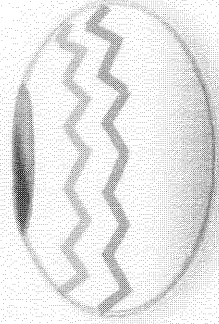


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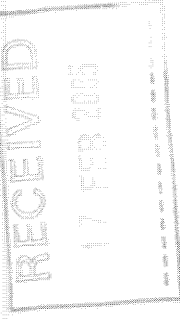
Report on Archaeological Survey on Portion of the farm Fairview 542 JU,
Portion 2 of Bickenhall 346 JU and a Portion of Portion 14 of Barberton
Townlands 369 JU

compiled by

Kudzala Antiquity



September 17, 2004



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Contents

1. Introduction
2. Description of surveyed area
3. Aim and method of survey
4. History of the area
5. Description and evaluation of sites
6. Findings and recommendations
7. Bibliography
8. Appendix A – List of site locations
9. Appendix B – Photos
10. Appendix C – Site drawings
11. Appendix D – Site and photo list
12. Appendix E - Map

1. Introduction

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act no. 25 of 1999) requires of individuals (engineers, farmers, mines and industry) to have impact assessment studies undertaken whenever any development activities are planned. This includes guidelines for impact assessment studies to be done whenever cultural resources may be destroyed by development activities. Against this background a preliminary Archaeological or Cultural Resources Management (CRM) survey was carried out during August 21, 2004 on a Portion of the farm Fairview 542 JU and Portion 2 of Bickenhall 346 JU as well as a portion of Portion 14 of Barberton Townlands.

Van Vollenhoven (1995:3) describes cultural resources as all unique and non-renewable physical phenomena (of natural occurrence or made by humans) that can be associated with human (cultural) activities. These would be any man-made structure, tool, object of art or waste that was left behind on or beneath the soil surface by historic or pre-historic communities. These remains, when studied in their original context by archaeologists, are interpreted in an attempt to understand, identify and reconstruct the activities and lifestyles of past communities. When these items are disturbed from their original context, any meaningful information they possessed is lost, therefore it is important to locate and identify such remains before construction or development activities commence.

A preliminary CRM survey consists of three phases, this document deals with the first phase. This (phase 1) investigation is aimed at getting an overview of cultural resources in a given area, thereby assessing the possible impact a proposed development may have on these resources. When the archaeologist encounters a situation where the planned project will lead to the destruction or alteration of an archaeological site, a second phase in the survey is normally recommended. During a phase 2 investigation the impact assessment of development activities on identified cultural resources is intensified and a detailed investigation into the nature and origin of the cultural material is undertaken. Normally at this stage, archaeological excavation is carried out in order to document and preserve the cultural heritage. Phase three consists of the compiling of a management plan for the safeguarding, conservation, interpretation and utilization of cultural resources (Van Vollenhoven, 2002).

Continuous communication between the developer and surveyor after the initial report has been compiled may result in the modification of a planned route or development to incorporate or protect existing archaeological sites.

2. Description of surveyed area

The survey was carried out on a Portion of the farm Fairview 542 JU, Portion 2 of Bickenhall 345 JU and a portion of Portion 14 of Barberton Townlands, also collectively known as Mountainlands. The area covered extends over approximately 300 hectares. A perennial stream, the Hyslops Creek, roughly divides the surveyed area in a northern and southern part.

The Fairview Mine is situated on this property (Bickenhall farm). The Bickenhall farm belonged to Stanley Neal Spear (1894-1976). He was born in Taunton, England and was under way to Tasmania (immigrating) in 1909 when he decided to visit his brother, J.A. Spear who stayed in Barberton. He liked this part of the country and subsequently settled in Barberton. Soon thereafter Spear purchased the farm Bickenhall (1913) and started planting cotton. He was involved in establishing the first co-operative cotton ginny in South Africa at Barberton in 1923 and was also the Chairman of the De Kaap Agricultural Society (Bornman, 2002: 182-184).

3. Aim and method of survey

As stated earlier the aim of the survey is to establish the whereabouts and nature of cultural heritage sites should they occur in the area. This includes settlements, structures and artefacts which have value for an individual or group of people in terms of historical, archaeological, architectural and human (cultural) development. It is the aim of this study to locate and identify such objects or places in order to assess whether they are of significance and warrant further investigation and/or protection.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) formulated guidelines for the conservation of all cultural resources and therefore also divided such sites into three main categories. These categories might be seen as guidelines that suggest the extent of protection a given site might receive. They include sites or features of local (Grade 3) provincial (Grade 2) and national (Grade 1) significance.

The survey was carried out on foot and with a motor vehicle in an effort to locate any cultural remains in the area where the proposed development will take place. Some cultural remains were found during the survey, although it should be noted that most archaeological remains are found beneath the soil surface and might still be revealed during excavation and/or land moving activities. After the seven sites were discovered, the geographical locations (GPS co-ordinates) were documented and the perimeters of these sites established. The sites, as well as some cultural material found elsewhere on the surveyed area, were photographed (Appendix B, photos).

For easy reference, the sites that will be evaluated will also be correlated to the pen numbers as put out by the developers on the aerial photo map as it appears in Appendix E.

4. History of the area

The area of Barberton is rich in history ranging from pre-colonial settlement (early 19th century) to the times of heightened activity when colonial expansion resulted after the discovery of gold in 1884 (Barnard, 1975; Bormman, 2002, 1995; Myburgh, 1949; Pienaar, 1990).

In terms of Archaeology and ancient history, Barberton is more famous for its stone age assemblages than the later iron age remains. A number of stone age tools belonging to the middle and later phases of the stone age are reported to have been found here. Artefacts from the middle stone age include spearheads that were probably mounted on wooden handles and stone scrapers used to scrape skins and carve wood and bone. Typical later stone age industries documented in the area include those of the Smithfield industry, which is associated with San or Bushmen. These were stone tools that were smaller than those of the middle stone age and also larger in variety. The areas surrounding Barberton are also famous for their Bushman rock paintings (Barnard, 1975; Pienaar, 1990). No Stone Age remains were located during the survey. It is possible that they may have been overlooked.

Before the europeans settled the area in large numbers, native bantu-speaking tribes occupied the land. The first of these groups were encountered by the odd traveller who documented their existence in their diaries. One of these observations was made by a geologist by the name of Cohen who travelled from Lydenburg to Lourenco Marques in the winter of 1873. He crossed the Crocodile River near Malelane and the Komati River near Komatipoort so he only saw the most eastern portion of the area. It is told that the route he was using was a very old one because his porters from Lydenburg knew it all the way and it seems to be very likely that this route was an ancient trade route used by natives when trading with whoever it was that came to Delagoa Bay in

ships (Myburgh, 1949).

This area was notorious for the abundance of Tsetse flies that made cattle herding impossible. Subsequently the groups that settled here were few and consisted of small family units. When travelling through this area, Cohen remarked in his journal: "Though goats and donkeys, amongst domestic animals, are not affected by the tsetse fly, the natives of these parts possess only fowls (Myburgh, 1949, also Barnard, 1975; Bornman, 2002).

Ethnographers describe that the Swazi had several skirmishes with a Sotho speaking tribe known as the Mbayi, these were probably some of the earlier inhabitants noted in historic records. It is believed that the Mbayi are from Sotho origin and therefore the name of the Usuthu River is probably related to their early occupation (Myburgh, 1949: 10).

Bornman also describes three routes that led to Barberton. The one road left the Delagoa Bay/Lydenburg route (as described above) at Pretoriuskop and proceeded through the Crocodile River, over Mara to Barberton. The second route was linked to the established Durban/ Lydenburg route and preceded via Ladysmith, New Castle, Ingogo, Laing's Nek, Volksrust, across the Vaal River, Ermelo, Klipstapel, Lake Chrissie, Badplaas, Jambila and through the "Chute" to Barberton. Later another route was made from Ngodwana via Kaapsche Hoop to Barberton. It is believed that these routes brought many different cultures to the Barberton area and subsequently led to the deposition of varying cultural materials.

Barberton got its name from one of the Barber brothers, Graham Hoare (1835-1888) the founder of the gold bearing reef. It was officially named by the Gold Commissioner, David Wilson, On July 24, 1884. Wilson decided to declare a township at the base of the hills where the Umvoti Creek entered the De Kaap valley, he broke a bottle of gin on the Barber Reef as champagne was not available and named it Barberton. Apparently there was a choice between calling it Rimerton or Barberton but because there was only one Rimer (James Cook, a digger) and two Barbers (brothers) the name Barberton was favoured. Wilson appointed a Digger's Committee comprising nine members that had to see to it that the gold diggings in Barberton happened in an orderly manner (Bornman, 2002:177).

5. Description and evaluation of sites

The sites found on the property can all be classified as Grade 3 sites in terms of SAHRA classification criteria.

Site BM 1 (Site 1) is probably the oldest site found during the survey. It consists of weathered stone wall enclosures and a perimeter stone wall (see drawing, Appendix C). It is believed that this site can be associated with the occupation of the earliest inhabitants in the area, namely the Sotho-speaking Mbayi, that were chased from the area by the Swazis (Bornman, 2002: 21, 22; Breutz, 1985: 58; Myburgh, 1949: 10-11). The relatively small nature of this site seems to substantiate this. No pottery was found on this site. This site is believed to be in a pristine condition, archaeologically speaking, and should not be disturbed by any development activities.

Site BM 2 (Site2) located in the vicinity of pen number 9 and 10, contains cultural material that is associated with both recent 20th century as well as early 20th century or late 19th century settlement. A number of rectangular structures (at least 3) built of stone, probably served as communal dwellings not long ago. The most prominent of these are the foundations of a house with a doorstep on the northern side (see photos 6, 7, 8). A couple of meters north of this structure is a patch of Sisal where another similar structure may be hidden. Numerous rusted iron objects as well as

widely scattered pieces of pottery and some grinding stones can be seen here (see photo 8). A peculiar feature of this site is a number of stone piles (at least 5 were spotted, see photos 14, 15, 16, 17) placed at random in this area. It is a peculiar phenomenon and possibly the best explanation could be that of Myburgh, who did extensive research among the native tribes of the Barberton area in the 1940's. "The pre-Swazi population left no terracings that I am aware of but instead left heaps of stones piled up all over the Kaap valley and further east, wherever there was sloping ground, and left them, it is said, in such numbers that wheeled traffic... in the Zoutpansberg, this stacking of stones in heaps is still done by natives to clear land for cultivation." (Myburgh, 1949:10-11).

This phenomenon is also discussed by Bormman in his book *Golden Memories of Barberton*: "The emaMbayi (Mbayi) left a curious souvenir of their occupation, which has now almost entirely disappeared in the Lowveld, but is still very much in evidence in the Songimvelo Game Reserve, south of Barberton. Along the gravel slopes below the mountains from Barberton down to Hectorspruit, a distance of over 80 km, all loose surface stones were gathered and stacked in neat piles of about two meters in diameter and about a meter in height. Many of the settlers believed that this was done in the course of cultivation of the land, for similar heaps of stone are always in evidence in gardens. Older Blacks offered an explanation that the chiefs of the emaMbayi instructed the young men to collect these stones, on the pretext that it would enable the cattle to walk and to graze more freely, but actually to keep them occupied and to restrain their fighting ardour." (Bormman, 2002: 21-22).

It would then be valid to infer that the stone piles located at site BM 2 may be an example of the abovementioned and therefore is worth conserving or at least incorporated into the planned development as an additional attraction. The possibility that one or more of these stone piles may be graves cannot be excluded; more detailed examination would be needed to establish this. (Personal communication, Coen Nienaber, UP Dept. of Anatomy).

Site BM 3 (Site 3) located at pen number 8 (Appendix E) also show signs of both recent settlement as well as settlement in probably early 20th century. A number of iron objects as well as scattered shards of pottery can be found here. This site is probably related to site BM 2.

Site BM 4 (Site 4) is located in the vicinity of pen number 43 (see aerial map, Appendix E). It consists of a stone wall, highly weathered, and visible just above the soil surface. This wall roughly stretches in a north/ south direction and is approximately 300 meters long. It is unclear what the function of this structure may have been as no other surface features that may have a connection with this structure could be located. It is possible that this could have been the perimeter wall of a Bantu settlement.

Sites BM 5 and BM 6 (Sites 5 and 6) are probably related. Site BM 5 is located between pen numbers 69 and 70 (see Appendix E and photos 9, 10) and site BM 6 is situated at pen number 70 (see Appendix E and photo 11). Stone built structures are visible on these sites as well as numerous iron objects ranging from pieces of old bicycles and oil drums. At site BM 5 a patch of Sisal may disguise more evidence of occupation.

Site BM 7 (Site 7) is located in the vicinity of pen numbers 2, 3 and 4. This yielded most of the broken pottery found during the survey. The only diagnostic (decorated) pottery was found here and pieces of pottery are scattered all over this area which suggests that settlement was concentrated here. No further evidence of occupation (stone walled structures and related evidence) could be found in this area, but it is possible that it was simply overlooked during the survey or just worn away. Settlement in this area is probably related to late 19th or early 20th century Bantu speaking people like the Swazi or smaller Sotho-speaking groups such as the Mbayi (Bormman, 2002: 21, 22; Breutz, 1985: 58; Myburgh, 1949: 10-11).

6. Findings and recommendations

It is important to note that the bulk of archaeological remains are normally located beneath the soil surface. It is therefore possible that some significant cultural material or remains were not located during this survey and will only be revealed when the soil is disturbed. Therefore it is recommended that the owner of the land or developers take this into consideration when such activities are planned and executed at this location.

Should excavation or large scale earth moving activities reveal any human skeletal remains, broken pieces of ceramic pottery, large quantities of sub-surface charcoal or any material that can be associated with previous occupation, a qualified archaeologist should be notified immediately. This will also temporarily halt such activities until an archaeologist have assessed the situation. It must also be noted that if such a situation occurs, it will probably have further financial implications for the developers.

Regarding the site numbered BM 1 (Site 1) it is recommended that no development or earth moving activities that will destroy the site take place here. The nearest pen number to this site appears to be pen no. 16 (see aerial map, Appendix E and drawing Appendix C). *Keep*

It is recommended that site BM 2 (Site 2) also not be disturbed by development activities. This site is in the vicinity of both pen numbers 9 and 10 (see aerial map, Appendix E). This site contains relics that suggest both recent and more historic settlement therefore this recommendation is made. *Keep*

Regarding site BM 3 (Site 3) this site is probably linked to site BM 2 in both recent and more historic settlement and the same recommendation applies. *Keep*

Site BM 4 (Site 4) mainly consists of the remains of a stone wall visible just above the soil surface this site is located in the vicinity of, but not at, pen number 43 (see aerial map, Appendix E) earth-moving activities should not take place here. *Keep*

Sites BM 5 (Site 5) and site BM 6 (Site 6) are both more recent structures. They are probably the remains of small buildings used as living quarters for farm labourers or mine workers. It is not certain how old these structures are but developers are advised that these sites could contain cultural material associated with historic settlement. It is recommended that development activities here be limited and preferably adjusted to take place further to the east or west. These sites are located between pen numbers 69 and 70 (Appendix E) and at pen number 70 respectively (Appendix E). *Keep*

Site BM 7 (Site 7) is located in the vicinity of pen numbers 2, 3 and 4. As discussed, a number of pot shards were found in this area. The only decorated shard was also found here (Photo 12). It is recommended that development activities not take place here as significant cultural material, probably related to the Late Iron Age (AD 1500-1800 approx.) may be located beneath the soil surface. *Keep*

7. Bibliography

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Appendix A

8. List of site locations

During the survey, the locations of the sites were plotted with the aid of a GPS (Global Positioning System). The sites were also numbered in the following fashion:

The initials BM followed by a number marks the identity of the site. The “B” stands for Barberton and “M” for the farm Mountainlands. These sites were then numbered BM 1, BM 2 and so on.

1. Site name: BM 1 (Site 1)
Date of compilation: 21/08/2004
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 04' 19, 8" E
Latitude, 25° 45' 17, 4" S
Altitude: 766 m
Photos: 1-5
2. Site name: BM 2 (Site 2)
Date of compilation: 21/08/2004
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 04' 00, 4" E
Latitude, 25° 45' 06, 4" S
Altitude: 712
Photos: 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17

3. Site name: BM 3 (Site 3)
Date of compilation: 21/08/2004
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 04' 00, 4" E
Latitude, 25° 45' 06, 4" S
Altitude: 712
Photos: None

Note: This site listed same GPS coordinates as Site 2, but situated approximately 100 metres due west from Site 2 at pen no. 8 on aerial map (Appendix E).

4. Site name: BM 4 (Site 4)
Date of compilation: 21/08/2004
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 03' 59, 1" E
Latitude, 25° 45' 16, 7" S
Altitude: 718
Photos: None

5. Site name: BM 5 (Site 5)
Date of compilation: 21/08/2004
GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 04' 19, 8" E
Latitude, 25° 44' 47, 7" S
Altitude: 694
Photos: 9, 10

6. Site name: BM 6 (Site 6)

Date of compilation: 21/08/2004

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 04' 19, 3" E

Latitude, 25° 44' 47, 1" S

Altitude: 692

Photos: 11

7. Site name: BM 7 (Site 7)

Date of compilation: 21/08/2004

GPS reading: Longitude, 31° 03' 48, 9" E

Latitude, 25° 44' 55, 5" S

Altitude: 692

Photos: 12, 13

Appendix B

9. Photos

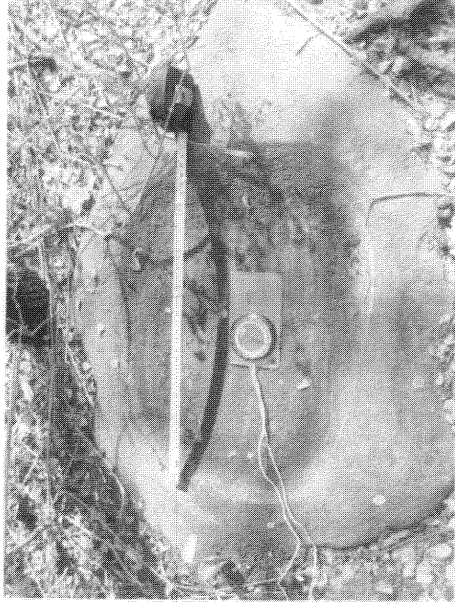


Illustration 1. Photo 1. Site 1. Photo of lower grinding stone, situated approximately 3 metres east of circular enclosure.



Illustration 2. Photo 2. Photo of stone enclosure at Site 1. Eastern opening visible in background. Enclosure size approximately 4 metres cross-section.



Illustration 3. Photo 3. Photo of stone wall on Site 1, located a few metres north of photo 2.

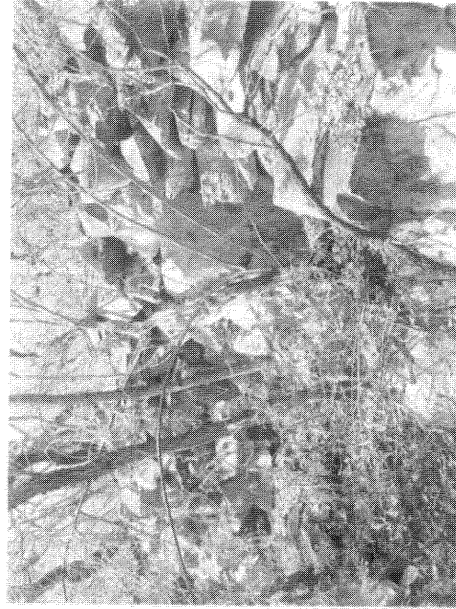


Illustration 4. Photo 4. Stone walls on Site 1. Intersection visible in foreground.

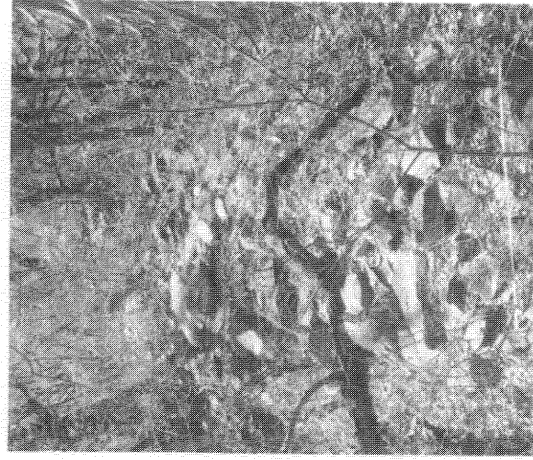


Illustration 5. Photo 5. Lengthwise section of stone wall at Site 1. Photo taken in eastern direction.

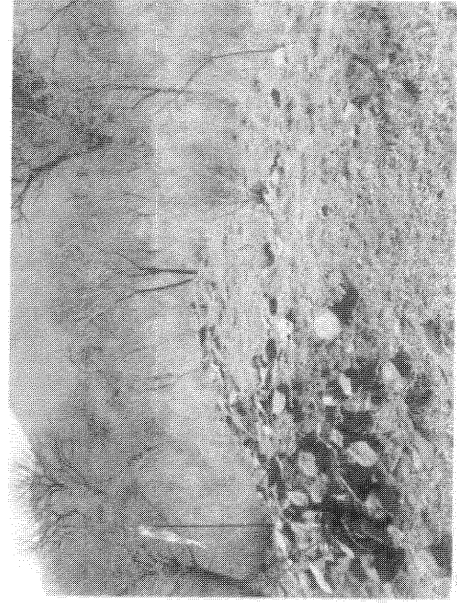


Illustration 6. Photo 6. Photo of rectangular structure at Site 2 (pen no.9) Photo taken in eastern direction, doorway of dwelling situated at left.

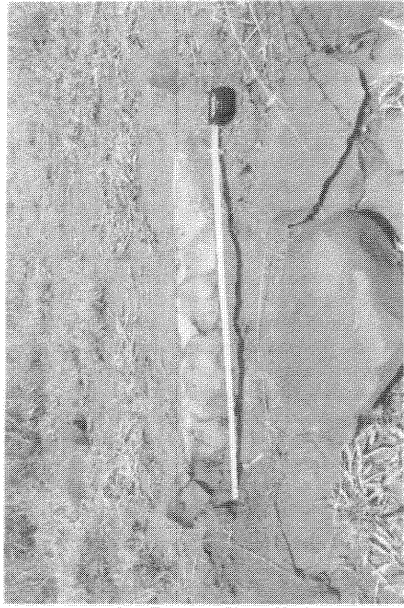


Illustration 7. Photo 7. Photo of doorstep at rectangular dwelling situated at Site 2 (pen no. 9).



Illustration 8. Photo 8. Some pieces of broken pottery and a grinding stone found on Site 2. These were found near pen no. 10.



Illustration 9. Photo 9. Photo of stone terrace at Site 5. (Between pen no. 69 and 70)



Illustration 10. Photo 10. Some iron objects found on Site 5. Among them are the remains of a bicycle and a oil container. (Between pen no. 69 and 70)



Illustration 11. Photo 11. Site 6. Photo of remains of a rectangular structure. Note wall posts on left-hand side which formed the southern wall of the structure. (Location at pen no. 70)



Illustration 12. Photo 12. Photo of broken pottery at Site 7. Note decorated potsherd. (In vicinity of pen no. 2)

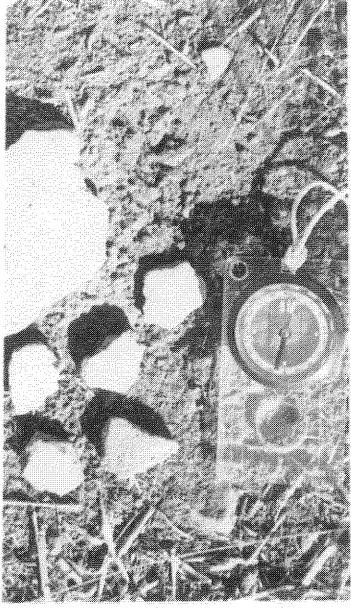


Illustration 13. Photo 13. Photo of potsherds found at Site 7. These were found in the vicinity of pen no. 3.



Illustration 14. Photo 14. Photo of one of the stone mounds on Site 2.



Illustration 15. Photo 15. Another of the stone mounds on Site 2.

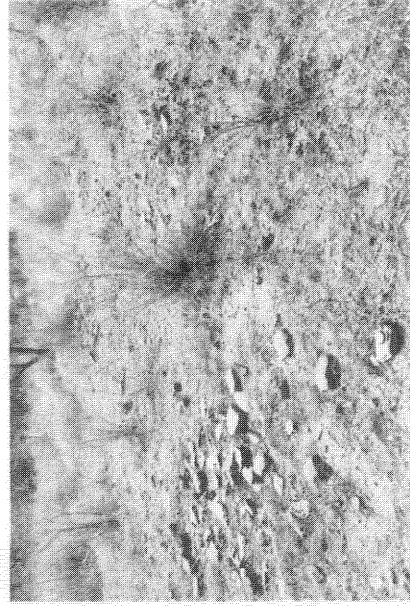


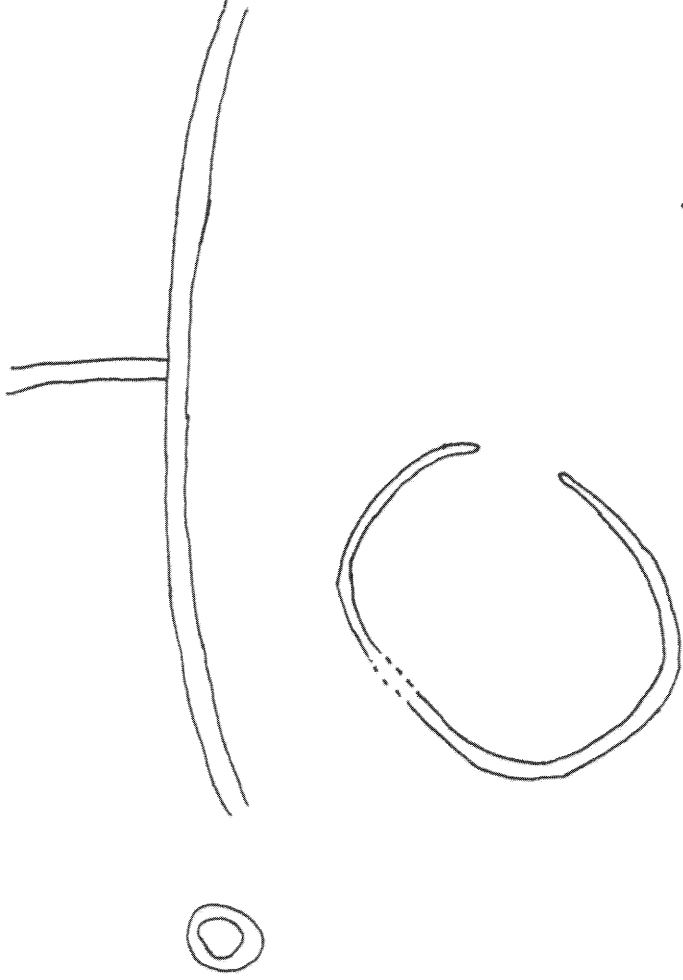
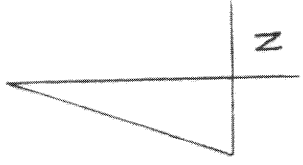
Illustration 16. Photo 16. Three of the stone mounds (Photos 14 & 15 included) visible at Site 2. Photo taken in eastern direction.



Illustration 17. Photo 17. Photo of stone mounds roughly placed in a straight line at Site 2. Photo taken in south-eastern direction.

Appendix C

10. Drawings



== walls collapsed
= walls end
... wall broken

NOT TO SCALE. SITE 1 MOUNTAINLANDS

Appendix D

11. Site and photo list

1. Site 1 (BM 1) Photos: 1-5
2. Site 2 (BM 2) Photos: 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17
3. Site 3 (BM 3) Photos: None (See site description)
4. Site 4 (BM 4) Photos: None (See site description)
5. Site 5 (BM 5) Photos: 9, 10
6. Site 6 (BM 6) Photos: 11
7. Site 7 (BM 7) Photos: 12, 13

Appendix E

12. Map


0
Rev No

MI-403
Drawing No

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
REFERENCE
POINTS

BICKENHALL
DEVELOPMENT

NEW LINE
INVESTMENTS



P.O. BOX 1392
BARKINGTON
MICHIGAN 48304
TEL: (517) 713431
FAX: (517) 712256

SCALE 1:10 000

Drawn by D. LOURNS	Checked by B.C. THORON
Approved by Date:	Reviewed by Date:
Client Appr. Date: APR 2004	

REVISIONS	
Description	Rev No

House Position

Site Boundary

Archaeological Reference Point

Project Boundary

Farm Forfeiture Boundary


NOTES



NOTES

No.	Description	Date	By

REVISIONS

Recommended by	Date
Drawn by	Date
D. LOURENS	
Checked by	Date
B.G. THERON	
Client Appr.	Date
SCALE 1:10 000	
 P.O. BOX 1392 BARBERTON MUNICIPAL ANGA 1300 TEL: (013) 7124341 FAX: (013) 7125258	
Client	NEW LINE INVESTMENTS
Project	BICKENHALL DEVELOPMENT
Title	ARCHEOLOGICAL REFERENCE POINTS
Drawing No	NL-403
Rev No	0

