



Archaetnos Culture & Cultural
Resource Consultants
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**A REPORT ON A CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON ERF
85, CHAMDOR, KRUGERSDORP FOR THE WILLIAM TELL PARTICLE
BOARDS AND MEDIUM DENSITY MANUFACTURING PLANT**

For:

***K2M TECHNOLOGIES
PRIVATE BAG X 92329
SAFARITUINE
0300***

REPORT: AE724

by:

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SUMMARY

Archaetnos cc was requested by K2M Technologies to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment on erf 85 Chamdor, Krugersdorp. This is for the development of the so-called William Tell particle board and manufacturing plant.

The fieldwork undertaken revealed five (5) buildings of some cultural heritage significance on the property. Next to the property and to the west thereof a graveyard was also found. The buildings will not be directly impacted upon by the development and there will also be a secondary impact on the graves. Mitigation measures will therefore have to be implemented.

The proposed development can therefore continue, but it is important to note that if any further developments are planned in this area, these buildings should be incorporated in the proposed development, without compromising the cultural integrity thereof.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Archaetnos cc was requested by K2M Technologies to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment on erf 85 Chamdor, Krugersdorp. This is for the development of the so-called William Tell particle board and manufacturing plant.

The client indicated the area where the proposed development is to take place, and the survey was confined to this area. However a graveyard was identified on the property next to the one of the proposed development. Since graves have a particular heritage significance and the development will undoubtedly have an impact on these, it is included in this report.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the survey were to:

1. Identify all objects, sites, occurrences and structures of an archaeological or historical nature (cultural heritage sites) located on the property (see Appendix A).
2. Assess the significance of the cultural resources in terms of their archaeological, historical, scientific, social, religious, aesthetic and tourism value (see Appendix B).
3. Describe the possible impact of the proposed development on these cultural remains, according to a standard set of conventions.
4. Propose suitable mitigation measures to minimize possible negative impacts on the cultural resources.
5. Recommend suitable mitigation measure should there be any sites of significance that might be impacted upon by the proposed development.
6. Review applicable legislative requirements.

3. CONDITIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

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

1. Cultural Resources are all non-physical and physical man-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences associated with human activity. These include all sites, structure and artifacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development. Graves and cemeteries are included in this.
2. The significance of the sites, structures 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. The various aspects are not mutually exclusive, and the evaluation of any site is done with reference to any number of these aspects.

3. Cultural significance is site-specific and relates to the content and context of the site. Sites regarded as having low cultural significance have already been recorded in full and require no further mitigation. Sites with medium cultural significance may or may not require mitigation depending on other factors such as the significance of impact on the site. Sites with a high cultural significance require further mitigation (see appendix B).
4. The latitude and longitude of any archaeological or historical site or feature, is to be treated as sensitive information by the developer and should not be disclosed to members of the public.
5. All recommendations are made with full cognizance of the relevant legislation.
6. It has to be mentioned that it is almost impossible to locate all the cultural resources in a given area, as it will be very time consuming. Developers should however note that the report should make it clear how to handle any other finds that might occur.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Aspects concerning the conservation of cultural resources are dealt with mainly in two acts. These are the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) and the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998).

4.1 The National Heritage Resources Act

According to the above-mentioned law the following is protected as cultural heritage resources:

- a. Archaeological artifacts, structures and sites older than 100 years
- b. Ethnographic art objects (e.g. prehistoric rock art) and ethnography
- c. Objects of decorative and visual arts
- d. Military objects, structures and sites older than 75 years
- e. Historical objects, structures and sites older than 60 years
- f. Proclaimed heritage sites
- g. Grave yards and graves older than 60 years
- h. Meteorites and fossils
- i. Objects, structures and sites of scientific or technological value.

Archaeology, palaeontology and meteorites

Section 35(4) of this act states that no person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority:

- a. destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite;
- b. destroy, damage, excavate, remove from its original position, collect or own any archaeological or palaeontological material or object or any meteorite;

- c. trade in, sell for private gain, export or attempt to export from the Republic any category of archaeological or palaeontological material or object, or any meteorite; or
- d. 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.
- e. alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure which is older than 60 years as protected.

The above mentioned may only be disturbed or moved by an archaeologist, after receiving a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.

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 are 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 (i.e. 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)**.

Unidentified/unknown graves are also handled as older than 60 until proven otherwise.

4.2 The National Environmental Management Act

This act states that a survey and evaluation of cultural resources must be done in areas where development projects, that will change the face of the environment, will be undertaken. The impact of the development on these resources should be determined and proposals for the mitigation thereof are made.

5. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Survey of literature

A survey of literature was done in order to obtain background information regarding the area. Sources consulted in this regard are indicated in the bibliography.

4.2 Field survey

The survey was conducted according to generally accepted HIA practices and was aimed at locating all possible objects, sites and features of cultural significance in the area of proposed development. If required, the location/position of any site was determined by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS), while photographs were also taken where needed.

The survey was undertaken on foot.

4.3 Documentation

All sites, objects features and structures identified were documented according to the general minimum standards accepted by the archaeological profession. Co-ordinates of individual localities were determined by means of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The information was added to the description in order to facilitate the identification of each locality.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed development area is located on erf 85, Chamdor, Krugersdorp. This is within the industrial area of the town, which are located in the Gauteng Province (**Figure 1**). Apart from other industrial activities, the property to the west of the proposed development is undeveloped. This is the property where a graveyard was identified.

Since the area have been industrialized in the past, the topography is flat. The northern part of the property has already been disturbed due to ground work activities. A large building has also been erected here recently. On the southern part, some buildings have been erected and these will be discussed during the course of this report. Accordingly no natural topography or vegetation exists and the chance of finding anything of archaeological importance is very slim.

To the north of the site an industrial refuse midden was located. The GPS measurement at this point is 26°08'46''S and 27°47'56''E. This is further indication that the area has been disturbed over the medium term and that chances of finding any archaeological features, are slim.

7. DISCUSSION

The fieldwork undertaken revealed five (5) buildings of some significant cultural heritage importance on the property that will be impacted upon by the development. Although another site, the mentioned graveyard, is outside of the boundaries of the development, it will be

impacted upon and therefore it is included here. Mitigation measures will have to be implemented.

Site 1

No GPS measurement was taken at the graveyard as it falls outside of the boundaries of the property. The graves were also not counted. It seems to be mostly associated with non-Europeans (**Figure 2**).

The cultural significance of graves is **high** and therefore the developer should take note that the development may have a secondary impact on these. The developer should therefore ensure that any possible impact is minimized as well as that the activities during the construction of the development and operation of the plant do not have any negative impact on the graves. This include the accessibility to the site by the descendants.

Site 2

Although more than five buildings were located, only those of heritage significance will be discussed here (**Figure 3**). It can be mentioned that the other buildings to the north of these, were probably built during the 1960's and it therefore is younger than 60 years. Accordingly it is not protected by legislation.

However, the five buildings on the southern border of the site are older than 60 years and suitable mitigation measures should therefore be implemented (**Figure 4 – 8**). A GPS measurement was taken at the first (western) building. This is 26°09'01''S and 27°48'12''E.

The district and town of Krugersdorp was established in 1894 (Bergh 1999: 21, 146). In 1902, after the Anglo-Boer War, it was disestablished and became part of the district of the Witwatersrand. However in 1909 it became an independent district again (Bergh 199: 149).

Gold was already discovered in the Krugersdorp area during the early 1880's, but the first large scale gold mines in the area were established during the 1890's (Liebenberg 1999: 315; Bergh 1999: 74). Later silver and asbestos were also mined in the vicinity of the town (Bergh 1999: 75). It was however only after the Anglo-Boer War and specifically after 1910 that the gold mining industry was stabilized.

The buildings that were located seem as if it could be linked to the early industrial era of Krugersdorp. It were probably built during the 1920's and the architectural style thereof seem to be unique within the area. It may be the last remains of a former industrial era.

The first building, the one on the western side, seem to be a house and was probably built as a residence for one of the mine/ factory managers (**Figure 4**). The second and third buildings seem to have been offices (**Figure 5-6**). The last two buildings are small one roomed structures. These probably served the purpose of guard houses or small storage facilities (**Figure 7-8**). The buildings are currently used as offices by the South African Police Services.

Therefore the cultural significance of these buildings are **high**. It may therefore not be demolished. The buildings should form an integral part of any proposed development in future, e.g. utilizing it as site offices or another suitable function.

The buildings will not be impacted upon by the development, but there will be a secondary impact. An architectural historian should be contacted in order to assist with appropriate mitigation requirements should these be directly impacted upon in future.in .

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion it needs to be stressed again that the culturally significant buildings found on the southern side of the development needs to be mitigated. Although the development will only have a secondary impact on these, the development plans should be sympathetic to the old buildings. It may be incorporated within the development as long as it does not compromise the cultural integrity of the buildings.

For any future developments it should be noted that the Gauteng office of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) will have the final say regarding possible changes to these buildings and that applicable permits should be obtained from them. It also should be indicated that the five buildings as a unit forms a significant heritage resource.

Although the graveyard it outside of the proposed development area caution should be taken that it is not impacted on negatively. The construction work should also not prevent any descendants to visit these.

9. REFERENCES

- Bergh, J.S. (red.). 1999. **Geskiedenisatlas van Suid-Afrika. Die vier noordelike provinsies.** Pretoria: J.L. van Schaik.
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Appendix A

Definition of terms:

Site: A large place with extensive structures and related cultural objects. It can also be a large assemblage of cultural artifacts, found on a single location.

Structure: A permanent building found in isolation or which forms a site in conjunction with other structures.

Feature: A coincidental find of movable cultural objects.

Object: Artifact (cultural object).

(Also see Knudson 1978: 20).

Appendix B

Cultural significance:

- Low A cultural object being found out of context, not being part of a site or without any related feature/structure in its surroundings.

- Medium Any site, structure or feature being regarded less important due to a number of factors, such as date and frequency. Also any important object found out of context.

- High Any site, structure or feature regarded as important because of its age or uniqueness. Graves are always categorised as of a high importance. Also any important object found within a specific context.

Appendix C

List of Figures:

- 1. Map of the area indicating the site of the proposed development.**
- 2. View of the graveyard to the west of the proposed development.**
- 3. View from the north of the area indicating ground work as well as a recently erected structure.**
- 4. Front view of the house that forms part of a series of five historically significant buildings.**
- 5. Front view of the first of two large buildings probably used for offices originally.**
- 6. Front view of the second office building which probably was the main building.**
- 7. Small building to the east of the others probably originally build as a security office or store room.**
- 8. Small building to the northeast of the others also probably originally used as a store room or security office.**