

**A SURVEY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE
PROPOSED DE RUST DEVELOPMENT AREA,
NORTHWEST PROVINCE**

For:

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SUMMARY

A survey of cultural resources in the proposed De Rust development area, Northwest Province

A survey to establish the nature, extent and significance of cultural resources were made on a section of the farm De Rust, next to Hartebeestpoortdam.

A number of sites were identified during the survey. These will have to be considered during development and appropriate mitigation measure must be implemented beforehand.

Some recommendations are put forward in section 6 of this report.

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1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The National Cultural History Museum was requested by **Ekokonsult Inc** to survey a portion of the farm The Rust 478JQ in the Brits district of Northwest Province. The aim was to locate, identify, evaluate and document sites, objects and structures of archaeological, historical and cultural importance within the boundaries of the proposed development.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study were

- 2.1 Identify all the known and potential cultural resources in the proposed area of development. These resources include the areas of historical, scientific and cultural importance.
- 2.2 Assess the significance of the known and potential cultural resources in the area of interest.
- 2.3 Determine the possible impacts on the known and potential cultural resources in the area of interest. Impacts will be determined or predicted for pre-construction, construction, operation and post-operation phases.
- 2.4 Develop mitigation or control measures for impact minimization and cultural resources preservation.
- 2.5 Develop procedures to be implemented if previously unidentified cultural resources are uncovered during construction phase.

3. DEFINITIONS

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

- **Cultural resources** are all nonphysical and physical human-made as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- The **significance** of the sites and artifacts is determined by means of their historical, social, aesthetic, technological and scientific value in relation to their uniqueness, condition of preservation and research potential. It must be kept in mind that the various aspects are not mutually exclusive and that the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these.
- Significance is site specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium to high significance require further mitigation.
- The latitude and longitude of an archaeological site is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer, and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
- All recommendations are made with full cognisance of the relevant legislation, in this case the **National Monuments Act (No 28 of 1969, as amended)**.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Preliminary investigation

4.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of all relevant literature was conducted with the aim of reviewing the previous research done and to determine the potential of the area. In this regard various anthropological, archaeological and historical sources were consulted - see list of references below.

4.1.2 Data sources

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

4.1.3 Other sources

The relevant topocadastral and other maps were studied - see list of references below.

4.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted archaeological practices, and was aimed at locating all possible sites, objects and structures. This was done by dividing the whole area into blocks, making use of natural and human-made topographical elements. Areas with a potential for human use were investigated. Special attention was given to outcrops, cliffs were inspected for rock shelters, while stream beds and unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes and clusters of trees were investigated.

4.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standard accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the **Global Positioning System (GPS)**¹ and plotted on a map. The information was added to the description to facilitate the identification of each locality.

4.4 Presentation of the information

In discussing the results of the survey, a chronological rather than a geographical approach was followed to present an overview of human occupation and land use in the area. This helps the reader to better understand and facilitate the potential impact of the development.

5. DISCUSSION

This larger geographical region is rich in history, as can be deduced from the large number of important archaeological sites to be found there. This is reflected to some extent by the sites identified in the area to be developed.

5.1 Stone Age

No Stone Age sites of significance were identified. However, during the survey stone tools dating to the Middle and Late Stone Age was noted in two areas. The stone tools were without exception surface finds, and as such they are considered to be disturbed out of context. These objects are therefore judged not to pose any obstacle to the proposed development.

1. 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 correlate it with reference to the physical environment before plotting it on the map.

5.2 Iron Age

One of the more important Early Iron Age sites in South Africa is located on the farm Broederstroom, adjacent to De Rust. More than a thousand years later, other Iron Age people settled in this area. However, the site identified on this particular section of De Rust, do not seem to be of much significance, but should be investigated further before development takes place.

5.3 Historic

No sites of historical significance were found in the area that is to be developed. However, many such sites occur in the large geographical region. These include settlements of early white pioneers and battlefields.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the development can continue. However, the following recommendations should be considered.

- 6.1 Mitigation measures must be implemented on all sites indicated as having a management factor of higher than two (Appendix 2). This is not so much a recommendation as a prerequisite of the relevant legislation.
- 6.2 It is recommended that mitigation also involve the collection of the stone tools found in the area. The collected material can be used in educational programmes. For this, a permit would have to be obtained from the National Monuments Council.
- 6.3 It is recommended that the developers be notified that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, it should be reported immediately to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available, so that an investigation and evaluation of the find can be made.

7. REFERENCES

7.1 Unpublished sources

7.1.1 Data base

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, (former) Tvl section, National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.

7.2 Published sources

7.2.1 Books and journals

Acocks, J.P.H. 1975. Veld Types of South Africa. Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa, No. 40. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute.

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Strydom, S. 1955. 'n Onderzoek na die plek- en plaasname van die Groot Moot. Ongepubliseerde D.Litt proefskrif. Pretoria: Universiteit van Pretoria.

Van Riet Lowe, C. n.d. The distribution of Prehistoric rock engravings and paintings in South Africa. Archaeological Survey, Archaeological Series No. 7.

Van Warmelo, N.J. 1977. Anthropology of Southern Africa in Periodicals to 1950. Pretoria: Government Printer.

7.2.2 Maps

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps - 2527DB Brits, 2527DD Broederstroom

8. PROJECT TEAM

J van Schalkwyk - project leader

APPENDIX 1: STANDARDIZED SET OF CONVENTIONS USED TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF PROJECTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

Significance of impact:

- low where the impact will not have an influence on or require to be significantly accommodated in the project design
- medium where the impact could have an influence which will require modification of the project design or alternative mitigation
- high where it would have a "no-go" implication on the project regardless of any mitigation

Certainty of prediction:

- Definite: More than 90% sure of a particular fact. Substantial supportive data to verify assessment
- Probable: More than 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring
- Possible: Only more than 40% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring
- Unsure: Less than 40% sure of a particular fact, or the likelihood of an impact occurring

Status of the impact:

With mitigation and the resultant recovery of material, a negative impact can be turned positive. Describe whether the impact is positive (a benefit), negative (a cost) or neutral

Recommended management action:

For each impact, the recommended practically attainable mitigation actions which would result in a measurable reduction of the impact, must be identified. This is expressed according to the following:

- 1 = no further investigation necessary
- 2 = controlled sampling and/or mapping of the site necessary
- 3 = test excavation to determine if further work is necessary
- 4 = preserve site if possible, otherwise extensive salvage excavation and/or mapping necessary
- 5 = preserve site at all costs

Legal requirements:

Identify and list the specific legislation and permit requirements which potentially could be infringed upon by the proposed project, if mitigation is necessary.

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY RESULTS

[See Appendix 1 for definitions of the conventions used in assessing of the cultural remains]

1. Site number: 2527DB4²

Location: The Rust 478JQ - 25°44'45" S; 27°48'26" E [X 2848984.929; Y 119674.763]

Description: Some rudimentary stone walling, with potsherds and grindingstones amongst them.

Discussion: From the few pieces of identifiable pottery that were found, this seems to be quite an old site, dating to within the last 500 years. As such it can be related to the Sotho/Tswana settlement of the area.

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Status of impact: Negative

Legal requirements: This site is protected by the National Monuments Act. Its destruction would require a permit from the National Monuments Council.

Recommended management action: (2) = controlled sampling and/or mapping of the site necessary.

2. Site number: 2527DB5

Location: The Rust 478JQ - 25°44'47" S; 27°48'26" E [X 2849037.449; Y 119696.589]

Description: Some rudimentary stone walling, potsherds and grindingstones.

Discussion: This form, in all probability, still a part of the above site. However, due to dense vegetation this is not easy to confirm.

Significance of impact: Medium

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Status of impact: Negative

Legal requirements: This site is protected by the National Monuments Act. Its destruction would require a permit from the National Monuments Council.

Recommended management action: See no. 1 above

3. Site number: 2527DB6

Location: The Rust 478JQ - 25°45'10" S; 27°48'11" E [X 2849758.185; Y 120261.505]

Description: Surface scatter of LSA material, consisting of a few cores and flakes. No formal tools were noticed.

² Numbers 2527DB1-3 relate to other known sites on this particular ¼ degree sheet already documented in the ADRC, and does not necessarily refer to sites occurring on or close to the specific area of development.

Discussion: As this is a surface occurrence, most of the material is disturbed out of context and it is doubtful if much further evidence can be deduced from the site.

Significance of impact: Low

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Status of impact: Neutral

Legal requirements: None

Recommended management action: (1) = no further investigation necessary

4. Site number: 2527DB7

Location: The Rust 478JQ - 25°45'21" S; 27°48'21" E [X 2850088.086; Y 119818.096]

Description: Surface scatter of MSA material, consisting of flakes that show evidence of use.

Discussion: As this is a surface occurrence, most of the material is disturbed out of context and it is doubtful if much further evidence can be deduced from the site.

Significance of impact: Low

Certainty of prediction: Definite

Status of impact: Neutral

Legal requirements: None

Recommended management action: (1) = no further investigation necessary

APPENDIX 3: GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

This section is included to give the reader some necessary background. It must be kept in mind, however, that these dates are all relative and serve only to give a very broad framework for interpretation.

STONE AGE

Early Stone Age (ESA)	2 000 000 - 150 000 Before Present
Middle Stone Age (MSA)	150 000 - 30 000 BP
Late Stone Age (LSA)	30 000 - until c. AD 200

IRON AGE

Early Iron Age (EIA)	AD 200 - AD 1000
Late Iron Age (LIA)	AD 1000 - AD 1830

HISTORICAL PERIOD

Since the arrival of the white settlers - c. AD 1830 in this part of the country