

**HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE WESTERN SECTION
OF THE KUNGWINI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
GAUTENG PROVINCE**

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REPORT: 2003KH10

Date of survey: February 2003 Date of report: February 2003



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SUMMARY

Heritage resources in the western section of the Kungwini Local Municipality, Gauteng Province.

The aim of the survey was to identify, from existing sources, sites of cultural significance and to evaluate these sites.

- The research potential of these sites, especially the Iron Age sites, is tremendous. By studying these sites on a more regional basis, they can contribute to the writing of a more representative history of the area and its people. Educational programmes linked to such projects can do much to create a climate of understanding and tolerance between people of different backgrounds.

- Furthermore, there is a real possibility of looting taking place on these sites, as collectors with metal detectors are known to be looking for artefacts on them.

- One way in stopping this is to add value to the heritage sites by, for example, using them in tourism programmes

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that development can continue in the area, on condition of acceptance of the objectives and design standards as set out in section 8 of this report which, if adhered to, can eliminate, minimise or enhance potential impacts.

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HERITAGE RESOURCES IN THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE KUNGWINI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG PROVINCE

1. AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The investigator was contracted by INDEX to review existing resources regarding heritage sites in an area in which urbanization is rapidly taking place, and as a result could impact on the resources. The aim of the survey was to locate, identify, evaluate documented sites, objects and structures of cultural importance found within the boundaries of the study.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

- 2.1 Identify all sites of an archaeological or historical nature from existing sources located in the study area.
- 2.2 Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic and scientific value.
- 2.3 Determine the possible impacts on the known and potential cultural resources in the area of interest.
- 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 the construction.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

- X **Cultural resources** are all nonphysical and physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- X The **significance** of the sites and artefacts are 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.
- X 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.

- X The latitude and longitude of archaeological sites are to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are mainly dealt within two acts. These are the South Africa Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the Environmental Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989).

4.1 South African Heritage Resources Act

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

In terms of Section 35(4) of this act, no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or material or any meteorite; bring onto, or use at an archaeological or palaeontological site any excavation equipment or any equipment that assists in the detection or recovery of metals or archaeological and palaeontological material or objects, or use such equipment for the recovery of meteorites.

Structures:

Section 34(1) of this act states that no person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

“Structure” means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to land, and includes any fixtures, fittings and equipment associated therewith;

“Alter” means any action affecting the structure, appearance or physical properties of a place or object, whether by way of structural or other works, by painting, plastering or other decoration or any other means.

Human remains:

In terms of Section 36(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, no person may, without a permit issued by the relevant heritage resources authority:

(a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position of otherwise disturb the grave of a victim of conflict, or any burial ground or part thereof which contains such graves;

(b) destroy, damage, alter, exhume or remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or

(c) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation, or any equipment which assists in the detection or recovery of metals.

Human remains that are less than 60 years old is subject to provisions of the Human Tissue Act (Act 65 of 1983) and to local regulations.

Exhumation of graves must conform to the standards set out in the **Ordinance on Excavations (Ordinance no. 12 of 1980)** (replacing the old Transvaal Ordinance no. 7 of 1925). Permission must also be gained from the descendants (where known), the National Department of Health, Provincial Department of Health, Premier of the Province and local

police. Furthermore, permission must also be gained from the various landowners (ie where the graves are located and where they are 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 Tissues Act (Act 65 of 1983 as amended)**.

4.2 Environmental Conservation Act

This act states that a survey and an evaluation of cultural resources should be undertaken in areas where development, which will change the face of the environment, is to be made. The impact of the development on the cultural resources should also be determined and proposals to mitigate this impact is to be formulated.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 Preliminary investigation

5.1.1 Survey of the literature

A survey of the 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 the list of references below. Nothing pertaining to the archaeology of this particular area was found, although a number of survey reports exist.

5.1.2 Data bases

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

5.1.3 Other sources

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

5.2 Field survey

A cursory survey was done to assess the identified resources. In some cases it was found that, since their identification, some of these resources have been totally destroyed by development, e.g. the Silver Lakes Late Iron Age site and some graves.

The area that had to be investigated was identified by Index by means of maps. The investigating was done by driving and walking across the area. Special attention was given to unnatural topographical occurrences such as trenches, holes, outcrops and clusters of trees were investigated.

5.3 Documentation

All sites, objects and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Coordinates of individual

localities were determined by means of the **Global Positioning System (GPS)**¹¹ and plotted on a map. This information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality. Map datum used: WGS 84.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

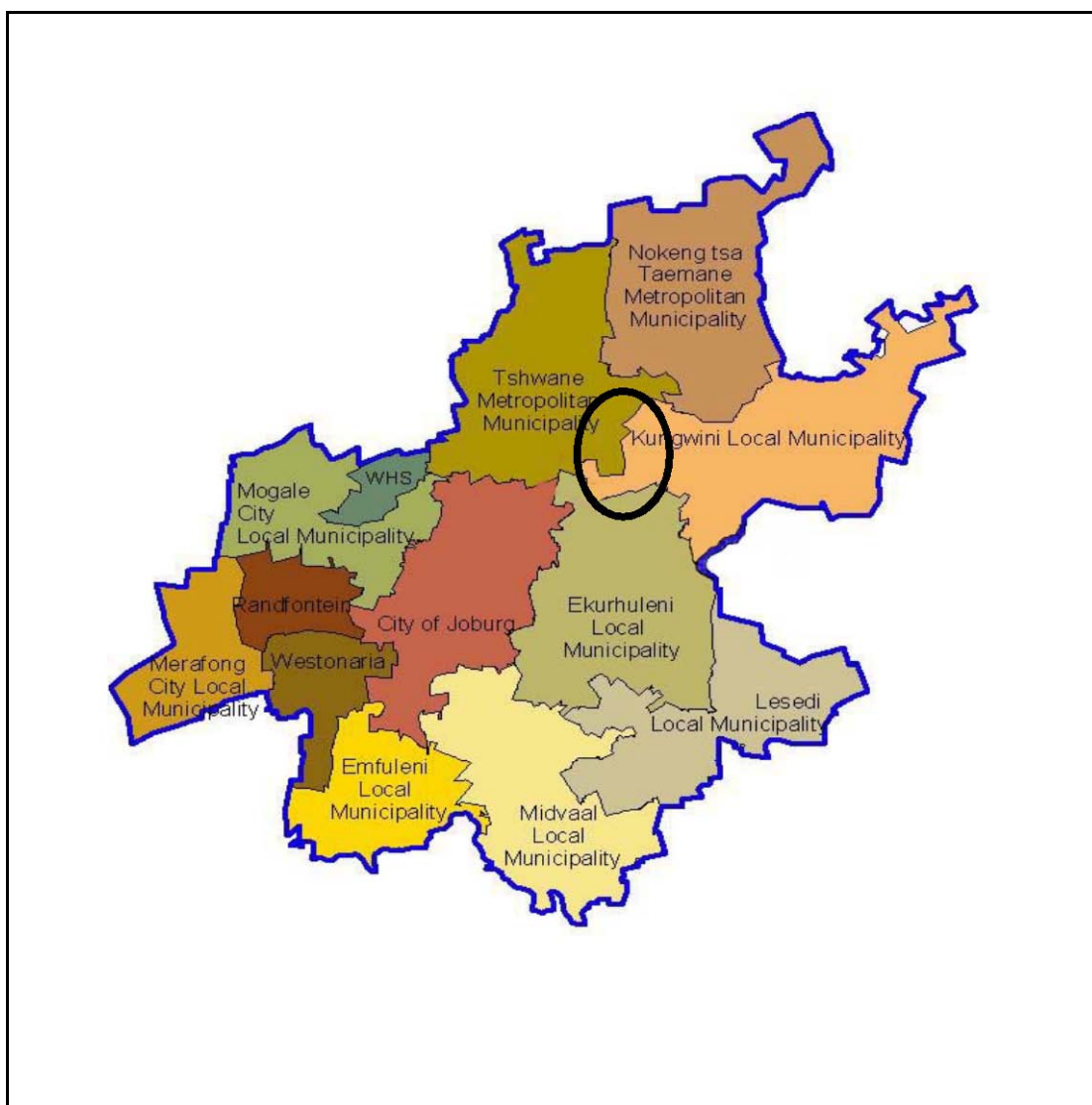


Figure 1. Location of the study area.

The area investigated make up the western most portion of the Kungwini Local Municipality (Fig. 1). On the western side it is bordered by the R21 road. The northern border is defined by

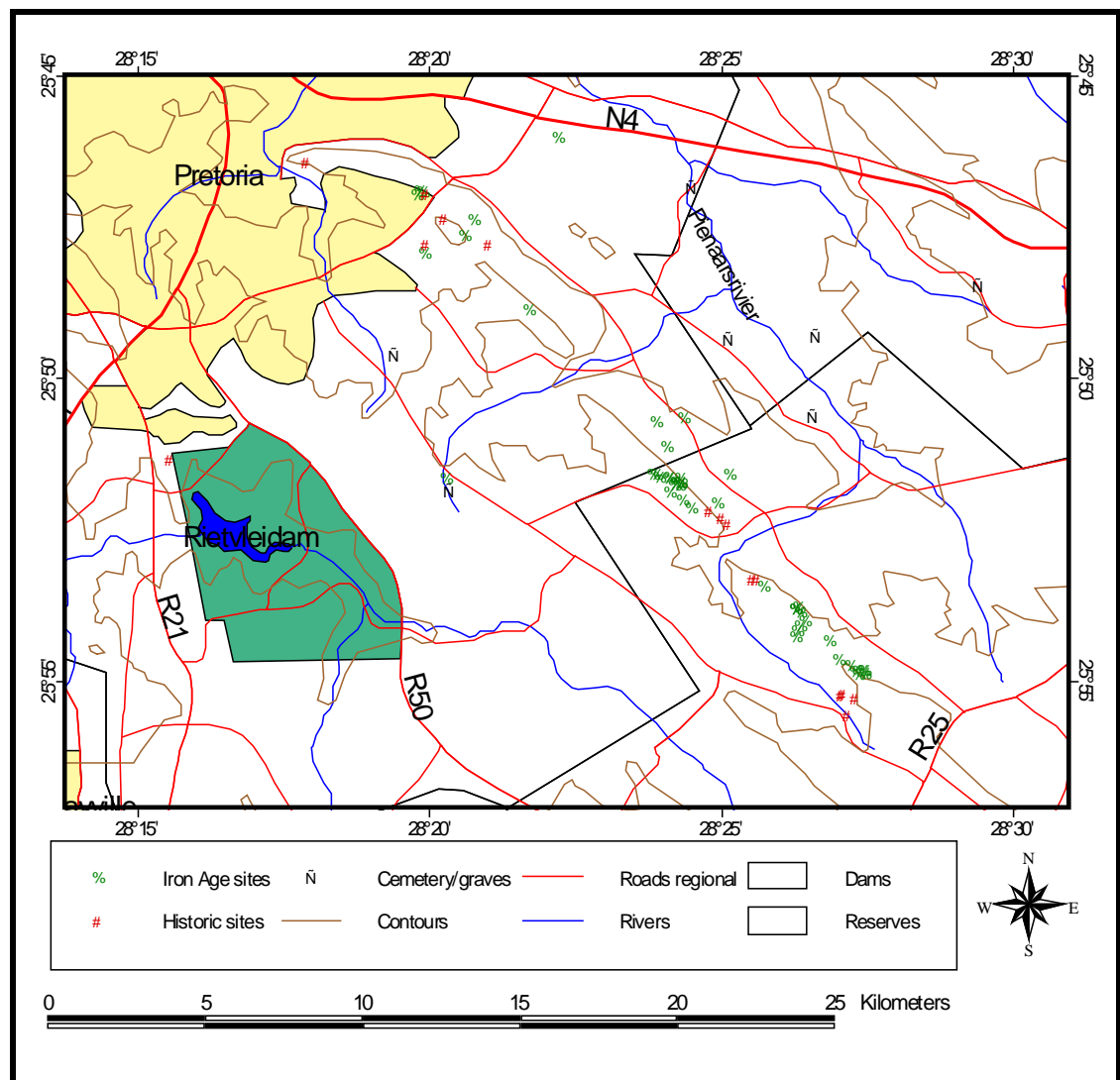
¹¹ According to the manufacturer a certain deviation may be expected for each reading. Care was, however, taken to obtain as accurate a reading as possible, and then correlate it with reference to the physical environment before plotting it on the map.

Hans Strijdom road and the N4. The eastern border is defined by the Pienaars River and the southern border by the R25.

This is a very large area, with a topography that varies from low mountains, to rolling plains, bisected by a number of smaller streams. In some areas it is densely populated and as a result impacted by development, whereas in others the natural habitat is still quite original.

7. DISCUSSION

From the map presented below, which was derived from the information in Appendix 1, it can be seen that the sites tend to cluster in certain areas.



7.1 Stone Age

Stone tools dating to the various phases of the Stone Age (see Appendix 2) occur all over the study area. These are not presented on the map, as they are find spots rather than sites per se. That means that as most of these are surface finds, they are viewed to be out of context and do not have any significance. Only a few stratified sites are known, but even these have little significance as the deposits have either eroded away, or have been impacted upon by later occupants of the shelters. However, this does not mean that the discovery of new sites can be ruled out.

7.2 Iron Age

Sites dating to the Late Iron Age are found all over. Some of them can be related to the Tswana-speakers, whereas others to the Ndebele-speakers and possibly a few also to the Ndebele of Mzilikazi. However, this still needs to be researched in more detail.

The Iron Age sites tend to cluster in the Bronberg as well as on the more open flatlands, especially in areas where outcrops (dolorite, etc.) occur. It is possible, although not yet proven, that this distinction can be linked to the difference between the Sotho and Ndebele referred to above.

7.3 Historical period

Very few, if any resources that can be ascribed to early white settlement in the area are still in existence. It is possible that a more intensive survey would reveal a number, such as the farm buildings at “Friesland” on the farm Zwartkoppies.

Of course, this was also the area over which the British troops advanced during the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, before engaging in battle, on 11 and 12 June 1900, that was later to become known as the “Battle of Diamond Hill” or, the “Slag van Donkerhoek”. It was one of the largest battles that took place during the war and the remains of gun placements, trenches and fortifications can still be found, however, mostly to the west of the study area.

Sites pertaining to this battle are believed to exist on Signal Hill and Boschkop in the study area, but could not be visited during this survey.

On the opposite side of the study area, the battle of Cornwall Hill took place on 4 January 1900. The Boer forces (which included Genl. Jan Smuts) had gun placements on the ridges to the east and north of Irene station, from where they tried to prevent the British (under Lord Roberts) to reach Pretoria.

Apart from the Pretoria East cemetery, a number of smaller, informal cemeteries were also identified. These are mostly overgrown or hidden away in inaccessible areas. A survey to locate, identify and map these sites is basically impossible. However, graves are an emotional issue and should be treated with the necessary respect.

8. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT MEASURES/MITIGATION MEASURES

The aim of the survey was to identify, from existing sources, sites of cultural significance and to evaluate these sites.

- The research potential of these sites, especially the Iron Age sites, is tremendous. By studying these sites on a more regional basis, they can contribute to the writing of a more representative history of the area and its people. Educational programmes linked to such projects can do much to create a climate of understanding and tolerance between people of different backgrounds.

- Furthermore, there is a real possibility of looting taking place on these sites, as collectors with metal detectors are known to be looking for artefacts on them.

- One way in stopping this is to add value to the heritage sites by, for example, using them in tourism programmes

Based on what was found and its evaluation, it is recommended that development can continue in the area, on condition of acceptance of the following objectives and design standards, which, if adhered to, can eliminate, minimise or enhance potential impacts:

- Any potential developer must ensure that an archaeologist inspects each site selected for development. In fact, this is spelled out in the applicable Act (SAHRA 25 of 1999) If a particular development impacts on a heritage site but cannot be shifted, mitigation measures, i.e. the controlled excavation of the site prior to development, can be implemented. This can only be done by a qualified archaeologist after obtaining a valid permit from the PHRA (or SAHRA, if it is a category 1 site).
- The same action holds true for any infrastructure development such as roads, water pipelines, sewerage lines, access routes, construction campsites, borrow pits, etc.
- People used to settle near water sources. Therefore riverbanks, rims of pans and smaller watercourses should be avoided as far as possible.
- Avoid all patches bare of vegetation unless previously inspected by an archaeologist. These might be old settlement sites.
- Rock outcrops might contain rock shelters, paintings, engravings or stone walled settlements, and should therefore be avoided unless previously inspected by an archaeologist.
- Communities living close to any proposed development should be consulted as to the existence of sites of cultural significance, e.g. graves, as well as sites that do not show any structures but have emotional significance, such as battlefields, etc.
- All graves or cemeteries should be avoided, unless when totally impossible. The correct procedure, i.e. notification of intent to relocate them, consultation with descendants and permit application, should then be followed in relocating the graves. If any of the graves are older than 60 years, they can only be exhumed by an archaeologist. Graves of victims of conflict requires additional permits from SAHRA before they can be relocated.
- Archaeological material, by its very nature, occurs below ground. The developer should therefore keep in mind that archaeological sites might be exposed during the construction work. If anything is noticed, work in that area should be stopped and the occurrence

should immediately be reported to a museum, preferably one at which an archaeologist is available. The archaeologist should then investigate and evaluate the find.

- Any mitigation measures applied by an archaeologist, in the sense of excavation and documentation, should be published in order to bring this information into the public domain.

9. REFERENCES

9.1 Data bases

Archaeological Data Recording Centre, National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria.

Environmental Potential Atlas, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

9.2 Literature

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9.3 Maps

1: 50 000 Topocadastral maps – 2528CD

10. PROJECT TEAM

J van Schalkwyk

APPENDIX 1: SURVEY RESULTS

APPENDIX 2: 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 1840 in this part of the country

ADRC - Archaeological Data Recording Centre

PRHA – Provincial Heritage Resources Agency

SAHRA - South African Heritage Resources Agency