

**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES ALONG THE  
PROPOSED PWV 16 ROAD CORRIDOR, BRAKPAN DISTRICT**

For:

**VAN WYK & LOUW CONSULTING ENGINEERS**  
P.O. Box 905  
PRETORIA  
0001

Survey conducted and report prepared by the:

**NATIONAL CULTURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**  
P.O. Box 28088  
SUNNYSIDE  
0132

Telephone - (012) 3411320  
Telefax - (012) 3416146

REPORT: 95KH01

Date of survey: April 1995

Date of report: April 1995



**NASIONALE KULTUURHISTORIESE MUSEUM**  
**NATIONAL CULTURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**

**SUMMARY**

**A survey of cultural resources along the PWV 16 road corridor, Brakpan district**

A survey of the planned route was undertaken with the aim of identifying all objects, features and structures of archaeological, historical and cultural importance. Although a number of features were identified in the area, none of these were deemed to be of cultural historical importance or under threat of the proposed development.

**OPSOMMING**

**'n Opname van kultuurhulpbronne in die PWV 16 roete, Brakpan-distrik**

'n Opname van die beplande roete is gedoen met die doel om alle voorwerpe, verskynsels en strukture van argeologiese historiese en kulturele belang te identifiseer. Alhoewel 'n aantal verskynsels in die omgewing geïdentifiseer is, word nie een daarvan as van kultuurhistoriese belang geag nie, of deur die beplande ontwikkeling bedreig nie.

**CONTENTS**

SUMMARY/OPSOMMING.....	i
CONTENTS.....	ii
1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY.....	1
2. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS.....	1

3.	METHODOLOGY.....	1
4.	DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA SURVEYED.....	2
5.	DISCUSSION.....	4
6.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	4
7.	REFERENCES.....	4
8.	PROJECT TEAM.....	5



**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES ALONG THE  
PROPOSED PWV 16 ROAD CORRIDOR, BRAKPAN DISTRICT**

## 1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

This survey aimed to locate, identify, evaluate and document the sites, objects and structures of archaeological, historical and cultural importance within the sections of the corridors of the **PWV 16, PWV 17 and 1894 roads**, which are to be developed at some time in the future (see Figure 1). The assignment was carried out on the request of **Van Wyk & Louw Consulting Engineers**.

## 2. CONDITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The following aspects have direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- The **significance** of the site and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic and scientific values in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that these various aspects are not mutually exclusive and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.
- It is not the purpose of this report to write a history of the area, based on the results of the survey, but rather to list and evaluate what was found.
- All recommendations are made with reference to the **National Monuments Act, Act 28 of 1969**, as amended.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Preliminary investigation

#### 3.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of all relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and determining

the potential of the area. In this regard various anthropological, archaeological and historical sources were consulted -see list of references.

### 3.1.2 Data sources

The **Archaeological Data Recording Centre** (ADRC), housed at the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria, was also consulted.

### 3.1.3 Other sources

In addition, the relevant topocadastral and other maps were studied.

## 3.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites and occurrences. This was done by dividing the study area into blocks, making use of natural and artificial topographical elements. Within each block, all areas considered to have potential for human use were investigated. As the proposed route stretch over a relatively large area of undulating landscape, we drove through it with a 4x4 vehicle, stopping at regular interval in order to inspect the route and identify features at close range.

## 3.3 Documentation

All identified sites, occurrences and structures were documented according to the general standards accepted by the profession. The coordinates of the locality were determined by means of the **Global Positioning System** (GPS)<sup>1</sup> and plotted on a map. This information was added to the ADRC.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA SURVEYED

The area surveyed is located on the farms Witpoortje 117IR, Rooikraal 156IR, Withok 131IR, Vlakfontein 130IR, Vlakfontein 161IR and Withok Estates (on the 1:50 000 Topocadastral map - Springs 2628AD) in the Brakpan district of Gauteng Province (Figure 1).

Large sections of the proposed PWV 16 route crosses open grassland, currently used as smallholdings. This can be

---

<sup>1</sup> According to the manufacturer a certain deviation may be expected for each reading. Care was, however, taken to obtain as accurate a reading as possible, and then to correlate this with reference to the physical environment before plotting it on the map.

classified as a low density residential area.



The PWV 17 route mostly runs through an urbanised area, as it passes through a section of Tsakane township. The 1894-road crosses former mine property (Vlakfontein Mine), which, at present is open veld.

## 5. DISCUSSION

No features of archaeological or historical significance were found in the corridor of the PWV 16 and PWV 17 roads. Some sites with cultural resource potential were identified in the area, but few of them are actually located within the corridor of the planned route. These latter occurrences seem to be of contemporary origin and can be associated with white settlement in the area.

Road 1894 cut through some of the structures of the old Vlakfontein mine. The new owner, however, is in the process of dismantling and selling these structures. The road also passes quite close to the old residential area of Vlakfontein village and the old hostel, which is to be redeveloped as a school. However, neither the school nor the village will be affected by the road.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although a number of cultural features were found in the proposed road corridor, it is our view that these are of negligible significance, and that the impact of the proposed development on these features should not be a cause for great concern.

Archaeological material usually occurs below ground, making its detection very difficult. We suggest that, should the development continue, the developers be alerted to this fact. If any indication of archaeological material is found, the relevant authorities should be contacted immediately.

## 7. REFERENCES

### 7.1 Unpublished sources

#### 7.1.1 Data base:

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, (former) Tvl section, National Cultural

Hist  
ory  
Mu  
seu  
m,  
Pret  
oria  
.



## 7.2 Published sources

### 7.2.1 Books and journals

Holm, S.E. 1966. **Bibliography of South African Pre- and Protohistoric**

**arc  
hae  
olo  
gy.**  
Pret  
oria  
:  
J.L.  
van  
Sch  
aik.

Mason, R. 1962. **Prehistory of the Transvaal.** Johannesburg: Witwatersrand

Uni  
vers  
ity  
Pre  
ss.

Van Riet Lowe, C. n.d. **The distribution of Prehistoric rock engravings and**

**pai  
nti  
ngs  
in  
Sou  
th  
Afr  
ica.**  
Arc  
hae  
olo  
gica  
l  
Sur  
vey,  
Arc  
hae  
olo  
gica  
l  
Seri  
es

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1977. **Anthropology of Southern Africa in Periodicals to**

**1950.**  
Pretoria:  
Government Printer.

7.2.2 Maps

1:50 000 Topocadastral map - 2628AD Springs

**8. PROJECT TEAM**

J A van Schalkwyk (project leader) - survey and report

M Naude - survey and report

S Smith - language editing

