

9/2/204/0012

APPENDIX 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION OF DULLSTROOM GOLF AND
COUNTRY ESTATE, DULLSTROOM, MPUMALANGA

for

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Tel (012) 346 1289

on behalf of

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by

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Executive Summary

No archaeological artefacts, features (including graves) or sites of significance were recorded during the survey. None of the historic structures are older than 60 years (also no specific significance associated with the structures) and is, therefore, not protected under the NHRA (Act no. 25 of 1999). No further action is recommended.

The formal cemetery (Site 4), though not older than 60 years and therefore not protected under the NHRA (Act no. 25 of 1999) the human remains are still protected under the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).

Furthermore, note that the exhumation and reburial of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)**. Permission must be obtained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and the local police. In addition, permission must be obtained from the various landowners (where the graves are located and where the graves are going to be relocated) before exhumation can take place. Human remains can only be handled by a registered undertaker or an institution declared under the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).

However, also note:

- It should be kept in mind that archaeological depo sits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf.* NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 36 (6)).

1. Introduction

The Archaeology Contracts Unit (UNISA) conducted an investigation, focussing on the archaeological and historic remains of the proposed Dullstroom Golf and Country Estate, a development initiated by Dullstroom Country Estate (Pty) Ltd.

2. Nature of development

The proposed development to be covered in this EIA process consists of the following components:

- An 18-hole Signature Golf Course (international competition standard);
- A Clubhouse with sports facilities and a Wellness Centre
- Approximately 1000 residential stands measuring between 800m² and 1500m²;
- Approximately 200 stands for Golf Villa's (cluster type development);
- A 6-star Boutique Hotel (100 to 150 beds);
- An Equestrian Centre and polo field serving the Estate;
- A small dairy and Milk Shop;
- Trout fishing dams and a Trout Hatchery (all existing);
- A staff village for approximately 100 permanent employees;
- A Farm School (relocated);
- All necessary essential services (water, sewage, electricity, telephone communications) and infrastructure (roads).

3. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of this survey are as follows:

- Provide a detailed description of all archaeological and historical artefacts, structures (including graves) and settlements
- Assess the significance of the impact on the archaeological and historical remains within the area
- Estimate the level of sensitivity/importance of the archaeological and historical remains within the area
- Propose possible mitigation measures provided that such action is necessitated

4. Definitions and Approach

- Archaeological remains can be defined as human-made objects, which reflect past ways of life, deposited on or in the ground.
- All archaeological remains, artificial features and structures older than 100 years and historic structures older than 60 years are protected by the relevant legislation, in this case the **National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999)**. The Act makes an archaeological impact assessment as part of an EIA and EMPR mandatory.
- No archaeological artefact, assemblage or settlement (site) may be moved or destroyed without the necessary approval from the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)**. Full cognisance is taken of this Act in making recommendations in this report.
- Cognisance will also be taken of the **Minerals Act (Act No 50 of 1991)** and the **National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998)** when making any recommendations.

- Human remains older than 60 are protected by the **National Heritage Resources Act**, with reference to Section 36. Human remains that are less than 60 years old are protected by the **Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.
- Rating the **significance of the impact** on a historical or archaeological site is linked to the significance of the site itself. If the significance of the site is rated high, the significance of the impact will also result in a high rating. The same rule applies if the significance rating of the site is low.
- Cultural resources are non-renewable.
- With reference to the evaluation of sites, the certainty of prediction is definite, unless stated otherwise.
- The guidelines as provided by the **NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)** in Section 3, with special reference to subsection 3, and the Australian ICOMOS Charter (also known as the Burra Charter) are used when determining the cultural significance or other special value of archaeological or historical sites.
- It should be kept in mind that archaeological deposits usually occur below ground level. Should archaeological artefacts or skeletal material be revealed in the area during construction activities, such activities should be halted, and a university or museum notified in order for an investigation and evaluation of the find(s) to take place (*cf. NHRA (Act No. 25 of 1999)*, Section 36 (6)).
- A copy of this report will be lodged with the **South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)** as stipulated by the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA) (Act No. 25 of 1999), Section 38 (especially subsection 4).

5. Methodology

5.1 Literature Study

Various archaeological and ethnographic sources were consulted to compile a concise cultural framework of the area under investigation.

5.2 Maps and Other Sources

The proposed Dullstroom Golf and Country Estate was localised by using the 1:50 000 Topographic Map 2530 CA (Belfast) and aerial photograph, followed by an on-site investigation. The orientation and location of the sites were determined by using a Global Positioning System (GPS)¹ correlated with the geographic features (i.e. rivers, fields, topography etc.) of the survey area.

5.3 Fieldwork

An on-site investigation was conducted on 19 July 2005. Utilising the road system the whole area was extensively surveyed by vehicle and on foot. The aim of this investigation is to locate, identify and document visible archaeological and historical artefacts, structures (including graves) and settlements of cultural significance within the boundaries of the proposed area of development. Local informants still inhabiting the farm were also consulted. This survey focused especially on areas where development is proposed (i.e. golf course, hotel, equestrian centre, etc.).

¹ According to the manufacturer a standard deviation is to be expected when determining the location of sites. However, care has been taken to correlate the reading with the topography and to obtain a low dilution of precision (DOP) before plotting sites on a map. The datum point is WGS 84.

6. Area Description

The site of the proposed development is situated on Portion 11, remaining extent of Portion 6 (a portion of portion 1) and Portion 10 of the Farm Zwartkoppies 316 JT and is 700 [Mandy please check] hectares in extent. The site is located some 9km south of the town of Dullstroom, just off the R540 between Dullstroom and Belfast in Mpumalanga and is characterised by high-lying areas approaching the eastern escarpment, referred to as highlands.

Current land use is farmland under intensive cultivation by plantation (approximately 60% of the property). Old cultivated fields (probably maize) dominate the central, eastern and western sections of the site. Apart from a number of farm (trout) dams, several wetlands and pans were also noted.

A defunct (and un-rehabilitated) coal mine and associated tailings are also situated on the northern-central area of the site. Some workers' housing and a farm school are located east of the old mine.

Notwithstanding the abovementioned, existing developments also include dirt roads, houses, old dilapidated structures, a school, a formal cemetery and worker accommodation.

7. Chronological Framework

PERIOD	APPROXIMATE DATE
Early Stone Age	More than c. 2 million years ago - c. 250 000 years ago
Middle Stone Age	c. 250 000 years ago - c. 25 000 years ago
Later Stone Age (Includes San Rock Art)	c. 25 000 years ago - c. AD 200 (up to historic times in certain areas)
Early Iron Age	c. AD 400 - c. AD 1025
Late Iron Age (Stone-walled sites)	c. AD 1025 - c. AD 1820s (c. AD 1640 - c. AD 1820s)
Historic Period (Farms with Title Deeds)	1860 – present

8. Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Context

8.1 Stone Age Sequence

Large concentrations of Early Stone Age (ESA) sites are usually located on the flood plains of perennial rivers and may date to over 2 millions years ago. These ESA open sites may contain, firstly, scatters of stone tools and second, large concentrated deposits which range from pebble tool choppers to core tools such as handaxes and cleavers. The early hominids who made these stone tools, did not actively hunt.

Middle Stone Age (MSA) sites also occur on flood plains but are in many cases associated with rock shelters (overhangs). Sites usually consist of large concentrations of knapped stone flakes such as scrapers, points and blades. They may have been hafted but organic materials do not always preserve. Limited drive hunting activities are associated with this period.

Sites dating to the Late Stone Age (LSA) occur primarily in rock shelters (although open sites have been recorded in the northern Cape). Well protected deposits in shelters allow for stable conditions that result in the preservation of organic materials such as wood, bone, hearths, ostrich egg shell beads and even bedding material. By using San (Bushman) ethnographic data a better understanding of this period is sometimes possible. South African rock art is also associated with this period.

8.2 Iron Age Sequence

In the northern regions of South Africa at least three settlement phases, which pertain to prehistoric agropastorists, have been distinguished for the **Early Iron Age** (EIA). The first phase of the Early Iron Age is known as **Happy Rest**, representative of the Western Stream of migrations, and dates to AD 400 - AD 600. The second phase known as **Diamant** is dated to AD 600 - AD 900. The third phase, characterised by herringbone-decorated pottery of the **Eiland** tradition, is regarded as the final expression of the Early Iron Age (EIA) and occurs over large parts of the North West Province, Northern Province, Gauteng and Mpumalanga. This phase has been dated to about AD 900 - AD 1200. These sites are usually located on low-lying spurs close to water.

The **Late Iron Age** (LIA) settlements are characterised by stone-walled enclosures situated on defensive hilltops. This occupation phase has been linked to the arrival of the Northern Sotho, Tswana and Southern Ndebele (Nguni-speakers) in the region dated from the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries AD. The terminal LIA is represented by late 18th/early 19th century settlements with multichrome Moloko pottery, commonly attributed to the Sotho-Tswana. This correlates with oral traditions about various people who sought refuge in the mountains during the processes of disruption in the northern interior of South Africa, caused during the so-called *difaqane* (or *Mfecane*). Mzilikazi, the leader of a Zulu regiment, to whom this period of disruption is attributed, reached the Lydenburg-area during the early 1820s.

8.3 Ethnohistorical Sequence

The Steenkampsberg mountain (part of Drakensberg mountain escarpment) range acted as an area of cultural contact for various prehistoric cultural groups. Ethnographic evidence suggests that the Sotho-speaking Pedi people (of the Pedi Empire) were located further to the north-west. Ethnographic evidence suggests that the Pedi are from Tswana (Kgatla) descent and moved into the Steelport River valley under their chief Thobebe (Lelelateng) in the 1650s (Mönnig 1967:14). The Ndzundza Ndebele (Southern Ndebele of Nguni origin) also settled in Steelport River and oral history suggests an early (c. late 1500) settlement in the interior, to the immediate north of Pretoria, under their founder-ruler called Musi. The Ndzundza chieftaincy is believed to have extended its boundaries along the Steelport River catchment area between 1600s and early 1800s (cf. Van Vuuren 1995, Van Warmelo 1935). Several of these settlements (Kwasimkhulu, KwaMaza and Esikhurjini) are known through oral history and have been investigated by archaeologists (cf. Schoeman 1997). We know of their chief Mabhogo who ruled from the 1840s, until his death in 1865 (Schoeman 1997:10). It is also known that both groups extended their political and economic influence to a large geographic area. Other groups living in the general geographic area of this survey include the Swazi and Shangaan-Tsonga. Access to and control over this area might also have changed through time. During the middle and late 19th century the area underwent a process of settlement by white farmers which resulted in the establishment of fenced farms and formal towns.

After a period of conflict the Boer Republic (ZAR) signed a peace-treaty with the Pedi under their chief Sekwati on 17 November 1857. A Lutheran missionary of the Berlin Missionary Society, Alexander Merensky visited Sekwati in 1860 and later built a mission station in Gerlachshoop near Bopedi (Möhnig 1967:24-25). In the late 1850s negotiations between the Boers and the Pedi resulted in the purchase by the Boers of a large area below the southern escarpment of the Drakensberg mountains.

9. Description of Sites

Information relating to the various structures and especially the formal cemetery was supplied by Nkosi Ntoto Aron, a worker on the farm for the past 40 years.

9.1 Site 1 (2530CA 1)

The site consists of a surface scatter of Early Stone Age and Middle Stone Age artefacts, consisting of a small Acheulian handaxe, a chopper tool and a large flake. No high density knapping or activity area could be identified. Although situated in a natural catchment area, the site has been severely disturbed during the construction of the dam wall (Fig 1 & 2).

9.2 Site 2 (2530CA2)

The site consists of 2 dilapidated cement and brick structures. The roofs (of corrugated iron) and all other fitting (i.e. doors and windows) have been removed. The remains of a large saw indicate that the structure might have been associated with the sawing of cultivated trees. Surface scatters of historical ceramics and glass confirm the historic nature of the structures. According to local informants and the history of the area, none of the structures on the farm are older than 60 years (Fig 3 & 4).

9.3 Site 3 (2530CA3)

The site consists of a multi-room house situated adjacent to one of the trout dams. This is a modern structure with no significant architecture or association. It is not older than 60 years (Fig. 5).

9.4 Site 4 (2530CA4)

The site consists of a formal cemetery (30 x 70 metres) containing approximately 300 formal graves. Most of the graves are demarcated by packed heaps of stone with small uninscribed headstones (Fig. 6). The graves have a east-west orientation with the headstones on the western side. According to Nkosi Aron the first burials that took place in the cemetery were during the 1950s. However, most of the current graves in the cemetery were interred as a result of the Coal Mine that commenced operation in 1967/8. Apparently a large number of graves were in the way of the mine and were therefore, exhumed and reburied in this formal cemetery. This seems to be an active cemetery with the most recent burials in 2000. Furthermore, an active social connectedness exists between the local community and the graves (i.e. offerings of snuff, glass bottles and oral history). This fact makes the graves very significant (Fig. 7-9). Though the graves are younger than 60 years and therefore fall outside the protection of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act no. 25 of 1999), they are still protected under the Human Tissue Act (Act no. 65 of 1983, as amended).

Due to the peripheral location of the cemetery, the area will be fenced off (making it accessible for the local community) and no impact will result from the development.

9.5 Site 5 (2530CA5)

The site consists of a two-room structure associated with the current workers on the farm (Fig. 10). According to local informants and the history of the area, none of the structures on the farm are older than 60 years. No further action required.

9.6 Site 6 (2530CA6)

The site consists of a dilapidated barn-type structure which has been converted and extended by various construction episodes (Fig. 11). According to Nkosi Aron it was built in 1951. No further action required.

9.7 Site 7 (2530CA7)

The site consists of a white-walled, multi-room house (Fig. 12) and was recorded in association with Site 6 (barn structure). Together these structures seem to form a homestead. According to Nkosi Aron the house was probably not built before 1950. Before it was used as a farm house, it was apparently occupied by employees of the nearby Tile Factory. This is therefore a modern structure with no significant architecture or association and is not older than 60 years. No further action required.

9.8 Site 8 (2530CA8)

The site consists of a dilapidated two-room structure (Fig. 13) with no significant architecture or association and is not older than 60 years. No further action required.

9.9 Site 9 (2530CA9)

The site consists of an extensive mining complex which is associated with the Coal Mine. The dilapidated structure (no roof, doors, windows and any other fittings) probably was the main mining plant, governing and managing all processes of the mine (Fig. 14). Judging from the relocation of the graves to Site 4, the mining operation was only initiated in 1967/8. As such, the plant has no significant architecture or association and is not older than 60 years. No further action required.

9.10 Site 10 (2530CA10)

The site consists of a dilapidated two-room structure. During later alterations an additional room was added, as well as a loose-standing outbuilding (probably a toilet). The partly-demolished building has no roof (though wooden trusses are still in position) or any other fittings (i.e. doors, etc.) (Fig. 15). As such, the structure has no significant architecture or association and is not older than 60 years. No further action required.

9.11 Site 11 (2530CA11)

The site is Modova Primary School and consists of the main school building, 4 staff (teacher) accommodation and 2 other outbuildings (toilets and showers) (Fig. 16, 18&19). The corner-stone of the school was laid by Dr. F Scmeling on 27 May 1961 (Fig. 17). As such, the structure has no significant architecture or association and is not older than 60 years. However, to maintain continuity, it is recommended that the corner-stone be removed and re-laid as part of the foundation structure of the new school building.

10. Summary of Sites

Site	Location	Significance	Impact
Site 1	25°30'56,0"S 30°01'41,9"E	Low	High
Site 2	25°30'34,9"S 30°01'48,2"E	Low	High
Site 3	25°30'38,7"S 30°02'11,4"E	Low	High
Site 4	25°30'18,7"S 30°02'16,7"E	Very High	None
Site 5	25°30'42,9"S 30°02'17,1"E	Low	High
Site 6	25°31'10,2"S 30°02'48,5"E	Low	High
Site 7	25°31'11,4"S 30°02'51,5"E	Low	High
Site 8	25°30'51,3"S 30°03'14,6"E	Low	High
Site 9	25°30'35,3"S 30°03'11,4"E	Low	High
Site 10	25°30'46,8"S 30°03'09,4"E	Low	High
Site 11	25°30'31,1"S 30°02'35,9"E	Medium	High

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

No archaeological artefacts, features (including graves) or sites of significance were recorded during the survey. None of the historic structures are older than older than 60 years (also no specific significance associated with the structures) and is, therefore, not protected under the NHRA (Act no. 25 of 1999). No further action is recommended.

The formal cemetery (Site 4), though not older than 60 years and therefore not protected under the NHRA (Act no. 25 of 1999) the human remains are still protected under the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended).

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