein. He also indicated that these enclosures were used for cattle, smaller livestock such as sheep/goats, pigs and chickens. Of importance is the evidence he gave regarding Site 3.5 (the Bywoner settlement site). According to Me. Bredenkamp there were 3 or 4 families living here, and that one was that of a Willem van Niekerk. Although he was unable to say exactly where, Mr. Van Niekerk’s initials were carved into the trunk of a *wit stinkout* tree not far from the site with the date 1938 or 1945 (Personal Communication Mr. G. Bredenkamp: 2021-04-14). A search for this tree subsequent to this discussion could not trace the tree mentioned.

The mapping of the sites and structures on them was done using a handheld Garmin Geko GPS, from a fixed base point at each site. Measurements at each site (lengths and widths of walls as well as entrances) were also then used in producing scale drawings of each site and structure on it. Photographic recording was also undertaken on the separate sites and individual structures on them. Each site will be discussed in more detail below

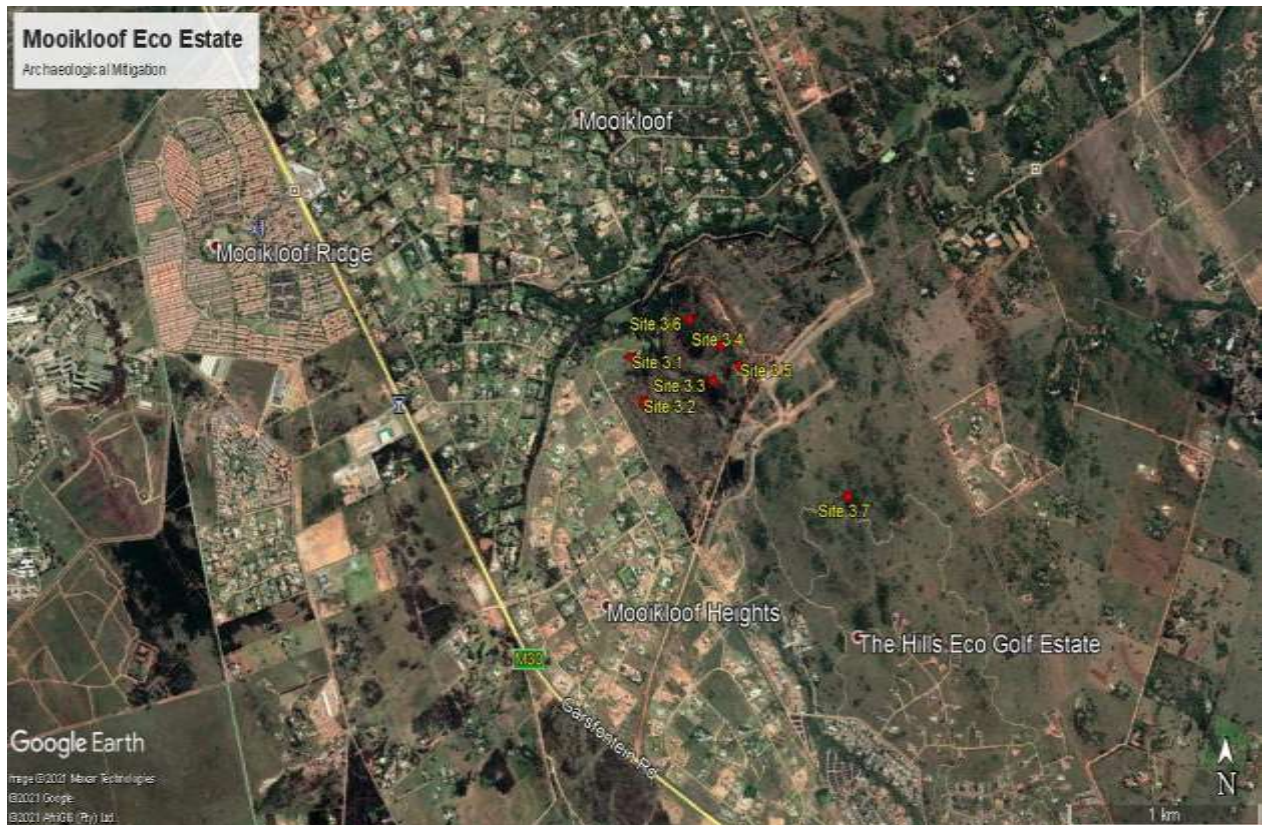


Figure 1: General location of study area (Google Earth 2021).



Figure 2: Closer location of study area and sites (Google Earth 2021).

6. DISCUSSION

Site 1 (3.3) – Large Cattle Kraal

This cattle kraal is approximately 12m x 12m in size, although it might be slightly larger taking the amount of wall collapse on the site into consideration. The construction is dry-stone walling (no binding/bonding material used), with the walls around 1.00m in width. The walls (still standing) are between 0.50m (on average) and 1.00m (for the best preserved sections) in height. It has one entrance on its eastern side of about 2m in width. The size of the enclosure seems to indicate that it was used for cattle.

GPS Location: **S25 50 56.60 E28 20 50.80**

Base Point: **S25 50 56.10 E28 20 50.90**



Figure 3: Site 1 (3.3) Cattle Kraal.



Figure 4: A section of well-preserved walling at the site.

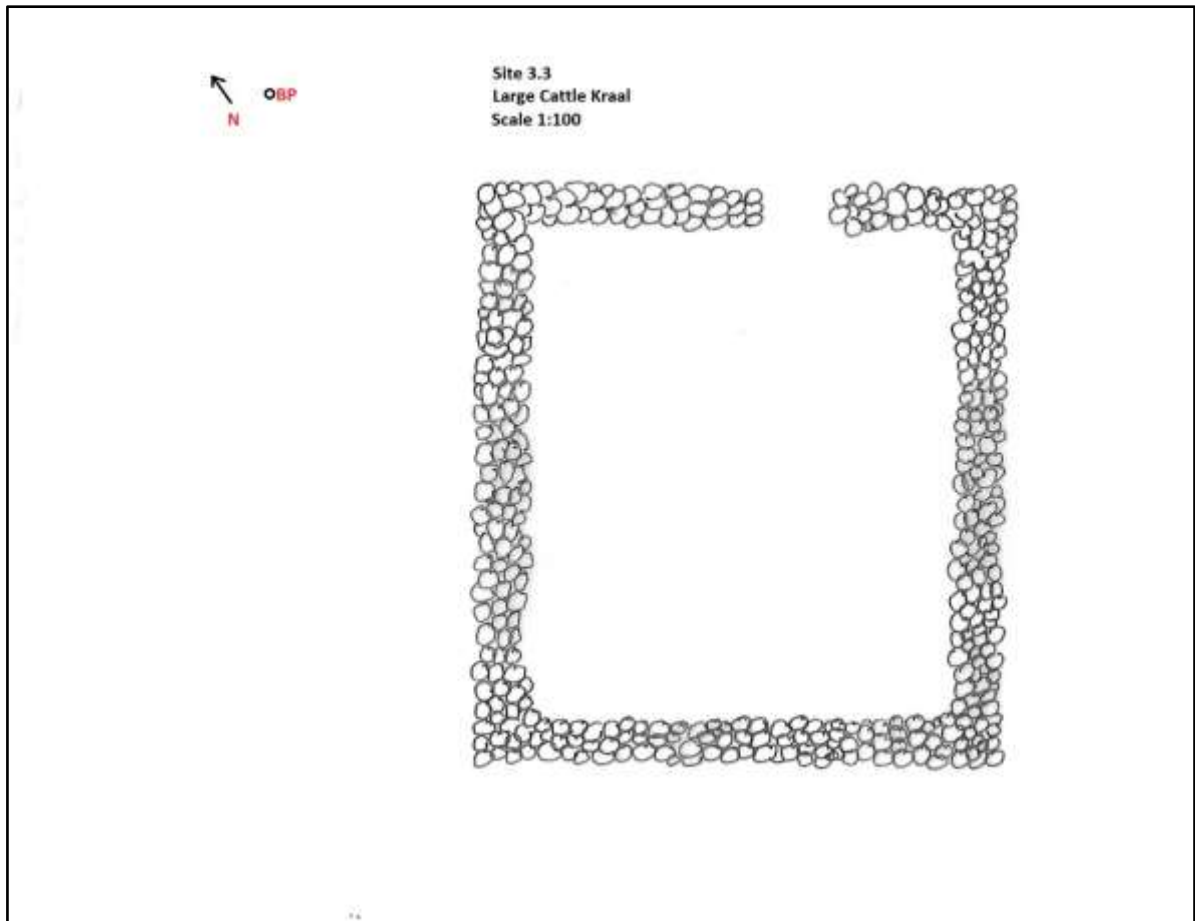


Figure 5: Copy of scale drawing of Site 1 (3.3).

Site 2 (3.4) – Smaller livestock enclosures

Although Kusel identified 3 structures here, after clearing of the site in April 2021, it was found that this site only consists of two small dry-stone packed enclosures, connected by a length of wall approximately 2m in length. The first of the enclosures measures around 9m x 6m and has a single entrance on its south-western side. The entrance is approximately 1m in width. The 2nd enclosure is circular in shape and has a diameter of around 4m. The walls are between 0.50m and 1.00m in width, with the height of the remaining walls on average 0.50m.

The size of the rectangular structure could indicate that it was used for smaller livestock such as sheep and/or goats, while the circular one could have been used for pigs.

GPS Location: **S25 50 51.70 E28 20 51.70**

Base Point: **S25 50 51.40 E28 20 51.70**



Figure 6: A general view of Site 3.4.



Figure 7: The wall section between the rectangular and circular enclosure.



Figure 8: The circular enclosure at Site 3.4.

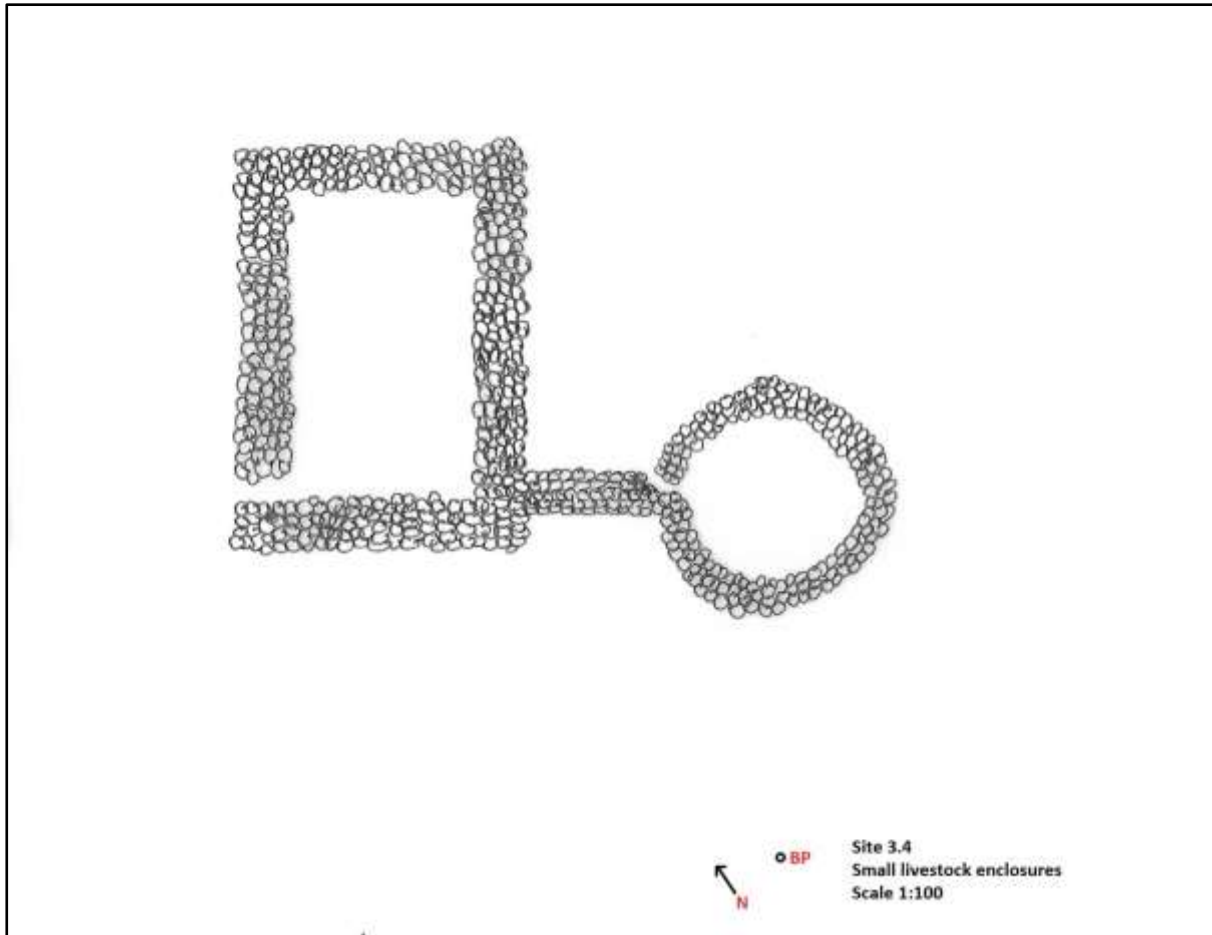


Figure 9: Copy of scale drawing of Site 3.4.

Site 3 (3.6) – Large Cattle Kraal

This large stone-packed enclosure measures approximately 46m x 26m in size and has two entrances of about 2m width (on its north-western side) and 1m width (on its western side). A secondary rectangular enclosure of 8m x 20m is attached to the larger kraal on its south-western side. This smaller enclosure could have been used for keeping young calves. The stone walls remaining are on average around 1m in width, while the height of the walls is between 0.50m (average) and 1.20m (for the best preserved sections).

GPS Location: **S25 50 47.20 E28 20 46.20**

Base Point: **S25 50 46.60 E28 20 46.90**



Figure 10: A general view of Site 3.6.



Figure 11: A view of the kraal's one entrance.



Figure 12: The entrance on the north-western side.



Figure 13: A section of well-preserved walling.



Figure 14: A view of the smaller attached rectangular enclosure at Site 3.6.

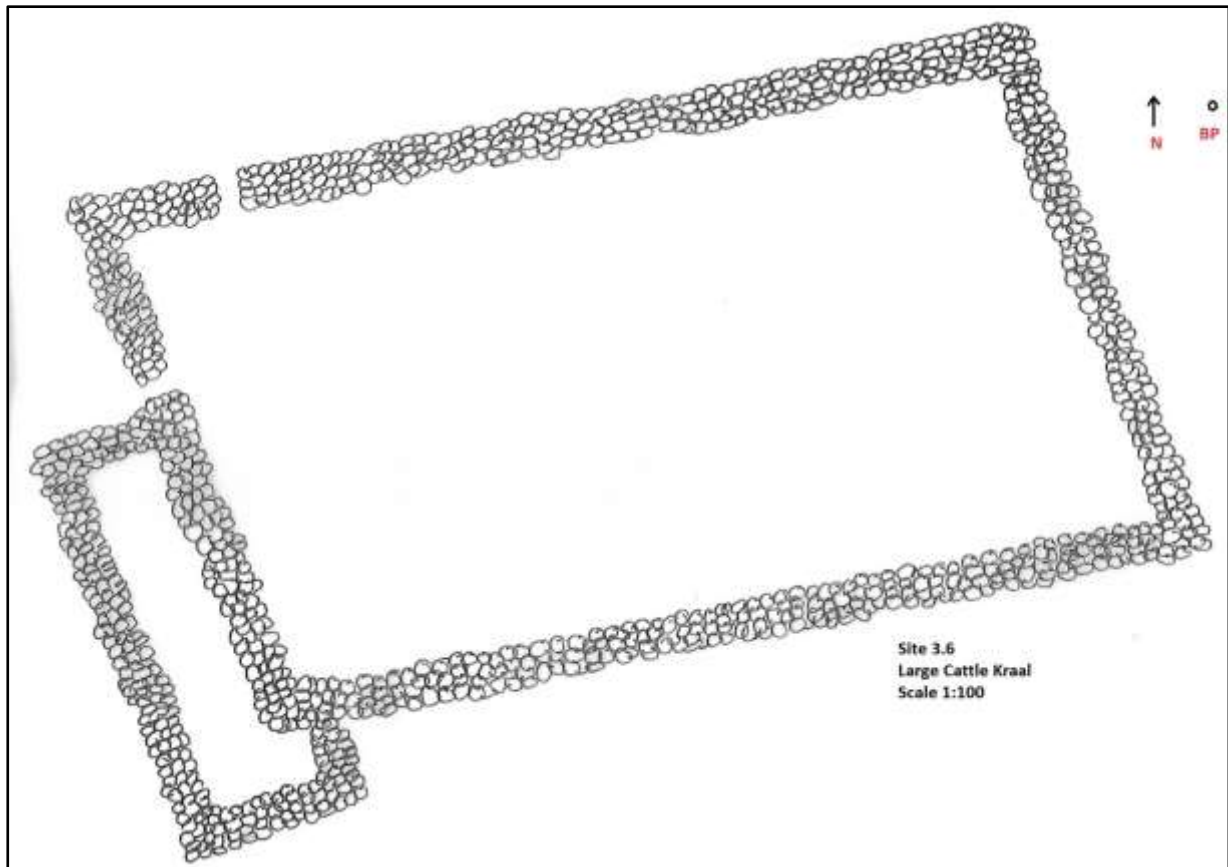


Figure 15: Copy of scale drawing of Site 3.6.

Site 4 (3.5) – Bywoner Settlement

The site consists of three individual structures or homesteads constructed of a combination of packed stones and baked mud bricks. All three are fairly well preserved although in stages of collapse. Patches of mud plaster are visible on some of the inside walls, while it seems as if clay was used as binding material in the stone packed sections of walling.

The 1st building is a single-roomed structure measuring approximately 4m x 7m in size. It has a single entrance and two windows. It might have functioned as a storage building.

The 2nd structure measures around 9.1m x 5m and has 3 rooms and a single outside entrance/door. The function of each room was to be determined by the archaeological excavations if possible, but it could be a kitchen and two rooms for sleeping. A possible veranda/garden area is evident on its southern and northern sides, with the remains of the stone-packed walls visible.

The 3rd structure has 3 possible rooms as well and measures 10.5m x 5m in size again. The foundations of a veranda/garden on its western and eastern sides are also visible, while on its northern side there is an abutting smaller enclosure as well (for small livestock like chickens?).

On average the remaining walling associated with these structures were between 1.20m and 1.50m in height. These structures probably had flat roofs of corrugated iron sheeting originally.

GPS Location: **S25 50 53.50 E28 20 55.20**

Base Point: **S25 50 53.90 E28 20 55.70**



Figure 16: A view of the one-roomed structure on Site 3.5.



Figure 17: A view of one the 3-roomed structures/houses on the site.



Figure 18: A view of one of the structures showing the combination of stone and clay brick walling used.



Figure 18: A general view of Site 3.5.



Figure 19: A view of the outside veranda/garden terrace walling at one of the structures.



Figure 20: A window at one of the structures.



Figure 21: Patches of clay plaster visible on one of the inside walls.



Figure 22: Remains of a small enclosure abutting one of the structures at Site 3.5.

Background History on the Bywoners (www.wikipedia.org)

The term “*Bywoner*” refers mainly to poor whites, without land of their own who used to work and live on the farms of others. In exchange for the work they did they received a salary, but more often they were either given free housing, a portion of the farm for their own farming purposes, part of the crops and/or livestock, a certain amount of milk every day or part of the meat when livestock were slaughtered. They could also supplement their income by hunting. In some instances they went on commando in the place of the farm owner on whose farm they worked, while in certain cases they farmed completely independently on another farm owned by their employer.

Initially bywoners were seen by the farm owners as their social equals and partners and not as farm laborers, but this relationship eventually changed to one of boss and labourer and in sometimes bywoners were even seen and treated as squatters.

Although the term bywoners are mostly associated with poor whites living and working on farms after the Anglo-Boer War (or Second South African War) of 1899-1902, some Free Burgher farmers already had bywoners on their farms shortly after the arrival of the Dutch at the Cape. Only by the end of the 19th Century did the bywoners as a group developed into a social problem. They were poor, had many children and available land to start new farms were scarcer. These factors lead to an increase in the numbers of bywoners, while capitalism and the increasing commercialization of farming also created more problems. With the international recession and panic of the Baring-debt crisis of 1890 many big farmers were

declared insolvent, became bywoners themselves and other bywoners were driven from the farms.

The problem increased from the around the middle of the 19th Century when more and more African workers were employed on the farms. Europeans and Africans found it difficult to work together on these farms as farm laborers. This led to a worsening in the relationship between the farmers and the bywoners. As a result many bywoners became transport riders. With the completion of the rail network from the coast to the Witwatersrand the profession of transport rider became largely redundant. The runderpest pandemic between 1896 & 1897, as well as the destruction of farms, agricultural fields and livestock during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) hit the bywoners hard. During the War years the relationship between farm owners and bywoners got so bad that many bywoners fought on the side of the British. They were seen as so-called “*Joiners*” and after the War were chased off the farms. During the First World War (1914-1918) and the Rebellion (1914) many of the bywoners also took up a very militant stand and there was an increased effort to get them off the farms. After the Anglo-Boer War and especially after the formation of the Union of South Africa (1910) a large number of bywoners lived in increased poverty in the cities. As a result the Carnegie-commission (1928-1932) of Inquiry into Poor White Question included the Bywoner problem.

Mapping Site 3.5 (Bywoner Settlement)

The site was mapped using a handheld Garmin GPS, with a fixed Base Point established, and a tape-measure used for measuring distances from the Base Point, as well as the lengths, heights & widths of walls. All the excavations were also mapped and drawn in.

The largest of the three structures (House) measured 10.5m x 5m, with three rooms divided by inner clay walls. The positions of the door-openings in these walls could not be determined due to the nearly complete collapse of these walls. A single main entrance and one window in this structure could be seen. This house was enclosed by a terrace and garden wall of stones around 0.50m in width. The stone-packed walls of the house were on average 0.50m wide, with the inner dividing clay walls approximately 0.40m wide. A stone-packed enclosure is located to the north-east of the house, attached to the terrace and house. This enclosure was possibly used for poultry although this could not be determined without a doubt. The terrace/garden was most likely used for planting of fruit trees and small-scale vegetable gardens.

The 1-roomed structure and smaller three-roomed house (7m x 4m & 9.1m x 5m in size respectively) forms a single entity enclosed by stone-packed terrace/garden walling and is located around 6.5m south of the large house. The 1-roomed structure probably functioned as a storage facility. Two windows were visible in the structures, as well as one entrance. The 3-roomed had two inner dividing walls of clay brick, with the door opening in one of these walls that were still visible. Two window openings in one of the inner walls and one on the northern outer wall of the house were visible. Again – as with the larger 3-roomed structure and its associated terrace – the inner clay walls were around 0.40m in width, the stone-packed structure walls 0.50m in width and the terrace/garden walling 0.50m wide.

Excavation 1 was in the 1-roomed structure, Excavations 2 & 3 in the smaller 3-roomed house, Excavation 4 on a section of the terrace/garden walling associated with these 2 structures and Excavation 5 in the large 3-roomed house.

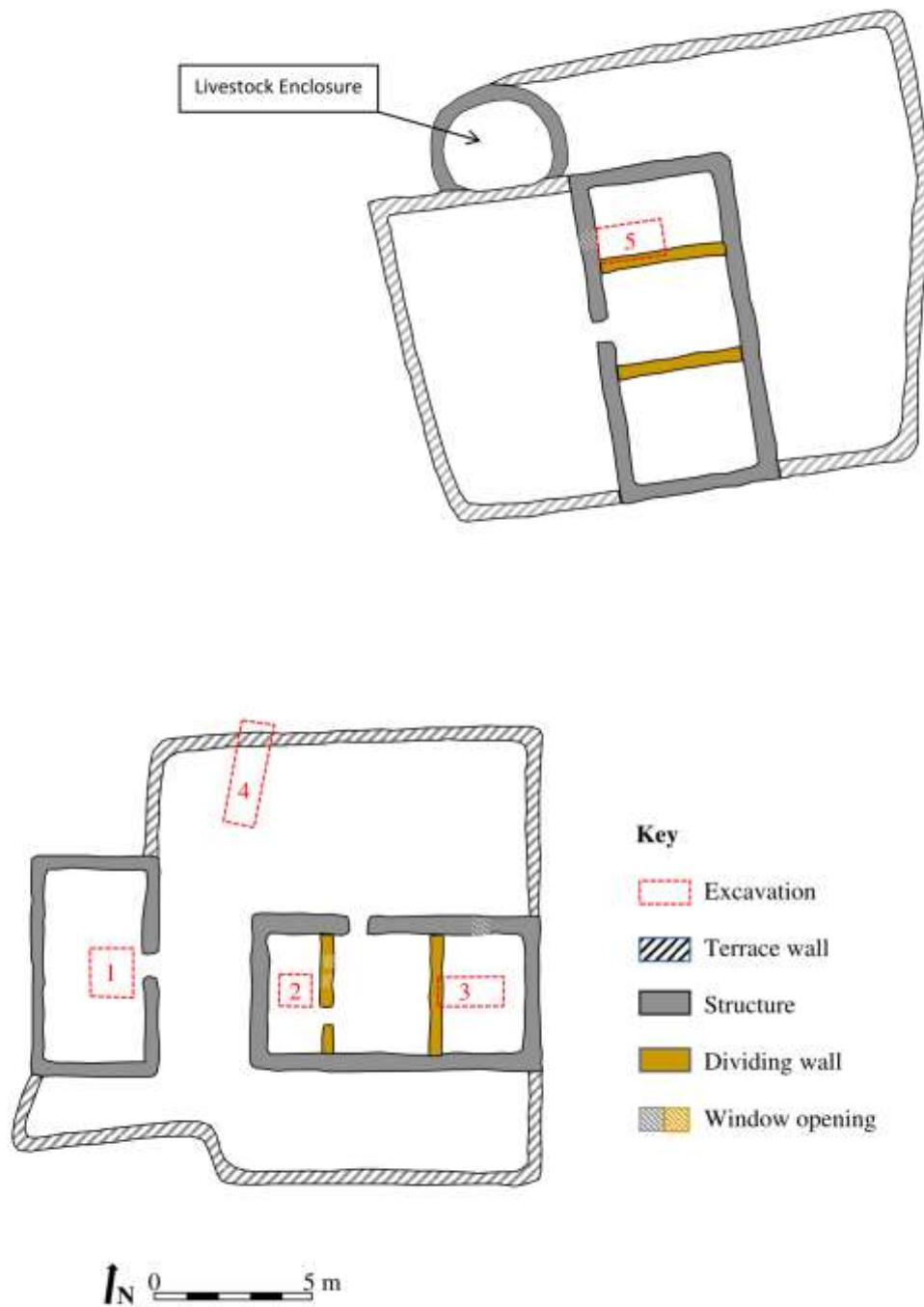


Figure 23: Detailed map of Site 3.5 (Bywoner Settlement).

Results of the Archaeological Excavations

Five excavations in total was measured out on Site 3.5, with the aims being to try and determine the function of each room or structure where they were situated and to try and collect as much cultural material as possible from these excavations.

Excavation 1 was located in the 1-roomed (possible storage facility) structure and measured 1.5m x 1.5m in size. After removal of the loose stones that had fallen from the structures walls, the block was excavated by first removing loose soil and vegetation from the surface. Tree and grass roots were found throughout. The removed topsoil and other material were sieved using a 5mm sieve. The only cultural material recovered were a few pieces of burnt bone, while the remnants of slate-flooring was uncovered at a depth of between 0.20m and 0.25m below the Present Surface Level (PSL). It seems as the structure had a slate floor covering a hardened and compacted soil level. This hardened level was completely sterile with no cultural material present. The tree roots had grown through this flooring and all but destroyed it.



Figure 24: Excavation 1.



Figure 25: Excavation 1 complete.



Figure 26: Tree roots in Excavation 1 with pieces of slate visible.



Figure 27: Close-up of tree roots and pieces of slate flooring.



Figure 28: Large piece of in situ slate flooring in Excavation 1.

Excavation 2 was a 1m x 1m square in of the rooms in the smaller 3-roomed structure on the site. As with Excavation 1 all loose stones that had fallen from the structures stone-packed walls were removed, as well as he loose topsoil and organic material. No cultural material was recovered, with again only fragments of slate flooring evident and covering a hardened soil/clay level below. The tree root growth here also effectively destroyed the floor in the room. The sterile and hardened soil layer was found at approximately 0.25m below the PSL.



Figure 29: Excavation 2.



Figure 30: Excavation 2 completed.



Figure 31: Close-up of completed Excavation 2 with piece of in situ slate flooring visible.

Excavation 3 was a 1m x 2m trench in the 3rd room associated with the smaller of the two 3-roomed houses. As with the previous two excavations loose rocks, topsoil overburden and organic material were removed first revealing lots of tree and grass root growth that had disturbed the original slate flooring (of which fragments were uncovered) that had covered a compacted sterile soil and clay level. No cultural material at all was found. This level was found around 0.25m to 0.30m below the PSL. Remnants of the inner clay dividing wall between this room and 2nd room of the house were uncovered in the western section of the excavation.



Figure 32: Excavation 3.



Figure 33: Closer view of Excavation 3.



Figure 34: The completed Excavation 3.



Figure 35: Remnants of the clay inner dividing wall in Excavation 3.

Excavation 3 was a 1m x 3m trench on a section of terrace/garden wall that enclosed the 1-roomed and smaller 3-roomed structure on the site. The aim was to determine the possible function of these terraces/gardens, as well to determine the construction and size of the walling.

After removing loose topsoil, organic material and stones it was found that the terraces were mostly made up of hardened and gravelly soil and clay. A sterile soil layer was found between 02.0m and 0.30m below the PSL. Except for a single piece of cast-iron that possible came from an object such as a cooking pot or hoe, no other cultural material was recovered from this excavation. The wall of the terrace was found to be constructed of dry-stone walling, packed with larger stones in-filled with smaller ones. The wall was made of 3 layers of stones packed on top of each other around 0.35m in total height and between approximately 0.40m and 0.50m in width.



Figure 36: Excavation 4.

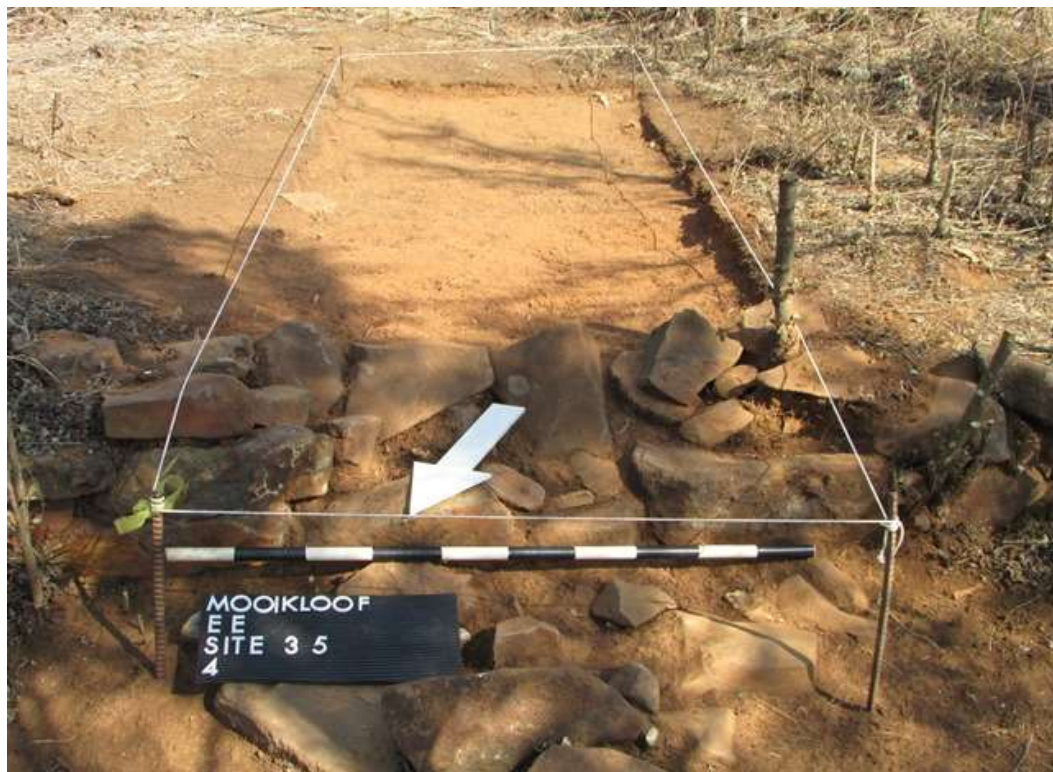


Figure 37: Excavation 4 with the exposed terrace/garden wall section visible.



Figure 38: Excavation 4 showing the height of the terrace/garden wall.

Excavation 5 was in the larger 3-roomed structure 1.50m x 2.00m in size. It was located close to the main entrance, underneath the window opening and next to one of the inner dividing walls in the structure.

Loose stones (fallen from the structures walls), loose top soil and organic material was removed from the surface of the trench before excavation continued further down. Termite activity (especially close to the clay inner wall), as well as tree and grass root growth made excavation work difficult. No evidence of any slate flooring as was found in the other two structures was found in Excavation 5. A hard compacted, and sterile, soil/clay layer was reached at a depth of approximately 0.25m below the PSL.

The only cultural material recovered from the excavation was a single mother-of-pearl button, a peach or apricot pip and piece of foil object.



Figure 39: Excavation 5.



Figure 40: Excavation 5 completed.



Figure 41: Close-up of completed Excavation 5.



Figure 42: Another view of the completed Excavation 5.

Discussion on the cultural material recovered

The nearly complete lack of cultural material found in the excavations is mirrored by the fact that virtually no material is visible on the surface of Site 3.5. Although there are some modern bricks and other plastic bottles, paper and so on (refuse left by previous contractors), no historical material associated with the occupation by the bywoners on the site such as metal, glass and porcelain are situated on the site. Only one piece of blue glass was found in close proximity to the smaller of the two 3-roomed structures. This is probably part of a medicine bottle such as castor oil and is similar to late 19th to mid-20th century bottles.

Excavation 1 produced 3 pieces of burnt bone, with two of these being unidentified fragments and the third part of the pelvis of a small antelope. It has cut marks on it. Excavations 2 & 3 delivered no cultural material except for pieces of slate flooring, while in Excavation 4 a small piece of cast iron was the only artifact recovered. This could be part of either a cast iron cooking pot or hoe used for tilling the soil.

Excavation 5 was the “richest” of the excavations in terms of cultural material, with a mother-of-pearl button, a peach/apricot pip and a piece of metal foil found in the trench. Last mentioned could be the remnants of something like a toothpaste or ointment tube. The fruit pip is (albeit scant) evidence of the possible presence of fruit trees on the site during its occupation (grown on the terraces/gardens), although this could just be an accidental addition to the archaeological deposit.

The lack of material on the site and in the excavations could be ascribed to many factors. One of this could be that the site was very thoroughly cleaned when the original occupants left the settlement, while their economic standing (being fairly poor) could also be reasoned and that they had taken most of their material property with them when they left. Evidence for a refuse midden could not be found on the site or in its close proximity. A feature such as this would have produced much more cultural material evidence if it could be located, but it is possible that all traces of this could have been destroyed by previous work around the area.



Figure 43: Piece of late 19th/mid-20th century bottle glass from the surface of the site.



Figure 44: Pieces of burnt bone from Excavation 1.



Figure 45: Fragment of a cast iron object from Excavation 4.



Figure 46: Button made of mother-of-pearl from Excavation 5.



Figure 47: Peach/apricot pip found in Excavation 5.



Figure 48: Piece of metal foil from Excavation 5. This is possibly from a toothpaste or ointment tube.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APelser Archaeological Consulting cc (APAC cc) was appointed by Bokamoso Landscape Architects & Environmental Consultants CC (on behalf of Balwin Properties) to undertake an assessment of known cultural heritage sites on a portion of the farm Rietfontein 375JR in the greater Tshwane area of Gauteng. These sites will be impacted on by Balwin's Mooikloof Eco Estate development. During an October 2003 survey of cultural heritage resources on Rietfontein 375JR by African Heritage Consultants cc, seven (7) sites were identified in the area and described in a report by Dr. Udo Kusel. The 1st site (Site 3.1) was the original farmhouse and yard on this portion of Rietfontein 375JR. The house and related structures will not be impacted on by the current development. Site 2 (Site 3.2) was a historical cemetery containing 3 graves of which 2 belongs to the original owners of the farm the Opperman family. Jacobus Opperman died in 1945 and Sibella Opperman (born Erasmus) passed away in 1958. The graves located at this site has since been exhumed and relocated on request of the family to the Pretoria East Cemetery.

Site 3.3 is a large cattle kraal. According to Kusel this kraal was built from local stone without mortar and is typical of early kraals on Boer farms. Site 3.4 is represented by a number of smaller structures that according to Kusel were probably used for keeping smaller livestock such as goats or sheep. Site 3.5 was a so-called "Bywoner" settlement. The site consists of several stone ruins including homesteads built with stone and clay. Mr. Gerhard Bredenkamp told Dr.Kusel that this site and the cattle kraal were all part of the Bywoner settlement on the farm. Bywoners were poor whites that after the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) were allowed to settle on the farms of rich landowners. Site 3.6 was that of a larger cattle kraal that according to Kusel was part of the original farm settlement.

For Sites 3.3; 3.4 & 3.6 it was recommended that an exclusion buffer of 20m is placed around each site if it could be avoided by the development and be preserved in situ. If the site could not be preserved then the recommended mitigation measures were the detailed mapping and drawing of each site before demolition. For Site 3.5 an exclusion buffer of 20m around the site was recommended if it was possible to avoid it and could be preserved in situ. If the site could not be preserved the recommended mitigation measures were historical-archaeological excavations and the detailed mapping and drawing of the site before demolition.

In light of the earlier assessments and the recommendations made, APAC cc was then appointed to undertake the Archaeological mitigation work in 2021. A permit for the work was issued to APAC cc (Permit ID#3237 & Case ID#16226) by SAHRA in April 2021. The Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History will be the Curating Institute for the cultural material recovered and sampled from the area during the field work.

The physical fieldwork (mapping, drawing & excavations) were conducted between April & August 2021.

A 1st report (**APAC021/27**) discussed the results of the detailed documentation of the sites and the mapping and drawing work done on Sites 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6. An Interim Report (**APAC021/49**) dealt with the continued mitigation work on the sites and more specifically the Bywoner site, while providing recommendations on the way forward in terms of the successful completion of the work.

With the detailed mapping and documentation of Sites 3.3; 3.4 and 3.6 being completed it was recommended in this Interim Report that their demolition can be undertaken so that the development work in the areas where they are located can commence.

With the mapping, drawing and historical-archaeological work on Site 3.5 (the Bywoner settlement) being completed as well now, this Final Report provides recommendations on the way forward in terms of the demolition of this site as well. The mapping and drawing of the site provides a clear picture of its layout and organization, while the detailed photographic recording of the site and its related features is seen as sufficient documentation of the site that, together with the mapping, helps preserve the information on the site for future researchers on the subject of the Bywoners. Although the archaeological excavations conducted on the site provided scant cultural material evidence on the occupation & use of the site, it can be concluded that it was carried out successfully.

Based on the work conducted on Site 3.5, and the results obtained, it is therefore recommended that the developer should be granted permission to demolish the site in order for development work to continue on this portion of the Mooikloof Eco Estate site as well.

8. REFERENCES

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