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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED
EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING NOOITGEDACHT TROUT LODGE AND
THE SUBDIVISION OF 5 PLOTS FOR LODGE DEVELOPMENT ON
NOOITGEDACHT FARM 153 JT**



Iron Age stone walls clearly visible in a north-east direction, photographed from site 5.

PREPARED FOR PALMER ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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INVESTIGATION

The site for the proposed lodge extension was visited and inspected on 13 November 2004. The manager of Nooitgedacht Trout Lodge, Ian Poulosom, accompanied us to each site. The site was examined for the possible presence of archaeological and historical material and to establish the potential impact on any cultural remains. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989)

LOCALITY

The proposed extension of the existing Nooitgedacht trout lodge, and the subdivision of 5 plots for lodge development are situated on Nooitgedacht farm 153 JT in the Mount Anderson catchment area, Lydenburg district (see map 1).

METHODOLOGY

The proposed development consists of 5 approximately one hectare sites, and extensions to the existing lodge. The roads infrastructure is already in place. The survey was conducted on foot. Each proposed structural site is marked with a stake, all of which were found with the guidance of Ian Poulosom. Grass cover was relatively short visibility fairly good, and feature easily visible. Despite the fact that the ruins have been invaded by woody growth, they are similarly easily visible. The position of remains was plotted by means of a GPS and they were photographed in situ.

FINDS

Site 1

Extensive Iron Age stone walling and agricultural terraces cover the entire site. An historic square structure is also visible on the approximate western boundary of site one.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Historic square structure. | GPS reading: S 25°03.382
E 30°33.792 |
| 2. Iron Age stone walling. | GPS reading: S 25°03.389
E 30°33.825 |



Photo 1

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 3. Stone circle. | GPS reading: S 25°03.388
E 30°33.837 |
|------------------|---|

4. Upper grind stone on wall of stone circle.

GPS reading: S 25°03.395
E 30°33.853

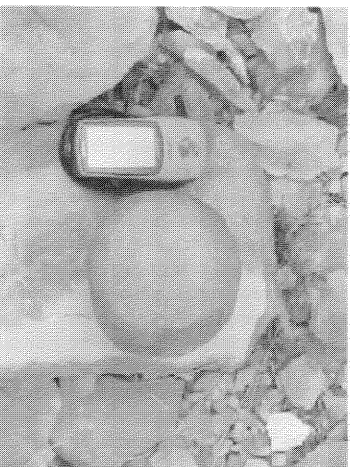


Photo 2.

Site 2

The entire site is covered in Iron Age agricultural terraces and stone walling.

1. Southern extremity of the stone walling. GPS reading: S 25°03.160
E 30°33.664
2. The above stone wall extends to, and abuts with a stone circle.
GPS reading: S 25°03.131
E 30°33.643
3. Agricultural terraces extend across and beyond the entire site.

GPS reading: S 25°03.118
E 30°33.664

Site 3

The site is partly covered in Iron Age agricultural terracing and stone walling as well as a small historic stone and daga square ruin.

1. Historic stone and daga square ruin.

GPS reading: S 25°03.515
E 30°33.736.

South west of this structure, there are extensive, fragmentary historical remains associated with gold mining.



Photo 3.

2. Iron Age stone walling, in good condition, between 1200cm and 1300cm in height. GPS reading: S 25°03.508.
E 30°33.750.

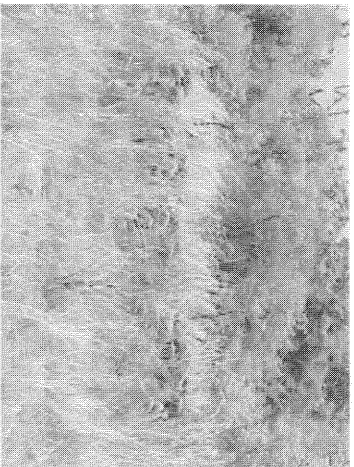


Photo 4.

3. Iron Age agricultural terracing at GPS reading: S 25°03.499 / E 30°33.746 and extending across the road to GPS reading: S 25°03.476 / E 30°33.759.



Photo 5.

Site 4

This site contains structures associated with historical gold mining as well as Iron Age stone walling.

1. Old road, presumably associated with gold mining activities.

GPS reading: S 25°03.617
E 30°33.711



Photo 6.

2. Concrete slab associated with historic gold mining. Iron Age stone walling and site demarcation peg.

GPS reading: S 25°03.628
E 30°33.724



Photo 7.

3. Foundation for historic mining machinery.

GPS reading: S 25°03.616
E 30°33.726



Photo 8.

4. Iron Age stone walling.

GPS reading: S 25°03.605
E 30°33.726



Photo 9

Site 5

No significant cultural remains were found on site 5, which renders it suitable for development.

GPS reading: S 25°03.658
E 30°33.653.

Site 6

There was nothing found around the existing lodge site.

DISCUSSION

Nooitgedacht is situated close to the early Iron Age sites of Klingbiel and the Lydenburg Heads site at Sterkspruit, and forms part of the extensive Late Iron Age sites typically found from Carolina to Lydenburg. There are an estimated 1792 sites in this area (Bergh: 1999).

Bergh states that the Koni (Northern Sotho), under Makopole settled in this area from the beginning of the 19th century. Increasing friction between black groups lead to the Ndebele during 1820, launching an offensive against Northern Sotho groups in the area, there first victims being the Koni under Makopole whom they killed (Bergh: 1999).

The Lydenburg area is also well known for its gold deposits that were mined during pre-historic as well as historic times. Historic gold mining in the Nooitgedacht area commenced with the discovery of gold on Mount Anderson by the O'Donovan brothers during the early days of the 20th century (Cartwright: 1973).

RECOMMENDATION

Sites 1, 2, 3, & 4 are unsuitable for development due to the extensive cultural material found. Alternative recommendations were made for sites 1 & 3. Sites 5 and 6 are suitable for development as no cultural material was found.

Site 1: As the entire site is covered in Iron Age stone walling, it is unsuitable for development, however, a possible site exists to the east.

Site 2: As the entire site is covered and surrounded by Iron Age stone walling as well as agricultural terraces, it is unsuitable for development.

Site 3: As the recommended avoidance distance of a structure is 15m, this site cannot be recommended for development however, towards the north at GPS reading S 25°03.468 / E30°33.745, there is a possibility of a suitable site.

Site 4: The entire site is covered by pre-historic and historic remains and therefore not suitable for development.

Site 5: This site is suitable for development. However, in close proximity to the site there is a vertical mine shaft currently used as a rubbish dump, and which presents a very real danger. We recommend that it be rehabilitated for safety reasons.

Site 6: The existing lodge site pose no complication for expansion.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Cartwright, A.P. 1973 *Valley of Gold*, Cape Town: Howard Timmins.
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