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FINAL REPORT ON THE HISTORICAL-ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF A LATE 19TH TO MID 20TH CENTURY REFUSE MIDDEN ON THE FARM ELANDSHEUVEL 402IP IN KLERSKDORP, NW PROVINCE (WILKOPPIES AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS, WILKOPPIES EXT.108

For:

Maxim Planning Solutions (Pty) Ltd P.O.Box 6848 FLAMWOOD 2572

REPORT: APAC015/51

A.J. Pelser Professional Member of ASAPA

Report: April 2016

P.O.BOX 73703 LYNNWOOD RIDGE 0040 Tel: 083 459 3091 Fax: 086 695 7247 Email: apac.heritage@gmail.com

Member: AJ Pelser BA (UNISA), BA (Hons) (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology) [WITS]

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SUMMARY

This document represents a Final Report on the results of the Historical-Archaeological investigations conducted on the Late 19^{th} to mid- 20^{th} century refuse midden located on Holdings 19-23 & 48 in Wilkoppies Agricultural Holdings (farm Elandsheuvel 402IP) in Klerksdorp (City of Matlosana), Northwest Province, as permitted by Permit **ID:1925 (Case ID – 6243).** The site/feature will be impacted on by the development of the proposed Wilkoppies Ext.108 Township. An HIA conducted by the author identified this feature in 2013 (**See Report APAC013/75 – November 2013**) and it was recommended that mitigation measures be implemented prior to development commencing. These recommendations were supported by SAHRA in their review comments of the said report, and the specialist was subsequently appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions on behalf of the development to carry out the required mitigation work. A permit for the work was applied for and issued by SAHRA. Fieldwork was carried out during a 3 day period in September 2015.

This report will discuss in detail the work conducted during the fieldwork in fulfillment of the Permit Requirements, and the results achieved.

It is believed that the archaeological mitigation work conducted was completed successfully and the proposed development should be allowed to continue taking into consideration the recommendations put forward at the end of this document.

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INTRODUCTION

This document represents a Final Report on the results of the Historical-Archaeological investigations conducted on the Late 19th to mid-20th century refuse midden located on Holdings 19-23 & 48 in Wilkoppies Agricultural Holdings (farm Elandsheuvel 402IP) in Klerksdorp (City of Matlosana), Northwest Province, as permitted by Permit ID:1925 (Case ID – 6243). The site/feature will be impacted on by the development of the proposed Wilkoppies Ext.108 Township. An HIA conducted by the author identified this feature in 2013 (See Report APAC013/75 – November 2013) and it was recommended that mitigation measures be implemented prior to development commencing.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the Project were as follows:

1. the archaeological investigation of the midden through excavation of a section of the refuse midden in order to recover as much cultural material from it in order to determine the depth of deposit; a possible time-frame of use and the socio-economic status of the users of the midden and also to contribute to our knowledge of this part of Klerksdorp's history. A collection of material from the general surface of the midden was also to be undertaken

2. the mapping of the midden to determine its size/extent, and finally

3. the drafting of a Final Excavation Report in fulfillment of the SAHRA Excavation permit requirements and submission to both SAHRA and the client (Maxim Planning Solutions) in order to obtain a Record of Decision (ROD) and Destruction Permit

METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed comprises the following:

Background Research – This included background research on the history/archaeology of the larger geographical within which the site falls.

Photographic - Photographs of the site and area was taken, while all identifiable features, excavations and individual objects were also photographed for recording purposes.

Mapping

The excavation and the midden's extent (perimeter) was recorded and a map of the site produced. This was done by using a hand-held GPS Device (Garmin Oregon 550).

Archaeological Excavations

The archaeological excavations were done to the standards expected by the archaeological profession and included a single trench across the midden (from its "highest" point to the outer edges of the visible midden feature).

Analysis & Documentation/Curation of cultural material

All the cultural material recovered were documented photographically and analyzed accordingly. The material will also be cleaned, packed and placed in labeled bags and boxes for delivery to the Klerksdorp Museum for proper curation as part of the permit requirements.

BACKGROUND

During 2013 APelser Archaeological Consulting was appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions (Pty) Ltd to conduct a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Wilkoppies Ext.108 Township development on Holdings 19-23 & 48 in Wilkoppies Agricultural Holdings (Elandsheuvel 402IP) in Klerksdorp (City of Matlosana), Northwest Province. A desktop study formed part of the Heritage Assessment, after which a field survey was conducted in the area (See Report APAC013/75).

The general area has been extensively disturbed in the past through both agricultural activities and residential developments such as housing, roads and others. Informal residential dumping is also taking place in portions. The topography of the area is flat and open with a large section cleared in the recent past through agricultural activities, while only some sections contain dense grass and tree cover that hampered visibility to some degree at the time of the assessment. Informal dumping of residential refuse and building rubble also occurs in the area.

Besides the historical refuse midden identified, a few other sites of cultural heritage origin were also identified during the assessment. However these (some scattered individual Stone Age tools & flakes and the remainder of [foundation] of an old house) was deemed not to be significant and no further mitigation was required.

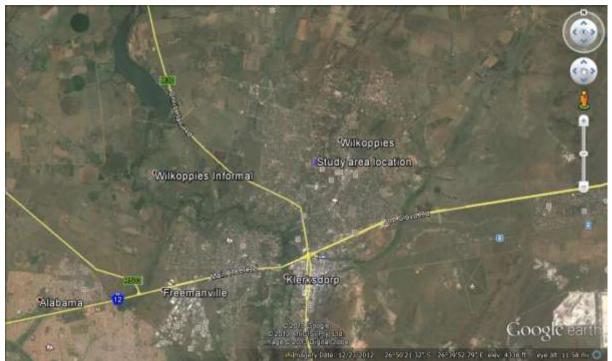


Figure 1: Geographical location of development (Google Earth 2013 – Image date 2012/23/12).



Figure 2: Location Map 1 of development (courtesy Maxim Planning Solutions).

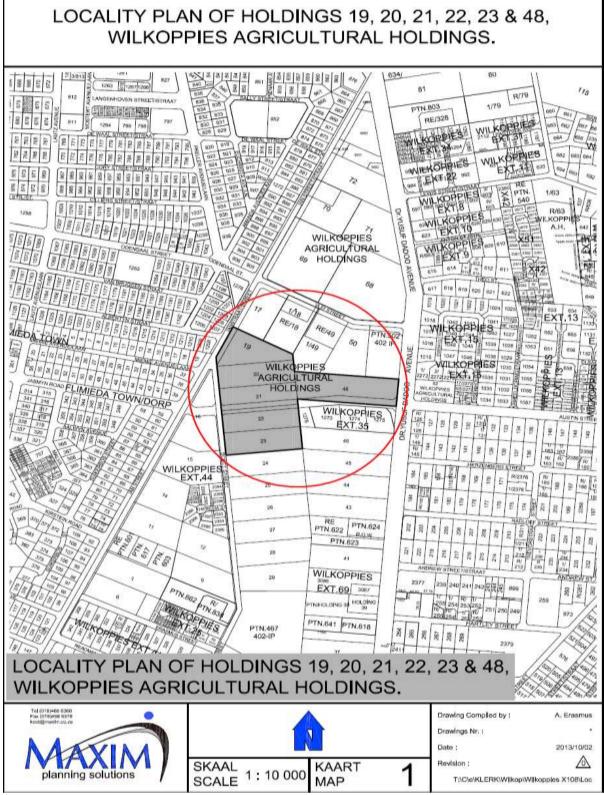


Figure 3: Locality Plan of development (courtesy Maxim Planning Solutions).



Figure 4: View of a section of the development area. Note the flat and open nature of this portion.



Figure 5: Another view of the same area.



Figure 6: Further view of a section of the development area. Note the residential developments.



Figure 7: Portion of the area with informal dumping visible.



Figure 8: A section of the study area with dense grass and tree cover.

The earliest European engagement with this area was with the traveller and hunter Cornwallis Harris in 1836, followed by missionary groups and the Voortrekkers from the 1840's onwards (Bergh 1999: 13-14). According to *Wikipedia* the town was founded in 1837 when the Voortrekkers settled on the banks of the Schoonspruit which flows through the town. The most prominent first settler was C.M. du Plooy who claimed a large farm called Elandsheuwel. He gave plots of land and communal grazing rights on this farm to other Voortrekkers in return for their labour in building a dam and an irrigation canal. This collection of smallholdings was later given the name of Klerksdorp in honor of the first landdrost (magistrate) of the area, Jacob de Clerq.

In August 1886 gold was discovered in the Klerksdorp district by M.G. Jansen van Vuuren, as well as on the Witwatersrand, which lies about 160 km to the east. As a consequence, thousands of fortune-seekers descended on the small village, turning it into a town with 70 taverns and even a stock exchange of its own. However, the nature of the gold reef demanded expensive and sophisticated equipment to mine and extract the gold, causing the majority of diggers to move away in the late 1890s and leading to a decline in the gold mining industry.

During the Second Boer War (1899-1902), heavy fighting occurred in the area, which also housed a large concentration camp. The most famous of the battles around Klerksdorp, is that of the Battle of Ysterspruit during which the Boers under General Koos de la Rey achieved a great victory. On April 11, 1902, the Battle of Rooiwal, the last major engagement of the war, was fought near Klerksdorp during which a Boer charge was beaten off by entrenched British troops. The graves of the victims of the British Concentration Camps near Klerksdorp are located in the old cemetery just outside of town.

Klerksdorp was connected by rail to Krugersdorp on 3 August 1897 and to Kimberley in 1906. The gold mining industry was revived by large mining companies in 1932, causing the town to undergo an economic revival, which accelerated after World War II.

The above information was obtained from www.wikipedia.org.

An 1890 map of the farm Elandsheuvel (then numbered 376) indicates that the farm was then located in the district of Potchefstroom and the Schoonspruit ward. The whole of the original farm was first granted to one J.N. Grobler on the 9th of May 1857 (<u>www.csg.dla.gov.za</u> – Document 10KGUA01).

According to Bergh the farmer settlement along the Schoonspruit started to be called a town around 1855, although its status was only formally acknowledged on the 12th of September 1888 (Bergh 1999: 130; 146). This source also indicates the two Anglo-Boer War battles mentioned in *Wikipedia*, but includes the Battle of Hartebeestfontein (18th February 1901) close to Klerksdorp (p. 54). Besides the Boer women en children Concentration Camp in Klerksdorp there was also one for Black people (Bergh 1999: 54).

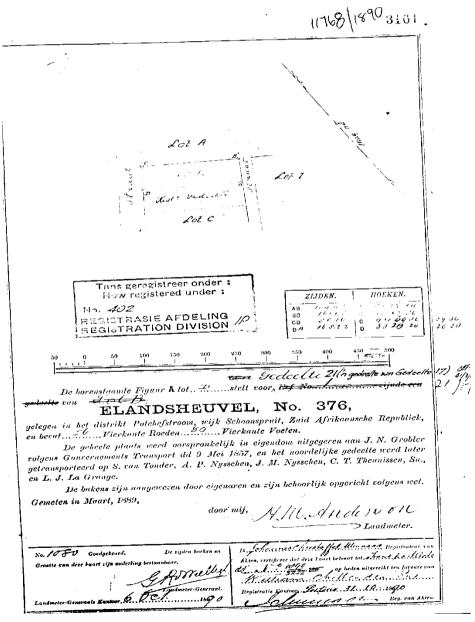


Figure 9: 1890 map of Elandsheuvel (CSG Document 10KGUA01).



Figure 10: The refuse midden as it looked like during the November 2013 survey.

HISTORICAL-ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

This comprised the conducting of excavations on the midden in order to determine the depth and extent of the deposit, as well to recover as much cultural material as possible from the midden as a representative sample of its content, as well as mapping the extent of the midden on the site.

The excavations and results of this, together with the detailed analysis of the cultural material recovered, are discussed in the next section.

Mapping

The perimeter extent of the midden was mapped using a handheld Garmin Gekko GPS. The midden is approximately cut in half by a fence between two properties. The southern part of the midden is located on a property that could not be accessed, but that does not form part of the development. This section of the midden will therefore not be impacted currently.

The fence was mapped in as well and is indicated on the Google map of the site, while a Base Line of 10m in length (our 0-line) from which the mapping was done, as well as the excavation trench that was dug is also shown on the image. The midden is between 25m and 30m in diameter.



Figure 11: Google Map/plan of the Midden and Excavation. The excavation was on the highest point of the midden with the most possible cultural deposit still present (Google Earth 2016).

Excavations

A 2m (N/S) x 1m (E/W) trench was dug on the highest point of the midden (where the depth of the cultural deposit would be the most). As was mentioned the earlier the midden is roughly cut in two by a fence that divides the features into a northern and southern section. A surface collection of material from the midden was also undertaken to increase the material sample size prior to excavation.

A 1m x 1m section on the southern side of the excavation (towards the north) was taken down to a depth of around 0.70m from the PSL (Present Surface Level) before sterile levels were reached. On the north-eastern side sterile levels were reached (red hard soil) at a depth of 0.28m. The stratigraphy on the southern side consisted of a dark grey, coarse, ash layer (approx. 33cm thick) with cultural material; followed by a lighter grey ash layer (around 12cm thick) and finally below that a layer of fine ash with material (around 25cm thick) before the sterile levels are reached. The cultural material recovered included fragments of metal, various metal objects, food tins, bottles, glass pieces, ceramics, plastic objects and faunal remains (animal bones). The results of the analysis of the cultural material are discussed in the next section.



Figure 12: Measuring out the excavation on the midden.



Figure 13: Cultural material found on the surface of the site.



Figure 14: The excavation completed.



Figure 15: Closer view of stratigraphy in the southern section. Note the cultural material.

Cultural Material

As part of the archaeological work on the site, we also conducted a collection of material from the general surface of the area to supplement the excavated material sample. **The material collected from the surface** is discussed below:

The surface material collected focused on sampling objects with identifactory marks (such as decoration on porcelain & makers marks on glass and other objects), as well as complete and identifiable objects that could assist in providing a date/age of the objects and site that we

were dealing with. The material collected in this fashion included stone, metal, glass, ceramics (porcelain & others), as well as various other miscellaneous materials.

One Middle-to Later Stone Age tool was recovered from the surface as well. Objects such as these were also identified and recorded in the area during the 2013 assessment and is therefore not a strange occurrence. A single piece of worked marble was also found on the midden.

The metal artefacts recovered from the surface included 6 nails of varying sizes; 1 large file; 2 large metal, tent-like pegs; a belt clip; a Joseph Rodgers-type pocket knife; a number of unidentified aluminium and other metal objects; a bottle top and then 1 snuff tin lid and 1 spent cartridge. The snuff tin lid has embossed writing on it identifying it as a Singleton & Cole SA (Pty) Ltd snuff tin. Singleton & Cole were tobacco manufacturers that operated from Shrewsbury in the UK from the 1880's until recently (1960's and onwards) and also had branches in many other countries around the world (www.shrewsbury.co.uk). This object most likely dates to the early to mid20th century. The spent cartridge (a .303 calibre?) has a headstamp that reads U 48 MK 7. This identifies the cartridge as being manufactured in South Africa (the U denoting the Union of SA) around 1948. The MK 7 stands for Mark 7. Between 1939 & 1961 (when SA became a Republic) these cartridges were manufactured in the South African Mint (www.dave-cushman.net & www.wikipedia.org.za).

Glass included 13 pieces (bases, tops, body sections) of various bottles that represent milk, medicine, liquor, beer and other beverage bottles. These more than likely date to between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries. One (1) piece of a milkglass vessel (top and body section) that probably contained some salve or ointment (hand cream) was also recovered. The ceramics that was recovered contains 21 decorated and diagnostic (rims, bases) pieces of porcelain cups, plates, saucers, serving dishes and other decorative (vase) items. The types of decoration on these pieces again date them to between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries, with similar items found by the author on other sites in the past.

The miscellaneous items recovered from the surface of the site include 3 plastic buttons and 2 plastic comb sections; 1 bakelite tobacco pipe mouthpiece and 1 unidentified plastic object, as well as 4 seashells.

These objects from the surface, although mixed, does from a superficial analysis indicate that the site/feature date possibly to between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries.



Figure 16: Stone Age tool (right) and piece of worked marble (left) found on surface.



Figure 16: Nails from the site's surface.



Figure 17: The file (right corner) and 3 large metal Pegs/spikes from the surface.



Figure 18: The Joseph Rodgers pocket knife from the site.



Figure 19: The spent cartridge showing the headstamp.



Figure 20: The Singleton's & Cole snuff container lid.



Figure 21: Some of the glass bottle pieces.



Figure 22: The milkglass ointment bottle piece.



Figure 23: Some of the porcelain pieces from the surface of the midden.



Figure 24: Seashells, plastic buttons, comb pieces buttons & a Bakelite pipe mouthpiece.

Excavation 1 Cultural Material

Although there were three different layers identified in the stratigraphy (in terms of the different type of ash), the midden deposit seems to have been disturbed and mixed, and therefore all the material recovered were dealt with as from a single period of deposit on the site.

1. <u>Stone</u>

This category included 1 piece of worked stone (either a stone used as a whetstone or part of the foundations/walls of an older structure (building rubble), and also 4 Middle-to later Stone Age flakes, cores and tools.



Figure 25: The worked stone from the excavation.



Figure 26: The MSA/LSA stone tools & flakes.

2. <u>Metal</u>

The metal from the excavations formed a large part of the recovered cultural material sample, and included an unknown amount of metal fragments from food tins, nails and screws and other objects. The metal types consist of iron, copper, lead and aluminium.

The identifiable and other complete metal objects included the following:

(a) 54 nails and screws of varying sizes & lengths and other wire strands

(c) 1 x large bolt (d) 1 x large nut and screws

(f) 1 x large clasp for a chest of some sorts

hoop

- (h) 2 large pegs (tent and other)
- (j) 1 x small food tin

(k) 23 x tin lids & bottle tops of iron and aluminium. It includes non-alcoholic beverages, liquor (Bols Brandy), medicinal and other food stuff vessels

(l) 4 x pieces of tin foil

(n) 3 x belt/strap buckles

(o) 1 x No.11 size Knitting needle

(p) 6 x pieces of a lead toy car, with plastic/rubble wheels

(q) 1 x piece of a lead toy revolver (cowboy cap gun)

(r) 15 x miscellaneous metal objects of iron, aluminium and copper. It includes pieces of chains, studs, a small key, parts of a clothing peg, a spring, fragments of metal mesh, a safety pin and the front piece (valve) of a bicycle pump

These metal objects all seem fairly modern (early to mid-20th century), although there might be some earlier items. It is however difficult to determine an exact date for most of these objects as a result of the fairly bad state of preservation.



Figure 27: Pieces of wire.

(b) 40 pieces of copper, barbed

- (e) 1 x waterpipe section
- (g) 1 x section of a barrel or chest

(m) 1 section of a shoeshine tube

(i) 2 x large oil drum lids



Figure 28: Various metal objects from the excavation.



Figure 29: Large oil can lid.



Figure 30: Bottle caps/tops and food tin lids.



Figure 31: Food tins.



Figure 32: Pieces of foil & a shoeshine tube section.



Figure 33: Close-up of shoeshine tube.



Figure 34: Various miscellaneous metal artefacts.



Figure 35: Belt buckles/straps.



Figure 36: Knitting needle.



Figure 37: Parts of lead toy car & toy revolver (right side of picture).

3. <u>Glass</u>

The glass sample from the excavations was also fairly large, and included 422 unidentifiable fragments from various bottles and other containers. These represent food stuffs (sauce bottles); alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, medicinal bottles and others. These fragments do not have any diagnostic features or identificatory marks such as registration numbers or makers names to help with dating the artefacts or site.

Other glass objects included the following:

(a) 1 x marble (b) 1 x salt/pepper shaker

(c) 4 x medicine bottles, of which one is a Lennon's bottle. Lennon Limited was founded in 1850 in Port Elizabeth by B.G.Lennon. A number of branches opened subsequently (also in Lodon) and amalgamated in 1891 as a limited company called B.G.Lennon and Company Limited, which in turn changed name to its present form Lennon Limited, on 28 December 1898 (Lastovica & Lastovica 1990: 51). Lennon's are obviously also still found in most shops in SA, although in plastic containers mostly in modern times.

(d) 1 x Pond's milkglass bottle base (handlotion/cream) (e) 3 x pieces of mirror glass (f) 51 x bottle tops and bases & other body fragments with markings. These pieces represent medicinal, food stuffs, beer, wine & other liquor bottles. Pepsi Cola, Coke, Bovril, The Stellenbosch Farmers Winery, Consol food jars and Talana bottles are represented by these glass objects. A glass works (near Dundee, Natal) was established at Talana in 1918, after Glass Ltd (in Orange Grove, Durban) closed down (Lastovica & Lastovica 1990: 23). In 1919 it was decided that Glass Ltd and the South African Breweries should amalgamate to form Union Glass Ltd. Union Glass was the only manufacturer of glass containers in SA until 1937 when the Pretoria Glass Works was founded by the National Match Company. Pretoria Glass Works was acquired by Anglovaal, who formed the Consolidated Glass Works Limited 2

years later. In 1954 Union Glass in Talana was acquired by Consolidated Glass (Lastovica & Lastovica 1990: 23-24).

It is therefore possible to say based on the above section (on Talana) that some of the glass objects could date to before 1954, but not before 1918 at least. A date of the early to mid-1900's for the site is therefore not far-fetched.



Figure 38: Marble.



Figure 39: Various bottle pieces from the excavations. Include wine, beer, medicines, Pepsi, milk and other beverages.



Figure 40: Lennon's bottle (top left corner), salt/pepper shaker & other medicine bottles. The large bottle base (left bottom) has a Talana maker's mark embossed on the bottom.



Figure 41: Close-up of Talana marking.



Figure 42: Pond's milkglass bottle base.

4. <u>Ceramics</u>

A fairly large amount of ceramics (porcelain, iron stone, stone ware and others) were found in the excavations. This included both decorated and undecorated pieces, representing cups; mugs; plates; saucers; serving dishes; salve/ointment containers and other ceramic vessels. No makers marks or trade names were identified on any of the pieces, but based on the types of decorations the ceramics date to between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries. It should however be cautioned here that this does not necessarily mean that the midden dates to this period, as porcelain items can last for a fairly long time and older items can be passed on from one generation to another and then only breaks and/or get discarded many years after manufacture.



Figure 43: Some of the undecorated ceramics from the excavations.



Figure 44: Pieces of decorated porcelain.

5. <u>Faunal Remains</u>

Faunal remains (animal bones) were found in relative abundance in the midden excavation. Of these 313 were unidentifiable teeth (enamel) and bone fragments. The bone fragments are from long bones (femurs, tibias, others), cranial sections, ribs and vertebrae. These fragments cannot be used to determine the species of animal, size of the animal, sex of the animals or age of the individual animals and therefore detailed faunal analysis is not recommended. Many of the bones are burnt, while some with cut and saw marks show that they have a modern Butchery origin.

A total of 68 identifiable teeth and bones were recovered from the excavations. Various skeletal parts such as tibia, femurs, humerus, radius and ulna and others are represented. Based on a superficial analysis of the material cattle and sheep/goat sized livestock and possibly pig, as well as chicken and fish are present in the sample. The sample is too small to warrant a detailed faunal analysis, but it suffices to say that these remains are typical of a modern-day diet of meat/fish/chicken from the late 19th to mid-20th century and even today.



Figure 45: Some of the unidentifiable bone fragments. Note the burnt ones, as well as those with saw marks.



Figure 46: Some of the identifiable teeth & bone from the excavations.

6. Miscellaneous

This category included the following:

(a) 25 x pieces of leather, rubber and plastic strips and others. One or two of these were parts of shoes

(b) 20 pieces of cloth such as pantyhose (modern) and others (wool & other fabrics)

(c) 56 x pieces of various plastic objects including margarine tubs, sweets and chips packaging

- (d) 6 x plastic medicine bottle caps
- (e) 54 x pieces of old music records (vinyl)
- (f) 27 x plastic buttons & studs
- (g) 1 x plastic brush section
- (h) 10 x plastic doll (arms & legs) and other toy pieces. 1 of these is toy car
- (i) 5 x pieces of old batteries
- (j) 10 x peach and apricot pips, as well as some pieces of burnt mielie cobs
- (k) 2 x seashells similar to those recovered from the surface of the site
- (l) 1 x old slate pen. These were used in earlier days in schools for writing on slate tablets
- (m) 2 x plastic comb teeth and finally
- (n) 1 x small magnet

Most of these objects are fairly modern, and could date to between the early to mid-20th century.



Figure 47: Pieces of plastic, leather and rubber.



Figure 48: Pieces of pantyhose & other cloth.



Figure 49: Pieces of various plastic objects and containers.



Figure 50: Plastic medicine bottle caps.



Figure 51: Pieces of old vinyl music records.



Figure 52: Piece of an old shoe.



Figure 53: Various plastic buttons & studs.



Figure 54: Some old batteries, the brush sections, 2 plastic comb teeth, a slate pencil and a magnet strip.



Figure 55: Peach & apricot pips and some burnt mielie cob pieces.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it can be said that the Historical-Archaeological investigations conducted on the Late 19th to mid-20th century refuse midden located on Holdings 19-23 & 48 in Wilkoppies Agricultural Holdings (farm Elandsheuvel 402IP) in Klerksdorp (City of Matlosana), Northwest Province, as permitted by Permit ID:1925 (Case ID – 6243), was conducted sucesfully. The midden is to be impacted on by the development of the proposed Wilkoppies Ext.108 Township. An HIA conducted by the author identified this feature in 2013 (**Report APAC013/75** – **November 2013**) and it was recommended that mitigation measures be implemented prior to development of the said report, and the specialist was subsequently appointed by Maxim Planning Solutions on behalf of the developer to carry out the required mitigation work. A permit for the work was applied for and issued by SAHRA. Fieldwork was carried out during a 3 day period in September 2015.

It is believed that the archaeological mitigation work conducted was completed successfully and the proposed development should be allowed to continue. The material recovered from the excavation of the refuse midden included relatively large amounts of metal, glass, ceramic, faunal remains (animal bones) and other miscellaneous objects, most likely dating between the late 19th and middle 20th centuries, although most date to the last mentioned period of Klerksdorp's history. The material recovered is a good representative sample of the midden, and although no highly significant objects were recovered, it does provide a glimpse into the recent history of this part of the town. The mixture of materials and objects found shows that the midden was used by a variety of people resident here, and no class distinction could be discerned. This is a communal residential refuse dump and the material recovered from here is typical of such a scenario. The refuse dump most likely stopped being used during the mid-20th century and was then covered at some point. Wind and water erosion over time started exposing its existence again.

Finally, the following is recommended:

The development should be allowed to continue taking cognizance of the fact that due to the very nature of archaeological sites and deposits being subterranean, some unknown sites, features or material (including burials) could be uncovered during development work. Should this happen then an expert should be called in to investigate and recommend on the way forward. All work in the specific area should be halted until the inspection has been conducted.

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Layout and location map of development area provided by client – Maxim Planning Solutions (Pty) Ltd

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www.wikipedia.org

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